

## DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

### 2015-16

- The literary events of the Postgraduate and Research Department of English for the year 2015-16 commenced with the Oratorical and Essay Competition on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015 to commemorate the Founder's Day. *N. J. Subhashruthi* of B.Com (Honours) Department won the oratorical competition and delivered her speech on the topic *Empowerment of Women-Vision of a Legend* held on Founder's Day. *Varshini Venkatesh* of II B.com (Aided) Department won the essay competition written on the topic *Enlightenment and Empowerment- A visionary's Dream*.
- On February 17<sup>th</sup> 2016, an inter-class quiz competition was conducted by the English Department in which *Sanjana Ganesh* and *Aasifa Rahamath* of IIIB.A. English (Aided) and *Shruthi* and *Swetha* of II B.A. ECS (Self-Supporting) secured the first place.
- A workshop on Healthy Relationships and Communication was organized with Prakriti Foundation and PCVC. Naomi Ackerman
- The department hosted Poetry with Prakriti, a poetry festival organized by Prakriti Foundation. Padma Shri Allan Sealy and 8 other prominent poets interacted with the students.

### 2016-17

- The department's Literary Association, Athena'16 was conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2016, with the theme 'Celebrating Shakespeare 400'. Mr. Neil Sarkar, Deputy Teaching Centre Manager, British Council, South Region delivered a special address.
- Two workshops, one on "Expressive Art Therapy" and another on "Copy Editing" were organized with Ms. Niveditha Ramarathnam, Head, Expressive Arts Team, Child Development Institute and Mr. Watson as the resource persons respectively.
- The "Prof. Sita Udupa Endowment Lecture" was conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the Library Conference Hall. Dr. M.S.Nagarajan, Professor and Head (Retd) of the department of English of University of Madras delivered the lecture on the topic "Towards Writing a Literary History of Indian Fiction in English". On the evening of the

same day an interesting interface with the eminent woman novelist Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, a “Rendezvous with the Writer” was organized at the college auditorium.

- On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Dr. Rajagopalan from Madras Christian College delivered a lecture on “Translation Studies” and on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017, Dr. Joseph Chandra, Associate Professor and Head of the department of English, Loyola College delivered a lecture on “Applying the Theory of Hermeneutics in Literary Studies”.

## 2017-18

- On 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2018, Sadanand Menon, writer and art critic, formally inaugurated **Athena 17**, the department’s annual literary festival.
- In the first week of December, the department hosted “Poetry with Prakriti”, a poetry festival organized by Prakriti Foundation. Padma Shri Allan Sealy and eight other prominent poets read out their poems and interacted with the students.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> February, Isai Kavi Ramanan, Poet and Orator, delivered the second lecture of *Athena Discourse*. He explicated the complex ideas of “Ecospirituality” and holistic living – the need to integrate music, art and nature – in simplistic language through song and poetry.
- On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Dr. Martha Bigelow, Professor in Second Language Education, University of Minnesota, delivered the Professor Mrs. Sita Udupa Endowment Lecture 2017-2018.
- On January 2018, 2 workshops, **Writing for the Screen** and **Poetry Reading**, were organized by the department as part of the Chennai Literary Festival. 200 students from across city colleges benefited. Dr Chitraa Venkatachalaam and Poet Iswar were the resource persons. The Department also had the singular privilege of hosting the Valedictory of this prestigious festival for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year since 2014.

## 2018-19

- The academic year 2018-19 got off to a flying start with the Oratorical competition on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to commemorate the birth anniversary of our revered founder Sri V.L.Ethiraj. L.S.Nivedhithaa of second year Physics had won the oratorical competition and delivered her speech on the topic “Sri V.L.Ethiraj as an embodiment of altruism”.
- The Department, in association with the English Language Teachers’ Association of India (ELTAI) and the Business English Special Interest Group (BESIG) jointly conducted an International Workshop on ‘Perspectives in Business English Training’ on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Mr.Evan Frendo, Joint Coordinator of IATEFL’s Business English Special Interest Group was the Chief guest and Ms. Lalitha Murthy, Business English Consultant, Mr.Adi Rajan, consultant with the British Council and Mr.P.V.Vivekananda, English Language and Communication Skills expert with TCS, were the eminent resource persons for the same.
- As part of the Association’s ATHENA discourses, Professor RV Ram, poet, critic and academician delivered a series of lectures on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. He explained the link between appreciation of literature and sensitivity to language.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 Professor Sunney Tharappan, founder of College for Leadership and Human Resource Development, enriched our students’ minds with an interesting perspective on Ernest Hemingway.
- The department successfully conducted its annual Association event ‘ATHENA—Where Minds Meet’ on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2018. The focus this year was on the theme ‘Literature and Music’. Students from various colleges had participated enthusiastically in the several events that the Association had offered. Stella Maris College had won the overall trophy.
- Ethiraj College for Women played host to EVENTS, a part of the Chennai Literary Festival, which was a roaring success being incredibly organized by the head Dr.J.Mangayarkarasi and Dr.Meenakumari, Associate Professor, Anna Adarsh College for Women on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, 2018. The entire logistics was managed by the faculty members of the English Department. The Department’s inter-year Dramatics was conducted on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018. It was truly a crowd-pleasing display of theatre skills. Dr. Karunakaran, Professor of English, Jaffna University shared his expertise on English Language Teaching and Essay writing with our students on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

- 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 was a red-letter day as the Department in association with Chennai Literary Festival (CLF) organized two workshops on Creative Writing and Soft Skills. The resource persons were Dr. Albert P'Rayan, Head, Department of English, KCG College of Engineering and Ms. Sayujya Sankar, Professor in English, Stella Maris College. The resource persons made sure that the workshops were informative and interactive.
- The Department had the pleasure of organizing this year's Pongal Day Celebration on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Actor Sarathkumar's youthful and energetic presence struck a deep chord with the staff and students. Dr. Anthony Samy, Head, Department of English, Loyola College and Dr. Armstrong, Head, Department of English, Madras University, addressed the students on the essence of Pongal.
- Dr. K. Ganesh, Head, Department of English, Madras Christian College, delivered the annual Sita Udupa Endowment Lecture on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019. He sensitised the young minds on the need for a true understanding of Eco-criticism in the present context.

### **2019-2020**

- The department hosted two workshops on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020 as part of the Chennai Literary festival. The Employability skills workshop consisted of three sessions helmed by Dr. C.A. Lal, Dr. A. Ganesan and Mr. Naveen Dubey. The interactive session on Creative Writing was conducted by Dr. P.R. Sujatha Priyadarshini of Anna University.
- Mr. Lal from University of Kerala gave a lecture to our PG students on English Language Teaching on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020
- Mr. P.C. Ramakrishna, Theatre artist and director, delivered the Tmt. Prof. Sita Udupa Endowment lecture.
- The department conducted a One-day workshop for Staff and students on "Integrating Technology in Education". The resource persons were Dr. Syed Hassan, senior IT professional