

ANNUAL REPORT- DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

The academic year 2019- 2020 was a very fruitful year for the English Literary Association of Jesus and Mary College.

ELA held its student body election for the year 2019- 2020 on 31st July' 19. Merlin Thomas (3rd year) and Divjot Kaur (2nd year) were elected as the President and Vice President respectively.

ELA's first event *Trouvaille '19, Fresher's Welcome* was held on 30th August' 19 and the first years' new journey was celebrated through the Retro theme. Ms. Devyani Joshi was selected as the Miss English Department. Ms. Elizabeth Reji was selected as the Miss JMC at the college level.

ELA held *Spellathon 2019*, a preliminary round of the annual spelling bee competition of BSP IIT Delhi, on 2nd September' 19. The competition was open to all Departments.

The *Anupama Nair Memorial Award Ceremony* was held on 12 September' 19, to remember and commemorate one of the most exuberant student of the department. Ms. Nair's family annually presents the Anupama Nair Memorial Award for Academic Excellence instituted in her memory, to recognize and encourage a student from the department who exhibits overall exceptional academic performance and remarkable creative writing skills. The recipient of the award for 2019 was Ms. Sameera Chawla (batch of 2018- 2019). Felicitation of the Anupama Nair Creative Writing Contest 2019 winners - Ms. Aditi Dwivedi (1st prize) and Ms. Shreya Dash (2nd prize) also took place.

The first *Wattpad Campus Talk* was organised by ELA in collaboration with the Penguin Random House India on 25th September' 19. It was an interactive live event with reputed authors and editors. Ms. Rhea Mukherjee, Mr. Roshan Ali, Ms. Manasi Subramaniam and Ms. Tarini Uppal. The informative session helped students explore careers in authorship and publishing.

An *Academic Writing Workshop*, conducted on 6th November' 19 for English Hons and B. A. Programme Elective English helped the students understand the step by step procedure of conceptualising, writing and presenting an academic paper. The workshop trained the students both for the university examination and further research endeavours. The resource persons of the workshop, Dr. Susan George and Ms. Ishita Singh, guided the students through witty visual presentations and pertinent examples.

Litreat: a night stay, was held for the first time for the department of English on 8th November'19. Seventy students and seven faculty members stayed within the college premises after college hours and engaged in group activities to strengthen intra-department relationship. *Litreat*'s aim was to combine fun and education. The night was spent participating in quizzes, watching films that were selected by the faculty and by playing games that gave a platform to the students of all three years to work as a team.

The ELA exponentially increased its online presence and publicised its annual festival by holding online events such as #Inktober and #CaptureYourNook. *Literati'20: Literature and Cinema* held on 23rd January'20, was a grand success with relentless support from the faculty members of the department, ELA Convenor Ms. Kashish Dua and ELA Staff Representative Ms. Sameera Mehta. The fest had varied online and offline events. The key note speaker Dr. Ruth Vanita spoke about 'Courtesans in Modern Literature and Cinema'. Competitions included: Academic Paper Writing, Online Film Poster Making, Online Trailer Making, Online Creative Writing, Stand Up Comedy, Cinemania: Cinema Quiz, Mono Act, Slam Poetry in collaboration with Sunny Mugs: Poetry Society, JMC and mini games at the ELA stall. The highlight of the day was the Stand Up Comedy performance by Mr. Parvez Hassan. *Literati'20* saw active participation from students within and outside the college with registrations and entries across the country.

Following a month long strenuous rehearsals, on 1st February' 20, the Shakespeare Society team secured 2nd position in the National Drama Competition organized by the Shakespeare Society of India at IPCW for the most original concept. The team produced *Coriolanus vs the People of Rome*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy *Coriolanus*, directed by Mr. Jobin Thomas and Ms. Sameera Mehta. Combining the formal stage play and street theatre, it revamped the Shakespearian original to current socio- political scenario in India.

The Department Assembly held on 17th February 2020 commemorated the life of St. Claudine Thevenet through visual presentation and experiences of students from the Thevenet Production 2018.

ELA and Cauldron, the English Magazine Society, JMC held a college level online creative writing competition on 26th February'20, in collaboration with *Mithaas Services*. The competition witnessed huge participation. Ms. Anna Bertie, Ms. Radhika Chhaterjee and Ms. Prarthana Judith Herald secured the first, second and third positions respectively.

Continuing with its *Meet the Author* series, the session for this year was held with Ms. Ritu Menon on 28th February'20. Known for her books *Borders & Boundaries: Women in India's Partition* and *Out of Line: A Literary and Political Biography of Nayantara Sahgal*, Ms. Menon delivered a short lecture on "Partition and Feminist Publishing" along with discussing her works and answering several questions raised by the students and faculty members.

The session ended with the Department of English keeping up with its legacy by bagging the First prize in March Past held on 6th March'20 as a part of JMC's Annual Sports Meet.

Ms. Kashish Dua (Convenor)

Ms. Sameera Mehta (Staff Representative)

Merlin Thomas (President)

Divjot Kaur (Vice President)

Vaishnavi Kalia (Treasurer)