

ST. THOMAS COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

St. Thomas Nagar, Koyambedu, Chennai - 600 107.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-18

By the grace of God Almighty, St. Thomas College of Arts and Science has crossed another mile-stone year in its history, continuing to strive to empower the students of our College to go out into the wider arena of the world outside to proclaim and spread love for humanity and to follow steadfastly where duty, right and honour lead, without fear of any man. We have been continuing to maintain the highest Christian values and ethics, following in the footsteps of Apostle Saint Thomas, to shine light and remove darkness, to prepare our students to be responsible citizens of our nation.

The academic year 2017-2018 started on Wednesday the 14th of June 2017 with a Worship Service lead by the Principal. On 15th, an Orientation Programme was organized by the Principal for staff who had 2 or less than 2 years' service in our College, where the speakers were Dr. Samuel Sukumar, Principal, Dr. Subbulakshmi, Vice-Principal, Mr. Jayakumar, Dean Student Affairs & Placement, Dr. Raju, Head of B.Com. (CS), Dr. Elango, Head of Media Studies and Dr. Prema, Psychology Dept. The program was a grand success.

This year we were able to fill a total of 635 seats and B.com CS was added as a new course for which Dr. Raju took over as the Head of the Department.

Teaching staff: One of the most important strengths of our College is the faculty which is known for its professionalism and commitment. A few vacancies of teaching staff were filled. About 6 staff cleared NET/SET examination this year, 4 staff were awarded Ph.D. degrees - Dr. Lakshmi Devi, BBA; Dr. Elango, Media Studies; Dr. Prema, Psychology and Dr. Jayakumar, Commerce. Two of our Staffs Mrs. Umamaheshwari C and Susan Koshy of Computer applications have published journals in the UGC website during this academic year. A few staff have registered for Ph.D. also. Our staff are on the Boards of Studies and Boards of Examiners of other Universities and Colleges, and are also invited as subject Experts to other Colleges. Mrs. Kripa, Mathematics, Dr. Elango, Media, Mrs. Lalithakumari, Hindi and Mrs. Sridevi, B.Com were appointed by the University of Madras as External Chief Superintendents of Examinations in other Colleges. Principal Dr. Samuel Sukumar was one of the two Principals selected from Chennai to attend a National Conference of Principals in Bengaluru organized by ICFAI in October 2017. Dr. Samuel Sukumar also attended the 2-day 'Principals Workshop' organized by the University of Madras UGC-HRD Unit in January 2018.

Financial assistance for Teaching faculties:

Institution believes that research and quality improvement in the teaching and learning process contribute to classroom excellence. Financial assistance for teaching Faculties were given for conferences, workshops and Faculty Development Programs attended during this academic year. This has helped the faculties to fulfil their requirements for their professional development thus assists faculty members in advancing their academic careers. Three of our faculty members were benefitted from this with a total financial support of Rs 1,200 this academic year. This will encourage the faculties to attend more of such programs. Apart from this, college has funded for in-house faculty development programs organised by various departments and a total number of 5 in-house FDPs were organised by inviting subject experts

from various fields. All the faculties pertaining to the particular department were benefitted from this. A total number of 80 teaching faculties and 22 non – teaching faculties have attended FDPs and organised by other reputed institutions and universities around Tamilnadu.

Skill Enhancement:

Skill Enhancement programs were conducted by the college through various programs. An overall of 21 Value added courses were conducted and out of the 2260 students 1520 students were benefitted through Value Added courses. Around eight seminars were organised by various departments on research methodology and entrepreneurship, and around 273 students has shown an active participation in it. Apart from this a number of Skill development programs were conducted, including Personality development, awareness programs, training programs etc. and around 363 students were benefitted from this. The various departments were able to invite special guests to address our students; this exercise proved to be very beneficial to our students as they were exposed to current issues in society today, which text books could not impart.

To encourage students, college has collaborated with several companies and organisations like, Bajaj Services, Sri Haritha Motors, Guduvanchery, Prism & Pixels, VFX studio, Vadapalani

Sports and Games: Our students have performed reasonably well in Sports and Games this year also, thanks to the efforts of the Physical Director Mr. Selvaganapathi. Athletics, Cricket, Boxing, Power lifting and Karate were some of the events that our students performed well. Our staff formed 2 teams and participated in the Inter-Collegiate Staff Shuttle Tournament organized by Madras Christian College, Tambaram. Our staff also participated enthusiastically in the sports & games events conducted in our College in view of the College Day and Sports Day.

P. Jagadeeshwaran of our college, won 2nd Place in 37th State Level Karate Tournament 2017 on 2nd October 2017. Dharmalingam. P of our college, won Tamilnadu State Cadet & Junior Judo Championship -2017-18 on 5th November 2017. B. Soundhar of our college, won third place in 36th Tamilnadu state sub juniors, cadets, juniors under 21 years & seniors held at J. J. Indoor stadium, Chennai.

Library: The Librarian Mr. Radhakrishnan, has taken efforts to maintain the Library and with the help of our staff from various departments, was able to include additional books for our Library, with the major limitation in space. The University Inspection Commissions were satisfied with our resources; however, they have suggested addition of a few more Journals

Infra-structure: 4 new classrooms were added in the new building with additional toilets for boys and girls. Fans, lights, tables, chairs, etc. for students and staff were added, wherever needed. Work has also begun for the new Centenary Building. Drinking water facilities were also added.

Other activities of various departments: Several departments have invited special Guests to their departments to enable their students to enrich their knowledge from experienced experts in their field of study. One such avenue was "Lumens 2018" organised by the Department of Visual Communications and Department of Electronic Media. This 4-day event saw many Media personalities interacting with students of our College as well as from other colleges; about 15-20 colleges/universities have represented; the program was a grand success. The Department of Tamil organised a 'Pattimandram' on the occasion of Teacher's Day on 5th of

September, and many of our faculty members have shown their active participation. Onam celebration, organised by the Department of Malayalam on 20th September, also saw all department staff coming together. Food Fest was organised to raise funds for Church Charity and was a combined effort of staff from various departments. BCA & BSc CS and Psychology Department organised Study Tours for students to Ooty; students were benefitted by this outdoor exposure.

The NSS and YRC Units of our College had been very busy this year in organising various events for and by students; apart from the local annual Camp, our NSS students also attended 2 National Camps and earned a good name for our college by their involvement. Also, NSS, YRC and RRC Units have organised Blood Donations, Medical (Eye and Dental) Camps, AIDS, Food, Road Safety Awareness programs this year. Moreover, our NSS students are in great demand by the Corporation of Chennai, 108 service, Police, etc., for their programs. World AIDS Day was also organized. The University of Madras has granted our college an additional Unit, thanks to the untiring efforts of our NSS Officers, especially Mr. Rassul Jayapathy (Tamil). The Mayuri Academy, Chennai, utilized our college students, assisted by NSS staff and students, in organising and winning the Guinness World Record for the maximum number of classical sword dancers at a time. Six students selected by the Tamil department participated in "Lzhagaram" a program of 'Podhigai" television channel on 24th February 2018 and won the II prize of Rs 5000/- cash award.

College Programs: Thom Fest '18 was a grand 2-day annual intercollegiate cultural festival organised by our college in which as many as 30 colleges participated in various events. Also, our students participated and won laurels for our college in intercollegiate academic as well as cultural competitions held in various colleges in and around Chennai. Christmas Carol service. was conducted in a grand manner, which was blessed by the presence of our beloved Bishop, His Grace Dr. Yuhanon Mar Diascoros, who also brought God's message to us. Pongal, Onam, Independence Day, Republic Day, International Women's Day, etc., also were celebrated. During Christmas, our staff contributed clothes, which were collected and given to an old-age/destitute home in Santhome. The Gideons International in India visited our college in the month of March 2018 and distributed New Testaments to Christian students and staff of our college and to those who voluntarily requested a copy. 200 students of NSS, YRC and RRC participated in a 1-day outing to "Queens Land" a theme park in the outskirts of Chennai; they were accompanied by staff members for the 3 units, Farewells: Mrs. V.P. Kumari retired in the month of January; our staff and the Management gave her a fitting send off, thanking her for her services to this college.

Visits to foreign countries by staff and students: Dr. Devaki, department of Tamil, attended the International Tamil Conference held in Singapore in the month of August. She was also elected Secretary at the Conference. Mr. P. Selvakumar, a student of II M.Sc. Vis Com was selected to attend a Students Exchange Camp in Singapore in the month of December.

Tie-up with Industries and Placement Cell: The Commerce, Corporate Secretaryship, Business Administration departments organised visits to various companies/industries as part of their academic program, to expose their students to the world of careers. This Institution-Industry tie- up has enabled our college to progress in terms of skill development and placements of our students. Furthermore, the Placement Cell with the Dean's active involvement, has done extremely well during the past 2 years and Organizations like Barclay's

Bank have become annual partners to recruit our students. As part of placement, placement cell has organised several programs like, Career guidance to promote job placement, competitive skill training program, resume filtration, training program on TANCET, logical reasoning etc.

Bishop's visits to College: Staff (teaching and non-teaching) and students of our College are indeed very happy that our Bishop, His Grace Dr. Yuhanon Mar Diascoros, takes the time to come and visit our College. On Fresher's Day every year, his blessings at the beginning of the academic year and to the newly admitted students especially, is much awaited. He also comes to give God's message in the Christmas Carol Service in the month of December. Another occasion that we look forward to is the Graduation Day; the new Graduates receive his blessings after his Graduation Day address.

Student Scholarships: Despite the accelerating pace of change in our world, few seriously question the relevance or enduring value of education. Whatever our differences, most people recognize that learning and the creation of knowledge are fundamental to our continued evolution as a society. Our institution realizes this and regardless of any circumstances, be it family or any financial crisis, we continue to support the educational aspirations of students who have enrolled in our institution. Apart from Government scholarships like Adi Dravidar and tribal welfare and MUFES, for which around 334 students were benefitted and institution provides three different scholarships namely POSCO, which was availed by 12 students, Zachariah Mar Dionysius Scholarship for which 26 of the students were benefitted, and around 2013 students were benefitted from St. Thomas scholarship. These scholarships are continued to support our students in their academic pursuits.

New Clubs / Associations: The Staff Academic Study Circle invites speakers from our College or outside, to speak to us on matters/current issues of interest to our staff. This is an excellent forum for interaction and learning. College Development Forum under the convenorship of Dr. Raju is doing a good job of guiding staff who are in need of guidance to pursue Ph.D. or appear for NET/SET. The Fine Arts Club, with Mr. K. Prakash of the Media department is set to take off with its activities of and training in traditional / folk arts and is open to staff and students of our college. Anti-ragging Cell and Harassment at workplace Redressal Cell are two cells which have been formed as per the requirements of UGC.

We wish to thank the Bishop, our Chairman and all the Members of the Management Board, Principal and all the staff of the College for their continued support. We also due to all others including the St. Thomas Cathedral, Broadway, our College Bankers and Auditors, prominent guests of our College and everyone who made this year a grand success.

May God Almighty bless our College.

Long live St. Thomas College of Arts and Science.

With Prayers,

M.S. Idiculla
Secretary

Alex Abraham
Treasurer