

# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (DoE) NEWS LETTER 2016-17

Dear Friends,

"There is a time to let things happen, and a time to make things happen"- Well, here we are, the ides of March long gone by, wrapping up yet another wonderful year with blessings galore!

2016-'17 started on a high octane - admissions done, the Department was brimming with a bright bubbly spirit that shone in and through every eye - excitement, anticipation, expectation was in full throttle.

The exuberance of a new academic year pervaded every heart. Re-orientation, orientation and classes followed, and soon everyone was caught up in the vortex of a challenging college life.

The Department had decided to have the College Play in September 2016 itself. So, having completed the ground work between July and August, "She Stoops to Conquer" by Oliver Goldsmith was staged on the 6th & 7th of the said month. Needless to say, you must have had your fill of the play via the innumerable FB posts. The actors did a fantastic job at raising the bar for further performances.



Hot on the heels of the Play, was the Workshop on a genre of literature that had hitherto not been explored - Life Writing. Dr. Sathyaraj Venkatesan of NIT, Trichy, helped us gain a deeper understanding of this enigmatic genre that is so relevant to the world today. You will be glad to hear that the Department proposes to introduce a course on Life Writing very soon.



Thanks to all your prayers and blessings, the Department of English (DoE) is quite a name to reckon with, in and around Madurai. Our girls had brought home almost every

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Rolling Trophy in the vicinity, and many more laurels to the Department. We feel your pride and joy in also being that intrinsic part of it all. Notice, dear friends, how each passing year only serves to bind our rich and varied Department of English (DoE) Family closer.

It was a crisp November morning of 2016 that was the harbinger of the shocking news of our Dear Dr. Rajalakshmi's passing. Tributes to this iconic teacher and friend followed fast and furiously on different social media. That Raji Mam is no more is a testimony that she lives in each of us who have had the good fortune of knowing her.



February was another flurry of activity. Thanks to the Prof. Sargunam Stephen family, for so thoughtfully instituting the Dr. Jane Mangalam Stephen Endowment Lecture series. This year we had the privilege of hosting the lecture on Linguistics, presented by Dr. Rajesh Kumar of the IIT, Madras. We also had the honor of the family's presence at the Lecture.



Thought we had forgotten something, did you? Well, well, can there be a DoE without an Arcadia? Rhetorical, right? The theme this year was Contemporary Women Writers. Dr. Srilata of the IIT Madras was our chief guest.



The slew of competitions coupled with the high energy and enthusiasm level of the participating colleges, proves, each year, that when it's Arcadia, there never is a dull moment!



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The academic and non-academic contests balance each other out so well, that fun and learning flourish in equal measure. Is that a twinkle we see in your eyes, dear friends? Yes, you too are remembered very fondly for your contribution then, and now in other ways to help the Department.



The Host performance was a conglomeration of both streams of the Department. While the Shift I girls crooned many a peppy and meaningful medley, and the soul stirring song, "You Raised Me Up" to a thundering applause, the Shift II girls' brilliant performance of "Literary Tit-bits" brought the entire auditorium to its feet applauding with gusto!



The Department of English, Your Department (thanks to all our staff and student friends, past, present and future), sure knows how to, with the Good Lord's guidance, add life to its yeas and not merely years to its life!

God Bless

Love,

DoE, a dear.