



NEWSLETTER

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Alumni meet of Salesian College Sonada

Salesian College Sonada Alumni are invited to a meeting to mark 80th year celebrations at Sonada on Tuesday 1st May 2018. Those intending to participate, kindly register your names with Priyamrita (priyamritac@gmail.com) by 20th April 2018. Program details will be intimated upon registration. - Fr C.M. Paul, SDB, Vice-Principal



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My Dear Friends (Alumni),
I HUMBLY REQUEST YOU ALL TO READ BELOW CONTENTS OF MY POST AND DECIDE WHERE WE ALL STAND

See what Mr. PM Nair IAS, former Secretary to the late President of India, has to say



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Dear Friends
The season of hope dawns on us every spring time. Taking time to look out for new leaves, flowers, bees and birds in the air can help breathe in the freshness of new life and beginnings.





Dear Friends (Alumni),

I HUMBLY REQUEST YOU ALL TO READ BELOW CONTENTS OF MY POST AND DECIDE WHERE WE ALL STAND

See what Mr. PM Nair IAS, former Secretary to the late President of India, has to say about Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

DD Podhigai telecast an interview with Mr P M Nair, retired IAS officer, who was the Secretary to Dr Kalam Sir when he was the President. I summarise the points he spoke in a voice choked with emotion. Mr Nair authored a book titled "Kalam Effect". Even though many of you may have read it, a repeat might be beneficial.

Dr Kalam used to receive costly gifts whenever he went abroad as it is customary for many nations to give gifts to the visiting Heads of State. Refusing the gift would become an insult to the nation and an embarrassment for India. So, he received them and on his return, Dr Kalam asked the gifts to be photographed and then catalogued and handed over to the archives. Afterwards, he never even looked at them. He did not take even a pencil from the gifts received when he left Rashtrapathi Bhavan. What integrity of life!!

Your Affectionate Father and Friend,

Fr.(Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil SDB
Rector,
Salesian College Siliguri
2nd April 2018



Dear Friends,

The season of hope dawns on us every spring time. Taking time to look out for new leaves, flowers, bees and birds in the air can help breathe in the freshness of new life and beginnings.

Each piece of news in this issue too brings to us new hope to us. May each one who reported and are reading be blessed in every way this season of Easter.

Fr George Thadathil sdb

Principal

My Search for Relevance

-Joe Ngamkhuchung, 1967 Batch of Salesian College Sonada.



19th March 1974. 44 years have not erased the memory of that day. On the 19th March, students of Kristu Jyoti College Bangalore used to disperse to their respective provinces for their summer vacation. Along with Northern Province companions, I boarded Brindavan Express to Chennai, (Madras then). We were scattered in the train but could visit each other. After visiting some companions, I headed for my seat. At our bogey entrance, I noticed a lady on wheel chair, looking out at the distance. Something urged me to speak to her. But I ignored it and went to my seat. The urge became irresistible!

I went to the lady and wished her and said. "I see that you are on a wheel chair. Any problem?" "Yes, in childhood I was afflicted by Polio. I am unable to walk" she explained. "Oh sorry" I said. "Oh No. Why sorry. I am happy with my life. I tour the world around on my wheel chair; I attend national and International programmes. I have many friends. My name is Hema. I have a training centre at Ulsoor Road Bangalore. Please visit my centre after you return." It was my first encounter with a new human spirit. In later years, I read much about her in magazines.

44 years later, today I am fully involved in the work for hundreds of "differently able" persons in Nagaland. A world of struggles to survive, stories of success and failures, hopes and dreams and never say die's, sharing in their joys and sorrows and frustrations, raising their fallen spirits and opening new doors of opportunities for their future.

Although the work puts "not a shirt on my back, not a penny to my name", I couldn't think of more enriching – meaningful life! Relevance is what I aspire! "Human spirit can never be chained!" The struggle goes on, life gets "better butterfly experience".

2009 - 2015



2009 disability centre Savio school complex Dimapur



Home base care of children with disabilities



Developing skills in drawing



At World disability day 2010: wheel chair participant



Nagaland state disability forum (NSDF) Set up by People in Need foundation.



Orientation on State Disability Forum



Launching of child development project Peren District Nagaland (A disability project)

2014 - 2018



Dennis Zeliang our NGO advisor, hands over the keys of the bike that T.R. Zeliang, the then Chief Minister Nagaland, donated one bike for the project.

Sports for Children with disabilities Promoting holistic education



Wheelchair for a loco motor lady



Joe visits a Mentally Challenged youth



Fitting hearing aid to client



Launching DAPO (differently able Persons Organization. (President right with striped sweater)





The Contagious Letter 'J'

- Ms. Luna Dewan, Alumni of Salesian College Sonada; Manager, Media Relations & Corporate Communications, Brains Hospital, Bangalore; (Former Correspondent, New Indian Express, Bangalore.)

Smart, neatly dressed and elegant news readers with all their vitality was something that always attracted me. Ah! And yes, this is with specific mention to female. I had a deep desire to be like them one day. In order to get there, you need to study journalism is what I learnt from my father. Since then the penchant for pursuing Journalism was instilled in me.

I hail from a small hamlet, Dilaram in the district of Darjeeling. I hadn't seen anyone pursuing Journalism in my area at that point of time (around the year 2000) to whom I could approach and gather details about the course.

Higher education was mostly conventional – after your higher secondary you had to do BA (with or without honours) followed by MA. Walking down the same isle I too completed my BA with English Honours in 2004 from SCS.

One day, browsing through the newspaper I spotted an advertisement about a Diploma course in Journalism at Siliguri. Few days later I went and enrolled for the course. Then later moved to Bangalore and took up Masters in Journalism and Mass Communication. The course was followed with two months of internship.

Well, getting an internship was again an uphill task. By sheer luck I got an internship with one of the leading national newspapers – New Indian Express, Bangalore. The two months was not an easy one. There were days when I had to start at 7.30 am and get back to my room after 10.00 pm. Tiring days, but used to derive utmost satisfaction seeing the story with a byline (your name) the next day in the newspaper.

Luckily, after my internship I was offered a job of a trainee reporter at the same organization. Without any second thought I chose to take up my career and since then there has been no looking back.

Every day used to be a challenge and on the lookout for something new and exciting. From covering civic issues, fire in a multi-storeyed building and waiting outside hospitals until midnight to covering the Lok Sabha elections (2014), it has been an experience worth the memory.

Drawing to a conclusion I would say that the letter 'J' from the word Journalism is actually contagious. All the fear, apprehensions just dwindle away. All that you want is to be the first to give the 'scoop'.

The moment I saw an advertisement about opening of Journalism & Mass Communication Course at SCS, couple of months back, I was literally overjoyed and secretly wished that I could turn back time and take up the course at SCS.

Nevertheless, here I drop a piece of advice to all those pursuing Journalism & Mass Communication at SCS: If you have the 'J' fire in you please go for it and utilize it correctly, for the satisfaction you get in the field is something that you will cherish for your lifetime.



Chencho News

- Chencho Dorji , From Bhutan, Alumni of Salesian College Sonada

The 38th Birthday of His Majesty the King Jigme Kheser Namgyel Wangchuk was celebrated in New York this year. It was a great honor for me to join Bhutanese community in New York in celebrating the Birth Anniversary of His Majesty. It was a time to wish for His long life, a time to pray together and a time to thank together for all the sacrifices made, for all the guidance, love, care and support.

Almost 3000 Bhutanese people live in New York. United Bhutanese Association of New York coordinates all the important Bhutanese occasions. Currently Mr. Lotey Gyeltshen is the President of the association. We were all taken care of very well and all the National celebrations were well organized. We had a wonderful dinner with the President and board of directors of the association.

We stayed there for a week and had lots of fun. In the two hours concert I participated in two dances, sang one solo song and conveyed His Majesty's message to Bhutanese community of New York.

My performance on 23rd February in New York

Officially celebrating 38th birth anniversary of His Majesty at Kutshabs residence, New York.

Dinner with the President and board of directors of the Bhutanese association.





Fr. Provincial meets Alumni Association of Salesian College Siliguri

- Chanchal Agarwal, President, Alumni Association, Siliguri

On 16th February 2018 Alumni Association of Salesian College Siliguri met Fr. Dr. Nirmol Gomes SDB, the Provincial of Kolkata Province in the college campus. He was there on his annual visit to the campus.

The members welcomed him with a khada and bouquet to express warm greetings and love for him. After the formal welcome the present activities and future plans of the association were discussed. Further, as a suggestion, the association had forwarded an idea of keeping a reunion wherein the college will invite the past students. The discussion also included the hosting of upcoming Bosco Jayanti celebration in Siliguri campus by the Alumni.

The meeting ended with the much awaited photo session and cutting of the cake.

Fr. Mathew Pulingaltil, the delegate of AASCS, Ms. Priyamrita, the coordinator, Mr. Chanchal Agarwal, the President, Ms. Kuljeet Kaur, the secretary, Mr. Sayak Moitra, the treasurer along with other members were present in the meeting.





'Pathways'

- a life orientation programme through performing arts

-Fr. C.M. Paul SDB, Vice Principal Salesian College Sonada

Final year students of Salesian College had a Fulbright scholar from U.S.A give 'pathways'- a life orientation programme through performing arts.

Director of Folded Paper Dance and Theatre Limited and guest artist Dr Kanta Kochhar, Fulbright-Nehru Senior Scholar, affiliated with the Madhavan Nayar Foundation, Kochi, India facilitated the workshop session 5 to 8 March 2018 with the third year students. Fulbright-Nehru Awards enable the most outstanding academics and professionals in India and the U.S. to study, research and teach in the host country. Indian scholars are selected through a rigorous application and interview process.

The workshop focused on how performance like dance and theatre in its many forms-from ritual, classical, vernacular, social to the experimental-can act as a kinaesthetically collaborative mode of experiencing, bonding, mapping, and transforming each other," says Prof Kochhar. "These undertakings can energize and transform our relationships with each other," she says. Dr Kochhar continues, "They [these undertakings] can also impact our experiences of urban spaces and the natural world across a range of site-specific locales, build greater cultural understanding, and generate exploratory spaces for change."



"It was just awesome. The workshop helped me and friends to have confidence to project myself in public and be aware of those around me," says one of the participants Rosabella Gurung from Sociology department. In the concluding session the student teams showcased their performances depicting 'pathways' to the future, on 8th March.

Dr Kochhar also conducted two short sessions on 'performance and pedagogy' for faculty members to enable them to touch base in classroom situations. Author of two books and many articles and a former editor of Theatre Topics Dr Kochhar's work links dance and theatre research, workshop development, and performance production.



Dr Kochhar's work blends artistic research, experimentation, storytelling, and a range of methods for linking spatial and mapping practices from design, architecture, and geography to new ways of making dance, theatre, and community performances. She had conducted similar programmes at Salesian College Siliguri campus for final year students.

Dr Kachhar is currently developing Traveling Architectures, (a Feature Grant, funded by Design Trust, Hong Kong), a series of site-specific performance and design projects, currently planned for Hong Kong, with subsequent phases planned for Kochi, India and elsewhere.



SCS holds national seminar on 'Conflicts in South Asia' in Assam

The Departments of Political Science and Sociology at Don Bosco College Golaghat and Salesian College Sonada jointly organised a national seminar entitled 'Conflicts in South Asia: It's Consequences and Implications' from 16 to 17 March 2018. Peace activist and socio-cultural academician Prof. Thomas Menampampil graced the event as chief guest.



Prof. Menampampil, spoke on the need to build up a "Thought Bank" that will lead to Dialogue and a sense of Co-Belonging - Working for peace. He emphasised the need to promote inter culture communication in which one is able to understand the other and come together through culture translators. It is also important he said to gather people together around great values and high ideals. He invited every community to contribute from its own resources "as we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny".

Dr. Pius V. Thomas, from Dept of Philosophy, Assam University, Silchar delivering the key note address spoke on "Conflicting Communities to Conversing Cosmo-polities: Counterfactual Ideals against Conflicts" and invited the participants to talk seriously about peace and real conflict resolution where the strangest of the strangers are welcomed.

Principal Dr Jose Palely informed that 37 institutions and universities across the country took part and 67 abstract papers were received in the seminar. There were five presentations from SCS.

Soon after the inaugural programme, the participants went to three parallel technical sessions chaired by Dr. Pius V. Thomas and Dr. Tarun Gogoi and Principal of Salesian College Sonada Dr. George Thadathil. "Each paper presenter was given 7 minutes to present the paper and the participants were given 3 minutes to clarify doubts about the paper," said Seminar Coordinator Dr. Konsam Jenny.



Guests of honor included Principal Debraj Roy of Golaghat College, Dr. Putul Saikia, and Fr. Nebu Mathew Palackal who gave fresh insights in conflict resolution. President of the inaugural session Provincial of Dimapur Salesian province Fr. Nestor Guria spoke on the need to understand the conflict situation and intervene meaningfully by focusing on peace initiatives and peace education.

Asst. Prof Aparna Borchetia and Asst. Prof Lily Toppo from the Department of Sociology compared the inaugural session.

From the Campus

NGO, students team up to create environmental awareness

The NGO Tieddi Forest Garden Gorabari and Salesian College Gorabari NSS group organised the eight day residential and experiential learning workshop for 12 students. The workshop aimed to reconnect students to nature and the community through socio-ecological outreach programmes especially to befriend and heal an ailing river at 8th Mile on NH 55- the old Hill Cart Road between Gorabari and Chattakpur villages



The students collected organic waste from the entire 8th Mile village and in the process they spread awareness about waste segregation and importance of organic compost. They discovered the brilliant design of a 'Doko'- an indigenous bamboo basket used in the hills that makes it possible for one to carry almost twice one's weight on his/her back! They also discovered the simple yet impactful art of composting and sheet mulching." On the way back from Rajahatta, the students cleaned-up and picked all the trash along the way in the Old Military Road and Rajahatta village. The team unanimously opted to transform their college into a 'Green College'

Study fare

Salesian College Sonada which lost 104 days due to Gorkhaland agitation (June-September 2017) held 3-day study fare



as immediate preparation for the upcoming send-up test in preparation for April-May university exams. Over 500 students belonging to 12 departments participated in the event held from 1st to 3rd March 2018. The sessions lasted five hours each day, from 10 am to 3 pm. Each day started in the auditorium with a brief meditation lead by Principal Dr George Thadathil and a brief motivational talk. Students and faculty met in their respective departments to go over the syllabus and complete study notes in groups.



Ethnic day:

On 26th of February 2018, Salesian College Siliguri celebrated their annual Ethnic day. The various clubs of the campus participated in the event. Based on different cultures of India the students were dressed and they performed theme dance, fashion show, rangoli and face painting.



Life orientation programme and Graduation Day for the III year students

From 12th March to 15th March the Salesian College organised LOP and Farewell for the III year students in both the campuses. During the LOP with other resource persons the Alumni Association members had a session with the students explaining their role as Alumni of Salesian college beyond the campus life. The programme also included Career fair and recruitment drive organised by the college.

