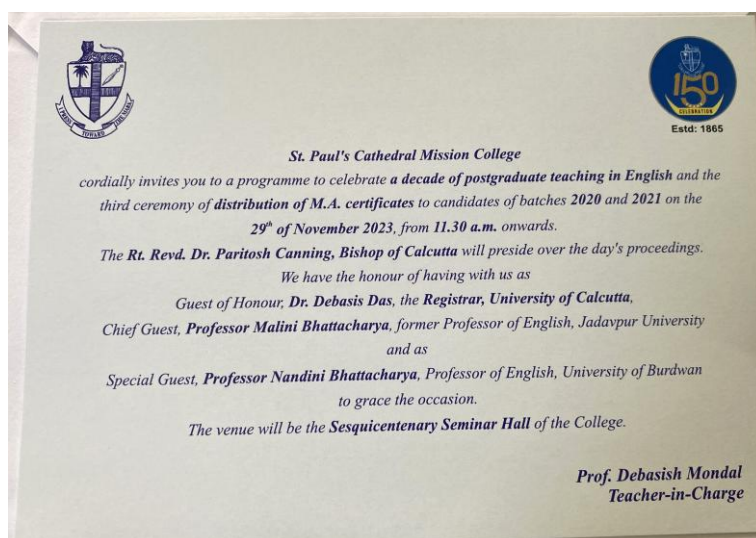


The Third Convocation and Commemoration of Ten Years of the Postgraduate Department of English – A Report

The third convocation programme or the programme celebrating the distribution of M.A. Certificates to the postgraduate students of English of this college was conflated together with the celebration of ten years' postgraduate teaching in this college. Accordingly, it was a grand event celebrated on the 29th of November 2023. November also happens to be the month when we began this odyssey and the time and date seemed perfect.



The Invitation Card



The College Choir

The inaugural note of the programme was set by the members of the College Choir who sang the College Song. The inaugural prayer was said by Revd. Saikat Nath, the College Chaplain.

The college was blessed to have with her the Honourable Bishop of Kolkata and the President of the Governing Body, the Rt. Revd, Dr. Paritosh Canning to preside over the day's programme. We were also honoured, to have as Guest of Honour, the respected Registrar of the University of Calcutta Dr. Debasis Das among us. The list of luminaries did not end with this. We were proud to welcome among us, as Chief Guest, the veteran academic and once parliamentarian Professor Malini Bhattacharya, former Professor of English and former Director of the School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University. We were fortunate that she expressed her gracious consent and accepted with warmth, our humble invitation. We were no less fortunate to have among us, as Special Guest, Professor Nandini Bhattacharya, Professor of English, Burdwan University. Professor Bhattacharya, too, gave her gracious consent to be present with us, in this function.



The Rt. Revd. Bishop and the dignitaries on the dais

Also present with us on this memorable day was Dr. Siddhartha Biswas, Head, Department of English, University of Calcutta, the Secretary of the Governing Body Dr. J.R.B. Alfred, our Teacher-in-Charge, Prof. Debasish Mondal, our Vice Principal Dr. Sudipta Midday, the Dean of Postgraduate Studies, Dr. Anasuya Bhar, the Head, Department of English, Prof. Tayana Chatterjee, the other respected colleagues of the Department and the college family.



Felicitations to the Rt. Revd Bishop, the Registrar, the Chief Guest and the Secretary of the Governing Body



Honourable Guests on the dias – the Rt. Revd. Bishop of Kolkata, Professor Malini Bhattacharya, Dr. Siddhartha Biswas



Honourable Guests on the Dias – Professor Malini Bhattacharya, Professor Nandini Bhattacharya and Dr. Siddhartha Biswas

The programme was divided in two halves – the former being the official session where the dignitaries addressed the audience, and the latter being the academic session where the Chief Guest and the Special Guest addressed our students. In between we had a brief tea-break.



Dignitaries in the Official Session

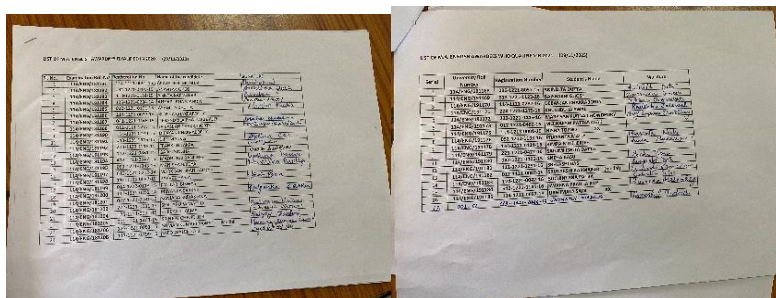


Tea Break and Camaraderie

In the Academic Session the Chief Guest Professor Malini Bhattacharya spoke most eloquently, arresting a most enthralled audience rapt in attention. Her talk was entitled *Is Horatio there? A piece of him: teaching English Literature at an Indian University*. Professor Bhattacharya combined wisdom, erudition and witty anecdotes in her session, aiming to encourage the young minds being addressed.

Professor Nandini Bhattacharya also held her audience rapt in attention. The title of her talk was *Vernacularism: In their Times and Ours*. In her talk, Professor Bhattacharya opened up a treasure house of scholarship around the nineteenth century Bengali stalwart Iswarchandra Vidyasagar, on whose educational reforms she would imminently publish her book from Routledge.

The third session of the day was marked by the distribution of M.A. Certificates to the postgraduate students of English of the batches 2020 and 2021. Around 39 (thirty-nine) students were conferred their M.A. degrees in the function. The batch of 2020 was also the first to be enrolled with the CBCS curriculum advocated by the University of Calcutta since 2018.



List of Awardees

As is known, we award a medal to the highest scorer of each batch as a token of our appreciation for their sincere academic efforts. Accordingly, the medal for the batch 2020 was won by Ms. Suman Kumari Rawat and the medal for batch 2021 was won by Mr. Srutarshi Karmakar, for their extraordinary performances.



Recipients of Certificates

It is also worthwhile to mention that these students were the first to slip into the online mode of teaching and evaluation. It was a very difficult phase for them, which they traversed with grit and determination. We also awarded Jannatul Firdaus her M.A Certificate in this function. Jannatul belonged to the previous curriculum of annual evaluation system; she was, however, compelled to discontinue her studies, and could only fulfil her ambition by taking her examinations in 2021 through the online mode according to university regulations. She cleared them sufficiently well.



Jannatul Firdaus receiving her M.A Certificate

The programme ended with a vote of thanks by the Head, Department of English, Prof. Tayana Chatterjee. The students and teachers had a fulfilling day between themselves.



Interactions



Togetherness



The Department of English



Students and Teachers

The photographs of the programme were taken by our students Dipjeet Dutta and Rohan Bannerjee. Needless to say, they did a wonderful job.

Reported by Dr. Anasuya Bhar