

# Tabula Rasa

PARVATIBAI CHOWGULE COLLEGE -AUTONOMOUS, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER – VOL. XIII ISSUE I, NOVEMBER 30 MMXX

## TABULA RASA

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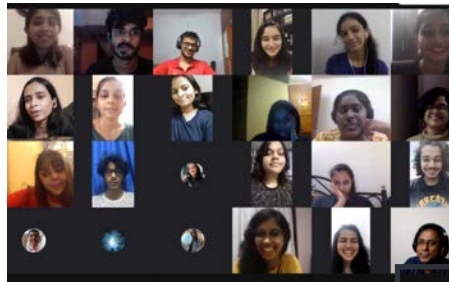
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### INTRODUCTION

Set up in the year 1962, the English Department has witnessed an eventful past and has a promising future. Always creating learners who have excelled in their exams and at life, we are now leaping forth into the next generation of teaching - learning through Autonomy. Academic autonomy has allowed us to create a B.A. Programme that is rich, diverse and understanding of the skills required for today's modern literature enthusiast, who are also looking forward at their career path. We are also pleased to announce that we also have started our M.A programme in English from the academic year 2018.

### OUR MISSION

We focus on developing an understanding of Language and Literature, Literary criticism, Linguistics and Media Studies. Our expert faculty use ICT and apply current trends of teaching methodology to create a knowledge base which facilitates students to choose varied careers. We offer elective courses in Creative Writing, Writing for the Media, and Film Studies amongst others.

We also organise events like the Shakespeare festival, Pegasus, the Talking Tree Series and Creative Writing Workshop for students to interact with writers, journalists, editors, dramatists and educators, and hone their inter-personal, organizational and managerial skills.

Our students gain expertise to critically analyse literary works and imbibe skills to develop creative and quality work in imaginative writing, using media and tech, and be eloquent speakers. They will be skilled for jobs in the fields of English Language Teaching, Literary Criticism and Linguistics and Media Studies.

### VISION

To be a center of academic excellence where students are encouraged to develop their linguistic skills and nurture their creative literary talents, so that they have a larger vision of life and can carve a niche in society.

# E

*ditorial*

## FAR AWAY... YET CONNECTED

This academic year began with screens and headphones instead of notebooks and blackboards. From a loud classroom to a quiet laptop, the change has been tremendous. Yet being the ever-adaptable Tygers that we are, we have become adept in our new environment soon enough. We have had to innovate and innovate we have! From hosting the freshers party online (Alpha 2020) to saying goodbye to our seniors, GMeet has been our go to. With "Among Us" being the theme for the Freshers' party, we organised games, speeches and performances for the new entrants of the department. From an all-encompassing rap song, a 'Zoom Challenge' and online dance performances, the Farewell had great bandwidth among the graduating students as well. Not only that, even Carpe Diem had to be re-organised in the Cloud. But we did it successfully nonetheless, as poems, anecdotes and jokes made us LOL on screen.

In the midst of Covid, returned three of our students from Porto University where

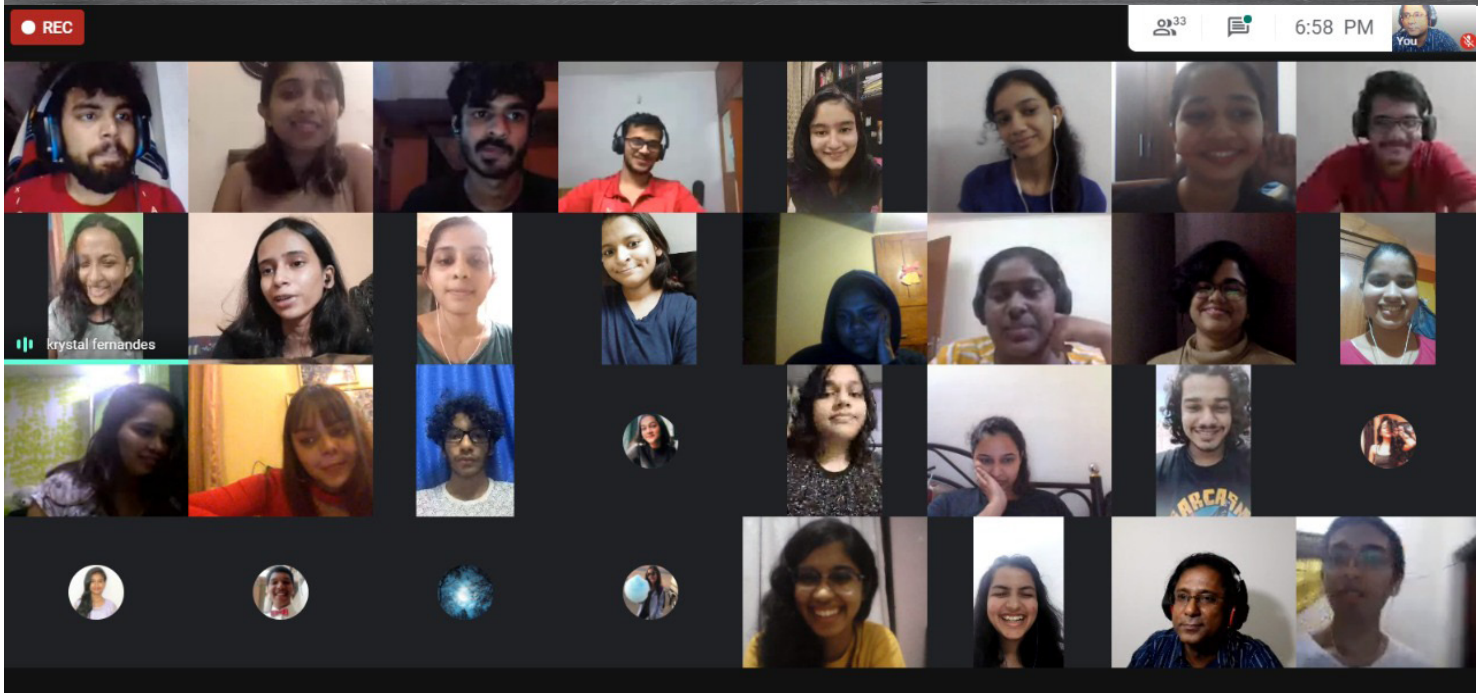
they had gone for a year-long academic exchange programme back in September 2019. 'Whenever I think back on my experiences I am overwhelmed with a very humbling sense of gratitude. I am grateful for the love, the laughter and even the hardships...' recalls Charmaine Pereira, one of the exchange programme students. Their memories and enlightening experiences have been collected and recollected in this issue (page 3 onward).

One thing that has not changed however, is our ability to win competitions. Whether online or offline, our students have excelled at representing the department all over Goa. Salome Fernandes won the first prize in poetry writing and recitation at 'Kavyotsav' organised by VVM's Shree Damodar College of Commerce & Economics while others from the department participated too.

All in all, it has been a quiet yet eventful beginning. The college classrooms might be empty but Google Classroom has been thriving.

*Asst. Prof.*  
*Shubhankar Shah*





Screenshot of Alpha 2020 GMeet

## Virtual Freshers'

The English Department organised their annual welcome party for the freshers called 'Alpha' on 17 October 2020 via Google meet. Both the first-year students from BA and MA joined in. The theme for the evening was influenced by a popular online game called 'Among Us'; accordingly various activities were organised for the newcomers. One of the activities required the freshers to answer a few questions and find the imposters among the attendees. Other games such as Bingo were also conducted which helped in breaking the ice between the First Year students and their seniors. The gathering was

hosted by Mr. Leander Fernandes and Ms. Jesslyn Fernandez, students of Chowgule college. The event began with the teachers addressing the newbie students, followed by a segment called ED talks where the seniors from SY, TY and MA Part Two spoke about topics related to college which included the dos and don'ts of online submissions, advice and warnings and also things the freshers might not have experienced due to the switch to online learning like the college canteen and campus. To add a spark of entertainment to the party, performance videos were prepared by the students from SY and TY as a

special gift to the juniors, the performances included singing and dancing. Later, the students had an informal interactive session with the teachers and their fellow classmates, this helped them to bond despite the virtual barrier. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by Ms. Jyoti Pandey, one of the members of the core organising team. Despite the difficulties, the English Department was able to pull off its first-online event of the year successfully. The innovative and out-of-the-box ideas of the students made the event a memorable one.

*Vrutha Karmali*



# Crossing Oceans For Education: Learning Experiences from Portugal



Close encounters of the scenic kind - while exploring Portugal...

Every year Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science (Autonomous) conducts an Academic Exchange Programme with international universities such as Waseda University and Kansai University in Japan and Porto University in Portugal. The exchange programme is six months or a year-long. In the academic year 2019-20, Second Year students majoring in English with a minor in Portuguese, Srushti Prabhudesai and Amanda D'costa, along with Charmaine Pereira went to Porto University. Their trip was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic but the impact was minimal. We interviewed them to understand the importance of this trip in their lives.

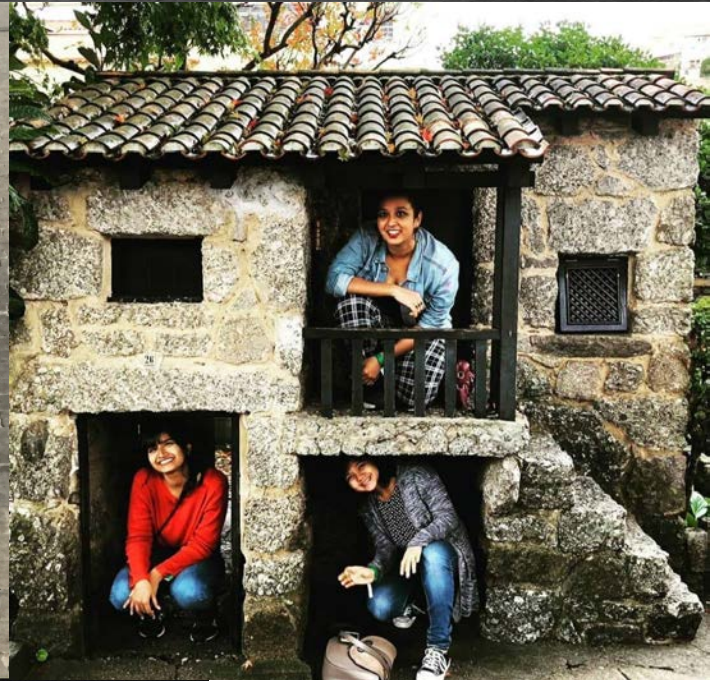
They departed to Portugal in mid-September 2019 and returned in mid-August 2020. Srushti was encouraged to go on this trip because she wanted to experience the culture and lifestyle of Portugal. She also wanted to better understand the language she was learning (Portuguese). Amanda added to that saying that she always wanted to visit the beautiful place. Charmaine believes that, 'Wisdom is the daughter of experience. I couldn't tell you if I'm wiser now but I do know that I did not come back as the same person.' College life in Portugal for them

was quite similar to Goa. Some differences were long hours of lectures and submitting hard-copies of assignments which is not the norm in Chowgules. 'I studied literature and critical theory in class and life lessons in friendship and heartbreak outside. Porto is a magical city. It doesn't have bright lights, its not even a big city. It's the kind of city you fall in love with slowly. In the time that you take to discover the precious little secrets of Porto you inadvertently end up discovering new little secrets about yourself,' believes Charmaine.

Portugal and Goa have lots of similarities, from the geographical location being near the seashore to the way of living. It is apparent as our histories are connected. The people they encountered were quite warm and of helping nature. They made new friends and created lots of memories too. Being a girl in an unknown country did not become a burden due to the kind and friendly nature of the locals. Though difficulties did occur when Covid pandemic started at the later part of their journey. Charmaine recalls how it was scary to be away from home and family at a time like that, 'It had taken me my whole life to learn how to navigate through this world with my eye condition. All of a sudden everything I knew



On the streets of Porto



Tygers reunite! Meeting Ms. Jeanette



At a Black Lives Matter protest

had to be unlearned and I had to learn to function and adapt my disability to my new circumstance; online school was a nightmare. However, my teachers were very understanding and I had friends and classmates who helped me cope with class work.'

There were many cases of Covid19 in Portugal but the lockdown was not enforced. All the precautions were taken. Colleges were shut down, social

distancing, and wearing masks was made compulsory. They made sure they stayed strong and supported each other. This made the whole pandemic situation much easier to pass through. On their return journey, the flights got rescheduled and they had to go through a long process to board their flight. 'Through all the ups and downs we made sure nothing can stop us from having a good time' says Srushti, which showed their spirit. All the three recommend this programme. It will help in becoming an independent and responsible person and will give a chance to know different cultures and people. Amanda says, 'A beautiful place like Portugal will probably become your second home.'

This Exchange programme was an amazing opportunity for Amanda, Srushti and Charmaine and they made loads of fond memories while the downsides were forgotten. 'Whenever I think back on my experiences I am overwhelmed with a very humbling sense of gratitude. I am grateful for the love, the laughter and even the hardships. I travelled and ironically, saw and had so many wonderful experiences in such wide and varied parts of the world!' says Charmaine. Chowgule college truly succeeded in providing fun, adventure and experience alongside education.

*Mugdha Prabhugaonkar*



# Konichiwa Kansai!



Cheers to the Land of the Rising Sun! My adventures in Japan

I am Charmaine Pereira, B.A. student at Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science (Autonomous). I'm currently nearing the end of my final year of college as an English Major.

Going to Chowgules has never been an option. Right from the get go it was my first and only choice. It offered me a wide array of new and exciting academic prospects in class and a vivacious student life outside of class. Furthermore, my professors provided me with a superior learning environment- keeping our courses relevant, making our course content relatable and interactive, all while nurturing and encouraging our creative growth through events. All this would make for the ultimate university experience. However, I was offered even more still!

I was presented with the opportunity to

study at Kansai University in Osaka, Japan for two whole semesters on an academic exchange programme. In the spring of 2018, I found myself in a whole new world. I was mesmerised by the culture and mystery of Japan. At Kansai University I studied a number of subjects related to Japanese literature and culture. Some of my most memorable classes include Post war Japanese Literature, Japanese Arts, Japanese pop culture, Global sociology and Comparative Asian Cultures. I learned about Japanese theatre and even watched a Noh play! I studied Kawaii culture, the making of pop idols and even anime. My Sociology class had students from nearly 20 countries. The interactions were insightful to say the least. Understanding the dynamics of culture within itself as well as with others has helped me gain a global perspective. It allowed for the struggles and achievements of so many countries to become more than a statistic or a headline. It became tangible and



Special friends at special places - Snaps taken while traversing Japan

gave us all a safe space to ask and answer questions about each other's cultures and countries. The people I met weren't just friends, they became windows into these vast and fascinating realities that existed alongside my own.

The thrill of the adventure and the rush of new discoveries never did get old but as a student I also had the unique privilege of living what I was studying and vice versa. It only deepened my interest and understanding of the intricacies of culture, of relationships, of people and even myself. I grew closer to my roots while revelling in the novelty. The international exposure helped build character, hone my academic and people skills and further my curiosity and passion for all things new.

Most of all though I'm grateful to my department and the administration for going above and beyond to make this extraordinary

experience accessible to me. I have a visual disability (stargardt disease). It is a genetic degeneration and currently has no cure. As such the most I can do is adapt and keep moving forward. That being said, I could never have achieved all that I have or even dared to think it possible if it wasn't for the continuous support, understanding and encouragement from my professors. They showed me the world and told me I could have it all as long as I made the effort.

As my condition grows progressively worse, my experiences as an international student only motivate me to be exponentially better. I fully intend to take everything I've learned to heart and take the world by storm.

Charmaine Pereira



# Club Carpe Diem: Online Reboot!



Different stripes... but all Tygers! Screenshot of an online Carpe Diem session

Club Carpe Diem hosted live sessions where students, teachers and others explored poetry, stories, anecdotes and stand up comedy. Just like everything else, these sessions also came to a halt due to the pandemic until the club began with online sessions to continue exploring their love for poetry.

The sessions take place through Google Meet and the first session of the academic year was held on 03 October 2020. There was no specific theme and the attendees got to listen to poems with various themes and of different forms. The first session lasted for over two hours and ended by picking a date for the next session that was on the 19th of October 2020, this time with a theme. The session was a fun one with everyone reciting the most cringeworthy poems and keeping

up with the theme.

The 'Halloween Special' session was hosted on 03rd November 2020, with the theme obviously being horror. Poems and stories exploring fear, terror and other scary stuff kept the halloween spirit up. The next session, a more heartfelt one. On the 17th of November 2020, we recited poems revealing who we are when no one is looking.

The four sessions conducted during these 2 months saw poems very different from one another. The sessions benefit the Creative Writing students by giving them a platform to showcase the poems and stories they wrote during the course. It also encourages beginners to try their hand at new forms of writing and in exchange receive honest feedback from the listeners. The sessions are open to everyone whether you want to perform or whether you just want to listen to some poetry.



*Arya Girish*



# Online classes: From an introvert's and extrovert's point of view

Ever since the unfortunate pandemic, life has been tough for everyone. Sure, if there is an ultimate superior above, they did take the "I need a 6-month vacation twice a year!" joke very seriously. And frankly speaking, it may have been all fun and games in the beginning, at least for the introverts, but it may be quite tough for the extroverts. But of course, that didn't last for long. Do you think the introverts have it tough or the extroverts? Or both? Let's take a look at what the other students have to say about their experience with online classes.

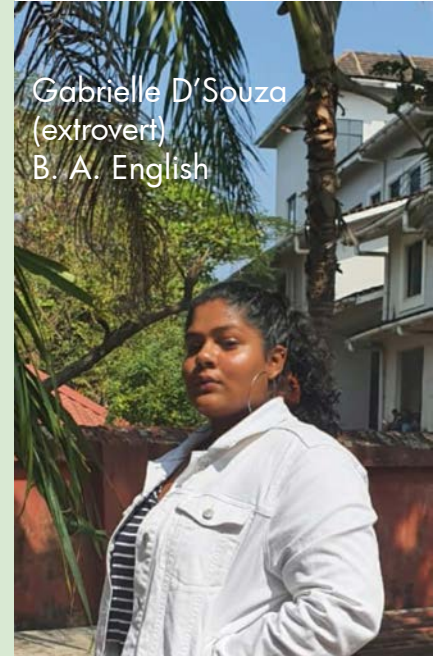
Classes being online is alright with me, but I really miss offline classes because there is very less amount of interaction between our classmates and less activities. During class, I do respond to the professor. It creates a good interest between the teacher and the student. And I do want the pandemic to end so that I can go to college every day. Not going to college is like missing out on actual fun. There is really less interaction between our classmates.

Aishna Suneja  
(extrovert)  
B.A. English  
& Geography



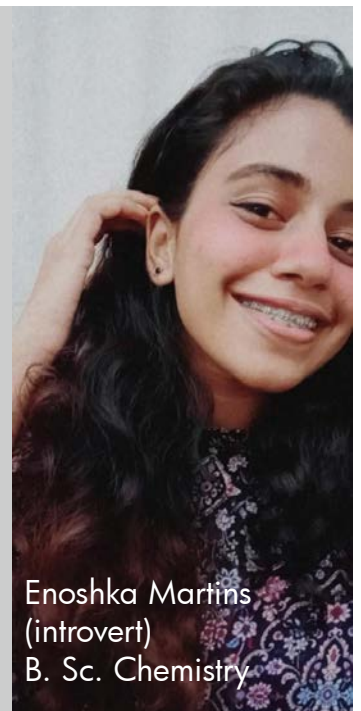
Classes being online have not really changed anything as my goal is 'studying hard no matter your surroundings will bring you success'. Being an extrovert whenever someone asks a question or someone one needs a general opinion it is truly my honour to give it to you. I am never the one to shy away from anything asked in class. Answering in class to my professor creates that link which benefits me to learn the subject with ease and fun. I definitely want to experience that original college life and meeting friends and graduating together.

Gabrielle D'Souza  
(extrovert)  
B. A. English



I feel exhausted because online classes tend to drain you out more compared to offline classes. Even so, I feel that coming to college is better as I can pay better attention when it's an offline class. During lectures when the professor questions us, I don't always answer but sometimes I do. But when the professor randomly call out or picks out students to answer, there's a lot of anxiety and most times I panic everytime a question is being asked. Never the less, I would want the pandemic to end so that we can go back to college.

Enoshka Martins  
(introvert)  
B. Sc. Chemistry



Calene Pereira

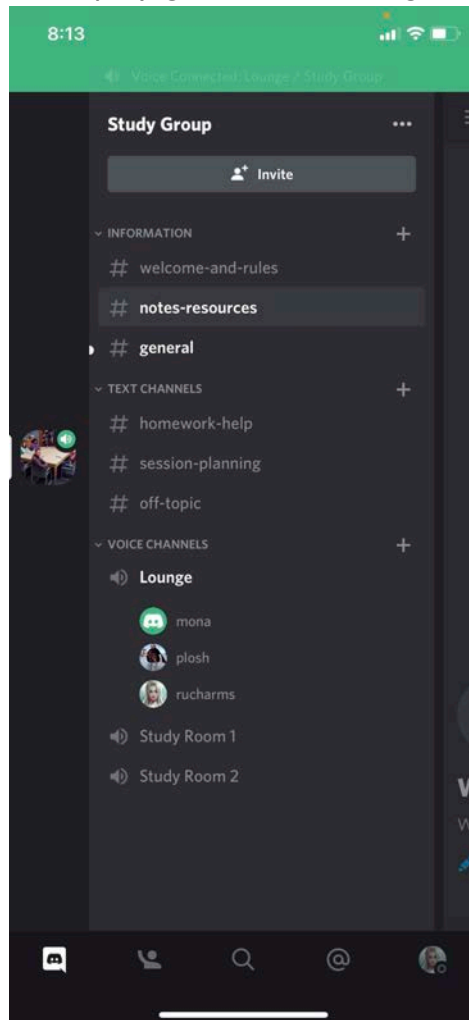


# Just Like College

More than six months later, we have become used to this new normal that is online classes. When the pandemic struck, we expected to get back to physical classes soon enough but boy, were we wrong. Now, we have just accepted this as our college life. But does this really mean that we have to miss out on what is supposed to be the best years of our lives? If we can have classes, and college events online, why do we have to miss out on the best part of college; the time spent with our friends. Let's be honest, the best times in college have been spent in the gaps between classes (or during classes if you didn't feel like attending) with our friends. Well, there are still many ways you can interact with your friends from home.

Unfortunately, unless all your friends are willing to meet up, this too would have to be virtual but it is possible thanks to several apps. Just like our college, you could use Google Meet (or even Zoom) to meet up with your friends and chat in between classes or at the end of the day. You could also make a Discord server and have your friends join the voice chat whenever possible. Just like your favourite hang-out spot in college, the voice chat could be a place you go to when

you are free and hope to see a few friends there. If you think all this too much, you could always just get on a simple WhatsApp video call. Now, the obvious question. What would you even do on these calls? Well, it's simple. If you don't want to just sit around talking or need a reason for people to gather, you could play games like Among



A typical student's Discord server

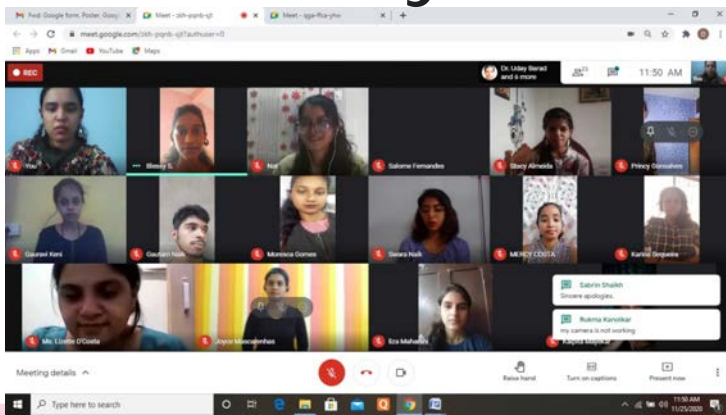
Us or UNO. House Party is also another great app that you could play games on while you chat with your friends. Of course, not everyone will always be in a mood to play. So you could always just join the call and talk, complain about classes or spill the tea on some new gossip you just found out about. Even if you feel like you don't have time to play games and chill because you need to keep up with all our work and online classes, you could just make a study group. Everyone could meet up at a certain time and keep up with all the college work together.

Even though talking and chilling with our friends is fun, is it really the true college experience? No, the true college experience is surviving our time here together. So the next time you are freaking out about a CA or a back form you forgot to submit, you know you can rely on your Google Meet link or your Discord server. All you have to do is send your friends one text and the next thing you know, all of you will be screaming and freaking out together, and will hopefully find a solution as well. So no matter what year you are, you don't have to worry about missing out on the best years of your life.

Rucha Prabhudesai



# 1 Salome Shines at Kavyotsav



Let the Poetic games begin! Screenshot of Kavyotsav

Salome Fernandes

VVM's Shree Damodar College of Commerce and Economics, Margao, organised a poetry recitation competition 'Kavyotsav' on 25 November 2020. The competition was held online via Google Meet and was known to be the first of its type. There were four categories; English, Hindi, Marathi and Konkani and two winners were chosen for each category. Salome Fernandes, currently pursuing a double major in Sociology and English from our college participated in the English category and won first place among 16 others participants.

The participants were given a

maximum of five minutes to perform an original piece of poetry and they were scored out of hundred. The theme was open and they were judged on aspects like clarity, creativity, concept, voice modulation, originality etc. Salome's piece was based on survivor's guilt and she cranked her performance up a notch and played the violin while performing and that's what probably gave her an upper hand in the competition along with the content of her poem. The themes explored by the participants ranged from COVID-19 to Math to mental health and love and women empowerment. One thing that

fascinated Salome was how everyone dedicated their time and actually memorized their pieces for a much more impactful performance. Another takeaway was how their body language also impacted their performance.

This was Salome's first poetry recitation competition and the result has been amazing. Classmates and friends are all ears to listen to her and it always ends in applause and 'oohs' and 'aahs' of amazement, as it probably did for the competition too.

Arya Girish



# Farewell Nos



The Farewell for the Third Year students of the 2019-2020 batch had been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The only possible way that we could have it was online, and by all means, we did. The event was held on 31 October 2020 through Google Meet by the students of the English department and English Tygers Club, who put up a heartwarming show for their TY and MA Part 2 seniors.

Our hosts were Leander Fernandes and Jesselyn Fernandes and the team presenting the videos and slides consisted of Nathan Colaco, Shounak Naik and Daschel Fernandes. The hosts greeted the seniors with a small welcome which was followed by a song performed by Nayden D'Silva Asst Prof.

# Stalgia 2020!



Delilah then addressed them with an informal yet unforgettable speech. Amanda then presented them with a rap that she composed, mentioning each and every graduating student with a funny fact about them. Next, Sabrin Shaikh and Zane Mascarenhas conducted a game called Zoom Challenge, where one had to guess their childhood TV shows with only a small part of its poster revealed.

After that, Ma'am Shubhaangi and Ma'am Gauravi both graced the meet with their speeches and recalled all the great memories they had with the seniors over the past few years. After they were done, a dance video by Krystal Fernandes, Megan Martins, Kashish Mehta and Srushti Prabhudesai



**PRE-PANDEMIC MEMORIES!**  
Class photos taken before COVID-19 disrupted the world.

1. All the single ladies.. put your shades up!
2. Gangster Gang
3. The Masters (MA Part 1 & Part 2 students)
4. Tygers soaring higher and higher
5. Ma'am Delilah and disciples
6. MA students overthrowing patriarchy through Joshua



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was played. Krystal then conducted a “Guess The Song” game. Ryle Souto graced us with a surprise performance which grabbed everyone’s attention.

Rucha Prabhudesai, then conducted the game “Never Have I Ever” wherein the graduating students had to confess about the hijinks that they may have done on college campus during their time in college. After this, the winners of all games were announced but not before a really cool message which was delivered through Sir Shubhankar Shah’s speech. Nathan Colaco then put together a video of all the graduating students and their time in Chowgules which brought a few tears in their eyes. The graduating batches was then asked to shed some

light on their experiences in the college as well as memories that they wish they could forget... Finally, the ultimate backbone and hard-carry of the English Department, Sir Andrew Barreto, addressed the seniors with a small humorous speech and gave them a lot of confidence and support for their future endeavours. The Farewell came to an end after Jyoti Pandey’s vote of thanks.

*Daschel Fernandes*





English Department  
Third Years and Masters Students  
2019-2020

