Newsletter St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Alumni Association June, 2006

HILLO

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Standing cut amongst the North Eastern States. not just for its natural beauty, Meghalaya, with its rich cultural heritage, traditions, festivals and crafts makes it a perfect holiday destination for the discerning tourist.

> Issued by The Directorate of Information and Public Relations. Government of Meghalaya, Shillong



Newsletter, St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Alumni Association (SACSAA) Vol. 1, No. 1, June 10, 2006



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The Editorial Board

Published by The St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Alumni Association (SACSAA), St. Anthony's College, SHILLONG - 793001, Meghalaya.

This first issue of "In Touch", the Newsletter of the SACSAA, has been published on the occasion of the Second Annual General Assembly of the Association,

held on 10th June, 2006 and is dedicated to all the alumni of the College. Editor : Dr. Basil S Koikara Assistant Editors : Ms. Rosemary Ishorari Ms. Machun Kamei

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In Touch 1

keeping In Touch ...

The St. Anthony's College, Shillong Alumni Association was born of a desire to keep in touch in touch with our Alma Mater, in touch with friends and colleagues met along the path of life, with whom we shared lives for a while and then parted, and of a desire to give back to the college and the society some of the precious gifts we have received from it.

"In Touch" is an attempt to reach out to all the alumni of the college spread out all over the North East, all over India, all over the world. We of the Editorial Board sincerely hope that this Newsletter will fulfil its purpose to some small extend.

We are grateful to all who have taken the pains to offer their writings to be published in this Newsletter. We offer a very special word of appreciation to the government departments and individuals who have placed their advertisements and wishes in the Newsletter and thus supported it. We have received messages from the Archbishop of Shillong, the Principal of the College, the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister. We thank them for their inspiring and encouraging messages.

I am deeply indebted to the other members of the Editorial Team, especially to Dr. Loniac Marbaniang for the zeal and enthusiasm with which they have spared no effort to make this Newsletter see the light of day.

Let it Make A Difference!

Dr. B. Koikara, Editor. India INK

For Touch . 2

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2006-2007

September 2006 : Interaction with out-going (Third Year) students of

October 2006 December 2006	-	and Puja Vacation. Fund-raising cultural programmes Pre-Christmas and Pre-New Year celebrations – Farewell of the third year students of the college.
May 2007	**	Release of the second issue of the News Letter Alumni meet students

THANK YOU!

The SACSAA would like to acknowledge specially the generous contributions made by the following persons:

Mr. D.P. Singhania (DP Enterprises, Bara Bazar	đ	Rs. 10,000.00
Shillong - 793002) Lt. Gen. Bhopinder Singh YSM, VSM (Director General, Assam Rilles)	-	Rs. 5000.00
Dr. C. Ranjit Singh Kansas State University, USA	2	Rs. 4501.00
Mr. Bhagavati Prasad Bhajoria	-	Rs. 2000.00



BUILD A BEITTER WORLD

Rt. Rev. Dominic Jala SDB, Archbishop of Shillong

n anonymous writer puts one of our great perplexities in a simple and succinct way:

Build a better world said God And I asked how? The world is such a vast place and so complicated now I am small and useless What can I do? God in all His wisdom said, "Just build a better you."

Yes, we all long for a better world. The young look forward to it, those who have gone on ahead, count the successes and measure the failures, hoping that what remains will make for a better time and a better place in this world. Prophets of doom will not be wanting. Neither do we lack hopeful idealists who see only the possibilities while discounting the dangers.

During the past many centuries and even millenniums, generations of students and disciples of great masters have sought to unravel the great mysteries of nature, of the human person and human society. Artists and scientists have worked to fill this world with all that will better the quality of life in its every aspect.

An institution like St. Anthony's College, in its many decades of existence can look with joy at the number of its alumni who have made a difference in society and in their own personal lives. But we keep asking ourselves what more should be done especially by those who have been exposed to what is possibly the best in human formation.

The lines of the anonymous writer quoted above tell us the eternal truth that we cannot hope to realize the dream of a better world unless we start with "Just build a better you." This is what education of any kind should primarily aim at. The talents and gifts that each student is helped to develop serves to promote integral human personal growth to maturity. Learning should not serve merely as a prop to getting a job that will pay well. In fact, we are told that modern companies and agencies are looking for people with the correct attitudes rather than those who are armed with a cartload of degrees.

"Building a better you" is a lifelong task. We are never finished with this God-given task. And commitment to it has unimaginable repercussions. Here is what another anonymous writer shares with us:

When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world. I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation. When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family. Now, as an old man, I realize the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realize that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world.

May we never be disillusioned.

Archbishop Dominic Jala, sdb





Rev. Fr. Ioannis Warpakma SDB, Principal, St. Anthony's College, Shillong.

I am delighted to know that the St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Alumni Association (SACSAA) is releasing the first issue of its bi-annual newsletter on the occasion of its Annual General Assembly. I congratulate the association.

I have seen the beginning, the growth and development of the association and it gives me a deep sense of satisfaction to find that the association is forging ahead to make a difference in its own way with reference to the college, the students and the society at large.

I appreciate the vision and the commitment of the association to mould minds and to guide lives. It is a noble task and responsibility that the association has assumed upon itself voluntarily. I wish SACSAA success in its every effort.

Fr. Ioannis Warpakma SDB.







Dr. D.D. Lapang, Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong.

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Alumni Association (SACSAA) will hold its first ever Annual General Assembly in the month of June, 2006, and a bi-annual Newsletter is being brought out to mark the auspicious occasion.

I have learned that the SACSAA, which was born less than an year ago, has done a tremendous job in rendering valuable guidance to the students of this college. I extend my heartiest congratulations to the St. Anthony's College Alumni Association and I hope that the Association will continue to be a guiding light to the students of the college in their journey to the future.

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I wish the Annual General Assembly and the Newsletter a grand success.

Dr. D. D. Lapang



Dr. Donkupar Roy, Deputy Chief Minister, Meghalaya.

It is very heartening to know that St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Alumni Association (SACSAA) is becoming active and vibrant. The SACSAA not only binds the past students of St. Anthony's College together but it also endeavours to interact with the present students through its inspirational and motivational activities.

I wish the SACSAA grand success in its various programmes.

Dr. Donkupar Roy

In Touch 6

From 1934 to 2004 is a long glorious march and StAnthony's is 70 years old! From its humble beginning in a makeshift wooden structure near Don Bosco Square to its present enviable stature of imposing infrastructure and outstanding output. St. Anthony's College has come a long way telling the story of achievements, growth and consolidation. First ever Five Star accreditation by the NAAC in the North-eastern region excellent service in reaching quality education to the door steps of the less privileged section of the society, pioneering student-friendly professional courses, ever increasing relevance in empowering the poor sections of the society, – all these have combined to keep SAC imposingly in focus.

Many are the sacrifices made by dedicated missionaries who steered its course through difficult and frustrating times. Fond memory pays homage to these stalwarts of Don Bosco and does bring to light the earlier days around one. Fr. Joseph Bacchiarello, the pioneering Principal who during the British Raj, rose to the compelling demand for higher education to the deprived indigenous locals and started the college in 1934. Fr. Iginus Ricaldone (1935 - 1952) carried on with the new venture during the difficult times of the Second World War and began the process of expansion. Fr. DJ Wollaston (1952-1958) carried out further expansion and consolidation. Fr. Joseph Arokiasamy (1958 - 1981) was at the helm for nearly 24 years during which the College was transformed into an elegant epic of excellence and himself into a legend of a man, Fr. NJ Kenny, who was associated with the college from 1940, was looked upon as the constant symbol of St. Anthony's College. He was Professor of English, Warden of the College Hostel, Vice-Principal and a permanent inspiring presence in the precincts of the college until his death in 1995, Fr. Paul Petta (1982 - 1986) began the modernization process of

We reproduce here an essay written by Dr. John Joy Apathara in the St. Anthony's College annual Journal, 'Mosaic' in 2004. It gives a quick and complete overview of the history and growth of the college from its humble beginnings to the present.





Dr. John Joy Apathara Department of English St. Anthony's College, Shillong. the college and shifted it to its present premises where in 1984 – 85 we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the College.

Fr. Stephen Mavely (1986 – 2002) was to bring about further expansion and consolidation. Many projects and programmes were launched during his tenure. Graduate Honours programmes in Pisciculture, Mass Communication & Video Production, Business Administration, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Media Technologies and Computer Science were introduced and this revolutionized the role of the college in professional education. A number of employment oriented short term courses and training programmes were offered mainly by the Pisciculture and Computer Science Departments. The SDS (Student Development Services), another innovative project of the College, was set up in 1995. It was sponsored by All India Association for Christian Higher Education. The SDS Cell provides personal, educational and career guidance to the students and conducts regular MBA coaching programme and Workshops on Communication Skills Development. St. Anthony's College came to be looked upon as the leading example of daring innovations in the field

ander Warjri, Korbar Singh, SN Paul, AB Dutta, KR Mukherjee, SK Chakravorty, DP Chakravorty, GN Talukdar, Jobren Khongwir, SR Bhattacharya and many others. Their story is a story of brilliance, dedication and almost brutal loyalty to the college. Gloriously shining in the light of the college they made the college shine by their excellence. They gave their yester-years of quiet co-operative labour so we can take pride in being Anthonians today. While paying grateful tribute to them and while basking in the luminous halo which they helped to create around the college, let us be inspired by their glorious example.

Nostalgia fills the heart as it moves down the memory lane. But memories of the glorious past alone cannot keep us glorious in the present and take us forward to future relevance. SAC is a dream come true but not an academy for dreamers. We have our dreams but we are basically doers Ever More and Better Ever !!!

The present leadership of the College consists of a bunch of highly qualified, experienced and dedicated missionaries. The present Principal, Fr. Ioannis Warpakma who took over in 2002 inspires with his exemplary simplicity and leads with



of professional education. The Diamond Jubilee Annexe, the Anthonian Computer Academy and the complex housing the conference hall, Mass Media Department and the Language lab were constructed during this period and another floor was added to the main block of the College. Fr. Stephen further beautified the campus and sailed the College to its Diamond Jubilee in 1994, and to its Five Star Accreditation by the NAAC in 2000.

One remembers with fondness and pride the teachers who made their destinies the destiny of the college. A few names come to light – Profs. KLS Sadhu. JP Khanduri, PN Chaurasia, Peter Marbaniang, GG Swell, Martin Narayan Majaw, Alexpersonal discipline and hard work. Fr. Joseph Nellanat, who is in the College since 1987, is Vice-Principal and Director of the Anthonian Computer Academy. Fr. George Palamattathil, a US trained Counsellor who joined the College in 2002, is Vice Principal and Director of the Student Development Services. The College is rising to newer horizons of achievements under the present leadership.. Besides the routine dynamism which the college exudes in academic matters, a number of projects and programmes are on in different fields. The College took the lead in opening the stream of performing arts and devised the course structure for Bachelor's Degree programme in

Music (B Mus). This innovative project aimed at Intellectual Property Rights cultivating and nurturing the love of music which is intrinsic to the culture of the North Eastern Region is awaiting the final approval of the University. The Computer Science Department, besides conducting its regular Diploma and Certificate Courses, is running a special six months' teachers training programme. This is an ongoing project for five years sponsored by the North Eastern Council. Highly commendable is the College research programme in Organic Chemistry which has produced works which are published in reputed Science journals both in the country and abroad. The Pisciculture department regularly conducts training programmes in fish-breeding and farming for the locals thereby empowering them for self-employment.

Seminars and workshops are organized on a regular basis in different fields of interest. In March 2004 the College organized a Workshop on Statistical Data Analysis using SPSS in collaboration with Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. Plans are afoot to conduct another workshop in the same line in March, 2005. The Mass Media Department regularly organizes its annual Photo exhibitions. This year they organized Synergy 2004 Media Festival during which the staff and students had an opportunity for theme-centred interaction with other reputed Media Departments in the region. The College organized a National Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights in October, 2004. This 3-day seminar, jointly sponsored by Ministry of HRD, Government of India, North Eastern Council and State Bank of India, brought together a fine bunch of intellectuals who gracefully and usefully deliberated on this very sensitive topic of

Special mention may be made of 'Siloam', a Centre for Psycho-spiritual experience pioneered by the College. A sprawling 14 acre campus on the enchanting shores of the Umiam Lake is being prepared to house this all important modern project for personal crisis management and conflict resolution. This project is for the benefit of a mixed clientele of professionals and students, youths, couples and families. This Centre, headed by Fr. George Palamattathil, the Vice Principal and Director of the Student Development Services Department of the College, will focus on psychological and spiritual development which would be achieved by pastoral and spiritual leadership programmes, counselling, and therapeutic support.

This index of present activities shows the definite direction which the College intends to take in the future. This resume is just to remind us and others what we are and what we do. We still have to look ahead - to more deeds to be done, aspirations to fulfill and pledges to redeem. We shall never stop being relevant to the educational needs of the region. Achievements will not make us complacent and snobbish. We are not in an ivory tower peddling in Erewhonian myths and Utopian dreams but we have our feet firmly placed on the bare earth of realities. With seventy years behind us we certainly have a place in history. But let not our long tradition be a tail that will pull us backward to mediocrity and elitism. We shall not be wrecked by success but we shall strive on, Ever More and Better Ever, to newer horizons of intellectual excellence and social usefulness. Long live St.Anthony's College!!!

A few things remain to be added to the above.

The year 2005 saw three new beginnings in the College:

- In October 2005, the St. Anthony's College, Shillong Alumni Association (SACSAA) was born with its new Constitution and a vibrant set of office bearers. It has undertaken several activities in the short span of its existence. Some of its activities are highlighted in another article in the Newsletter.
- In 2005, a long standing desire of the College was fulfilled to start a bachelor's degree in Music. In fulfillment of this long-standing desire, the department of Music was set up under the stream of Performing Arts under North Eastern Hill University, and the Bachelor's degree course in Music, B. Mus. was started.
- Another aspiration of the College was to embark upon the path of starting Post Graduate Degree Courses in the college. This aspiration was fulfilled when the M. Sc. course in Biotechnology was started in 2005.

The Editor

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The Editor



Fortify your lungs with cigarette smoke. It soothes. Subscribe. Sub. The label on the bottle does not matter. Recipe for a massive hangover. Drink. Itni badiya hai. Street corners are standing bars.

I have a job. After six years of struggle. Meagre pay. Economics disintegrate. Peter Pan. I am no leader. Boss spoke kind words today. He asked about my younger sister.

Money vapourises even though I have a job. My friends Are unemployed, I lend. I spend. I still Feel jobless. Economics disintegrate. My mother Calls me good for nothing.

Weekend. Pubs invite. Even entry fees Frighten. My date looks like a princess. I must borrow. Economics disintegrate further. Bills make me see red. I want to hide

Mirror shames me. Is that really my face? Hip-hop lyrics make sense. Hands quiver. I am in hospital. I have no answers. Visitors look disillusioned. I cringe.

At thirty, I die. A week later PCN highlights my passport photograph With credits and candles.

In Touch 10

Look Mei, I am on TV!

Government of Meghalaya, Shillong R.I.P.

Mr. Aldous Mawlong was a student in St. Anthony's College while studying PU (Com) and B Com (1977 - 81).

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George Plathottam sdb Director, Department of Mass Media, St. Anthony's College, Shillong

Fr. George Plathottam, the newly appointed Director of the department of Mass Media in the College is the President of the Asian Catholic Journalists Association. He is an experienced journalist and analyst of the media. He is an alumnus of the College and studied Pre University in the College in the years 1975-77.

It is said that the major casualty in war is truth. This became obvious during the war in Iraq. Those who followed the first major war of this century on television will be familiar with the figure of Al Muhamand Al Shaaf, the Iraqi Information Minister in the Saddam government. His bravado and confident smile, his threats and warnings, his utterances about the preparedness of the Iraqi forces, which would spring a surprise on the Allied Forces, made him look like a cult figure.

When Saddam's regime collapsed like a pack of cards, the viewers found out that the information minister was not giving actual information but indulging in confidence boosting measures. He must have won the battle of words. He seemed far more convincing on television than Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, the US spokesperson on the war. But Al Muhamad Al Shaaf went missing all of a sudden. With him disappeared the bravado. But by then he had become a hero, admired and derided across the globe. A website on him came into existence. A Saudi television publically announced that if he were available they would hire him.

The western media represented another spectrum of reality. Those who profess objectivity and truth had their own version of the truth on the situation in Iraq. To a great extent they helped plant and propagate the image that Saddam Hussein was a villain and that all Iraqis were eagerly waiting for the US and British Robinhoods to come and rescue the Iraqis. The war was covered from the battle scenes. The reporters reported even as the soldiers fought. Media had made live coverage of war a reality. This does not necessarily mean that there was improvement in the quality of news – its objectivity and accuracy.

The New Hork Times

Technology, we must admit, has made it possible today to cover any event with speed. But accuracy is seldom a winner in such situations. CNN and BBC with characteristic enthusiasm brought to viewers all over the world images and pictures of protestors and demonstrators tearing down images and pictures of Saddam Hussein, knocking down his statutes, kicking and spitting on his images. Those same channels did not so much show with objectivity and balance, scenes of the looting of museums and government buildings, the anti-war demonstrations which drew hundreds of thousands of people in most Western countries and cities across the world. It did not adequately cover the denunciations and lack of justification by the international bodies like the UN for the unjust aggression led by the US. So often, the truth we received was not the whole truth; it was tutored, 'reworked' truth, not the objective, authentic, truthful truth.

Unfortunately most of the media of the world continues to draw their 'information feed' largely from the West's leading news agencies. Their reports and television footages are what are often dished out to them. The first major war of this century and millennium has seen also a war of media, a war in which truth became a casualty. It continues to be so. It is difficult to assess the kind of damage or distortion media have caused in the minds of people. Some may have changed sides, switched loyalties as a result. They may have finally bought the lie that Bush was after all right in deciding to invade Iraq, that his only intention was, and continues to be, to help the Iraqis have a good, democratic government!

For truth being distorted or manipulated in this fashion, one need not wait for war. Truth is being sacrificed almost daily in the many media altars of the world. Speed and competition have reduced the process of verification and counter-checking of information. Accuracy has become a major victim in the fast phased communication era of our times. Today it is easy to plant a big lie along with truth and get some of the media consumers to believe it. The quantity of information has also considerably affected the truthfulness and quality of the news. The media users have hardly any tools to check and verify. We are left with the option of either accepting the lie as truth or suspend judgement and strive to find another perspective, if there is one. It is not easy considering the facts that we do not often have the adequate tools to check the veracity of news and information concerning people and places which are far away from us. Even if such tools exist at all, they are not fool proof due to many subjective factors under which we have to do the verification. .

That brings us to the question of the issue of prejudice or bias in media. When we look at the

media in India today it becomes obvious. Media are often used in order to cultivate and nourish, sustain and spread prejudices. Media become a handmaid, a willing accomplice, a tool in stirring up the prejudices that lie deep within us.

Media, besides helping to perpetuate stereotypes and prejudices, also brand certain areas as 'trouble torn', 'militancy infested'. Formerly it was Punjab, now it is Kashmir and North East. People living outside these regions have a totally distorted, 'mediated' picture of these places and people living there. A journalist once confided to me that his editors want 'a militancy angle' to almost every story. The reporters know well that when the militancy and conflict angle are played up in the report, the story is likely to be picked up by the press or television.

Media do not always give us the bias. They play on the prejudices that lie deep within each of us. We have got them through our own isolated experiences, from hearsay, from what we have seen or read or heard. The fact is that we all live with unexamined prejudices. Sometimes we take comfort in our prejudices and do not care, or should I say, dare, to examine them and verify them, and set the record right. Prejudices are like the fog that prevents us from seeing clearly as we drive along. They can affect our attitudes and our conduct; they can colour our relationships and our private and public behaviour.

Today media is the major force that shapes our opinions and affects our thoughts. Hence, it is important that we examine the way they influence our thoughts, our attitudes and our values. Socrates said: "An unexamined life is not worth living". The media of our day give us strong motivation to examine our life afresh so that truth shines out bright and clear and the fog of prejudice melts away. Going beyond prejudice, our aim should be to live by our age-old maxim: "Satyameva Jayade" Let truth alone triumph.



When Michaelangelo chipped the block of marble, a possibility died with every chip, but bit by bit the Pieta was born.

If he had not chipped at the marble block it would have lain to the end of time, full of possibilities but empty of fulfillment. A good choice means growth, but it also means narrowing. To grow into one possibility, I must die to others.

Gerard McGinnitty

Dr. S Loniak Marbaniang did his Intermediate Science (1958-60) and BSc (1960-62) in St. Anthony's College. While in the College, he was the General Secretary of SACSU (1960-62). He served the college as a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics (1972 – 1974). Later, he joined as a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics, NEHU. He had a stint in the Meghalaya Legislative assembly and was also a Minister in the Government of Meghalaya. In this little piece, he draws upon his school days to pass on some advice to the youth of today.

t was the year 1951, I remember very vividly, about six years after Word War II ended and four years after India achieved Independence. We were then young lads of Class IV of St. Anthony's Middle School, Laitumkhrah, Shillong. The class hours were 7.00 am to 11.00 am. In the afternoon, from 11.00 am onwards, the same building or rather, the same class-rooms were utilised for St. Anthony's College. The Rector of Don Bosco Technical School, Laitumkhrah, Shillong, the late Rev. Fr. I Ricaldone SDB, was also the Head Master of St. Anthony's High School and, at the same time, the Principal of St. Anthony's College. Moreover, the time-schedule of Shillong in those days was one hour ahead of the Indian Standard Time, which, however, was later on accepted uniformly throughout Mother India.

It was a Geography class. I cannot forget the many definitions I had to learn by heart from the text-book and which were later amplified and exemplified by our Geography teacher. One such definition was that of an island. It went more or less like this: "An island is any body of land that is entirely surrounded by water." Coming from the village school two years earlier and with a village background, I was astounded by such a puzzling definition. Further more, being a simpleton and having never seen a river or an island, according to the above definition before, I was bewildered by the subject of Geography, and that too at its initial stage.

The concept of an island in my mind visualized a tiny place with a sparse population. I could not imagine how people could manage to survive and grow on an island, surrounded completely by water and with no means of communication with the people of other places except boats or ships. I tried to put myself in the place of those isolated islanders and thus mentally experience their difficulties. What a life indeed! I thanked God that inspite of under-development and lack of infrastructure in the villages, I was born in a poor, remote village of the then United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District. Sometimes, in my wild imagination, I thought that these islanders might have been cannibals in order to survive. Later on it was clari-

Dr. S Loniak Marbaniang



fied to me that it was partially true. Considering myself lucky indeed, at times I felt a great pity for the plight of these islanders and I could not find any suitable adjectives to express this pity.

Later on, when I reached higher classes, a certain teacher stated, "Man is a social animal" and "No man can afford to remain an island unto himself." I hope I have put down these words correctly since it was quite many years ago when these quoted words entered my tender mind. After all, the simple law of science clearly says that the age of a person generally has a negative correlation to one's memory. As such, I cannot be, therefore, excluded from such a universal law.

Coming back to the above statements by my respected teacher, I began to really justify my earliest comprehension of island and islanders. Without understanding much about the power and wisdom of the Almighty, I began to question God about His purpose in creating such a landmass and such inhabitants. "Why?" I asked, "and for what purpose did He do so?" The whats and whys persisted in my mind till I became mature in the years to come. Now when I look back at all those developing years of my life, I realise what a fool I have been all along. But now I also ask myself, "Am I different from other human beings?" Well, the answer to this simple question lies within each one of us. technology and entrusting our faith to God, humans have achieved many things and can achieve much more. Reverent Robert H Schuller, the world-renowned preacher of the Crystal Cathedral, California, USA, which is a multi-religious congregation, clearly says that we put our faith and trust in God Almighty completely with all our hearts and all our minds, the impossible will surely become Himpossible.

The above narration, I confess here, is one of the myriad stray thoughts that wandered into my mind during my younger days. Believe me if I further confess that such seemingly childish concepts at times gain admittance into my matured brain even now-a-days, in the twilight years of my life. I strongly believe that for the brain to be continuously alert and active, it is for the possessor of this small, delicate and sensitive human organ to properly utilise one's faculty and to consequently share the knowledge thus acquired with other fellow human beings. We should not cast aside what may initially seem trifle matters. It is from such small trifle incidents that world famous discoveries and inventions have been made.

Young pupils and students of the North East in general and St. Anthony's College in particular, please take heed! Use your talents in the right direction and exert your energies for the best of human kind. With God's help and support, may you succeed in your attempts.

With the rapid development of science and



To maintain one's identity is to Preserve, Protect and Promote one's rich cultural heritage

> Directorate of Arts and Culture Meghalaya, Shillong



May the Almighty Guide and inspire the St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Alumni Association (SACSAA) in their Conscientious and concerted effort to serve the youth and students through the selfless services of the SACSAA fraternity

With warm wishes,

Kong Mesha Myrthong, M/s Longkmie Gas Agency, Laban, Shillong - 793004

Normally, the ages 40-60 years (opinions may differ) has been described as the "in between age" caught between adolescent children and ageing parents.

The current culture, where youth is given importance as in Bollywood, sports or in modelling, etc. may make middle-aged people feel like a spent force. However, Floyd and Harriet Thatcher in their book "Long Term Marriage" writes, "Middle age is a time of discovery, not stagnation. It is a time ripe for new beginnings – a threshold to a

- Relaxation of roles
- Greater assertiveness in women
- Grater expressiveness in men
- Being free to say what you think
- More time for yourself
- Possibility for contributing to the community

Negotiating Reactions

Some people at midlife feel the same way as people facing death. Five different stages usually have to be negotiated:



This soul-warming essay by Mr. Tony C Marak, the Executive Chairman of MBOSE, who calls himself "an Anthonian of the Old Building", is a balm and encouragement to those of us who are faced with midlife and what comes later...

rich and stimulating future."

By midlife, most people have matured and the rough corners have been rubbed off. They may also have gained sufficient experience to be able to contribute significantly in new areas of life at home or at work. Of course at this age, most people notice early warning signs of ageing – they need reading glasses, the TV is put on louder than before, forget more quickly, gain weight and have less energy. This is also a good time to realistically assess what will be possible and allow the unattainable to slip through your fingers, developing a more peaceful and contented outlook on life. If approached rightly, midlife can be one of the most exciting times of one's life.

Midlife Potential

According to Gail Sheehy, probably few of us are aware of the new potentials and special strengths released between the ages of 45 and 60, that are exclusive to middle age:

- Denial "This isn't really happening to me?"
- Anger "It isn't fair"
- Bargaining "How can I delay this?"
- Depression "Everything's gone" and finally
- Acceptance "Now I can face reality"

Success in midlife

Success, which we all dream of, may not appear to have been achieved by us, while others are basking in the pinnacle of glory and success. Your life, once filled with activities in an effort to be successful now seems to be empty and barren. Yet, such realization could be a stepping stone for us to look at success from God's point of view. The Bible views at success more by way of character building and faithfulness to God rather than outward visible evidences, which are mostly measured in monetary terms.

Middle age is meant, in divine providence, to be a continuation and projection of youth. Ahead can thus lie exciting years in which God takes you in ways to be a blessing to others.

Checking on relationships

Midlife is a time when we can check on our relationships with our family, friends and coworkers. It could be a good time to re-look at life in the following areas:

- Time
- Commitment
- Friendship, etc.

Parenting woes

Parents in their midlife find their growing children a source of never ending problems as parental authority is questioned and sometimes the parental line of argument is not good enough to prove a point, making them frustrated. Children also develop a zone for themselves where parents are not welcome. They even question their religious beliefs and may even be bored with their outdated lifestyle.Midlifers, learn to look beneath the surface to understand your teenager. Do tell them how valuable they are and treat them as responsible persons and soon you will find that both will grow in mutual understanding and respect.

Becoming grandparents

Some people in their midlife become grandparents. Be sensible to the new family and help them to feel secure. Some families will cope better if you keep your distance. Others will want you around more than before. Being a grandparent in midlife can be very special, for you are young enough to have plenty of time left to enjoy with your grandchildren.

Caring for the elderly

Like anyone else, elderly parents, uncles and aunties need to be loved too. They still need to be encouraged and affirmed. While ageing parents need help, it is important that we support them in such a manner that they remain active and feel important and useful. In midlife, we need to discover the fine balance between being overprotective and being unconcerned or ignorant about what is going on in the lives of the elderly.

Midlifers' Challenge

The apostle Paul and Timothy wrote in Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Our lives as youths while we were in college were days of remembrance because of God's care and keeping. God is still the God of midlife and midlife is still full of challenges and surprises!!

Midlife is as precious as the life of a toddler, teenager or youth. It is also a time of giving back to God and to the people all that has been given to you. Many people have provided leadership in their midlife. Midlife combines the strength of youth and the wisdom of the elderly and should be used for the glory of God and for the blessing of the people and the society.

Sericulture and weaving are the two most important traditional and eco-friendly cottage industries practiced by the people of the state. The main aims and objectives of the Directorate of Sericulture and Weaving are: 1. To uplift the socio-economic conditions of the rural areas. To preserve the traditional skills, cultural ethos and rich heritage of the people 2. of the State. The production of silk fabrics of ethnic design 3. 4. Introduction of latest technology in silkwork rearing, seed production and economic plantation including introduction of modernised look accessories for rapid production Training facilities for self employment and job opportunities 5. 6. Motivation, awareness, dissemination of information through training and demonstration along with assistance and technical guidance. For further details, contact the Directorate of Sericulture and Weaving or the nearest District Office. Issued by The Directorate of Sericulture and Weaving, Lower Lachumere, Shillong - 793001.

St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Alumni Association (SACSAA) formed with the motto. "make a difference", elected its members to the 'Executive Committee' during its Annual General Assembly on the 4th of October, 2005. Right from its inception under the able leadership of its president Brigadier W Sturgeon, it endeavoured to work for the betterment of society and thereby contribute to making a difference.

Colours of the East

The first step towrds making a difference was the fund-raising variety show for the Jammu and Kashmir earthquake victims on the 5th of November, 2005, money through the sale of tickets and donations. After the deduction of the expenditure incurred during the organization of the show, an amount of Rs. 26, 172 was contributed to the Chief Minister's Jammu and Kashmir earthquake relief fund.

Panel Discussion

As an organisation of the past pupils of the college, SACSAA takes a keen interest in the well-being of the present students as

Rosemary Ishorari Department of Mass Media Executive Member, SACSAA

in collaboration with the College and the Gorkha Training Centre. With the theme "Colours of the East" the show brought alive an oriental Eden upon the stage. Not only was it a platform for a beautiful cultural extravaganza to take place, but it also helped to raise a considerable amount of

well. As a sincere effort towards contributing to the welfare and future career of the outgoing students, during the farewell function for the outgoing third year students of St. Anthony's College, the SAC-SAA organised a panel discussion that highlighted different professional fields that the students



could venture into in the future. The experts who took part in the panel discussion were all alumni of the college and came from a backgrounds varying from the Civil Services to Politics.

Career Counselling Programmes

The SACSAA also organized a career counseling session with the NCC cadets of the college. The emphasis was on defense services as a career option.

In a career counselling programme held at the Loreto Convent School, on behalf of SACSAA, the President, Brig. W Sturgeon and a member of the Executive Committee, Dr. Basil S Koikara, dwelt upon the need for planning a career and upon the various careers that the young students of Loreto Convent could aspire for in the Defense Services.

Meeting Minds, Guiding Lives

On 4th April, 2006, the SACSAA invited the outoing third year students of St. Anthony's Col-

Sand over my feet, between my toes, Caressing them gently. Its divine touch Feels like you.

The sea in front, Calm and magnetic, The sea in my eyes, Locked and waiting.

Earth, water, sky – And fire in my heart, Completeness around me, Yet I miss you.

The waves envelope my feet; Wash away the grains of sand, Rid me of their divine touch. Did you get washed away too?

The river rushes past, It is not my own, The sea, my kin, is waiting, Her depths call out.

Yes, elusive peace at last, Here, with water all around me. Completeness, salvation, River, you shall join me now. lege, to an interaction programme which was aptly called "Meeting Minds, Guiding Lives". The purpose of the programme was twofold – to help them on their way with some advice about higher education, educational loans, and help for entrepreneurial activities, and to introduce them to the activities of the SACSAA and invite them to enrol themselves in the association. As a follow up of the programme, the SACSAA offered to the outgoing students a short term Certificate Course in Computer Applications and a Workshop on Communication Skills. Both the courses were taken up enthusiastically.

Thus, right after the induction of new members to the Executive Committee, SACSAA has been working full swing to live up to its motto. We at SACSAA are all set to make this year too, an eventful and meaningful year for all those whose lives are touched by us. We sincerely hope to grow "ever more, better ever" and continue "making a difference" to the society we live in.



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- Suitable for making value-added products like jams, jellies, crushes, juices, soap and wines.

For more information, contact D.H.O, Nongpoh Ri Bhoi District

> Issued by Agriculture Information Wing, Directorate of Agriculture, Meghalaya, Shillong. email : agri-meg@nic.in web : http://www.megagriculture.nic.in

In Touch 21

May St. Anthony's College, Shillong, shine 'Ever More and Better Ever' by the contributions of its Alumni Association, through its various functions and activities!

> With Best Complements NEERAJ KAPOOR, Shillong.

I see the world going by Sunshine and pain written in their faces Others keep them hidden till their goodbye. I saw a mountain, at one of its best life phases Overshadowed by the misty fog! Doesn't it look lovely? I love the mist on the river and on the oaks Cotton meandering along the valleys. The dew drops were heavy Till sun rays glittered on them, Dried them up, though I longed them to be! Not even able to sing their sad anthem? So take my hand, Pull me through till my sunshine, To the grassland, And the dew, short-lived, just as I. The glitters on them like Pearl Refreshes and lives with me though gone Never to return, gone in smoky curls That I may find the eternal bond.

for my brother

Ajaenga Pamei Department of Mass Media St. Anthony's College Shillong.

Ajaenga was a student of the Mass Media department of the college during . He now serves on the staff. Poetry writing is his passion.

the flute

The mangoes sweet smell Ripened rice in the hilly jhum The lify in the water bloom How lovely only you can tell So do little insects play Chasing about on the water ripples Playful little fishes spurting water in drizzles Prawns tease the crabs who have the last say. Rivers thinned down to little brooks Fishes retreat as Khari sing them farewell And Khaguakh once again sound its coronation bell Then little boys fish them with hooks. Corns and cotton ball - Yellowish and some snow-white The farmer's wife spins by the fire warm The boiled black beans steams, and his arm Bare and tanned, his flute simmers into the night.

With best complements

DIFFERENT FLAVOURS A branch of FLAVOURS

Don Bosco, Laitumkhrah, Shillong, Meghalaya

Department of industries, Meghalaya invites you to...

Join hands for the economic upliftment of the state and create self employment by setting up small scale industries.

Take advantage of the various facilities provided by the government including the package scheme of incentives, EDPs and Man-power training.

For further details you may contact The Director of Industries or

General Manager, District Industries Centre, at any District Headquarters.

Issued by Director of Industries, Meghalaya, Shillong.

Preparatory meetings for the first AGA of the Alumni Association of St. Anthony's Collegewere held on 3rd and 28th September.







RESHR





Some scenes of the first Annual General Assembly of SACSAA

Fr. J Nellanatt, the Vice Principal of the College played a very active role in revitalising the association

Ms. Rosemary Isho was the MC on the occasion of the first AGA



COME

71

COME ALUMN

Mr. PP Srivastava from the NEC and Fr. I Warpakma, the Principal of St. Anthony's College graced the occasion of the first AGA.







"MEETING MINDS, GUIDING LIVES" was a very enlightening occasion for the outgoing students of St. Anthony's College





Save your child through timely immunization

in

3

MOUL GLULO

At one and a half months	BCG (injection), DPT 1 (Injection), OPV 1 (dose)			
At two and a half months	DPT 2 (Injection), OPV 2 (dose)			
At three and a half months	DPT 3 (injection), OPV 3 (dose)			
At 9 months	Measles (injection)			
At 18 months to 5 years	DPT booster (injection), OPV Booster (dose)			
More than 5 years to 10 years	DT (injection)			
More than 10 years to 16 years	TT (injection)			
More than 16 years to 18 years	TT (Injection)			

Ideal immunization schedule for infants and children

If the infant has been delivered in a hospital/clinic, she should be given the BCG injection at birth.

 Even if you are late for an injection/dose, you must still get it. Consult your health worker regarding this.

Issued by Directorate of Health Services (MCH & FW) Government of Meghalaya.

What is a Go-operative Socie

A Co-operative Society is an enterprise which can be started by any 10 or more 20 persons by coming together and registering their organisation under the Co-operative Societies' Act.



Various types of co-operative societies can be formed by the members coming together as stated above.

> The primary aim of co-operative societies is to render various services to its members as well as to non-members

Co-operative societies are formed for the distribution of consumer 20 goods in urban and rural areas, marketing of agricultural produce of farmers from the production areas, giving loans to members for utilisation for productive purposes in agriculture and other allied activities, distribution of fertilisers and agriculture inputs, rendering agro-custom hiring services to farmers and also for various other purposes.

Co-operative societies registered as mentioned above, can avail various concessions and facilities in the form of soft loans, subsidies from National Co-operative Development Corporation and other organisations.

In Meghalaya, we have transport co-operatives, industrial co-operatives, credit co-20 operatives, marketing co-operatives, thrift societies, joint-farming co-operatives and various other types of co-operatives suited to the specific needs of the members.

If you are interested to organise a co-operative society, you may contact the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Shillong or Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, in the district who guide and help in organising whenever you require.

> Issued by The Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.

Aims of the Co-operatives

미

Bringing about a higher standard of living, better business methods of production, equitable distribution and exchange for people by

- Building up in the urban areas and especially in the rural areas a strong, viable and integrated democratic co-operative system with active, enlightened participation of the members, free from any discrimination and domination of vested interests to promote all around development.
 - Ensuring availability of cheap credit to the poor and needy cultivators on easy terms and conditions, and attractive rates of interest to depositors.
 - Marketing of surplus agricultural produce to ensure remunerative price to the producer, and market intervention where necessary to stabilise the price of the produce.
 - Supply of essential commodities and consumer articles at fair and reasonable prices especially to vulnerable sections of society.
 - Extension of loaning facilities to weaker sections for the construction of dwelling houses.
 - Giving encouragement to agriculture and other allied activities for the promotion of subsidiary economic activities.
 - Encouraging rural artisans and entrepreneurs to develop their skill and proficiency and create job opportunities for them.

Issued by Registrar of Co-operative Societies Meghalaya, Shillong.

a better tomorrow

Meghalaya – once the land of lush forests, fertile soil, abundant life-sustaining water and green pastures, now suffers from acute soil erosion problems.

It is high time for every citizen of our state to make a conscious effort to endow the land with the opulence it deserves.

Join hands with the soil and water conservation department today in conserving our natural resources – soil, water and vegetation for a better tomorrow.

Contact the nearest Soil and Water Conservation Office for details.

Issued by Directorate of Soil and Water Conservation, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.

WAKE UP

All public consumers must know their rights!!!

- Right to safety
- Right to choose
- Right to be informed
- Right to be heard
- Right to seek redressal

All consumers who have any complaint against any dealer are advised to file their complaint with the **"Consumer Courts"** known as the **"State Commission" / "District Forums",** as may be appropriate whenever disputes arise on account of defective goods or deficient service received by them on payment.

Issued by The Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Meghalaya, Shillong.
The Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Meghalaya is committed to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the rural population in the State by introducing low input poultry breed!



- Multi-coloured birds like desi fowl, but which do not brood.
- Gains 1 kg body weight in 49 days with a very low fat content
- Birds which can lay 180 eggs in farm conditions and 130 and above under village conditions
- Highly resistant to environmental stress
- Chicks can be put on scavenging at 3 to 4 weeks of age
- Resemblance to desi fowl makes kuroilers highly acceptable in villages
- They can thrive well on rations locally available under village conditions
- Flavour and quality of eggs and meat are similar to that of desi fowl
- Resistant to disease and stress

For details, contact Manager, Central Hatchery Cum Chick Rearing Farm, Umsning, ph. 262235

Issued by The Veterinary Information Unit, Directorate of A.H. and Veterinary, Meghalaya, Shillong, Ph. 2545908

In Touch 34

St. Anthony's... The vast campus, the cheerful faces, the buzz of activities, life seems to go on without end here. Every academic year, new faces arrive, while familiar faces sadly depart. And with every new face comes new expectations, new hopes, new aspirations. Yes, it goes on, a beautiful life.

In another three years, SAC will be seventy five years old. SAC must have sheltered generations of a family. They must have all had the same feelings at the beginning of the year, at the announcement of the results and other events.

This year, the academic session started on 8th May. It was a beautiful day, and what made it beautiful were the students. Coming in from different places, far and near, they entered SAC with a common purpose – a quest for knowledge. Their faces reflected the eagerness and the respect they have for the institution which is their second home.

SAC has a wonderful staff, whether it is the teaching or the non-teaching. The teachers are a kaleidoscope of culture and age, and have come together with the common aim of imparting knowledge and skill to the 'future'. The warmth and friendliness that they radiate adds a magical touch to them that makes students look at them with high respect. The nonteaching staff has won the hearts of the students, with their kindness and helpful attitude. And of course, our Principal. How can one ignore his effort, his zeal and the smile that is the hallmark of his personality!

Entrance Examinations in SAC would leave the older generation wondering, "Is the battlefield preferable?" Not because of any violence, but because of the number of applicants for a comparatively small number of seats. Competition for getting into SAC is fast increasing. And why not, with SAC soaring up fast – courses in Music, Mass Media, and more on the list? And Oh, the joy of the victors!

University examinations are another battlefield, but the teachers have strongly armed the students. Results are mostly glorious for the College, with high percentages of students passing out.

One of the most beautiful elements of SAC is that, besides educating its own students, it also extends its teaching to others. The Computer Science department organizes short term and long term courses, and those who come to this department are in one of the best-equipped computer laboratories, not forgetting the teachers. Anthonians are always at benefit with the less fees that they pay in comparison to their counterparts from outside the college.

Apart from the soaring success in academics, SAC had a make-over, with the main entrance and the lobby looking better. One factor that adds to the beauty of the campus is the freshness that it possesses, with a



its tress, flowers and flowerbeds which are certainly well-maintained. This year, many other conveniences will be introduced, and all the Anthonians are grateful.

One important activity that the college conducts is the blood donation camp. Teachers work hard to instill in the students the desire to contribute to the society, and students come forth selflessly.

The Inner Healing Retreat the college organizes for its Catholic students and staff members, and which also welcomes others, fills the college with a prayerful atmosphere. This gives the Anthonian spirit a boost and this is one event many look forward to. The College Week is a much-awaited timemuch-awaited by all the students. Different kinds of competitions and activities take place throughout the week. The end is marked by the Grand Finale, an occasion on which the campus is filled with sprinkles of dazzling figures.

At the end of the year, the students who pass out are filled with nostalgia..., and the teachers hope that they have prepared them well to face the world, the main battlefield. The only statement that consoles everybody is, "Life goes on..." It does, and the best way to be still an Anthonian, without having to attend classes is – join the Alumni Association.

Feudalism : You have two cows. Your Lord takes some of the milk.

- Fascism : You have two cows. The government takes both, hires you to take care of them, and sells you the milk.
- Pure Communism : You have two cows. Your neighbours help you take care of them, and you all share the milk.
- Applied Communism : You have two cows. You have to take care of them, but the government takes all the milk.

Dictatorship : You have two cows. The government takes both and shoots you.

Pure Democracy : You have two cows. Your neighbours decide who gets the milk. Singaporean Democracy : You have two cows. The government fines you for keeping two unlicensed farm animals in an apartment.

American Democracy : The government promises to give you two cows if you vote for it. After the elections, the president is impeached for speculating in cow futures.

The press dubs the affair 'Cowgate'. The cows sue you for breach of contract. **European Democracy**: You have two cows. At first, the government regulates what you can feed them and when you can milk them. Then it pays you not to milk them. After that it takes both, shoots one, milks the other and pours the milk down the drain. Then it requires you to fill out forms accounting for the missing cows. **Capitalism**: You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull.

Totalitarianism : You have two cows. The government takes them and denies they ever existed. Milk is banned.

Hong Kong Capitalism : You have two cows. You sell three of them to your publiclylisted company, using letters of credit opened by your brotherin-law at the bank. Then execute a debt/equity swap with



- Political Correctness : You are associated with (the concept of 'ownership' is a symbol of the phallocentric, war-mongering, intolerant past) two differently-aged (but no less valuable to society) bovines of non-specified gender.
- Counterculture : Wow dude, there's like... these two cows, man. You have 'got' to have some of this milk.



We start here a series on the past Principals of St. Anthony's College. We start with Fr. I Ricaldone SDB, the second Principal of the College. This piece is taken from "The Four I Have Known..." written by Rev. Fr. NJ Kenny SDB, who was the Vice Principal of the college for a period of nearly 35 years.

OSSES

When my religious superiors first assigned me to duties in the College, Fr. Ricaldone SDB was in the Principal's chair. He warmed it for no more than an hour or so every afternoon, for he was also the Principal of Don Bosco Technical School and gave most of his time to that institution. Principal of two institutions? We must remember that World War II was raging and there was an acute shortage of personnel, for a number of Fathers and Brothers belonging to nations in arms against Britain and her allies had been interned.

How could a principal possibly run a college under those circumstances? A number of factors helped him. He was blessed with a competent and sincere set of Professors, who took their classes regularly and punctually. Students were much fewer in number, and student discipline was very much better then than it is now. He had a wonderful head-clerk in the person of Mr. Chrysostomus Rynjah, a man who knew all the rules of the Calcutta University on the tips of his fingers, who could draft letters correctly so that the Principal had only to sign them, and who was a man of scrupulous honesty, no small quality in one who collected all the college fees.

But what perhaps helped Fr. Ricaldone most of all in keeping the College running on wheels was his towering personality. Tall and imposing, he had the bearing of a prince. As a matter of fact, the common opinion was that he hailed from a noble family, though actually he came of peasant stock. Let me give you just one example of how his personality saw things through for him. The incident might well have had an unhappy ending. Our promotion tests were on, and a mistake was made in the distribution of the question papers, English II having been distributed instead of English I. Out came the students from the examination hall, and the college veranda was thronged with them. Just then Fr. Ricaldone arrived on the scene. When he understood the situation, he acted immediately. He took out his pocket watch, pointed to the exit from the college and the entry door to the examination hall, and said in the tone of an ultimatum: "There are two doors. I give you just two minutes to take one or the other." Every single student took the entry door to the examination hall. It was Fr. Ricaldone's personality that carried the day. Such an ultimatum wouldn't be wise in days like these, but it worked wonderfully on that occasion long ago.

The question might be asked: what did Fr. Ricaldone do for the College? He began the I. Sc. Classes and in due time the B. Sc. He opened the Commerce section, both I. Com. And B. Com. He also started evening classes. His period of office could be described as one of expansion, also because the number of students increased exceedingly. It was a period too, when the college shone in the field of games. Our football XI and our Hockey XI were again and again the winners

In Touch 37

Someone said, "One of the most pleasant preoccupations in life is going down memory lane, interspersed with vivid thoughts of the past." Looking back at my college days, I recall to mind some arresting incidents which throw light upon the college life of those days.

St. Anthony's College – in those yesterdays, the old building by the side of Don Bosco square – stood a citadel of learning. Walking through the entrance of the college building the first time, I saw someone standing in front of the long corridor, a burly figure, clad in a white cassock, grimfaced, yet with a genial air about him. Much later I realised that I was standing face to face with the inimitable, the one and only Father Joseph Arokiaswamy, the then Principal of the college.

I remember, once, standing at the door of his office, a student asked Father Joseph, "Can I come in Sir?", to which he replied, "You can, but you may not!" His wit and presence of mind made Father Joseph both an interesting and an endearing person. Along with him was Father Kenny, the Vice Principal, who would pop his head into the staff room, his face glowing with a smile, to chat with the professors sitting around. Once, I was late for class, and rushing ahead ran against Father Kenny, who held me by the shoulder and said, "Young man, slow down, your classroom will not run away."

Entering the Principal's Office required a lot of courage, even for professors, let alone for students. I remember being summoned by the Principal. I stood before Father Joseph. I had submitted the admission form for BA course opting English as honours paper. At first, the Principal looked sternly at me, and I could hardly meet his gaze. But slowly, his features softened and his face wreathed in smile, he said, "I am glad you are in love with literature. Promise me you will not betray your love." I stood rooted and transfixed, and then when the meaning of his words unfolded itself, I thanked him and sailed out of his room.

The Professors were equally interesting and friendly. One of them came up and spoke to me.

THE BOSSES (continued from the previous page)

in the tournament run by the Shillong Sports Association. Fr. Ricaldone would never go down to the Polo Ground to watch the matches, but he would be somewhere along the road that overlooks the ground, watching every minute of the games, never so happy as when the college won, and more than a little disappointed when the college was given to taste defeat.



Prof. T Subha Department of English St. Anthony's College.

Prof. T Subha was a student of the College during his pre-university and degree days, way back in 1974-78.

After listening to my words and the area of my interest, he started quoting from Wordsworth and Shelley. To my utter amazement, I learnt that he was a teacher of Mathematics, a pure science, talking to me of literature, a strictly humanities discipline. These and many such anecdotes come to my mind as I recall my days of yesteryears in this great college of ours.

Looking back in retrospection, St. Anthony's College has provided ample opportunities for me to grow both mentally and intellectually. Vivid and fond memories linger in my mind. I am doubly lucky to be an Anthonian, as I have lived and am living through two experiences – as a student, and now, as a teacher. I remember, with an air of nostalgia, the pathway of college life, which, I consider, has been paved with gold. In the years to come, when life's vision gets dim and memory gets blurred, one thought will remain ever bright – the proud memory of being an Anthonian.

Bad health forced him to return to his native Italy, where he recovered his forces. Thence he went to our institutions in California, and later assumed the Rectorship of our big Technical College in the Philippines. Back in Italy for health reasons, he died in hospital as the result of an operation. He was still in his early sixties. unnisdeedstowardsenvironment May not appear to have An immediate adverse effect. But if we do not think ahead Tomorrow we might be left with Little or nothing to protect.

Let us therefore have a farsighted Global environmental concern Which our efforts should reflect Let us vow to save forests today, So that our "Present Indefinite" may Become "Future Perfect!"

FUTURE PERIE

Issued by Chief Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry and Environment, Meghalaya, Department of Forests and Environment, Government of Meghalaya. Mr. Andrew Ishorari was a student of St. Anthony's College during his Pre-University and Graduation days, from 1968 to 1972.

JACOB'S LADDER

Mr. Andrew Ishorari

I was unaware of the name 'Jacob's Ladder' given to the cemented path leading from Don Bosco Square to where St. Anthony's College is now situated earlier, nor did I bother to know it either. I believe, the name has now become well known to everyone.

One day, early in the morning, since I did not have a drop of ink in my fountain pen, I slipped off from Stephen hall where I was a hosteler, to Don Bosco square to buy a drop of ink. But suddenly, I came face to face with Father Joseph, the then Principal of St. Anthony's college. You must remember that the college was situated across Don Bosco Square, where St. Anthony's Higher Secondary School is now situated. He was going back to the college from St. Mary's Convent, after having gone there for Holy Mass. "I am finished now," I said to myself. Instead, Father Joseph, even though he looked very serious, quipped in a humourous tone, "Don't come for class so early," and added, "Don't climb down the Jacob's ladder now, instead of reaching back to Stephen hall." "Which is Jacob's ladder, Father?' I hastened to ask him. "You will know when it will turn into the Israelites' Highway," he said.

In fact, what Father Joseph had uttered so long ago, has come true now. Today, there is no longer a "Jacob's Ladder" but an "Israelites' Highway" as even vehicles can ply that way.



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Issued by The Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong

In Touch 41

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In Touch 42

the poor dreamer

Prashamit Choudhury II BA (Media Technologies) I see a dream,

A magnificent, wondrous and engaging dream, A dream which soars above the mountains and the sky blue; A dream which will never be comprehended by me or you.

I now stand in a realm, A realm of excitement and contentment, I stand where the warmth and radiance Makes one's pain and tears disappear.

Behold! There is an angel I see. The most remarkable and lovely angel there ever can be. Look, how she is magically smiling at me; Unleashing the love of my heart free.

Now I open my eyes and what do I see? The damp clouds and the snow falling on me; I look up and as I sit wondering under a tree.

A dream it was, can it ever be true? Off I go to work then, for these hands have work to do.

Etawanda Saiborne, Department of Mass Media, St. Anthony's College.

Etawanda Saiborne was a student of St. Anthony's College in the department of Mass Media during the years 1995 - 1998. Now she is back in the college as a lecturer in the same department. Things can't be that bad Even after a heavy downpour! The blade of grass still stands In its fragility, reflecting His glory A single pearl of great beauty!

Our life is like a canvas, There are so many layers of paint. Each encounter leaves a different shade of colour. Sometimes the stroke might not be to our liking, but Nevertheless they make up a rainbow.

Everyone has some quality you can admire them for. Find it, and be generous in your applause.

The more enthusiastic you are about life, The more joy you find in living.

In the sands of time, we are like a tiny drop in the vast sea Of humanity controlled by destiny till eternity.

In Touch 13



SECURING LABOUR WELFARE

The organisation under the Labour Commissioner as a wing of the State Labour Department is responsible to secure Labour Welfare with a view to raise the standard of living of the people in general and the workers of the State in particular. One such measure is the periodic fixation and revision of the rates of minimum wages for various employments such as agriculture, construction of roads and building operation, etc. At present the minimum rates of wages effective from 1st April, 2003 are Rs. 85.00 per day for skilled labour and Rs. 75.00 per day for semi-skilled labour and Rs. 70.00 for unskilled labour.

Details about the above rates can be had from the office of the undersigned or from the District Labour Office at Shillong, Jowai, Nonstoin, Nongpoh, Tura, Baghmara, Williamnagar and Sub-divisional Labour Office at Khliehriat.

Issued by The Labour Commissioner, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.

In Touch 44

Wishing the St. Anthony's College, Shillong Alumni Association (SACSAA)

all the best in their efforts to render valuable service to the youth and students so that they can be fully aware of and be well-prepared for their lives in the future.

> May God's blessings be always with you in your noble venture.

> > with compliments from Mr. Charles D Pyngrope MLA

> > > In Touch 45

UCY Sici -

D'MAR SHOPPING COMPLEX Police Bazar, Shillong - 793001

We wish

the St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Alumni Association (SACSAA) Success and a bright future in its programmes and endeavour to bring progress and development for the students of the region

In Touch 48



Dr. Basil S Koikara was a student of St. Anthony's College during 1973-75 (PUC) and 1978-81 (BSc). He is at present a lecturer in the department of Mathematics in the college. This article is an exhortation to the present students of the college to join the ranks of the SACSAA when their time in the college is over.

Semergence of St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Alumni Association became this year - 'SACSAA'sful.

An Association is Born

The stone started rolling June 2003, when on the occasion of the Feast of St. Anthony, the patron saint of St. Anthony's College, the alumni of St. Anthony's College came together from far and near for the first time, in a formal gathering. It was a heart-warming event - a candle-light prayer, an arm-chair tour of the premises of the College (through the help of a short film prepared for the occasion), a lunch, an official meeting in which an interim committee of executive members of the nascent organisation were elected, and all these capped by a variety entertainment programme in which both the present and the past pupils took part. The new-born organisation set out to find its bearings - specifically to formulate its constitution.

After a few false starts, towards the end of June this year, a select committee of alumni under the animation of Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, the vice Principal (Academic) met together to formulate the constitution. After several sittings and many heated discussions, the Constitution finally saw the light of day ('evening' would be more precise).

"The St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Alumni Association (SACSAA) is made up of past pupils who have voluntarily organised themselves into

an association attached to St. Anthony's College, Shillong," Thus goes the first article of the constitution. The constitution, which is modelled upon the constitution of the Don Bosco past pupils' association (one must keep in mind that St. Anthony's College is a Don Bosco educational institution), envisages a vibrant association of persons who have passed out of St. Anthony's College after a period of study of at least one year.

The Aims of SACSAA

The aims of the Association are the following:

- to keep in touch with and animate all former students so as to help them to preserve, develop and live the values of the Salesian education they received;
- to uphold and promote the value and the rights of the human person and the family
- to work towards building up a social and political order based on justice, peace and harmony in keeping with Don Bosco's vision for the youth, and
- Maintaining a close contact with the Alma Mater, St. Anthony's College, by providing a 'feed-back' to it and collaborating in its growth and development.

The Association aims at serving all former students, irrespective of whether they are registered or not. The Association will endeavour to keep alive the ties of traternal friendship initiated by Don Bosco and continued through his Salesians.

In Touch AT

The Motto

The association chose as its motto, "Make a difterence". The motto is inscribed in the meaningful emblem which was adopted by the association. The emblem enshrines the collective effort of many students of the Mass Media department of the college.

The Office Bearers

The constitution was adopted at a general gathering of the alumni which was organised on 4th October, 2005. The gathering was arranged during the college week so that the present pupils and the past pupils could interact without the hindrance of classes. On the occasion of the adoption of the constitution, the first set of office bearers were elected for a period of three years by the assembly of the alumni. The following are the office bearers.

	Brig. William Sturgeon,					
	YSM, SM (Retd.)					
	Dr. Besterwell Kharbuli					
6	Dr. RN Bhuyan					
1	Mr. Kiron Joshi CA					
2	Dr. Donkupar Syiem					
rs	and a consultant a green					
M	Mr. Lamba Roy IAS					
Dr. SR Joshi						
	r. Khalid Khan					
	r. Basil S Koikara					
Ms. Etawanda Saiborne						
M	s. Rosemary Ishorari					
3	Fr. Joseph Nellanatt					
	and part to the state of the					
	SE S					

Mr GG Pariat Mr. Pilgrim Lakiang Mr. PR Mawthoh Dr. SL Marbaniang

Co-opted Members

Mr. Frederick Lamare Mr. Albis Basumatary Mr. Nathan Blah Mr. Stevens Giri Ms. Machun Kamei

The association, under the energetic guidance of the President, Brig. Sturgeon and the able assistance of the General Secretary and the other



A sum of Rs. 26,172.00 was presented to the Red Cross Society through the offices of the Governor of Meghalava. We are sure that this aid to the earthquake victims by the SACSAA will relieve some pain, help someone, somewhere. The SACSAA is very grateful to the dramatic troupe of GTC, the staff and students of the college and those who gave donations, for without their enthusiasm, "Colours of the East" would not have been as colourful as it turned out to be.

Many other programmes were conducted and there are many more in the pipeline - career talks, panel discussions on what the present pupils could be doing down the years, employment generation and self-help programmes for unemployed alumni, The list is long. The longer the list, the better. One thing is certain - SACSAA is going to bring a smile to the face of St. Anthony's College.

Make A Difference

So, here's SACSAA inviting all the present pupils to be ready for the day when they too will become past pupils. Come, join the ranks of SAC-SAA when you are through being present pupils. Let us give of what we have received from our alma mater and MAKE A DIFFERENCE - a difference in our lives, a difference to the college, and to its students, a difference to the many people who come into contact with us in our every day lives.



Said the robin to the sparrow: "I would really like to know Why these anxious human beings rush about and worry so." Said the sparrow to the robin, "Friend, I think it sure must be That they have no Father in Heaven, such as care for you and me."

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The Directorate of Statistics and Economics, Government of Meghalaya,

congratulates the St. Anthony's College, Shillong,

Alumni Association (SACSAA)

for having started the bi-annual Newsletter, "In Touch".

We would like our beloved readers to know the following few facts about some education parameters of the state of Meghalaya.

District		1991		2001		
District	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jaintia Hills	35.32	34.37	36.31	51.9	50.1	53.7
East Khasi Hills	60.04	62.86	57.04	76.1	77.3	74.8
West Khasi Hills	50.52	52.98	47.94	65.1	66.5	63.7
Ri-Bhoi	-	-		65.7	68.8	62.4
East Garo Hills	48.38	54.70	41.70	60.6	66.1	54.9
West Garo Hill	39.32	48.93	31.32	50.7	57.0	44.1
South Garo Hill	-		-	55.0	61.5	48.0
Meghalaya	49.10	53.12	44.85	62.6	65.4	59.6

Percentage of Literacy, Male / Female, 1991 and 2001

Enrolment in Educational Institutions by Type of Institutions

Institutions	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	
1	3	4	5	
Primary and Junior Basic	294857	309809	412822	
Middle and Senior Basic	122514	143051	154347	
High and Higher Secondary	64960	72410	89875	
Basic and Non-Basic teachers training schools	378	408	428	
eachers Training ollege	178	291	292	
Colleges	36088	40765	41315	
University	1360	1482	1539	



life's way consists of many ups and downs, hairpin-bends, stony pathways and uneven grounds. One can face these and steer oneself quite well, but when one comes to the crossroads, one may find oneself in a dilemma, as to which road to take. Imagine a person in a busy street of Calcutta. With roads criss-crossing each other, he will find himself dazed and stupefied. More so, if the traffic is heavy and he, a nuisance to the busy commuters - a sight for sore eyes indeed. He will have to make a decision, a quick one and hopefully the right one and move ahead. Likewise in the highway of life, we come across such cross roads, and we are expected to make decisions, wisely, of course. It is not all the time that wise decisions are made. In fact there are ample chances of deciding wrongly, which leads to regret and at times to disaster.

It is human instinct to take the easy way out with the least hurdle or difficulty. It is when one takes this road that he falls into trouble. The familiar episode in Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress" shows this. When the two travelers on their way to "Celestial City" find the path they were walking stony and painful, they decide to climb a stile to the grassy patch. This looked so tempting that, without realising the danger, they take the path, just to find themselves in a trap. The roads of life too, are beset with traps and enticements, and young people easily fall prey, trying to find an easy way out.

The question then is, how to decide which road to walk, what turn to take and which signal

Prof. T Subba Department of English

to follow. It is here, that parental guidance, advice from the elders, and counseling would come to one's aid. But this does not mean that these are guaranteed and foolproof. They just help a person to make up his mind as he steers along his life's course. It is always preferable to take advice from people who are experienced and seasoned, but the actual decision rests on the person himself.

A lot of moral courage and insight into things are required for a person to make the right decision in life. For example, someone making a decision to be a social worker among the destitute and the homeless, needs a lot of courage and sacrifice. He must have the moral integrity to stand firm in his decision so that he may avoid regrets later in life.

Such a decision requires commitment, dedication and sacrifice. Though it may cost a lot from life, yet the dividends it pays cannot be quantified in terms of the material. Sometimes a person sets to thinking whether he has made the right decision or not in choosing certain roads in life. He may be in doubt. At such times, the conviction of what he does and the courage to face the odds would carry him through. There are those who sit by the wayside and count the cost of their life's decisions. Such would simply go into endless and unnecessary agonising moments of life.

Your choice of the road of life depends on what you believe in, and the courage you have to set your foot in it. A committed person would never count the cost, because he knows what he believes in is true. It is then that the pathway of joy and satisfaction opens and the reward at the end of the road. "Fortune favours the brave" is aptly spoken. Therefore be brave and face the challenges of life and the rest will simply follow.

In Touch 51

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The Department of Community and Rural Development implements different programmes of the Government of India and the State Government for the development of the people in rural areas – particularly those living below poverty line.

The programmes are as follows:

- Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
- Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)
- Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)
- National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)
- National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
- Community Information Centres (CIC)

The State schemes include assistance to small and marginal farmers, community development schemes, special rural works programmes through public representatives, etc.

or details, please contact the Block Development Officer of the area.

Issued by

The Directorate of Community and Rural Development Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.

In Touch 52

Kitbok Rymbai

Mr. Kitbok Rymbai was a student of PUC (Science), St. Anthony's College, Shillong during 1989-91. After completing his Civil Engineering from Jadavpur University, Kolkatta, he is now working as Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department (Roads), Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.

t seems but yesterday only. But when 1 sit and ponder, only then do I realize that seventeen years have rolled by so quickly, as if time has wings indeed! This reminds me of a great author, Henry David Thoreau, who wrote, "Time is but a stream 1 go afishing in. 1 drink at it. But while 1 drink, 1 see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin

current slips by, and eternity remains." The year was 1989. To me, a sprightly, young lad who has just passed the Indian Certificate of Secondary Examination (ICSE) from St. Edmund's School, Shillong, the year was a historical landmark in the journey of my life. For a change, I shifted to St. Anthony's College, Shillong and I was duly admitted into the Pre University Class (PUC) in the Science Stream. The principal of the College, Rev. Fr. Stephen Mavely SDB, was very cordial and helpful to us new-comers.

The first few weeks and months were very confusing and intriguing to me because of the sudden change of environment which was, more or less, totally foreign to me. Just imagine! A young teenager who had all along studied for about a decade in St. Edmund's School, Shillong, found himself transplanted into the changed atmosphere of St. Anthony's College, Shillong. Only then, the significance of the phrase, "fish out of water" dawned on me. Puzzled and bewildered, I nearly became completely lost. Yes, what a transformation it was for me. From "Facta, Non Verba" (Deeds, Not Words), which is the motto of St. Edmund's institution, to "Ever More Better Ever", which is that of St. Anthony's College.

Initially, I thought that my decision of swap-

ping of educational institutions at this stage was wrong and it might affect my future career. My perception became blurred. But with prayer and God's guidance, though I

readily admit that I was not so religiouslyminded in those days, much to the consternation of my parents and my close relatives, I, however, quickly became reconciled and hence adjusted to the situation. Dear friends and readers, when faced with such a predicament, I would like to share with you the following powerful words of Edgar A Guest which had helped me:

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will, When the road you are trudging seems all uphill, When the funds are low and the debts are high, And you want to smile but you have to sigh, When care is pressing you down a bit, Rest, if you must – but don't you quit!

What soothing and comforting words, really! Surely, when confronted with horrendous problems, let us seriously follow Edgar A Guest's advice: "Rest, if you must." Let us put our faith and trust in God. "But don't you quit!"

At St. Anthony's College, I acquired new friends and soon became acclimatized to the new environment. The college professors inspired and motivated all of us to scale new heights and to strive hard ceaselessly against odds and challenges. True enough! Within a period of two years, we became transformed into young boys with strong will-power and iron determination.

In Touch 53

When I look back at those years of formation, the simple but hard truth clearly manifests itself majestically. The parents give birth to us, for the continuation of the human race, and mould us for the future, but we greatly need the school-teachers and college professors to chisel and to finely sculpt us. Well, I am neither a sociologist nor a psychologist. But what I express here is from my own experiences and which, I do fondly hope, many will not disagree with! Or am I wrong in this! I hope not....

Now that I am in the ascending parabola of my life, I am indeed grateful to my parents, to all my teachers and friends, and especially to the Almighty for having been afforded good opportunities. The synergical process that took place in my life, right from the earliest school days at St. Margaret's school, Laitumkhrah, at St. Edmund's School, Shillong and at St. Anthony's College, Shillong, instilled courage and confidence in me. In this connection, permit me to quote Roth Gordon, "Courage is very important. Like a muscle, it is strengthened by use, "Furthermore, let us listen to Cicero, "Confidence is that feeling by which the mind embarks on great and honourable courses with a sure hope and trust in itself."

What is essential is invisible to the eye

In Touch 54

With best complements TWINKLE STAR INFANT SCHOOL Oakland, Shillong. Al Twinkle Star, we care! As an alumnus of St. Anthony's College, Shillong, I am filled with pride and honour to know that the SACSAA is undertaking challenges to help the students and people of the North Eastern Region.

> with complements Mr. Ajay Singhania (An alumnus of the College, Batch of 1982)



On the second Annual General Assembly of the St. Anthony's College, Shillong, Alumni Association (SACSAA),



is proud to be associated with the great luminaries of the Association.

We wish the SACSAA success in the years to come

In Touch 56



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