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Reflecting on the past year



Dr. Uma Joseph, Principal in her cabin

- Ananya Dinesh

Speaking to the Campus Herald, Dr. Uma Joseph, reflects on her past year as the Principal of St. Francis and her future plans for the institution.

Stepping into the role of principal for the first time was quite challenging. However, Dr. Joseph saw these challenges as opportunities to learn. Focusing on academic outcomes and getting everyone on board with new policies was important to her.

Dr. Joseph likes to see each day as a

fresh opportunity rather than just a responsibility. When she steps onto campus and sees the energetic, bustling young faces, it motivates her to make a difference. Her faith in God gives her strength and guidance, and the acknowledgments and appreciation from others keep her inspired to work harder.

“Every challenge that I faced, became an opportunity for me to look within and see what could be learnt.”

Knowing that her decisions positively impact the students, encourages and motivates her to keep doing her job well.

Dr. Joseph shared that planning for St. Francis is a team effort involving the management team, deans, heads of departments, and students. Her greatest dream is to transform St. Francis to a deemed university, which requires a lot of focus and development.

Previously, Dr. Joseph was a faculty member who headed the history department at St. Francis. While she misses teaching and the environment of a classroom, she also realises her role as the administrative head.

Dr. Uma Joseph's dedication to her role as principal is evident in her proactive approach to overcoming challenges, her collaborative planning for the future, and her commitment to students and staff well-being. Her experiences and insights reflect her passion for education and her determination to create a positive and supportive environment at St. Francis.

Casting votes, Shaping leaders



Innovative campaigning for SC

-Manali Jain

The St Francis student council elections were held on 5 July, 2024 for the year 2024-2025. It unfolded with eager participation from the UG III year & PG II year students.

On the day of the election, a G-form link was shared on all student whatsapp groups, with a 10 minute window, ensuring a smooth and accessible voting experience.

The newly elected members are Carol Alexander (President), Madhumitha Reddy (Vice President), Umme Aiman (General Secretary)(UG), Misha Agarwal (General Secretary)(PG), Divya Anthony (Treasurer), CH. VVS. Virajita (Cultural Secretary) and Ch Naga Sai Hamsika (Sports Secretary).

The students look forward to inspiring leadership.

St. Francis kicks off SIP 2024 New beginnings!

-Varsha Jain

St. Francis College for Women hosted the Student Induction Programme (SIP) from 23-26 July, 2024 to welcome the fresh batches of students across all streams.

The event commenced with an inaugural session, followed by college



Students at the SIP

prayer. The college clubs Arista, Ehsaas, Xpressions, Coffee, La Fiesta, Harivillu, Prakriti, Face, Smile, Rhetoric, Spectrum and the college wings—NCC, NSS, KRIDA, Rangers, and Rotaract—were introduced to the students.

ASARA, the college's psychology counselling cell, hosted a short session led by Ms. K. Soujanya and Ms. Maurvi Kapoor Bhatia to acquaint first-year students with mental health support services on campus.

Additionally, a Zumba session was organized to promote physical fitness and social interaction. "The club introductions were very interesting—I can't wait to get involved!" remarked Tanisha Jain one first year student.

The programme set the tone for a supportive and engaging academic year, helping students forge new friendships and discover their interests.

-Krithika Jain

St. Francis College for Women hosted the orientation for the incoming 2024 batch, providing essential information about the college rules and regulations.

The Principal, Dr. Uma Joseph welcomed the first years into the portals of St. Francis and emphasized the need of discipline to carry oneself with integrity which not only will help them become a proud francisian but will shape their personality for life. She further spoke on the significance of wearing the college ID card everyday and highlighted how important attendance is at Francis.

The COE Dr. Alice, vividly explained the exam valuation system while Ms. Afeefa, IT head, acquainted the students with the winnoux software and its various elements.

The Deans : Ms. Manjiri (Arts), Dr.



Principal addressing the gathering

Sunitha (Commerce) Dr. Usha Praveena (Science) introduced various clubs and the opportunities that the students should make use of.

The Physical Director Dr. Farooq spoke on the co-curriculum activities with NCGPA(National Council for Government Procurement Accreditation) credits for sports. He focused on mental health benefits for students who participate in sports.

“Reflecting on 34 years: My journey to retirement”

-Ayman Ali Khan and Manali Jain

“Teaching is an art” says Mr. R.S. Karthikeya, an esteemed faculty from the Physics department, who retired this July after devoting 34 skillful years to this college.

Drawing inspiration from his father, a retired principal, Mr. Karthikeya has followed in his footsteps in the field of education. His father’s dedication to his work and leadership have been a guiding force throughout his career.

Looking back on how his teaching evolved, Mr. Karthikeya said that “Teaching is an art and skill” and as you practice teaching, you evolve. Initially, it was not as smooth for him but experience played a huge role. His experience has been fulfilling- mainly due to the way students interacted with the college environment, management support and faculty co-operation made him feel delighted and kept him going everyday.

Work- life balance is a struggle for everyone but according to Mr. Karthikeya being disciplined was the key. For him, his schedule did not change much, whether it was a work-



Mr. Karthikeya being presented with a token of appreciation

ing day or a holiday and he believed that family support is an integral part of this balance.

When asked about his most memorable moments, Mr. Karthikeya said that when students came back and talked about their success, he felt happy and a sense of accomplishment that he had achieved something.

During his free time, Mr. Karthikeya delights in reading. Apart from read-

ing about physics, he enjoys reading historical non-fiction books, autobiographies, newspapers etc. He was also interested in photography and was keen on learning new things, proving that age is just a number.

When asked about his plans post retirement, Mr. Karthikeya said he may work part-time but he doubts whether he will be able to work in another college after working in this environment,

stating it would be difficult to adjust. “I don’t think any other college provides this type of an environment to work”.

He plans to keep himself busy by continuing to teach, acquiring proficiency in Sanskrit and spending more time with his family.

When asked about what piece of advice he would like to leave students with, he said, “To be successful, a person has to be disciplined. If you lead a disciplined life, definitely students will achieve success.”

Mr. Karthikeya truly embodies the spirit of lifelong learning and dedication, making him an inspiration to all. The college gave Mr. Karthikeya a grand farewell on 31 July, 2024.



Moments to capture

College bids farewell to Dr. Margaret



Dr. Margaret with the management at her farewell

-Areeba Ali

On 28 June, 2024, St. Francis College celebrated Dr. Margaret’s remarkable 29-year tenure as a dedicated social management teacher. The farewell ceremony commenced with a solemn mass held in Capitanio Hall, where flickering candles created a serene atmosphere fitting for the occasion.

Following the mass, the college faculty gathered for a special program honoring Dr. Francis.

Dr. Reena Deewan, representing the literature department, warmly intro-

duced Dr. Francis, tracing her journey from a student at St. Francis College to a respected professor who significantly shaped the lives of countless students over the years.

During the program, Correspondent Sr. Carmely Thaniath delivered a heartfelt tribute, highlighting Dr. Margaret’s compassionate nature and her unwavering dedication to her students and colleagues.

Departments across the college extended their best wishes with gifts

and bouquets to Dr. Francis. Former students of the social management programme, alongside current third-year students, gathered to convey their gratitude and best wishes to Dr. Francis on her retirement. Amidst the heartfelt expressions of gratitude and farewells, Dr. Francis shared a few poignant lines from a poem she penned for the occasion:

“From student days to teaching stride in St. Francis, I took the ride. The MSW course began anew, Yet changes came as changes do. When one

door closed, another showed, Social management’s path bestowed.”

The ceremony concluded with a warm and celebratory lunch, where colleagues and students alike reminisced and celebrated Dr. Francis’ contributions to St. Francis College. The event marked not just the end of a distinguished career but also the beginning of a new chapter for Dr. Margaret Francis, leaving behind a lasting legacy of compassion, dedication, and academic excellence.



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Another feather in the hat

-Areeba Ali

Dr. Uma Joseph, Principal of St. Francis College for Women, received the Major Padmapani Acharya Award for Excellence on 21 June, 2024 at Guru Nanak University in Hyderabad.

The Major Padmapani Acharya Award, established by the Major P. Acharya Trust, honors the memory of Kargil war hero Major Acharya who was killed in action at thirty. The award was presented by the late major's wife, with the university's vice

chancellor, senior IAS and IPS officers, with other dignitaries in attendance. The announcement of Dr. Joseph's award was made during the college assembly, generating applause and pride among students and faculty.

This recognition highlights the institution's commitment to excellence and brings honor to St. Francis College for Women.

Dr. Joseph's leadership has been instrumental in the college's success and growth.



Principal Dr. Uma Joseph receiving Padmapani Acharya award

Revised curriculum from 2024 onwards

-Ayman Ali Khan

Starting this academic year, St. Francis has implemented a new curriculum for nearly all of its undergraduate programs. Two new combinations are now being offered: B.A. in Mass Communication & Journalism, Literature, and Psychology (MLPsy), and B.Sc. in Mathematics, Economics, and Statistics. The last academic revision of the syllabus was made four years ago in 2020.

The new undergraduate programme, B.A. in Mass Communication & Journalism, Literature, and Psychology, has replaced the formerly offered programme, B.A. in Mass Communication & Journalism, Literature, and Social Man-

agement.

The updated curriculum includes a broad range of contemporary courses, primarily covered under the banner of Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC). Every semester, except for the first and second semesters, offers an SEC in each major under the revised curriculum. Additionally, in the sixth semester, every student has the opportunity to undertake a research project in any one of their three respective disciplines.

Furthermore, St. Francis College has simultaneously launched the St. Francis Institute of Management Studies (SFIMS), which now offers MBA degrees.

Social media day: celebrating our online world

-Roshni Tiwari

On 28 June, 2024 ahead of the week-end, the department of Mass Communication celebrated Social Media Day at St. Francis College for Women with a photobooth and an informative video.

Social Media Day, observed annually on 30 June, 2024, recognizes the impact of social media on global communication and its role in connecting people worldwide.



Students at the photo booth

Mr. Clement Babu, senior faculty and PG coordinator of Mass communication & Journalism department said that, "Social media has transformed how we connect, offering instant com-

munication with friends, family, and even strangers. It serves as a significant source of news, shopping, influencer marketing, and entertainment. Social Media Day celebrates these positive contributions and encourages people to engage with these platforms constructively".

To mark the occasion, the II year MA students of the Mass Communication Department set up a photobooth outside the mass communication lab. The booth featured various icons and props for the campus community to interact with and take pictures.

Additionally, the students created a one-minute video emphasizing the positive use of social media. The video highlighted how platforms like LinkedIn can benefit individuals seeking job opportunities, showcasing the constructive aspects of social media in connecting people globally.

Ultimately, Social Media Day aims to highlight the beneficial aspects of social media, demonstrating how it simplifies daily activities and connects everyone through an invisible string.

Chat with alumna

-Ananya Dinesh

The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism held a 'Chat with Alumna' on the realities of Journalism on July 31, 2024, specifically for II year B.A. and M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism students in the Mass Comm Lab. Ms. Tejal Sinha, an Alumna and Sub-Editor at The Daily Pioneer, was the guest speaker.

During the one-hour session, Ms. Sinha shed light onto the realities of journalism, drawing from her own experiences in the field. She spoke about the dedication and resilience required to succeed in journalism and highlighted the unique challenges faced by women in the industry. Through sharing her personal encounters with gender bias and discrimination, she encouraged students to stay deter-

mined, push boundaries, and support one another.

Ms. Sinha also emphasised the importance of being flexible in the profession, emphasising the need to adapt to new situations and technologies for career development. She urged students to be open to continuous learning and to step out of their comfort zones to seize new opportunities. A significant takeaway from the session was her advice on the value of internships. She told us how internships played a crucial role in shaping her career, providing her with practical, hands-on experience.

The department appreciated Ms. Tejal Sinha for her time and dedication. The session was highly engaging and left a lasting impact on both students and faculty.

Celebrating national reading day: library enthusiasts unite

-Juliana Mathews

Commemorating the death anniversary of P. N. Panicker, "The Father of Library Movement" in India, the St. Francis College Library celebrated National Reading Day on 19 June, 2024.

This day serves as a reminder of the joys of reading, the wealth of knowledge in books, and the significant impact reading has on shaping minds.

To honor Panicker's legacy, the library showcased an exclusive collection of books for the day.

This display attracted a large number of enthusiastic book lovers, including students and faculty members, many of whom borrowed books to read at home. The event highlighted the importance of reading even in an era dominated by the internet.

National Reading Day is observed annually to emphasize that books remain a vital source of knowledge and personal development. Shri P. N. Panicker's initiatives under the Kerala Grandhashala Sangham led to a cultural movement that achieved uni-



Students at the SFC library

versal literacy in Kerala by the 1990s, solidifying his legacy in the world of education.

Ms. B. Geeta, the librarian expressed immense satisfaction with the success of the event and announced plans to display a diverse range of books every month.

Such initiative aims to attract a larger audience to the library, fostering a culture of reading within the college community.

Embracing the yoga spirit

-Lasini Nischala

The 10th International Yoga Day was commemorated on 21 June, 2024, at the indoor stadium of St. Francis College for Women. Organized by the NSS, NCC, and sports wings, the event aimed to promote physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. The session, held from 9 to 10 am, saw the

participation of around 90 students along with members of the organizing wings.

The chief guest, Ms. UV Nagalakshmi, who holds an MSc in Yoga Therapy and an MA in Journalism, was warmly welcomed by the mentors of each wing. Raga Sahithi, a BSc (MPCS) student, skillfully led the participants through various yoga asanas, includ-



Students practicing Yoga at the Indoor Stadium

Sing with the Nightingales: Choir auditions

-Krithika Gandhi

The Nightingales of St. Francis on 11 July, 2024, held auditions for the college choir, conducted by the third-year students for 64 auditionees from all the three undergraduate years.

The choir auditions were judged by Ms. Clarissa Vowles Haveela and Ms. Reisha Marina Isaac.

Ms. Haveela offered a wealth of experience and knowledge of music as a member of the panel. During her undergraduate years, she was a choir di-

rector and sang with the Nightingales. She is now a soprano in the Hyderabad Archdiocese choir.

Ms. Isaac is an ex-Nightingale and has a deep affinity for music and choir.

During her time at St. Francis, she worked as a choir director and sang bass. Her keen eye for noticing raw potential and recognizing true Nightingale material made her a vital member of the judging panel.

Based on the judge's scores, 42 students were selected for the choir.



Selected new choir members pose with the judges



Ashwa sanchalanasana

ing standing and sitting postures, savasana, and lying down asanas.

At the conclusion of the session, Ms. UV Nagalakshmi expressed the significance and benefits of yoga, highlighting the ailments that can be alleviated through its practice. She also remarked

on the current generation's preference for gym workouts over yoga.

Overall, the celebration effectively promoted the holistic benefits of yoga, leaving a lasting and positive impact on all who attended.

Exciting campus renovations ahead of MBA program launch

- Mariam Zoha Ali

The college is undergoing a significant transformation in anticipation of the new MBA (Masters of Business Administration) programme. This initiative aims to modernise the campus and create a more inviting atmosphere for students and staff.

Key updates include the construction of a new director's office, a staffroom for MBA lecturers, additional classrooms, and seminar halls. A new registration office will streamline administrative tasks, and a cosy hangout spot is being created for student relaxation.

The college entrance is receiving a fresh, welcoming look, while the PG block has been painted pink, reflecting the college's identity. The indoor stadium is also being upgraded with

new flooring.

To enhance the campus' appeal, new plants and trees are being planted, offering a tranquil environment for everyone. These renovations are being carefully managed to ensure minimal disruption.

The college community eagerly anticipates these changes, which aim to enrich the campus experience for all.



Renovation work in Progress

The Bethel retail store reopens at Francis

- Sakeena Lateefi

After much anticipation, the Bethel Retail Store at St. Francis College for Women, Begumpet, has reopened under the administration of B. VOC students and the guidance of Dr. Subhi Varghese K. G. Head, Department of B.Voc.

Nehel, a 3rd-year B. VOC student, is serving as the current store manager, assisting her in managing the store are

Tiya Hirawat and Hita Agarwal, from B.Voc II year.

Conveniently located near the rock point in the heart of the campus, the store is designed to meet the diverse needs of the student body. It offers a wide range of products including college supplies, branded merchandise, and essential items for campus life, ensuring students find everything they need without leaving the campus.

The reopening of the store not only

enhances convenience but also creates new employment opportunities, with



The reopening of the Bethel store

part-time positions offering flexible hours that accommodate academic schedules.

The store has more to offer as it enriches student experiences by providing easy access to essential supplies and services. It underscores the college's commitment to supporting students academically, financially, and socially, becoming an integral part of campus life and benefiting the entire college community.

Upholding Academic Integrity in the Age of AI



AI is now heavily relied on by students to help them with their assignments.

In today's fast-paced, highly competitive educational landscape, the pressures on students are immense world over, whether it is to work on a class assignment, or to summarize a long text, or to get a quick analysis on a topic or for a last minute exam preparation, dependency on the AI chat bots/softwares has only increased lately. This new technological innovation not only positively helps students with personalised assistance, instant feedback, and plenty of information across various subjects, it has also made it easier to commit acts of dishonesty

through plagiarism and online cheating.

In the sacrosanct halls of our academic institutions, where knowledge is pursued and ideas are nurtured, there exists a foundational principle that must be upheld above all else, which is academic integrity.

Academic integrity is the ethical foundation on which the academic community is built. It encompasses a range of values, principles, and behaviors, including honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, responsibility, and respect for intellectual property

and from the student's perspective, it equates to not cheating, lying, or stealing.

Studies on academic dishonesty conducted world over, reveal a troubling trend: a significant number of students disclosed that the level of difficulty of the test enforce them to be engaged in such activities, time scarcity is another reason, irrelevant course material or the pressure to get good grades or lack of understanding about what constitutes cheating.

A study based in Bangalore, on the factors of academic dishonesty states that intention to cheat & attitude towards cheating are two important factors that were found in students who have made it a habit to resort to such easy and accessible methods/softwares and also those who don't consider copying information as cheating one's own self. It is important to note that the implications are far more horrifying that we can imagine.

This attitude of being dishonest with one's own self is a matter of serious concern. A student might get away by not being caught or if he/she is, the immediate repercussions may be suspension, failing etc. But, in the long term, students miss out on the required

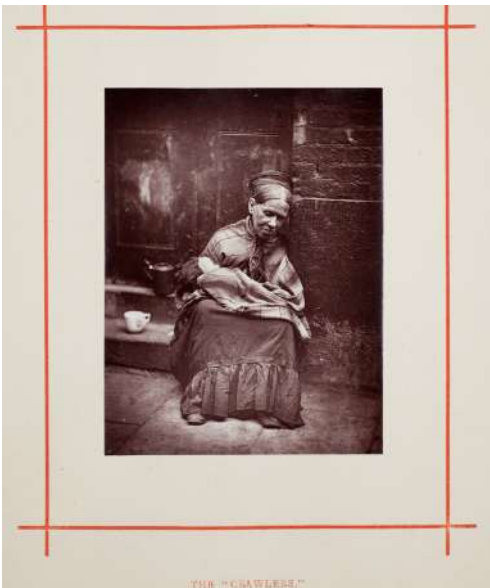
learning experiences that are crucial for their future careers hindering opportunities for advancement.

Academic integrity is the backbone of a healthy academic environment, it is more about fostering a culture where ethical behavior is valued. And to create an environment where students can take pride in their work, learn from their mistakes, and grow intellectually and morally. It is about ensuring that the degrees and qualifications we earn truly reflect our capabilities and hard work.

According to Mr. Michael Josephson, a Law Professor "Sometimes the dues we pay to maintain integrity are pretty high, but the ultimate cost of moral compromise is much higher". In conclusion, academic integrity is a way of life. It is the path to true education, where knowledge is pursued with honesty, and success is achieved through genuine effort. I urge the student community to take this path with unwavering commitment and integrity.

-Ms. T. Suzan Spurthi
Faculty In-charge

Photojournalism: Images Speak Louder than Words



Woodbury type - Victoria and Albert Museum, London England

There are various tools one can use to capture a moment and portray it on paper or online. However, none, in my opinion, have the power to make an impact stronger than a picture. The story told by the virtue of an image speaks volumes more than words strung together in a sentence ever can, and that is the beauty of photojournalism in the field of media and mass communication.

It takes vision, patience, skill, and a keen eye to detect a pattern, a peculiarity, and turn it into a sentiment that

tells a story. Countless instances come to mind. Robert Capa's D-Day landing and the haunting image of "The Vulture and the Little Girl" are prime examples of how a single photograph can encapsulate an entire narrative.

"The Vulture and the Little Girl" is one such picture that spread awareness of the drastic famine that hit Sudan in the 1990s. Kevin Carter, the photographer who shot the picture, won the Pulitzer Prize for the piece in 1994. His picture stirred real controversy across the world. In the image, a very small girl sat with her head between her hands, resting due to exhaustion, struggling to find her way to a United Nations feeding center, while a vulture landed nearby. Although he captured the picture, many people questioned why he didn't help the girl, raising ethical debates about the role of photojournalists in such dire situations. This picture depicts a destitute middle-aged woman holding a sleeping child on her lap, as she rests on a doorstep.

"The Crawlers" was intended to communicate the dire situation of London's poor and to advocate a call for social change. The image was one of 36 published in Street Life in London (1877) with the writer Adolphe Smith Headingley text relating the story of how the woman, through circum-

stances beyond her control, "descended penniless into the street." Using photographs to uphold the arguments presented by the text, the book helped pioneer the concept of the photo-essay.

The image conveys the woman's exhaustion and also her solicitude for the child. In their (Thomson and Smith) introduction to the book, the co-authors championed "the precision of photography" and its ability to "present true types of the London poor and [to] shield us [the authors] from accusations of either underrating or exaggerating individual peculiarities of appearance."

Photojournalism is not for the faint of heart. It takes hours of blood, sweat, and hard work to come out with a story that makes news headlines and attracts enough readers. The power of a single image to inform, provoke, and inspire is unparalleled. As technology advances and the media landscape evolves, the fundamental impact of a photograph remains unchanged. It is through the lens of these brave photojournalists that we gain a deeper understanding of the world around us, one frame at a time.

-Ananya Dinesh
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Cervical Cancer Vaccination: Curable Cancer

-Tanisha Bokaria and Kanak Agarwal
“An end to cervical cancer is within our sight”.

An awareness talk was held by Dr. Chinnababu Sunkavalli, a Guinness World record holder, on cervical cancer. In his talk, he emphasized on the prevention of preventable cancer. The programme was organized by the Francis Alumnae Association in collaboration with the Department of Biochemistry and the Grace Cancer Foundation.

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in India, primarily caused by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), a sexually transmitted disease. Despite being curable, the prevention process faces challenges due to lack of awareness and ignorance. After being infected with HPV, it becomes a precancerous lesion and

slowly turns into cancer. The ideal age to be vaccinated is between nine- twenty six years with the second dose to be taken after six months.



The Principal, Vice-Principal and the Correspondent visit the vaccination centre at college

Early detection of cervical cancer is possible by screening methods. From

the age of twenty-one to twenty- nine, screening should be done every 5 years. According to WHO guidelines, India aims to eliminate cervical can-

cer, potentially preventing 74 million new cases and 62 million deaths. The

strategy, known as 90-70-90, targets 90% HPV vaccination coverage for girls, 70% screening by age 35, and 90% treatment for women with cervical disease.

On 26 July, 2024, the college organized a vaccination drive in collaboration with the Grace Cancer Foundation in which the vaccines were administered to all vaccination registered students of the college and their close allies for an amount of 1500/- per head.

When asked about the purpose of this drive, Dr. Prameela Rani, representing the foundation gracefully remarked. “We try to alleviate the risk of cervical cancer, there is definite scientific proof that it can be cured by the vaccine.”

Welcoming new leaders: Embracing vision and change



“Swearing in of the 2024 student council”

-Manali Jain

The investiture ceremony for 2024-25 of St. Francis College for Women was held on 19 July, 2024. The event was graced by Mr. K. Babu Rao (IPS) who was the chief guest.

The ceremony began with a soulful prayer song by the college choir-Nightingales. Following this, the honourable chief guest Mr. K. Babu Rao along with the Principal and Vice Principal, hoisted the St. Francis flag marking the start of the event.

Led by the student council, all the student clubs marched into the stadium for the commencement of the ceremony. The stadium was adorned with an array of colours represented by each club.

The Principal, Dr. Uma Joseph administered the oath where the students promised to fulfil their duties and responsibilities.

This was followed by a melodious performance by the student choir. The Principal took the opportunity to congratulate the students, wish-

ing them the very best for the future. “Your efforts are appreciated towards the college’s development,” she said, wishing them success.

The Chief Guest, K. Babu Rao addressed the students, encouraging them to join civil services and to serve the society. “Leadership is very, very important, not only in civil service but in life” he said, inspiring students to aim high.

Carol Alexander, the new President of the student council, expressed her joy and pride stating, “It is a cherished dream of mine to reach here”.

The ceremony was a smooth and well-coordinated event, promising great things for future college activities and events.



The Principal, Dr. Uma Joseph felicitates the chief guest Mr. K Babu Rao

Launching SWAYAM NPTEL at St. Francis

- S.Sweta

On 28 June, 2024, St. Francis College for Women hosted a captivating lecture by Ms. Mini Fernandez, a respected academic and industry professional and an Assistant Professor from the department of Biotechnology engaged BA and B.Sc. II and III year students with a thorough discussion on SWAYAM NPTEL in Gerosa Hall.

Ms. Fernandez explained the SWAYAM initiative and its subset, NPTEL. SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is an Indian government program designed to enhance access, equity, and quality in education. NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) offers online courses from

premier Indian institutions, including IITs and IIMs, covering engineering, sciences, and humanities.

She emphasized SWAYAM NPTEL’s accessibility and inclusivity, providing students with flexible learning options that include multimedia resources, online forums, and assessments. The program’s affordability is another key benefit, with many courses available for free and a nominal fee for certification exams. These courses are industry-recognized, adding significant value to students’ resumes and enhancing employability.

The session left students enthusiastic about how SWAYAM NPTEL can significantly impact their academic and professional development.

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From Paris to Wisconsin: Faculty's international voyage

-Areeba Ali

This summer, nine members from St. Francis College for Women, including seven faculty members (Dr. Uma Joseph, Dr. P. Roselin, Dr. Reena Dewan, Dr. Basanthi Chintapalli, Dr. Jyothi Rani, Dr. Revathi, and Ms. Dhanalakshmi) and two students (Sowmya and Srisuma), embarked on international trips to broaden educational horizons and foster global collaboration.

In Paris, they explored cultural landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and Versailles Palace. Dr. Roselin, the IQAC co-ordinator described her experience as a "transformative cultural immersion," noting the deep passion of locals for their heritage. The group then attended the Tiny Earth Symposium in Madison, Wisconsin, where Dr. Roselin was a plenary speaker, highlighting global collaboration in undergraduate research.

This trip also laid the groundwork for future collaborations, including an upcoming partnership with Case Western University. The trips also fostered stronger connections among faculty



St. Francis faculty on their visit to the Eiffel tower

members from different departments, an aspect Dr. Uma Joseph, Principal of St. Francis College, celebrated in her poem.

Looking ahead, the college plans to integrate the innovative Tiny Earth curriculum into its programs, reinforcing its commitment to global education and interdisciplinary collaboration. These trips enhanced St. Francis College's global perspective and academic innovation.

SFC's representation at Gandhi King scholarly exchange initiative

Mahveen Fatima, a final-year student who is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Management Studies (BMS) at St. Francis College for Women has been selected as one of the 10 youth leaders representing India at the esteemed Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange initiative this year. Fatima had recently completed the first phase of the program, a US residency, conducted in collaboration with the University of Alabama and Stillman College, a historically black university (HBCU).



Mehveen Fatima with Dr. Demetrius Dee Barksdale, program manager of student professional Development

Reflecting on her experience, Fatima described it as "deeply transforming," highlighting the journey from exercises like reflecting on her purpose and writing her justice statement, to participating in engaging lectures and immersive visits to historic sites and museums.

The program is designed to develop participants' emotional intelli-

gence, leadership skills, resilience, and self-management, and it also provides a deep dive into the history of civil rights movements, particularly during the era of Martin Luther King Jr.

Fatima emphasized the value of this holistic perspective, which has been instrumental in shaping her understanding and approach towards leadership and social justice.

As she prepares for the next phase of the program in Delhi, Mahveen is focused on implementing her action plan. She conveyed her heartfelt gratitude to the US Consulate, St. Francis College for Women, and all those who supported her throughout this journey.

"The support and opportunities provided have been invaluable," said Fatima. "I am excited about the next chapter and look forward to contributing positively through the insights and skills gained from this initiative".

The Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative is largely renowned for fostering leadership and promoting the principles of non-violence and social justice, inspired by the legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Fatima's participation underscores the commitment of Indian youth to these ideals and highlights the collaborative effort between India and the United States in nurturing future leaders.

-Sharanya Sagar

Break from monotony

-Varsha Jain

The non-teaching staff of St. Francis along with the executive heads i.e., the Principal Dr. Uma Joseph, Vice -Principal Dr. Sr. Sherly, the correspondent Sr Carmely Thaniath, enjoyed a day of camaraderie and fun at their annual picnic, held in the Leonia Resort on 12 June, 2024.

The event, aimed at fostering team spirit and relaxation, brought together staff members from various departments for a day of activities and bonding.

The day kicked off with a warm welcome from the organizing committee, setting the tone for an exciting lineup of events. Staff members quickly broke out to play outdoor games like badminton, cricket, volleyball & indoor games like chess, snooker, carrom etc along with few water games.

Amidst the activities, a delicious picnic lunch provided a moment for everyone to unwind and socialize. The spread of dishes catered to all tastes, creating a relaxed atmosphere for staff to connect outside of their usual work settings.

"We are always confined in our own departments busy in our work but, this

picnic helped us communicate and bond with each other."

Overall, the picnic was a resounding success, achieving its goal of strengthening bonds and boosting morale among the non-teaching staff of various departments.

The college extends its appreciation to all staff who contributed to making the picnic a memorable and enjoyable experience. Their enthusiasm was key in creating a day filled with laughter, friendship, and shared memories.



Non-teaching staff at the Leonia Resort

On speaking with few of the staff, they said, "We thought that we would never be able to speak comfortably with the higher authority, but there we all had a great time together apart from our jobs".

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Celebrating liberation and freedom: Juneteenth

-Ananya Dinesh

The American Corner Hyderabad, in collaboration with the American Corner Visakhapatnam conducted yet another masterclass on 'JUNETEENTH' at the American Corner in St. Francis College for Women on 25 June, 2024. The session commenced during the evening hours between 3:00 to 4:00 pm in hybrid mode.

Ms. Rebekah Drame, Consular Chief at the US Consulate General, Hyderabad was the guest speaker. She spoke about Juneteenth starting with explaining what exactly it was and how deeply she felt connected to it seeing that it had a lot to do with her history of descent. Born to African parents who immigrated to the United States, Ms. Drame spent much of her time growing up in California.

Every year, on the occasion of Juneteenth, which marks the day the African Americans were granted the legal right to break free from the chains of slavery, she spoke about its significance to her community. For generations coloured people have been discriminated against because discrimination sees no boundaries but to treat them as mere possessions in the face of humanity is

absolutely cruel. Five generations of Black Americans had to endure slavery before they were finally granted legal relief from it in 1865 but then again, law could only do so much. The masters of said owned slaves still denied a lot of black people their right to freedom and weren't even punished for it.

However, on 19 June 1865, the African Americans declared themselves free and after president Joe Biden signed off the day as a Federal holiday three years ago in 2020, the citizens of America have celebrated it by participating in educational and historical events, religious events, parades and have even had cookouts and picnics.

Realising that the central theme and significance of this day was freedom for the enslaved, the discussion was about what freedom meant to an individual. And, although freedom is quite the subjective term, the essence of it is captured by providing an equal opportunity to each individual to make decisions for themselves. The takeaway from the session was unlike any other.

The session underscored Juneteenth's powerful legacy of freedom and equality, inspiring reflection on the ongoing journey toward justice.

Discussion on climate change and environment

-Saba Kulsum

On 29 June, 2024, the American Corner, Hyderabad, in collaboration with CSIR- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and Write Club Hyderabad, organised a climate change awareness session from 2:00 to 5:00 pm to discuss the importance of climate change. This engaging event featured a blend of expert talks, group discussions, and a creative writing exercise.

The effects of climate change are already well visible in the increasing air temperatures, melting glaciers and decreasing polar ice caps, rising sea levels, and increasing desertification, as well as frequent extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts, floods and storms. Climate change is not globally uniform and affects some regions more than others.

The chief spokesperson, Aditi Sinha, an evolutionary ecologist at CCMB, delivered an insightful talk on the importance of recycling and environmental conservation. She emphasised the need for strong motivation and external pressures, such as policies and economic incentives to drive individual action. The group discussion also highlighted the political dimensions of climate change, the role of public

awareness in fostering behavioural change and the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The session included interactive group discussions where participants shared their views on combating climate change. Topics ranged from personal responsibility and systemic changes to community efforts and the importance of education, noting how a group effort influences change in society.

Ms. Dhanalakshmi, Head of the Environmental Sciences Department known for her dedication to environmental issues also participated in the event. She contributed valuable insights and practical suggestions such as the measures one could take to improve the environment in personal capacity.

Participants then engaged in a creative writing exercise, expressing their thoughts and ideas on protecting the environment. The pieces ranged from poems to short stories.

The event effectively raised awareness about climate change and encouraged the participants to take meaningful action. By fostering dialogue and creative expression, the session aimed to inspire a collective effort towards a sustainable future.

SUSI programme: fostering global collaboration



Mr. Ravi Kumar along with members of the Journalism, Technology and Democracy programme

-Kanak Agarwal

The SUSI (Study of United States Institute) Scholar 2024 program on Journalism, Technology, and Democracy was an intense learning experience that went beyond regular academic studies. It covered a wide range of topics meant to inform, inspire, and engage with the participants. The program was hosted by the prestigious Cronkite School of Journalism and

Mass Communication, Arizona State University. It brought together journalism and media teachers and professionals from all over the world, who all shared a passion for journalism and its important role in democratic societies.

The program had a good mix of academic work and hands-on experience. Mr.K. Ravi Kumar, the Head of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism was selected to partici-

pate in the programme this year.

Talking about his experience, Mr. Kumar said, "This was a truly life-changing experience, one that has made my professional journey better in ways I never expected."

During the program, he got the chance to work with respected professors, industry experts, and other participants from different countries. They shared insights, had discussions, and exchanged knowledge. This not only helped him understand more about journalism, technology, and democracy but also gave him practical

skills and new viewpoints that are important in today's ever evolving media world.

Besides the academic and professional benefits, the program paved the way for friendship. It created connections among participants that went beyond borders and cultures.

As Mr. Kumar said, "The different perspectives we shared expanded my view of the world and strengthened my commitment to promoting ethical journalism."



Mr. Ravi Kumar in an interview

Krida elections 2024

-Shreya Shah

The sports department of our college conducted a zealous election for the Krida club on 2 July, 2024, at the indoor stadium.

The elections commenced after the college assembly, ensuring maximum participation and attention from the student body with only the II and III year students able to apply and vote.

Candidates for various positions put forth compelling arguments during their speeches, highlighting their past contributions & achievements and future plans. They addressed issues ranging from improving sports facilities to increasing participation in intercollegiate competitions.

Each candidate's unique approach resonated with different sections of the student body, making the election a closely contested affair. For example, one candidate promised to improve



Enthusiastic members of krida club

training programs to develop aspiring athletes, while another focused on improving access to sports equipment for all students. Such diverse proposals highlighted the candidates' commitment to improving the overall athletic experience at our college.

Ms. Amita Daniel, from the department of physical education, whose administration ensured the smooth running of the proceedings, expressed her satisfaction with the participation

and engagement of both candidates and voters. She emphasized the importance of such democratic exercises to foster leadership skills and promote student participation in college affairs.

As the votes were tallied, anticipation grew among the attendees. The outcome of the election will determine the new leaders who will work with the sports department to implement their proposed initiatives.

The winners will soon assume their roles, ready to turn their promises into actions that benefit the entire student community.

Overall, the election for the sports department was not just a routine event but a vibrant demonstration of student democracy and leadership. With such enthusiasm and dedication, the future of our sports department looks promising under the leadership of these newly elected student leaders.

Gym renovation

-Sakeena Lateefi

After 15 years of service, the St Francis College for Women gym is undergoing a major renovation. This much anticipated project aims to modernise the facility, ensuring it meets the needs of the current and future students.

Since its initial construction in 2009, the gym has served as a focal point for faculty, staff and students. It has held several workout sessions and re-creational activities over the years.



Renovation of the gymnasium

The renovation is expected to be complete by the end of August, with a grand reopening ceremony planned.

Twin triumphs



St. Francis sports teams shine bright in 2024

-Tanisha Bokaria

The St. Francis Basketball and Throwball teams achieved incredible feats in 2024.

The basketball team won the BITS Pilani Hyderabad Tournament, which took place from 1 to 4 February, 2024. In the exciting final, the team rallied from behind to win by a single point and they took home the gold medal. They won a cash prize of Rs. 10,000.

In yet another spectacular triumph, the team won the gold medal in the Open Basketball Tournament hosted by the Little Flower Degree College, Uppal on 12 to 13 February, 2024.

Under the mentorship of Ms. Amita Daniel and captainship of Abigail Doris Lazarus, the team won silver and bronze medals in various other competitions.

The team's achievements are a testament to their regular practice, dedication and teamwork.

St. Francis' Throwball team had an impressive run in recent tournaments as well. They secured the silver medal at the BITS Pilani Hyderabad Tournament held from 1 to 4 February 2024, and received a cash prize of Rs. 3000.

At the Inter-collegiate Throwball Tournament, which took place at the Osmania University College for Women on 20 to 21 February, 2024, the team, led by Coach Mr. Syed Farooq Kamal and Captain Ananya Erugu, continued their impressive play by procuring the second place.

The teams achievements show their perseverance, skills and cooperation.

Laveti Dharani shines at 38th sailing week

-Mizba Naaz

The 38th sailing week, held from 1 to 7 July, 2024, saw an impressive performance by Laveti Dharani, a student of St. Francis College for Women, who competed in the ILCA 6 boat category.

This was Dharani's first championship in this category, and she demonstrated remarkable skill and determination throughout the event. For the first three days of the competition, Dharani maintained a strong position, consistently ranking II.

However, despite her best efforts and a commendable performance, she narrowly missed out on the silver medal, finishing just one point behind. Dha-

rani ultimately secured the bronze medal, a notable achievement in such a competitive field.

The event was characterised by fair sailing conditions, with steady winds providing a challenging yet exciting environment for the sailors. Dharani credited her success to the support and guidance of her coach, Suheim Shaikh, who played a crucial role in her preparation and performance.

Reflecting on her experience, Dharani expressed immense satisfaction and enjoyment in her sailing journey. She now looks forward to her next adventure as a coach in London.

Success of a Novice

-Lasini Nischala

Palak Ghia, a first-year B. Com student of St. Francis College for Women, participated in the Telangana State Ranking Table Tennis Tournament held from 30 June to 2 July, 2024 at



Palak Ghia receiving the bronze medal

of the 2024 season in the U-19 category among approximately 30 participants, Palak secured the III position.

Palak said "Since it was the beginning of the season, the atmosphere was filled with anxiousness and excitement at the same time, a sense of joy, happiness and contentment".

Reflecting on her experience, Palak shared that she had been rigorously preparing at her coaching centre. She mentioned that though the competition was tough, her 10 years of playing experience helped her perform well.

Little Flower High School.

Competing in the first tournament

Hands behind the blossoms: The gardeners of St. Francis

-Roshni Tiwari

Among other things St. Francis offers its students a green and beautiful campus that gives a feeling of serenity and fresh air. The plants around us keeps us feeling energetic and fresh the whole day. We have numerous types of flora that add to the beauty of the campus and enrich the feeling of being one with nature. These plants and trees have always been taken care by a group of hardworking gardeners who work in our college. The Campus Herald spoke to one of them and here is what he had to say.

Mr. Chara Naag, one of the gardeners at St. Francis has been working here for the past 6 years. He is very hardworking and humble person who likes his job and takes care of the plants around the campus as if they were his own. Upon being asked how his day usually looks like, he smiled and replied, "Busy".



The gardener Mr. Chara Naag tending to water lilies in the campus

He reaches the college at 8am every day after travelling for an hour and a half on his bicycle. Upon reaching the college he first waters the plants and

then starts on the other tasks that is assigned.

If he isn't been assigned any tasks, he goes around the college looking for

something that he can take care of. A very hardworking man, Mr. Naag takes 10 to 15 minutes of rest at most. His days are sometimes busy and some times, he barely has work, but he still tries to look for it.

He was asked if he had any favourite spots in the campus. He didn't have one single place that was his favourite. Instead, he said that all places in the college were equally dear to him and he liked working on everything.

We often admire the beauty but forget the work that is put behind to make it look that way. We see the blossoming flowers in the garden but forget to thank the people responsible for making it possible. We pass by the places every day but forget to greet all of it.

We need to take a step back and appreciate the things that are behind the blossoms-

The hand of a gardener.

SFC's RISING INFLUENCERS



Vinuthna Jagarlapudi

-Misha Dharmapuri

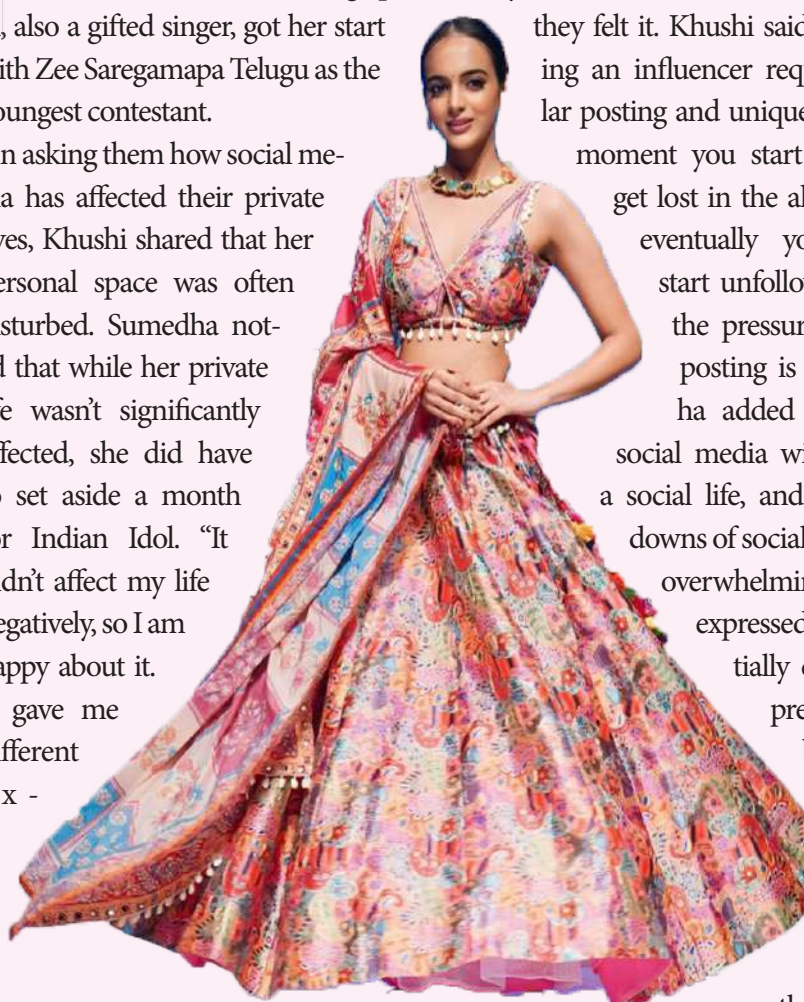
Social media, initially a fun platform for sharing snippets of daily life, has transformed into a powerful marketing tool. This shift has given rise to influencers, who are at the center of this new marketing landscape. Many people now aspire to become full-time influencers. These individuals shape purchasing decisions with their platforms, spanning various niches such as lifestyle, beauty, fitness, and food. Speaking to the Campus Herald, ris-

ing influencers from St. Francis, Khushi Gupta, Sumedha Ramesh, and Vinuthna Jagarlapudi shared their experiences.

Khushi Gupta is a beauty pageant winner and fashion model who has graced many runways. Sumedha Ramesh is a talented vocalist who has won numerous competitions and appeared on the prestigious show Indian Idol. Vinuthna Jagarlapudi, also a gifted singer, got her start with Zee Saregamapa Telugu as the youngest contestant.

On asking them how social media has affected their private lives, Khushi shared that her personal space was often disturbed. Sumedha noted that while her private life wasn't significantly affected, she did have to set aside a month for Indian Idol. "It didn't affect my life negatively, so I am happy about it. It gave me different

ex -



Khushi Gupta

periences and a deeper understanding of what goes on behind the scenes," she said. Vinuthna mentioned that after moving to Hyderabad, she noticed people valued her social media following more, leading to opportunities like becoming a content creator for a media page.

Regarding the pressure to post frequently, both Sumedha and Khushi agreed they felt it. Khushi said, "Yes! Being an influencer requires regular posting and unique content. The moment you start lagging, you get lost in the algorithms and eventually your followers start unfollowing you. So, the pressure of constant posting is real." Sumedha added that juggling social media with education, a social life, and the ups and downs of social media can be overwhelming. Vinuthna expressed that she initially didn't feel the pressure to post but eventually

had to keep up with it. Nowadays, she rarely feels the pressure. When asked about imposter syn-

drome, Khushi admitted, "I used to be a victim of imposter syndrome. I am quite sure every influencer, from beginners to pros, experience it." Sumedha disagreed, explaining that while performing on stage was intimidating as a child, music has always



Sumedha Ramesh

been a part of her life, and she doesn't associate imposter syndrome with her music.

Learning about the social media presence of these Francisians gives us a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that come with being an influencer. Each of them faces unique challenges but also gains significant opportunities through their platforms.

Jigsaw Puzzle

A puzzle I call my heart
Beats a few times when we're apart
The pain that I used to despise became the part I used to cover lies
Lies that once trapped me and took me into its ties
Each minute on the wall of my clock and the sound of drowsy little talks
Oh how I wonder when the Clock will strike zero
Oh how I wonder when that time will come
That time where I put a period to every day
There are times where I longed for you Times where I'm used to being left too
If only you were there for me, my friend But sadly, our times always end
By the strike of lightning, you'll disappear like the sunsets
When I first met you, you looked like a key The key that can mess every lock in my heart
The key that can break every wrong lock
Because the only right lock you can open are the deepest depths of myself
Every step I hear from you
My heart sings and beats for you
My heart beats a thousand more when you say "Hello" too
And there's nothing I can do but to keep this feeling locked in my puzzled heart.

~Mariam Zoha Ali

Dear Freshers

A ten point sutra for a happy academic journey

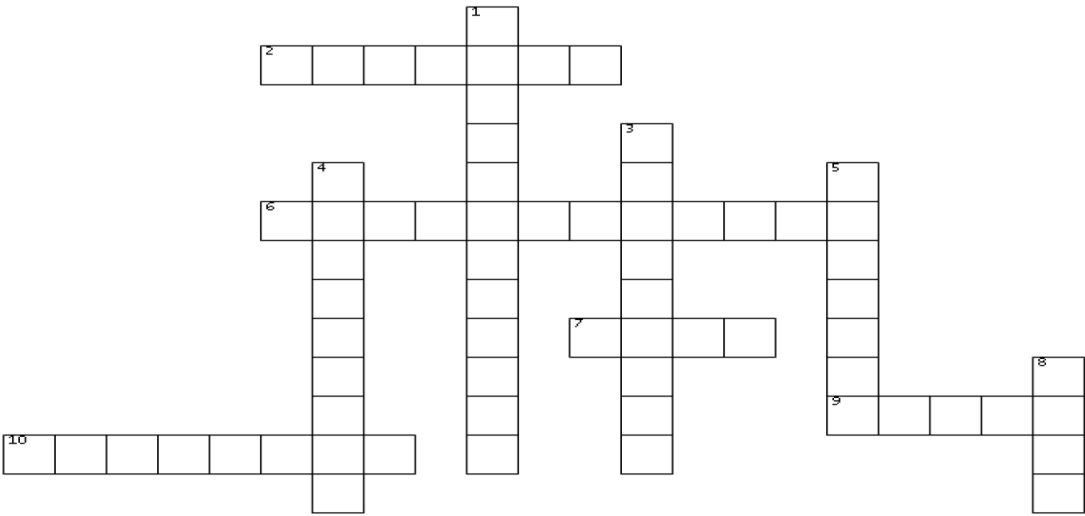
- 1. Enjoy your new found freedom but, do not neglect your education.
- 2. Attendance is important. ☐PERIOD☐
- 3. Teachers are friendly and approachable. Find mentors in them.
- 4. You are lucky if you find genuinely good friends, most friendships break after the first semester and that's okay! Don't force friendships.
- 5. Be open to friendships from other departments.
- 6. St Francis campus is lively and happening so don't be engrossed in your phone too much.
- 7. Be nice to your seniors, they are trying to figure out college like you.
- 8. Engage! Participate! Collaborate! cuz, you will make amazing memories.
- 9. Don't be afraid of committing mistakes, own them up and learn from them.
- 10. Work on yourself because, everyday is an opportunity to become a better version of YOU.

~From Seniors

SUDOKU

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8		1	2			9		
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	8	6			2		9	
		9			3	1		8
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CROSSWORD



Crossword Answer

- Across
- Down
1. Gilmore Girls
2. Cookies
3. Cleopatra
4. Instagram
5. FRIENDS
6. Interstellar
7. Carl
8. Piku
9. Sushi
10. Snapchat

Answer

4	7	6	8	9	1	5	2	3
8	2	1	3	6	5	9	7	4
6	9	3	2	4	7	6	8	1
3	6	7	9	5	8	4	1	2
1	5	4	7	2	3	8	9	6
9	8	2	6	1	4	7	3	5
7	4	8	1	3	6	2	5	9
6	3	9	5	7	2	1	4	8
2	1	5	4	8	9	3	6	7



-Misha Dharmapuri

Across

- 2. small, sweet baked goods
- 6. a film that explores space and dimensions
- 7. the philosopher and economist who wrote the communist manifesto
- 9. a japanese dish with rice and raw fish
- 10. an app to make streaks with your friends

Down

- 1. a cozy tv show depicting the lives of a mother and daughter in a small town
- 3. the most well-known Queen of Egypt
- 4. an app you can spend hours scrolling on
- 5. a benchmark for sitcoms
- 8. a movie that shows a father and daughter who embark on a long road trip journey