

ANNUAL REPORT: 2023-2024

Dept. of Zoology: St Joseph's College

The academic session commenced in the month of August. The Induction Programme for 1st Semester began on 1st August, 2023. All the teaching members actively took part in delivering the vision & Mission of the college as well familiarising with the rules regulations and expectations from the students. From this session, Four Year Undergraduate Programme was introduced. The 1st batch of students under FYUGP was also given orientation regarding the FYUGP. The Department welcomed 40 new students in the 1st Semester.

The number of students admitted to the department was 40 and 34 students passed out from the department. 13 students opted for higher studies from different universities.

The former students from the department, Abhisekh Subba and Priyanka Rai joined as Assistant Professors under WBCSC this year. Another student Hrituraj Rupasa cleared his SET exam. Karan Chettri joined SCMM, Jawaharlal Nehru University as Junior Research Fellow.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES:

Dr. Bireshwar Bera:

1. Promoted to Associate Professor on July 2022

2. Editor of Journal: American Journal of Life Sciences: ISSN Online: 2328-5737/ ISSN Print: 2328-5702

3. Editor of book: Iterative International Publishers

Mrs. Albina Subba:

Published a book chapter "Revolutionizing Genetics: Exploring the potential of Recombinant DNA" in the book "Futuristic Trends in Biotechnology Volume 3 Book 5" published by Iterative International Publishers (IIP)

Mr. Shuvam Sharma:

1. Sharma, S., Subba, A., Pradhan, G., & Chhetri, A. (2024). Photographic evidence of incidental sightings of the vulnerable Asian small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinereus* Illiger, 1815) in the mixed forest of Darjeeling and Kalimpong district as part of central Himalaya. *IUCN otter Spec. Group Bull.* 41(3).

Administrative Responsibilities:

Mrs. Albina Subba: HoD, member of Examination Committee, Admission Committee, Internal Complaints Committee and Nature Club.

Dr. Bireshwar Bera: Member of Research Cell, Anti-ragging Committee and Disciplinary & Students' Welfare Committee.

Mrs. Barkha Rai: Member of Nature Club, Anti-ragging Committee and Disciplinary & Students' Welfare Committee

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

- Muskan Chettri from 2nd Semester participated in Quiz Contest organised by Science and Research Club on 16th September 2023. She also participated in Debate organised by Accord on 30th September 2023 in the college.
- Prayatna Chettri from 6th Semester attended All India Thal Sainik Camp organised by Directorate General National Cadet Corps from 19th September to 30th September 2023. She also attended Super 30 SSB Capsule interview training at Siegwald Academy from 17th November to 28th November 2023.
- Akansha Pradhan from 6th Semester participated in the Inter College Badminton Tournament, North Bengal University from 21st September to 23rd September 2023 where she reached up to the quarter final.
- Purna Pradhan from 6th Semester was a part of the Inter college Football team at Lebung Gorkha Stadium on 9th October 2023 where the team became the runners up.
- Muskan Chettri from 6th semester participated in State level inter college group dance competition in Coochbehar on 23rd January 2024. She participated in Treasure hunt inter college competition organised by Salesian College, Siliguri on 9th February 2024. She also participated in Inter college group dance competition in Vibes de vista organised by St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling on 13th April, 2024.
- Simran Rai from 4th semester participated in the Battle of Bands as a vocalist in Vibes de vista organised by St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling on 13th April, 2024. The band became the winner of the event.

TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION:

On September 5, 2023, the Department of Zoology at [St Joseph's College] celebrated Teachers' Day with a heart-warming event to honour the dedicated educators who play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the students. The event took place in the department premises where the teaching and non teaching staffs were felicitated by the students. It was a heart-warming and memorable occasion which brought together teachers and students, reinforcing the strong bond between them. The event celebrated the dedication and hard work of the teaching staff, reminding everyone of the vital role they play in shaping the future of aspiring zoologists.



EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO LAMA APIARY, KURSEONG

The Department of Zoology organized an Educational visit for 1st semester and 4th Semester students on 4th November 2023 to Lama Apiary, Kurseong. Seventy students under the guidance of Mrs Barkha Rai, Mrs Albina Subba, Mr Sunil Sinha and Mr. Simon Gomes participated in the study tour. This program helped the students to gain knowledge and learning experience in the field of apiculture. Students enjoyed and benefitted from the hands-on-training provided to them.



WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The department of Zoology celebrated International Women's day on 15th of March 2024.

The students had prepared talks on various topics like "Women in Science" and "Women's Contribution to Modern Society". The speakers were Subhashree Singha, Suranda Mukhia and Biraj Chettri. They spoke about the contributions of women in various scientific fields. Through the talk we celebrated the achievements of the interprid women who have paved the way for next generation of female engineers, biologists, mathematicians, doctors, astronauts and more. The talk highlighted the resilience and struggle of women for becoming successful in helping shape the modern India.



WORKSHOP ON ECORESTORATION:

Five students from 6th semester (Shriya Pradhan, Mridul Ghosh, Suranda Mukhia, Prayatna Sharma and Sneha Khaling) along with Mrs. Albina Subba attended the workshop on Eco restoration in Hotel Little Tibet, organized by FOSEP on 29th and 30th April 2024. The workshop aimed to educate and engage participants in discussions and activities related to ecological restoration efforts, particularly in tea garden areas of Darjeeling and Kalimpong hills. The workshop was a fruitful one and the students were able to gain knowledge on the concepts of Eco restoration.



EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO FISH FARM, REANG

The Department of Zoology organized an Educational visit for 1st semester and 6th Semester students on 17th May 2024 to Reang Fish Farm, Near Rambh Bazar, Kalimpong. Sixty students under the guidance of Dr. Bireshwar Bera, Mrs Albina Subba and Mr. Shuvam Sharma participated in the study tour. This program helped the students to gain knowledge and learning experience in the field of pisciculture. The students were able to understand the science and management behind sustainable fisheries.



Challenges:

The implementation of FYUGP came with several challenges to the department. With the existing CBCS system, it was a challenge for the faculty and staff to adjust to the teaching schedules and methods to accommodate the new curriculum. Transitioning from a three year to four year program led the department to redesign courses and careful planning to avoid diluting the academic standards.

Future plans:

When planning for the future of the department, the department needs to upgrade and expand facilities, including classrooms, laboratories, library and common areas to support advanced learning and research. Close collaboration between the administration and the department can create a dynamic and effective educational environment.