Spread gratitude, not garbage

Sometime ago, I was in New Delhi on an important business. After completing my mission I checked out from my hotel and got into a taxi on a Sunday morning to go to the airport. While we were speeding along the highway all of a sudden a white car jumped out of a parking space without any warning right in front of us.

My taxi driver, a Sardarji, slammed on his brakes, skidded, the tyres squealed, and missed the other car by just centimeters! I felt a sudden rush of adrenaline through my veins. The driver of the other car, a youngster, putting his head out started yelling at us.

Nevertheless, my Sardarji driver's response was very unusual. He simply smiled and waved at the guy. Frankly speaking, he kept really calm, cool and cordial. I was surprised at Sardarji's behaviour. So I asked, "Why did you just keep quiet, Sardarji? You could have retorted to the stupid guy. He had almost damaged your car and sent us to the hospital!"

That was when Sardarji spoke to me his philosophy which can aptly be termed as ‘The Principle of the Garbage Truck.’ According to him there are many people in our society who are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of hatred and all sorts of poisonous feelings. They fill themselves with all kinds of trash until they can’t take any more. That makes them explode by yelling, screaming, or shouting at others. Because, as their garbage piles up, they have to look for a place to dump it and if it happens that you are somewhere around them, they will find it convenient to dump it on you. Never, never accept it.

Remember that you always have a choice not to accept their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the street. Never allow the negative experiences and hurtful things in life make you bitter, angry, and resentful. When other people treat you poorly, keep being you. Don’t ever let someone else’s bitterness change the person you are. You cannot become a puppet to someone else’s strings. Turn your negative thoughts into positive ones. Instead of seeing what people can do for you…change your thinking…’what can I do for others?’ You will find your life will be more fulfilling and meaningful.

You have better things to do with your life than to waste it on these sorts of ‘garbage trucks.’ Remember you cannot afford to be a garbage dump. You are special, one-of-a-kind person that was put on this earth to be an encouragement and help to others.

So just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Believe me, you will be happier than ever. The bottom line is that successful people do not let ‘garbage trucks’ take over their day and spoil the day. When you follow this principle you take back control of your life. You make room for the good by letting go of the bad. Life’s too short to wake up in the morning with regrets. So love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don’t. Sometimes it is better to be kind than to be right. For that we do not need a highly intelligent mind that speaks, but a patient heart that listens.

So until tomorrow… be kind to others…who knows if one act of random kindness might be someone else’s memory forever. Always spread gratitude, not garbage. It will increase happiness, success and civility in this world.

Dr.G.P.C.Nayar

SCMS bags the prestigious state government award for implementation of Green Protocol

The NSS Unit at SCMS Engineering College bagged the prestigious award from the state government for its successful implementation of Green Protocol during the festival season at Thirivairanikulam temple in Ernakulam.

Mr.A.Rakesh, NSS Programme Officer, SSET receiving the prestigious state government award from Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for the successful implementation of Green Protocol. Electricity Minister M.M.Mani is also in the picture.

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district. The award constituted by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Kerala was presented to SCMS by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at a function held at Thiruvananthapuram presided over by Education Minister C.Raveendranath, as part of World Environment Day. Mr.A.Rakesh, NSS Programme Officer, SSET received the award from the Chief Minister. Electricity Minister M.M.Mani was the chief speaker.

The implementation of the Green Protocol was monitored by Suchitwa Mission, Haritha Keralam Mission and local self-government bodies. The efforts of the students led to complete reduction of plastic waste during the temple festival season. Scientific measures were adopted to dispose of plastic waste to ensure it didn’t affect the environment.

A group of 300 students of the NSS Unit worked hard during the festival season at Thiruvairanikulam temple to get rid of the plastic waste and to conduct anti-plastic campaigns.

YES Club at SCMS organised an intercollegiate nature photography contest in association with Be Pro, Nikon high quality photography equipment Rental House. The competition was open to students pursuing graduation in various regular colleges across Kerala. The theme for the contest was ‘Living Nature – My Inspiration.’

YES (Young Environmentalists at SCMS) is a student-driven green initiative club. The club aims to kindle environmental consciousness amongst the student community. Cash prizes of Rs.10,000, Rs.7,500 and Rs.5000 were awarded to the first, second and third winners respectively. There was also a special prize of Rs.5000 for the best lady photographer.

Prizes were distributed by Ms.Judy Thomas, MD, Be Pro on June 5 at SCMS campus in the presence of Prof.Pramod P.Thevannoor, Vice Chairman, SCMS Group, Dr.Radha P.Thevannoor, Group Director, Dr.Indu Nair, Group Director, Dr.Filomina P.George, Director, SCMS COCHIN School of Business, Dr.Mohan B., Associate Professor and Consultancy-in-Charge and Dr. Bijith George Abraham, Assistant Professor and Research-in-Charge.

Mohammed Azar M.L., Ilihya College of Engineering and Technology, Muvattupuzha won the first prize. Justin Paul C., Sahrdaya College of Advanced Studies, Kodakara got the second prize and Abhinav P.Varghese, FISAT, Angamaly the third prize. Special prize for the best lady photographer went to Maria Theresa Manika of Holy Crescent College of Architecture, Vazhakulam.

An article titled ‘Measurement, Sustenance and Enhancement of LMS usage in an Academic Institution: A Participatory Action Research Study’ authored by Mr.Justin Joy, Assistant Professor and Prof. T. Nambirajan was published in the UGC approved journal, *Indian Journal of Applied Psychology*, Vol. 55, April 2018 issue. This paper was earlier presented at the two-day International Conference on 5s – Strategy, System, Service, Sustainability and Scalability – organised by DMS, Pondicherry University on March 23 and 24.

Knowledge sharing programme

The first programme of KSP during the month of June was by Prof.Sreekumar B. Pillai on the topic ‘My Personal Experience with a Classroom of the Future,’ held on June 4. The second programme was by Dr. Sethulekshmy Nair, Deputy Director, SIBB R&D, on the topic ‘Nipah and Other Zoonotic Viral Diseases,’ on June 11.
Indian philosophy and lifestyle has long been rooted in the concept of co-existence with nature. We are committed to making planet earth a cleaner and greener place. If each and every one of us does at least one green good deed daily towards our Green Social Responsibility, there will be billions of green good deeds daily on the planet. India is emerging as a leader given it has one of the highest recycling rates in the world. It can be instrumental in combating plastic pollution.

Celebrating the World Environment Day at SCMS under the auspices of the NSS Unit at SSTM a campaign named ‘Sahapadikkoru Phalavriksham’ was launched on June 5. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Anto Joseph, Deputy Range Forest Officer, Kodanad. Dr. G. Sashi Kumar, Principal, SSTM presided. Ms. Latha K., HoD-Commerce and Mr.Arunkumar M., NSS Programme Officer also participated.

Visit to the orphanage

As part of the Reading Day celebrations, NSS volunteers took an initiative to gift books, beds, food and an amount of Rs.6,600 to inmates at Santhwanam Charitable Trust, Kalamassery. The volunteers interacted with the children in the orphanage and made the day memorable.

Reading Day celebrated

The government of Kerala observes June 19 annually as Reading Day with a series of activities at schools and public institutions in order to honour the contribution of P.N.Panicker to the cause of literacy, education and library movement.

Reading Day was celebrated at SCMS Campus under the auspices of the NSS unit on June 19. Mr.S.Ananthanarayanan, author and former Director, NPOL was the chief guest at the function presided over by Dr.G.Sashi Kumar, Principal, SSTM. Mr.Rejoy Geo Antony, author and student at SCMS College of Polytechnics, Dr.Sherin Mariam Alex, Vice Principal, SSTM and Ms.Latha K., HoD-Commerce also addressed the gathering.

What I believe is that we should continuously read to get that one sentence that will totally change our life.

“There is a general feeling that with the availability of computers and the Internet the reading habit is waning. It is not necessarily true. Of course, it is a reality that with the availability of the Internet it has become possible for us to access any information available world over at one stroke, but there is no reason whatsoever for you to get out of the reading habit,” said Mr.Ananthanarayanan in his inaugural address. “What I believe is that we should continuously read to get that one sentence that will totally change our life. We do not know in which page and in which book we can find that one sentence. Until we find that page we should keep on reading,” Mr.Ananthanarayanan advised the students.

“I have a special request to the girls. They seem to be generally disinclined to read newspapers daily. Please make sure that you read it every day for you to understand the social realities around,” he recommended. Read the biographies and life sketches of great people. They had all come up from families like yours, ordinary families, and had education in smaller institutions. But they had a purpose in their life to do something worthwhile, whatever be the difficulties. They had a resolution to overcome all the difficulties,” he pointed out.

“Don’t lose your reading habit at all. Read books and sometimes you may be able to write books. Lot of things remains yet to be written,” he reminded the students.

“Our possibilities are limitless. We can be anything only if we have the mind to do it,” said Mr. Rejoy Geo Antony in his motivational talk. “The best way to understand life is to view the way that others look at life. It may be bad, it may be good. Many of us around make mistakes. For us to understand the intensity of the mistakes we should place ourselves in others shoes. If you won’t be empathetic you would never understand life. That is the reality. By
the time that you understand life it will be too long that you would have wasted the entire time. Then in your old age you would even regret that you would have done it long time ago. Don't give any chance to regret," remarked Mr. Rejoy Geo Antony. He also spoke on the three mantras to success – dream, aim and dare. First of all dream to reach somewhere, then from the dream find one aim and finally dare to do it, he asserted.

Kerala is a place where habit of reading can easily be cultivated, said Dr.Sashi Kumar in his presidential address. Quoting from Samuel Johnson he said “A writer only begins a book, a reader finishes it.” Reading is also one of the most used skills. Our day usually starts with reading and it also ends with reading. Can you imagine a day without reading? Reading has become the part and parcel of our life, just like the mobile phone. Without reading it is not possible for us to survive in this world, he argued. He also went on to describe the ten good reasons why all of us should read.

“A writer only begins a book, a reader finishes it.”

When you read, your mind is alive, active and you are refreshed constantly, said Dr.Sherin Mariam Alex. You are all fortunate to have born in this internet era. More than your text book what you read on the net leaves the lasting impression on your mind. Narrating a real life experience from her life she concluded that it is not what you read or where you read is important; it is what you like that is important.

Reading makes us a perfect version of ourselves. The more you read the more things you learn, the more you learn the more heights you reach, said Ms.Latha K.

Mr.S.Ananthanarayanan also donated 100 copies of the book Icons From the World of Science authored by him to the students.

Gimin Soosan Philip, NSS volunteer welcomed the gathering and Aiswarya Vijayan, NSS volunteer proposed the vote of thanks.

Flash mob at Metro station

A group of B Com students performed a flash mob at Aluva Metro station as part of the the first anniversary celebration of Kochi Metro’s commercial operations on June 19. The team received a certificate of appreciation from KMRL.

SCMS students win MG University 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranks

SCMS School of Technology and Management students have won the first three ranks in MG University MSc Molecular Biology and Genetic Engineering examination. Sreedevi Gopinathan got first rank, Parvathi Menon got second rank and Hanna Karneena got third rank.

International Yoga Day

As part of the International Yoga Day, a practical session on yoga was conducted on June 20 under the guidance of Mr.Vimal Krishna, yoga master. Various yogasanas were taught to the NSS volunteers and faculty members. It was a memorable and interactive session for the participants.

SCMS students get placement in Japan

Akshay P. Suresh and Arun Sen Nedumparambil, Computer Science and Engineering students of SCMS Engineering College have been offered placement in Honest Co. Ltd., an international software manufacturer and distributor in Japan. Earlier, Akshay and Arun Sen were selected to undergo an IT study tour with internship programme in Japanese language and Ruby programming language at Shimane National University in last January.

Akshay P. Suresh and Arun Sen Nedumparambil, SCMS students are seen with Mr. Yukihiro Matsumoto, founder of the Ruby Programming Language, at Shimane National University, Japan.

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Akshay P. Suresh and Arun Sen Nedumparambil, SCMS students are seen with Mr. Yukihiro Matsumoto, founder of the Ruby Programming Language, at Shimane National University, Japan.
PPTIA 2018 Curtain raiser

As a curtain raiser to Dr. Pradeep P. Thevannoor Innovation Awards 2018, the Perfect Pitch Talent Competition was held on June 20. A total of 16 teams comprising 61 students from various schools of Ernakulam and Thrissur districts participated in the competition. Higher secondary school students were invited to present their ideas on solving socially relevant problems. The students were also given an opportunity to visit the SSET Fab Lab and e-Yantra Lab to showcase the various projects and initiatives carried out at SSET. Students of CKMNSS, Chalakudy secured 1st place in the competition for their idea on ‘Assistive Technology for the disabled’ and students of Bhavans Vidya Mandir, Girinagar won 2nd place for their idea on ‘Waste Management.’ The prizes and certificates for the winners were distributed by Dr. Radha P. Thevannoor, Group Director along with Prof. P. C. Pillai, Senior Group Director, Prof. M. Madhavan, Director, SSET and Dr. Praveensal C.J., Principal.

Power system and control engineering workshop

A two-day workshop on ‘Power System and Control Engineering’ was organised by Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering in association with CoreEL Technologies, Bangalore at the campus on May 2 and 3. The overall goal of the workshop was to introduce the participants the design and implementation of control system and power system experiments in the upcoming KTU Labs using MATLAB and Simulink. The training workshop was inaugurated with a welcome address by Prof. M. L. Paul, Head of the Department. A horde of 39 external participants and 16 internal participants made the workshop a grand success.

World Environment Day

NSS unit celebrated World Environment Day on June 5, by planting saplings of fruit trees in the campus. An awareness programme on e-waste management and plastic waste management was inaugurated by Justice K. Sathian, Sub Judge and Member Secretary, Kerala State Legal Services Authority. Mr. Siju Thomas, District Coordinator, Suchitwa Mission, Ernakulam welcomed the gathering, Dr. Praveensal C. J., Principal, SSET presided. Ms. Ajitha, State Coordinator, NSS Technical Cell and Mr. Rakesh A., NSS Programme Officer also spoke. Mr. Kabir B. Haroon, former Managing Director, Green Kerala Limited was the resource person for the session on e-waste management.

Justice K. Sathian, Sub Judge and Member Secretary, Kerala State Legal Services Authority inaugurating the District level awareness class on waste management. Mr. Kabir B. Haroon, former MD, Green Kerala, Dr. Praveensal C.J., Principal, SSET, Mr. Siju Thomas, District Coordinator, Suchitwa Mission and Mr. Sujay K., NSS Programme Officer are also in the picture.
Kochi Metro Rail Corporation has selected SCMS Water Institute to be the technological partner for the conduct and implementation of Rain Water Harvesting at all the 18 stations and other facilities of Kochi Metro. KMRL wants to implement rain water harvesting systems at the metro stations, depot, as well as viaducts so as to reduce its dependency on treated water from public distribution network. KMRL wants to carry out a pre-feasibility study on the implementation of rain water harvesting systems at its facilities. SCMS Water Institute has been selected for the work in recognition of the vast experience SWI has in the water sector of Kochi area.

A number of meetings were held in this regard and the terms of reference for conducting feasibility study for the same is fixed between KMRL and SWI. An MoU has been formulated and discussion in this regard were held at the corporate office of SCMS. Formal Exchange of MoU between Mr.A.P.M. Mohammed Hanish IAS, Managing Director, KMRL and Prof. Pramod P. Thevannoor, Vice Chairman SCMS will take place soon and study will commence from early July.

Placement news (Engineering)

UST Global selected two students. RedBlack Software selected one more final year B Tech student for placement from the drive conducted during May 2018. Earlier Redblack Software had selected one student.

Final results of recruitment drives of 2018 batch students by L&T Finance, Petrolink Data Services, Paytm, Consyst, and Mswipe Technologies are awaited.

The water audit report jointly prepared by SCMS Water Institute and Rotary Club of Cochin for the Government Girls’ Higher Secondary School, Ernakulam was handed over to Ms. Soumini Jain, Kochi Corporation Mayor by Mr.Suseel Aswani, President of the Rotary Club at a function held at the school on June 28. Prof Pramod P. Thevannoor, Vice Chairman, SCMS Group handed over a copy of the report to Ms.P.V.Shylaja, Principal of the school. Dr.Sunny George, Director, SCMS Water Institute gave a summary of the audit.

The audit was carried out covering areas like water availability, water harvesting, water purification, water consumption, water quality, implementation of modern methods of water conservation and the like at the school. The audit suggested a slew of water management measures including proper rain water harvesting and recycling of waste water to reduce consumption and improve water use efficiency.

The school, one of the oldest public education institutions in the city, has an average daily water demand of 22,500 litres. Kochi Corporation incurs a monthly expenditure of Rs.25,000 towards water bill for the school as a major share of the water needs of the educational institution is met by the KWA. The institution imparts education to around 1700 students from nursery to higher secondary classes.

The KWA meets 49 percent of the demand for water at the school and the rest is taken care of by the water from five borewells. Bacterial contamination was observed in two borewells in the campus. All other water quality parameters were found within permissible limits. No cases of water born diseases were reported from the school in the last five years, according to the audit report. A water literacy programme was conducted at the school as part of the audit.
Reflections and reminiscences

Each day at SSET was memorable

Sreedhar S.
(2018 passout BTech Computer Science and Engineering student)

“Happiness is when what you say, what you do and what you think are in harmony.” - Mahatma Gandhi.

On August 2014, I entered this college filled with fresh hopes and aspirations. Ready to begin a new journey, yet I felt daunted by the challenges ahead of me. Thanks to the warm support and meticulous help from the faculty and the non-teaching staff alike, I was able to quickly adapt to the new atmosphere of college life.

As can be predicted, the first year of college was the toughest of all academic years. We were learning a medley of topics from different engineering disciplines. Even though it was difficult to keep pace, the guidance and mentoring we received from our teachers helped us throughout our life here.

As soon as we could find a balance, the second year was upon us. That’s when I started looking into the other facets of college life. There were numerous opportunities within our campus to be explored. So I began working for different organisations in our college like IEEE and H2O. I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to those organisations for showing me a world beyond pure academics.

IEEE taught us about the technical advancements happening around and enabled us to conduct different techno-cultural events within and outside the college as well. For IEEE SSET SB, we all worked hard to conduct the 3 day national event, Ascendio, which is now, a trade mark event in IEEE Kerala section.

H2O taught every SSETian the language of love and compassion. I was fortunate to work with a group of passionate and energetic enthusiasts who busted guts to make the initiative a success. Efforts paid off; H2O was able to spread smile and happiness in life of many people around us. With the experience and knowledge gained from these organisations, I was fortunate to contribute effectively to the SCMS College Union. The College Union worked together as a family to conduct a variety of techno-cultural events with much flair and flamboyance, probably one of the best that has ever happened in the nation. All of these were possible because of the tremendous support from our teachers and management.

The extra cultural activities aside, academically we were advancing at a mind-blowing pace. Mini projects, main projects and seminars were done by each student. Also, we gained deeper insight of the core subjects.

The placement cell of our college paved our way to the outside world. The cell provided us with new and exciting career opportunities from various companies within and outside Kerala.

Each day at SSET was memorable. Even though we were separated by the different branches, our batch was like one family. We only had an emotion to be a true enthusiastic SSETian. The beauty around the campus as well as the harmony among the students made our college unique among many. Lessons learned, songs sung, classes bunked, dances performed; together it has all passed along with time, but the memory of it will surely stay with all of us throughout our lives.

From a totally confused first year boy to a mature adult ready to face the world, SSET has made a transformation in each and every one of us. Now we are confident to face all the challenges in life with a smile. SSET is full of surprises, it’s up to you to explore and utilise the opportunities to the fullest.

Wishing everyone a fruitful life ahead!

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SSA News
SCMS School of Architecture

Prof. Kerstin Frick, new Principal of SCMS School of Architecture

Prof. Kerstin Frick has joined SCMS School of Architecture as Principal. She has a Masters degree in Architecture from Technical University of Berlin, Prof. Kerstin has more than 25 years of professional experience as architect, predominantly in Germany, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. She has extensive experience in design, construction supervision and project management for a variety of projects, such as hospitals, clinics and the like.

She comes to us with nine years’ experience in teaching as guest faculty at various International institutions and full time Professor in Indian institutions.
SCMS School of Architecture ranked 17th Best in India

In the Outlook Drshti All India Survey of Professional Colleges 2018, SCMS School of Architecture has emerged as the 17th Best Architecture College in the country, the 2nd Best in the State, and the Number 1 among the Private Architecture Colleges in the State. The ranking has been made based on criteria such as academic standard, infrastructure facilities, placement, teaching excellence and the so on.

SCP News
SCMS College of Polytechnics

World Environment Day

World Environment Day was celebrated at SCMS College of Polytechnics on June 5. Mr. Jayakumar N.V., Social Forest Officer, Perumbavoor participated as the chief guest. In his inaugural address he appreciated the initiatives of SCMS management to protect the trees. 200 teak saplings and 50 other saplings including rose wood were planted on the occasion. Poster design and quiz competitions were also conducted for the students.

Mr. Jayakumar N.V., Social Forest Officer, Perumbavoor planting a sapling at the Polytechnics campus on the occasion of the World Environment Day celebrations. Prof. C.I. Abdulrahiman, Director, SCP and Prof. P.P. Baby, Principal are also in the picture.

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