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# Dear ALUMNA



**Vimala College(Autonomous), Thrissur -680 009, Estd. 1967**

Nationally Reaccredited with A Grade and CGPA of 3.5 on a 4 Point Scale

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**Dr. Sr. Marriette A. Therattil**

*Coordinator, Alumnae Association  
Former Principal, Vimala College*

**“Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7**

I am glad to address you all through *Dear Alumna*. St. Chavara, our founder has said “Your profession should be according to your knowledge and age.” Information technology today is rightly called the technology of the century for it has found its application and use in every walk of society in the world. While technology provides lightning speed services and facilitates maintaining huge volumes of data in minute spaces, one cannot help but wonder if high speed internet has in fact slowed down relationships. While we are rich in connectivity, we seem to be lacking contact often losing touch with friends and acquaintances. Alumnae reunions provide you with a platform to share moments of togetherness leading to better initiatives and novel enterprises. It is pure joy to listen to memories about this temple of learning unfolding during such meetings. While

the account of days spent at Vimala leads us to a treasure trove of memories, the accomplishments in later life are an inspiration to all. Thus, every meeting is the time to reflect on what one has gained and the contribution thereafter to the society. The time has come to fulfil the responsibility towards the less fortunate. Joint efforts towards the uplift of the community needs to be taken up sincerely by the Association which is a united team that gained higher education from an institution that advocates the transformation of the society in particular thereby leading to the development of the nation as a whole. Project *Vimalaardram* launched last year epitomises this spirit and endorses the change that Vimalites can bring in the lives of those in need of better care. This initiative seeks to spread the warmth of compassion and empathy, that characterises the camaraderie between Vimalites, to those in dire need of emotional and material support. Let me conclude by wishing you all joy and prosperity...may God bless you all!

## Executive Committee, Alumnae Association 2017-'18



**Sitting from left** : Ms. Mony Geege, Ms. Valsala Velayudhan, Dr. Maithily K., Dr. Sr. Marriette A. Therattil, Ms. Vijayalakshmi Nair, Dr. Jancy K. A., Ms. Beena Joseph

**Standing from left** : Dr. Shinju V., Dr. Mimi Mani Panakkal, Ms. Nisha Leela Jose, Dr. Mini Krishna K., Ms. Maya Davi Chalissery, Dr. Theresa C. J., Ms. Radhika Madhavan, Ms. Latha Louis, Ms. Sheeji Raphael



## The Secretary Writes

**Dr. Jancy K. A.**

Assistant Professor, Department of Malayalam  
Secretary, Alumnae Association

As I complete two years as the Secretary of the Association, I look back on days that offered me the delightful chance to associate with the legends who shaped this College into what it is today. Years back when I entered the prestigious portals of Vimala College as a student, I became a part of a community that was brimming with ideas and bursting with dreams. It is here that we received the love and encouragement that shaped us into who we are today. Later, as I stepped back into the campus as Assistant Professor of Malayalam, there is only gratitude that filled me for having been granted the privilege to call Vimala my second home. Being a part of the Association placed the responsibility of

fostering the significant link that every College thrives on – the bond between the former students and their Alma Mater. The post of Secretary offered greater opportunities to bond with the very foundation setters of this College that has come a long way since its inception in 1967. Even as I write today, Vimala is growing in her strength of alumnae scattered all over the world. The Association envisions generations of alumnae coming together and taking forth the name of Vimala to avenues of greater excellence. *Dear Alumna*, the voice of the Association, is a record of activities conducted and functions as a platform for former staff and students to articulate their thoughts. It is a pleasure to be a part of warm reunions that Association activities witness, and every year, we look forward to creating a common space for Vimalites to return to. For, it is only then that the present generations can truly comprehend the gravity of the responsibility they have been endowed with, which is to continue with the rich legacy bequeathed to them.

## Alumnae Accolades 2018

**Held in Honour of (Late) Dr. Sr. Cleopatra, Founder, Alumnae Association**

The Annual Award Day of the Association is one of the most joyous occasions when the former students of the College are applauded for achievements in their areas of expertise. Dedicated to the memory of Dr. Sr. Cleopatra and held in her honour every year, the function is an absolute source of inspiration to the young Vimalites who witness the event with wide eyed wonder, for, being felicitated at the programme are international level achievers, nationally famous personalities and members of the faculty who have contributed to the growth of the Association. Two students who present exemplary character and engage in socially committed activities are also awarded during the Accolades. The Chief Guest for

this year was Ms. Sonija M. A., Divisional Manager (P & IR, LIC, Thrissur). Following are the awardees for 2018:

**Gloria Award** : Ms. Subaida Salim (International Hockey Player)

**Excelsia Award** : Mrs. Indira Gopinathan (Social Activist)

**Gracia Award** : Prof. Rajalakshmi N. T. (Former Head, Department of Economics)

**Karma Award** : Adheena (S5 B. Com) & Sarojos Ollukaran (S5 BA Sociology)



Alumnae Accolades 2018: The Association Executive Committee with the Chief Guest and Awardees on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018

# Montage of a Former Vimalite

**Prof. Beena Joseph**  
*Associate Professor (Retd.),*  
*Department of English, Vimala College*

*(Maybe a Vimalite with a quirky sense of humour. But then, true education imparts you the ability to see the fun, laughter and the humorous in one's past history of blood, toil and tears. )*

Before or Then	After or Now
Just over 22 years. A cuddlesome pussy cat wanting petting and patting from colleagues and students.	Nearing 60 years. A quarrelsome tabby with constantly erect tail and raised fur.
A tremulous chick, hesitant before unknown terrain spread out in front and watchful of the eagles constantly monitoring from above.	A cackling, noisy hen experienced in being productive, committed and dedicated bossing over the untrained chicks.
A fish (small fry) out of water yearning to swim out to the vast unexplored ocean of knowledge and wisdom that lies beyond and wishing that the huge whales floating there would "help me out of this small confining pond."	A whale at home in the cold expose of many oceans voyaged in the past years yearning to tell the small fry "the small pond was the best."

## Main characteristics of both types:

Humble because I know nothing in my chosen sphere. But confident that I can learn everything there is to know because I am just at the threshold and decades and decades wait for me.	Confident that I have learnt everything that is there is to know in my chosen field. But humble because I have realized that it is nothing much even after being there for the past 34 years.
Humble because no wealth. Proud because has health. Self reliant physically even though maybe not financially (needs housing loan, vehicle loans, funds for full time needs/ care takers).	Proud because has wealth. Humble because no health. Self reliant financially, but not physically (needs crutches, walking sticks, false teeth, hearing aids).
Hundred percentage an asset to family and friends.	Fifty percentage a liability to kith and kin.
Trained in tongue control which brings you bonuses unexpectedly.	Loosened the control of your tongue which lands you in hot pickle frequently.
Wishes for atleast one grey hair so you could be thought older, wiser and more respectable.	Wishes for atleast one black hair so you could be thought younger, charming and fun to be with.

I could write on and on in this vein. But I have to consider the stake holders who are the patient readers. So let me retire slowly from this attempt to entertain you, my dear well wishers.

One final word: thank you God, thank you Alma Mater, thank you dear friends and colleagues for helping me retain this sense of humour which surges up and rushes through my blood each time, I recall the fun, frolic, the guffaws, the cackles, the purrs, the growls, the barks, the croons and what all we had in our 20 seat capacity of the department.



# Of Flood and Fury on Social Media

**Meera K**

*Research Scholar, Department of English,  
Vimala College BA & MA English 2009 - 2014*

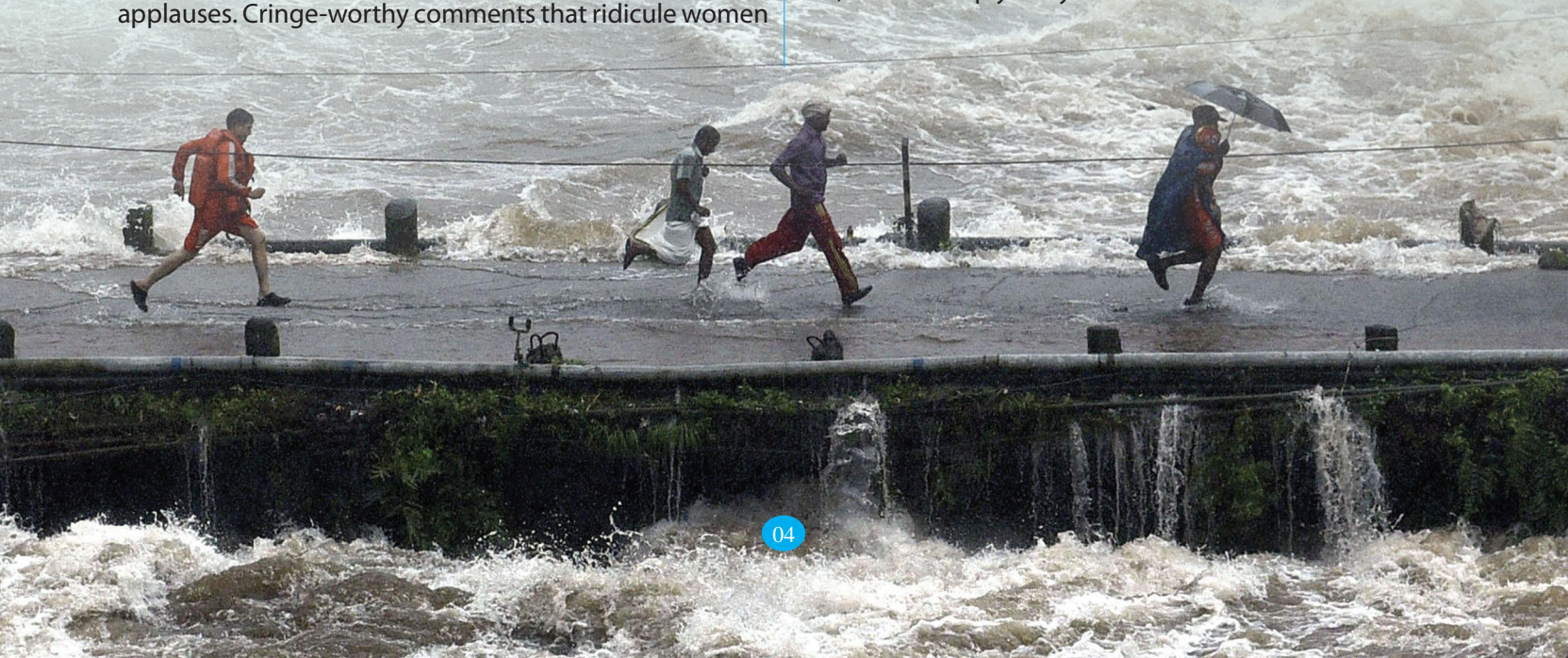
The month of August in the year 2018 will remain deeply etched in every Malayalee's psyche. The dreaded flood, on the one hand caused fatalities and untold miseries to the people, while on the other, brought human beings together on one solid platform. The world sat up and took notice of the state's solidarity in the time of crisis. Social media turned a saviour. The low hung heads which had always received the hardest of censure until then for mindless addiction to phone screens were then celebrated. Praises were heaped on all those who took it upon themselves to use online platforms for timely communication that saved many lives. I had always been sceptical about meeting people and forging friendships in the virtual world. The catastrophe shred those notions into bits and I started approaching the online world with a new-found respect. I must confess I even felt a pang of guilt for having held a skewed, negative vision of the virtual space.

Cut s cene . . . A little more than a month later . . . 28 September 2018.

The Supreme Court of India allows women of all age groups to visit the Sabarimala shrine. While this set forth a series of heated debates and discussions, the question of whether this judgement is in line with my faith or not, is not relevant here. What disturbs me is the large majority's approval of the volley of misogynistic posts on platforms like Facebook. Posts with rape threats gain applauses. Cringe-worthy comments that ridicule women

get celebrated. Women themselves question the 'integrity' and 'morality' of those women who choose to undertake the said pilgrimage. Trolls and memes that use humour to hide the hatred that some carry towards women are terrifying, to say the least. These comments simply reveal the deeply entrenched belief that women are weak and any 'misdeed' from her warrants a punishment in the form of sexual violence. What is even more frustrating is to see how some women themselves subscribe to such views. Again, to emphasise, it is not the issue I refer to, but the response/ reaction it has been receiving.

"So what if someone said something on some platform? Does it matter?" In a word, "Yes!" Had it been a remark or two in bad taste from someone I had no personal relations with, then perhaps I can be at peace. Those remarks can always be treated as an exception and brushed aside. But, this time, the 'someone' who posted derogatory messages turned out to be one from my own circle of 'friends.' And it wasn't just 'one.' If anything, these furious arguments between friends on social media seemed like 'red alert' to me while 'socialising' in the real world. To think that when I step out of my home, I am walking amidst such human beings who think it's justified to use a woman's sexuality to threaten her, who believe that a 'feminachi' is someone of loose morals. . . Sadly, post-flood, the faith I placed in the virtual world has been overturned. And, in fact, the once wary-of-virtual-world self, is now deeply wary of the real world as well.





# Redefining Freedom

**Varada K. Rajendran**

*Assistant Professor on Contract,  
Department of English, NSS College, Ottapalam  
BA & MA English 2011 - 2016*

Vimala was a safe haven for its students. On campus, we were given an unparalleled sense of security as it initiated its wards into adulthood. There are numerous remarkable things about Vimala but what stands out for me was the space for growth it gave to each of its students. Beyond academic and spiritual growth, we were allowed to develop personally at our own pace. We were given room to be girls in a world that forced us to be women. My teachers and almost everyone in the Vimala fraternity were gracious in their acceptance of our follies, immaturities and mistakes. They showed us the right path, guiding us but always letting us forge our own destinies, confident in their faith in our abilities. And it is this that I carry in my heart; this knowledge that the part of me that learnt to have my opinion and gave me voice is a place that I can always return to.

# Vimala Beckons Forever

**Sreedevi K. Menon**

*Assistant Professor of English, Mercy College, Palakkad  
BA English 1996 - 1999*

A fresher in 1996 and a Research Scholar in 2011, my connection with Vimala has always been coincidental. When I joined fresh from school 23 years back, Vimala was only one of the colleges I had applied at for English Literature. My parents preferred Vimala because it was near my house. But I was thrilled to learn about a new course the Department of English was planning to start the year I joined. The Head of the Department, Miss Leela, who was also our family friend, had already made me crave for the course. For a girl like me who had been completely exhausted by the science group in Plus 2, the promises the new course offered were far too tempting to resist. Right from the initial briefing, I was sure that I was here to relax and learn. I was right. The three years spent with like-minded friends and a motivating team of faculty made many of us aspire for ambitious careers.

# The President's Voice

**Dr. Maithily K.**

*President, Alumnae Association  
Associate Professor & Head (Retd.)  
Department of Economics, Vimala College*

True humanitarians are those who take pride about the way they have come up, uphold the value of everything which helped them and always lend a helping hand to others who strive to achieve success. They kindle the spirit of oneness and achievement in the generations that follow. The Alumnae Association of Vimala has been doing exactly that. It has been upholding the pride and spirit of Vimala. As an alumna and the President of the Association I was fortunate to be a part of that mission. I am humbled by the love and affection received from all quarters of Vimala and its alumnae in our efforts towards this aim. Let me thank each and every one who has associated with us. I am sure that our Association will rise to attain greater heights in the years to come.

May God Almighty, the creator and guardian bless us all.

Vimala offered a gust of fresh air with a vibrant campus, pretty classmates and interesting lectures enveloped in the spiritual serenity that still touches me whenever I am back in the campus. It is this atmosphere Vimala had introduced that made me welcome the ambience of Mercy College, Palakkad, where I entered years later to teach. I came back to Vimala years after I left the campus and my Alma Mater clasped me back to her bosom when my teacher Dr. Krishnamayi readily agreed to take me as a scholar for PhD. Yes! Vimala was offering me knowledge once again, a degree that would be a great milestone in my career. When my degree tutor Dr. Joycee coincidentally became my co-guide, I could feel the grace of Mother Vimala again.

As I stepped out after my open defence, I was overwhelmed because I had presented my work before my teachers who had, years back, kindled in me the joy of reading and the thrill of knowing. Not every student gets this rare fortune and I have feel blessed to be one among the chosen. I credit it to the miracle the Almighty has offered me through Vimala, the place of my learning, relearning and unlearning!



# On the Journey to Greater Heights : the Star of Vimala Contest

Vimala College has always basked in the glory of laurels brought home by the student community. Be it academics, arts, sports – the banner and flag of Vimala has been held high and unfurled to fame and appreciation. Efforts taken to mould students in keeping with the vision of the College, that seeks the total transformation of young women, assumes significance and gains worth only through the industrious labour and enterprising nature of the said community. When these students graduate, after spending three eventful years of bachelors or two years of master and sometimes even five years of college life within the portals of Vimala, they leave the protective embrace of Vimalamatha to make a change in the world adding their names in golden letters in the annals of the College. The Association conducts the Star of Vimala Contest in honour of Rev. Sr. Stella Maria, the first Principal, to identify and recognize three students who have proven their mettle during their tenure at the College. The stars of Vimala of the previous years return to their Alma Mater and share success stories at meeting, gatherings and reunions. The true meaning of education finds realization then, and Vimala receives them, the inspiration to move forward with renewed vigour, for every dream that this campus sees is realized through her pupils.

## Star of Vimala 2018

### Star of Vimala Title Winner:

**Amalendu V. Joseph** (S6 B.Sc. Mathematics)

### First Runner Up:

**Sreelakshmi M** (S6 B. A. Malayalam)

### Second Runner Up:

**Aiswarya Pradeep** (S6 B. A. English Literature)



**Star of Vimala:** Contenders for the title are put through gruelling rounds involving an off-stage round having personal interview and certificate verification, and an on-stage round which includes self introduction, current awareness, JAM, situation round and problem solving.



Alumnae Executive Committee with the Star of Vimala winners and judges



## Vimalaardram: For the Community

Vimala has always held in high stead the stake holders who have contributed in a thousand ways in upholding the ideals that the College rests on. While the Association has been working to bring together the huge fraternity of students and teachers who are the very essence of this institution, the responsibility towards the community that forms an integral part of the College's existence and growth cannot be overlooked. Recognising the need to contribute to the uplift of the society, the Association launched *Vimalaardram* – an outreach initiative that was inaugurated last year. The inaugural event was the distribution of Christmas kits among patients of Pain and

Palliative Care as well as an Old Age Home in December last year. In April this year, a facility for the aged women in the community was opened at Padukad where they will be taken care of during the day. These are the first steps of the planned and structured outreach activities that the Association hopes to take up in future. *Vimalaardram* is envisioned as the vehicle for positive transformation that the Association wishes to affect in the community.

Members-in-charge: Dr. Lizzy E. A., Ms. Beena Joseph, Dr. Shinju V., Ms. Latha Louis, Ms. Radhika Madhavan



Mayor Inaugurates Pakalveedu



Christmas Kits



The Golden Jubilee Reunion Celebrations of the Department of Home Science in February 2018





## From the Editor's Desk

The Vimala family is forever growing, with new members coming into the warm folds of Vimalamatha's loving embrace as students and teachers. What began as a dream to nurture the spark that our founding pioneers saw in young girls, stands proudly upon milestones set by the huge community of Vimalites more than half a century later. There is joy at being so many member-strong, there is pride at the successes brought home, but above and beyond these, there is gratitude for having had the opportunity to contribute towards shaping out complete individuals who are simple in their ways, charming in their associations, firm in their opinions and bold in their decisions. This community of women who walked over this campus, were trained within these corridors and were encouraged to blossom out to their full potential within these walls that offered love, security and motivation are the true embodiment of the spirit that Vimala offers and upholds. The Alumnae Association is privileged to play the role of the pivotal link between the yesterdays and today of Vimala. What then brings absolute delight are the warm reunions and bonds forged during meetings and joint initiatives that witness the birth of collective efforts towards building a bright tomorrow. We present before you, *Dear Alumna 2018*. This is the space to articulate all that we wish the posterity to know. It is the legacy we leave behind for the torchbearers of the future.



*Collage of Various Reunion Moments of the Department of Sociology*



*Reunion 14.10.2017*



*Alumnae Bazaar 13.10.2018*

*Glimpses of Alumnae Bazaar*

*Honouring Golden Jubilarians at the Annual Association Reunion*