



15th March 2023

NEWS FROM THE POLYTECHNIC COMMUNITY

SOPHIA POLYTECHNIC EVENTS 2022-23

Teachers and students have returned to the classrooms with mixed feelings of excitement and anxiety after months of distance learning during Covid-19. Most of the students are happy that they can interact with their friends, classmates and teachers in person for they had missed the opportunities for important interactions and relationships with teachers and peers; on the other hand, online resources as well as digital devices had made great strides towards technology-aided learning.

The pandemic brought in a drastic change in the learning spectrum with new opportunities and challenges. As students return to the normal classroom things will not simply spring back to the way it was. The lecturers became more aware of a significant decline in the students' classroom and social skills while some appeared to have lost their interest and willingness to participate in group activities.

Sophia Polytechnic has four departments all geared to training students for professional careers in various fields. In each department students and faculty work together, the faculty guiding the students at every step to achieve both personal and professional growth. Fully aware and keeping in mind the importance of each course the staff has been guiding and supporting the students, especially the senior students, to face a new competitive world with all its challenges once they step out of the institution at the end of this year.

Each year Sophia Polytechnic has an annual exhibition of the work of all the departments for four days. This year the annual exhibition was from 23rd to 26th February 2023. The exhibition is open to the public of all ages and to various groups of interest, talent and taste. Let's begin with Fashion Designing department first.

Fashion Designing



Fashion is related to the bright and happy side of human life. Fashion is a part of life for many people all over the world. Observing fashion collections everywhere we see that they are updated every season, which shows that this industry continues to surprise people with new and unpredictable designs and attractive colours. In our fashion design department creative ideas are vibrant and are very much alive.



Textile Design Patterns and Techniques

Textile design is the process of creating designs and patterns on woven, knitted, or printed fabrics. Textile designs students of today research visual imagery to inspire their designs as they have an important role to play in the creation of fashion collections.



Some students select a theme to work on to display for the exhibition. Sample boards are created according to the selected theme. These selected samples are exhibited to the viewers who can make their choices of attractive patterns and the type of fabric and place their orders. The exhibitions helps the viewer to make connections, see works in context and learn about design and culture – a respectful use of our cultural heritage both ancient and modern.

Art Display

Art helps to bring out that hidden essence and emotion before the people that admire and understand it. It can be a very profound and personal experience and very different from other forms like lectures, seminars or watching something on a screen. You are invited to admire a visual object or experience consciously created through an expression of skill and imagination. In the Art department the students are encouraged to dig deep into their own imaginations and creative minds. The junior students get the chance to observe the work of seniors and prepare themselves for what lies ahead.



During the course of the five years of the applied arts course in the Polytechnic the students choose an area of specialization based on their interests. These include painting, drawing designing, advertisement, calligraphy, and typography. Students had been given interesting assignments such as designing, drawing perspectives, sketching; besides this, the course provides them great exposure to open up new horizons.

Towards the end of their course students are fully convinced that art is the collective expression of what it means to be human. It is representative of the human condition, our

languages, our histories, our cultures, our times' languages, our trials and tribulations.

The annual exhibition aims to provide the students with a platform to show their works of art, creativity and talents to the various companies and personnel from industry, connect with the public and interested personalities. Most importantly, it provides opportunities to meet many professionals in various fields of art which will open wider horizons for job placements and career options.



Hospitality Studies Department

This is a 3 year intense program of both practice and theory. This course focuses on hotel operational skills and management training where each student is exposed to the atmosphere of gracious service; it prepares both girls and boys for the ever innovative and changing global industry of hospitality.

Completing their three hectic years with sufficient theory and practical training the students can look for attractive careers in hotel management, restaurants, airlines, cruise liners and many other areas of their choice.

Baking and Pastry art



People love visiting a bakery, which are well loved because they smell of warm, fresh bread and other baked goods. The essence of this course is on giving “hands on experience” in the making breads, cakes, biscuits, cookies, sugar works, icing and pastries. In brief, the course brings out the best in students in the art of bakery and patisserie.



Outreach Programs



Sophia Polytechnic students of each department every year plan to reach out to various groups in the city and its suburbs. Reaching out can be in varied forms of contributions such as organizing blood donations, bone marrow donations or by doing some constructive learning activities with others. What is common to all ways of reaching out is the willingness to make a difference.

For their outreach programs, the students themselves make arrangements to reach out to under privileged school children, old age homes, street-children, schools for the deaf or blind and other differently-able children. This is a life-time experience for many students who may never again touch the lives of so many beyond the comfortable and busy world they live in.

Once all the classes complete their outreach programs the students are required to present a brief presentation of their activities and their experiences. From these outreach programs they say that they learnt a lot of valuable lessons: contentment with what they have, responsibility and discipline in doing tasks, humility in reaching out to those who have less, generosity to those who are in need and gratefulness towards God's gifts to them. The whole outreach experience is new to many, for some every moment while they were engaged in the program came as a new, enlightening experience; their eyes were opened to the harsh realities of the lives of so many.



The Polytechnic institution also helps out financially needy students every year who have difficulty in paying their fees. The institution makes great effort to search for scholarships or sponsorships for them. This is an enormous help for students who come from the poorer financial strata of society. With our help they are able to complete their courses, get into the job market and climb up the ladder and lift the whole family to a better standard of living.

This year, the health chart of the Polytechnic community has not been good for some: the lingering fears of Covid till the last phase of the pandemic, visits to the doctors and hospitalization for a few drained our time and energy from ministry as did the advancing age of some of us. Nevertheless, as this community and academic year draws to a close we look at the past years with gratitude to God and to all around focusing on the newness of life once again.

*Mary Varghese rscj
Polytechnic Community*