The Department of Geography started in September 1961, at the initiative of a dynamic personality, Late Rev. Bro. J. N. Foley, the then Principal of the College. At that time, it was a one man Department, headed by Prof. G. P. Bhakta, who gave his heart and soul towards development of the study of Geography in the College and in North East India. His dedication and hard work has greatly contributed to the study of Geography in the region as a whole.

In its infant stage, for reasons unknown, few students opted for Geography; but Prof Bhakta, was not let down by the experienced he faced. He explored all possibilities to attract students towards the subject. In the sixties Prof. Bhakta, used to send printed notes by post, during the winter vacation to the home of the students free of cost. With his effort and relentless labour, the seeds of destiny were sown. Prof. Bhakta was instrumental in opening the Department of Geography in other colleges too. He was also a major source of inspiration to many teachers teaching Geography in different colleges of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram. After a dedicated service of thirty seven years, Prof. Bhakta had to retire prematurely on health grounds. In him all the members of the department who had worked with him or studied under him found him to be a “friend, philosopher and guide”.

The 3 years Degree (Pass) course started with less than 10 students in 1964. Prof. J. P. Singh, joined the Department in 1966 and was a faculty member till August 1978. He joined the Regional College of Education in Bhopal in September 1978. In August 1974 Prof. P. R. Dutta an alumnus of the College joined the Department. Between September, 1978 and June 1984, three other lecturers joined the Department and all of them had a brief tenure in the College. Following the resignation of Prof. J. P. Singh, Prof. P. Konwar joined the Department in September 1978 and left in 1979. Prof. P. Dutta joined the Department in September 1979 and continued till June 1984 and left to join the Assam Civil Service. Prof. S. Kharkongor joined the Department in June 1982, but left to take another assignment as the Principal of the Shillong Commerce College. The number of students was steadily increasing and with more students opting for Geography, the pertinent need for opening Honours course was cleared in July 1984 with eight students. The Department needed to be strengthened and consequently Prof. K. C. Chakravarty joined in June 1985. Prof. S. Das joined in October 1986 and resigned in September 1989; following which Prof. O.M. Kharmawphlang, joined the faculty in November, 1989. Prof G. Bhakta retired in April 1998 and Prof M. J. Ford joined the Department in November 1998. Prof. G. L. Kharkongor joined the Department on April, 2000, while Prof. Sanjoy Choudhury joined the Department on a college post in the year 2007 and resigned in 2013. Prof. (Mrs.) Wanrihun Diengdoh joined the Department in June 2009 and Prof. Teddy Kharshandi joined the Department in 2013. At present the Head of Department is Prof. O. M. Kharmawphlang.
### DEPARTMENT PROFILE

1. Name of the Department: Geography Department  
2. Year of Establishment: 1961  
3. Faculty profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Year of joining</th>
<th>Experience</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Osmond M. Kharmawphlang,</td>
<td>M.A/M.Phil</td>
<td>01.11.1989</td>
<td>24 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Department</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mark J. Ford</td>
<td>M.A/M.Phil</td>
<td>11.11.1998</td>
<td>15 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Gideon L. Kharkongor</td>
<td>M.A/NET/M.Phil</td>
<td>01.04.2000</td>
<td>13 years</td>
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<td>Ms. Wanrhun D. Diengdoh</td>
<td>M.A/NET</td>
<td>01.06.2009</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Teddy Kharshandi</td>
<td>M.A/NET</td>
<td>01.07.2013</td>
<td>4 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri P.D. Marak</td>
<td>Laboratory Assistant</td>
<td>1.6.1983</td>
<td>30 years</td>
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</table>

Participation / contribution of teachers to the academic activities including teaching, consultancy and research

- **ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

**Mr. Osmond M. Kharmawphlang**

1. Burning Environmental Issues: Risk to Biodiversity and Human Health with Special Reference to North East India held at St. Mary’s College, Shillong held on 15th & 16th May 2013.
2. National Seminar entitled Inclusive Development – Bridging the Gap, conducted by St. Edmund’s College, Shillong held on the 7th & 8th June 2013.
3. National Workshop on Changing Paradigm in College Education: Problems and Challenges, Department of Economics & IQAC, St.Edmund’s College, October 29, 2011

**Mr. Mark J. Ford**

1. Burning Environmental Issues: Risk to Biodiversity and Human Health with Special Reference to North East India held at St. Mary’s College, Shillong held on 15th & 16th May 2013.
2. National Seminar entitled Inclusive Development – Bridging the Gap, conducted by St. Edmund’s College, Shillong held on the 7th & 8th June 2013.

**Mr. Gideon L. Kharkongor**

**National:**

1. Land and Forest Interface seminar at Women’s College, Shillong, 8-9th July 2009. Workshop on Negotiation Skill’s, conducted by eN-Vision at St.Edmund’s College, Shillong held on the 6th June 2013.
2. National Seminar entitled Inclusive Development – Bridging the Gap, conducted by St. Edmund’s College, Shillong held on the 7th & 8th June 2013.
3. Burning Environmental Issues: Risk to Biodiversity and Human Health with Special Reference to North East India held at St. Mary’s College, Shillong held on 15th & 16th May 2013.

5. Workshop on Familiarisation & Integration with North East, organised by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Shillong, April 7-9, 2011.


Regional:


11. Problems & Prospect of Environmental Education in the School of North East India & State of the Environment in Meghalaya: A few retrospections, conducted by NERIE, Shillong held on 7th – 9th February 2011.


13. North Eastern Regional Meeting on Dioxins and Furans held at Guwahati, Assam on 19th December 2012.


15. Workshop on Voluntary Blood Donation organized by Sikkim State AIDS Control Society with support from National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), New Delhi held on 7th& 8th June 2012.


17. Workshop on Art of Marking maps through ages conducted by the Institution of Surveyors & INCA at Survey of India Shillong on 26th May 2010.

18. One Day Workshop on Map Making Techniques conducted by the Department of Geography St. Edmunds College, Shillong, September 13th 2010.

19. Land and Forest interface seminar at Women’s College, Shillong, 8-9th July 2009.

Paper Presentations:


2. ‘Land and Forest Rights in West Khasi Hills’ at Land and Forest Interface Seminar at Women’s College, Shillong, 8-9th July 2009.

3. National Service Scheme and Facta Non Verba, Edmundian, 2011

Mrs Wanrihun Diengdoh

- Burning Environmental Issues: Risk to Biodiversity and Human Health with Special Reference to North East India held at St. Mary’s College, Shillong held on 15th& 16th May 2013.

- National Seminar entitled Inclusive Development – Bridging the Gap, conducted by St. Edmund’s College, Shillong held on the 7th& 8th June 2013.

- “One day workshop on Map Making Technique” held on September 13th, 2010 organised by the Department of Geography St. Edmund’s College Shillong.

- Two- Day Workshop on “Faculty Development and Administration:” organized by Lady Keane College Shillong on 29th and 30th May 2009.
- Participated in the 18th Orientation Programme from 23rd February 2012 to 21st March 2012 and obtained grade ‘A’ U.G.C.-Academic staff college – North Eastern Hill University.

**Mr. Teddy Kharshandi**

- Teaching Environmental Studies at Union Christian College from 2009-2011.
- National Seminar entitled Inclusive Development – Bridging the Gap, conducted by St. Edmund’s College, Shillong held on the 7th& 8th June 2013.

Collaboration with other departments/ institutions, at the State, national and International levels, and their outcome during the past two years

- Collaborated with North Eastern Council (NEC) and ICSSR and NeSAC for workshop on ‘Environmental Assessment through GIS’ on November, 6, 2007 at St.Edmund’s College, Shillong.
- One Day Seminar on Development of Geography: Celebrating Golden Jubilee of the Department of geography, St. Edmund’s College, 2012

Priority areas of Research and details of the ongoing projects, important and noteworthy publications of the faculty, during past two years

**Gideon L Kharkongor:**

**PUBLICATIONS:**


**Departmental Projects Undertaken:**

- 2010: Spatial Distribution of Macro Invertebrates in Terrestrial Ecosystem of Nonglum Village, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya.
- 2010: Spatial Distribution of Macro Invertebrates in Aquatic Ecosystem of Nonglum Village, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya.
- 2013: Hill Area Cultivation: A case study of soil loss on the cultivated slopes of Khlieh Umstem village; Ri Bhoi district, Meghalaya.

**STUDENTS’ PERFORMANCE IN DIVISION:**

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<th>No Of Students</th>
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<th>%</th>
<th>2nd Div</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Simple</th>
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<td>2013</td>
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**UNIVERSITY RANK HOLDERS:**

- **2009**: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 10th position in Graduation.
- **2010**: 4th & 5th position in Graduation
- **2011**: 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, and 10th position in Graduation
- **2012**: 2nd and 3rd position in Graduation
- **2013**: 4th & 6th position in Graduation

- **Plan of action of the department for the next five years**
  - To prepare a geographical structure of St. Edmund’s College.
  - To organize seminars on climate change with special reference to Shillong.
  - To upgrade the metrological centre in the College.
  - Setting up of G.I.S lab.
  - Setting up of soil and water testing laboratories.