



CHANGE OF GUARD

Teachers open the door. You enter by yourself.

---Chinese Proverb

By learning you will teach;
 by teaching you will understand.

—Latin Proverb



President



Secretary



Treasurer

"The old order changeth giving place to New"



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Highlights of 8th meeting: 15 Oct 2011

On 15 October 2011 the SMART Club commemorated the precious life of Sr. David, fmm who passed away on the 2nd of October in Canada. Sr. David was one of the pioneering team of sisters who founded the college. She also founded the Western Music department both in Stella Maris and in the University of Madras. The members observed one minute of silence at the beginning of the memorial service.

Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm began the service by sharing her memories of Sr. David's personality - her deep spirituality and her passion for music. She also related several incidents, some humorous and others more serious, which vividly revealed and brought alive the character of this much loved and unforgettable sister. Mrs. Mangaladurai recalled the characteristic white wide-brimmed hat and the

cheerful smile of Sr. David, as well as her cheerful and generous nature which endeared her to all. Sr. Flavia, fmm then related how, as a young religious, she had been strongly influenced by Sr. David's prayerful and joyous life, and her intense spirituality. Sr. Colleen, fmm narrated several of her experiences which brought out other aspects of Sr. David's nature - her ability to relax in the midst of



memorial service for Sr David

If you would thoroughly know anything, teach it to others.

----Tryon Edwards.
Speak in such a way that others love to listen to you. Listen in such a way that others love to speak to you.

----Anonymous.

Highlights of 8th meeting: 15 Oct 2011

stress, her joy in nature, and her deep love for the college and for India.

Dr. Christina Rajkumar then shared a little-known bit of information which showed how Sr. David had left her mark not only on Stella Maris but on Ethiraj College as well.

The President then announced a surprise - the first issue of the Online Newsletter of the SMART Club - which was released by Mrs. Chellam with a click of the button.

Sr. Susan handed over the first hard copy to

Dr. Thangamani. Copies of the newsletter were then distributed to all the members present

The meeting concluded with a game - a musical quiz - to keep alive the spirit of music epitomized by Sr. David. The game was specially devised by Gita Balachandran to test the knowledge of music of the participants. The members showed a good ear for old songs (Hindi, Tamil & English) and were able to identify almost all the singers. The game was won by the team led by Sr. Helen, who walked away with the prize - the musical CD which was used for the game.

A good time was had by all and the members went home in a mellow mood with rekindled, warm memories of Sr. David. It was announced that the next meeting would be on the 17th of December and would be a celebration of Christmas.



Highlights of 9th meeting: 17 Dec 2011



The 17th of December saw the Smartees celebrating Christmas with verve. Sr. Helen Vincent gave a very inspiring Christmas message - she emphasized the necessity of becoming alert to the needs of others around us. The secret of her youthfulness, she disclosed was her capacity to sense others' needs and give them timely help. This set in the spirit of Christmas. This was followed by a soulful singing of Christmas carols led by the Sisters and joined in by other members. After the formalities of the presentation of the minutes and the accounts were completed the members were all ready for the cake cutting. A special Christmas crossword had been prepared by Mridula and Gita and the members racked their brains to do it. It was based on the birth of Christ along with the history of Stella Maris College. The members

greatly enjoyed guessing the clues. The first prize was won by Lakshmi Venkatasubramaniam of the Economics department. The prizes were sponsored by Meena Swamy and Gita Balachandran. The second prize was won by two people - Sr Leonie of the Maths department and Elizabeth Ninan of the Chemistry department. The third prize went to Teresa Gregory of the English department.

This was followed by a group game devised by Mrs. Mangaladurai. Anagrams based on the Christmas story were given and the members had to guess the right word. The group led by Sr. Christine won the prize for this game.

Everyone was then served a piece of the Christmas cake along with delicious snacks

of rose cookies and kal-kals. Then Gita dressed as Santa Claus went round distributing to each member a pair of straw slippers especially brought by Agnes from Pune where she had gone on vacation while the group sang "Jingle Bells" with gusto. Exchanging the slippers they received to find the size that suited each one made the gift giving more exciting. Only Prince Charming was not there to find the right size for his Cinderella. Of course such hopes were not entertained as the dark sex can never invade this all female club. The members went home with the message of Christmas --- "It is in giving that we receive."



10th meeting:
18 Feb 2012

In their February meeting the SMARTies celebrated Valentine's Day. The President Ms Gita Balachandran greeted the members with a tray of heart shaped chocolates. The room had been decorated romantically with red hearts on the walls.

After the secretary Ms. Mridula Jose had read out the minutes of the previous meeting, the members played the game "Find your sweet heart" - of course they were expected to find the iconic lovers of history, literature and the films. The pair consisting of Ms. Thangamani and Sr. Christine was declared the valentines of the day - and Dharamender and Hema Malini thus beat even Romeo and Juliet at their own game. Ms. Thangamani was heard naughtily quipping "I may be the second wife but I am loved more". The other pairs eventually found their valentines in an excited and lively fashion.



Election for the next team of office bearers was conducted. The President elect is Sr. Christine, the Secretary, Ms. Jesurita Sathian, and the Treasurer Ms. Christina Rajkumar. All three of them graciously accepted the honour.

Ms. Margaret Buch, the resource person of the day, spoke about the need to protect the environment. In keeping with this theme she

demonstrated the easiest and most efficient way of creating waste bags out of



old news papers. In true SMART fashion the members were all busy trying to make newspaper bags with various degrees of success. She also showed the use of different punching machines shaped like flowers, leaves etc... Colourful papers were used for making these shapes which in turn were used for decorating different types of gift wrappers. The left over punched papers were not wasted but used for decorating envelopes.



Ms Buch was able to communicate some of her passion to save Planet Earth by saying "NO" to the use of plastics. She suggested carrying special folded bags for our shopping. Ms. Christina Rajkumar gracefully proposed the vote of thanks.

Special snacks - heart shaped black forest (in keeping with the theme) and mushroom pizzas along with hot masala tea were served. The Smartees went home with old memories of romance revived and greatly relaxed.



In Remembrance



Dr Ramani

Our scriptures tell us that childhood , old age and death are incidents only , to this perishable body of ours and that man's spirit is eternal and immortal. That being so , why should we fear death? And where there is no fear of death there can be no sorrow over it., either.

—Mahatma Gandhi



Ms Stella Jesudasan

To know how to suggest is the great art of teaching. To attain it we must be able to guess what will interest: we must learn to read the childish soul as we might a piece of music. Then, by simply changing the key, we keep up the attraction - vary the song.

—Henri Frederic Amiel



Ms. LEILA NARAYANAN



Ms. TERESA GREGORY



Dr. MARY JOHN



Ms. GIGIE A VARGHESE



Ms. PRABHAVATHY NAIR



Dr. NALINAKSHI



Dr. PATRICIA GABRIEL



Dr. MADHU DHA-
WAN



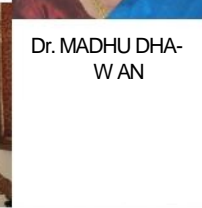
Dr. SEETHA SRINIVASAN



Ms. MANGALADURAI



Dr. MARGARET CLARENCE



Dr. RAMA NARAYANAN



Dr. GEETHA SRIDHARAN



Dr. MEENA SWAMY



Ms. GITA BALACHANDRAN



Dr. JACINTA FENELON



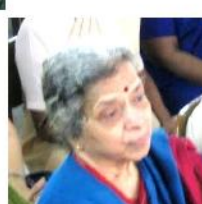
Ms. THANGAMANI J



Dr. EVELYN CHANDRA-
SEKHARAN



Ms. MARY REVATHY JESUDOSS



Dr. PADMA SE-
SHADRI



Dr. POPPY KANNAN



Dr. MRIDULA JOSE



Dr. AGNES FERNANDO



Ms. LAKSHMI VENKATA-SUBRAMA-



Ms. RAJALAKSHMI T.B



Dr. P. VJAYALAKSHMI



Dr. SUSAN COOMMEN



Dr. JILLY JOSEPH



Dr. SHEILA MATHAI



Ms. RADHA PAUL



Dr. Sr. HELEN VINCENT



Sr. SUSAN MATHEIKAL



Dr. Sr. LEONY MAR Y DHANASWAMY



Sr. MERCY P.V



Dr. Sr. FLAVIA MARIAPRAGASAM



Sr. CHRISTINE ANTHONY



Dr. Sr. MARY ANN



Dr. CHRISTINA RAJKUMAR



Ms. ELZABETH GEORGE



Dr. BEULAH VIJAYA-KUMAR



Dr. SHARADA BHANU



Dr. KAMALA VISHWANATHAN



Dr. CHELLAM MITRAN



Dr. KAMALA ARAVIND



Ms. ARUMUGHA-LAKSHMI



Dr. USHA RAMANI



Dr. PADMA MALINI



Ms. MEERA BALACHANDRAN



Ms. CELINE RODRIGUES



Ds. SAVITHRI SANKARAN



Dr. PREMA BHAT



Sr. MARY JOHN KATTIKATT



Dr. USHA KRISHNAN



Dr. Sr. COLLEEN NORTH



DR. JESURIETTA SATHIAN



Dr. Sr. RITA MARNENI



Dr. VIJAYA PARTHASARATHY

WORLD BOOK FAIR



My visit to the Book Fair

Gita Balachandran



I just realized how much the number 9 rules my life. This is my 9th visit to the 20th World Book Fair held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Visit did I say? It was actually a pilgrimage. I have been faithfully going to it every second year and as the Book Fair expands my zeal also grows. The Book Fair is the offspring of the National Book Trust of India which was established in 1957. It is the biggest book fair in the Afro-Asian region and boasts of publishers and book-sellers both from India and abroad, spread over 14 halls with over 2500 stalls in an area of 45000 square metres.

The fair is run on specific themes. In 2008 it was Mahatma Gandhi, in 2010, it was sports and this year it was on Indian cinema. The fair also celebrated two important events: 150 years of Rabindranath Tagore with a display of books and 100 years of Delhi as the capital of the country.

I spent 4 days from February 27th to 2nd March haunting the halls of the fair. As an experienced librarian I bought the information booklet and meticulously ticked off the stalls I wished to visit. You can imagine the miles I trod in four days. I returned both smarter and slimmer—exercise for body and soul so to speak. Mind you the halls covered 45000 square metres

This time it was the huge area occupied by the online bookstore Flipkart which was the cynosure of all eyes. There were colourful posters stuck above each computer. Besides categories of exhibits like Science and Technology, Hindi and other languages and the Children's section there were regular features like book launches, meet the author sessions, seminars, and so on. The intellectual excitement is heady and it is a true bookish paradise on earth.

Being an old delhite I delight in taking my southern friends not only to the fair but also on sight-seeing trips. After the 10 am to 6 pm demanding trips at the fair we set off to see the other delights of Delhi. The magic of Delhi never fails and my friends from other departments who occasionally accompany me come away totally enchanted by it all. Staying with the FMM sisters at the Mater Dei Convent or the Provincial House was great due to the kind hospitality of the sisters of the community.

No booklover can afford to miss the Delhi Book fair. To attain nirvana my suggestion is to drop in at this world fair. You will be transformed for life.

Once a teacher—

Dr. Mridula Jose



My first love as a student and teacher has always been English literature. But since retirement I find that it is my dalliance with Language that has borne fruit and resulted in a second innings at teaching (talk of mixed metaphors).

I fondly remember my mentor in school who was instrumental in revealing the wonders of grammar. She called it "Parsing" but the intellectual possibilities of the exercise thrilled me and I was hooked for life. While my convent friends took pride in boasting of not knowing a noun from a verb I kept a studied silence ---mums the word I told myself---silence being the price of belonging to a group which thought ignorance in matters grammatical was bliss.

A stint at The Central Institute of English and Foreign languages sealed my fate. That was considered my passport to language teaching and all the papers in Linguistics and Language in Stella Maris were passed on to me as a matter of course. I remember Soumu Francis asking me to initiate her into the various allophones of the phoneme /r/. I most willingly obliged as I considered it a feather in my cap to teach a senior teacher and a brilliant and much loved person at that.

Hardly had I retired when I was catapulted into KCG Engineering College where I kept the lamp of language teaching burning for five full years. Then when Stella called me for Remedial English teaching with the full responsibility for drawing up a syllabus and training Tamil medium students I couldn't resist the challenge. This along with examiner duties in various competitive exams and acting as trainer for several language exams keep me busy and as I said before "Once a teacher always a teacher." They say old soldiers never die and I guess that's true of teachers too.

Retirement is being twice tired —?!

Dr. Meena N. Swamy



I totally disagree with what I read recently on the net - "Retired is being twice tired - first, tired of WORKING, then tired of NOT".

In my case, I enjoyed every moment of the 39 long years I worked as a college teacher prior to retiring in 1998, the last three years made even more enjoyable as my husband - an extremely helpful person - had retired by then. I believed that I had to devote my time wholeheartedly to teaching which, not infrequently, resulted in having inadequate time for many other things.

Retired life brought more time and relaxation to enjoy life, travel to a few places, visit and maintain contact with all kith and kin, attend music concerts and interesting lectures on a regular basis, try out new dishes, embark on a beginner's course in Sanskrit, revive music lessons and so on.

After eleven years of such a relaxed life, God entrusted me with more responsibilities in running the house as my husband had some health issues. With ample guidance and support from the Lord Almighty I got trained to be totally independent and also take care of my husband. Though he had made a remarkable recovery and was able to resume his usual activities and enjoy life, my husband was over- come by a sudden severe chest infection that brought his life to an end in October 2011.

Things have not been easy since then. But I do realize that I have to accept God's plans. I am extremely grateful to Him for the immense help He is extending to me through my daughter, lovely friends and relatives and above all, the SMC community.

My future plans are

- Keep healthy by eating well and having adequate exercise
- Learn Sanskrit well enough to appreciate the original versions of the great Indian epics
- Continue to practice music - with professional guidance if available
- Keep in touch with friends and relatives, and
- Live as a happy individual trusting completely in the Lord who is always with me

Bye for now. I need time to unravel the mysteries hidden in my new toy - a SMART phone I've acquired under orders from my daughter!!

Retired, not tired...

Dr Sr Helen Vincent



When I retired from Stella Maris College in 1991, I had a sense of satisfaction that the college had grown to become one of the premier institutions of higher learning in the nation, autonomy working smoothly....

My next assignment as All India Secretary of Xavier Board of Higher Education, which was then burdened with declining/inactive membership of about 80 colleges and with paucity of funds - was no easy task. To add to my woes, my residence on Primrose Road, Bangalore was beautiful but hardly liveable; besides I had no staff except an old accountant and so I had to do all the cooking and cleaning myself. Of course help came in the form of family, friends and alumnae of SMC.

With my optimistic perseverance and God's unfailing help, in three years I was able to almost double the membership to 150 colleges and raise the bank balance from a mere 6 thousand rupees to a whopping one lakh! We hosted the Triennial Conference with help from Caritas and with the surplus fund from Roncali Foundation we conducted summer programmes for spiritual renewal, counselling and catechetics. I started a Women's Studies Centre equipped with a library and the articles were published in the Xavier Board bulletin. The retired Registrar of Mother Theresa University, Dr Josephine Louise, my friend since childhood, faculty from SMC and the Sisters of Jothi Nivas, all extended help and support. So I was able to continue undeterred despite 3 accidents and several fractures!

After having completed 5 years in Xavier Board I returned to Stella Maris as the Secretary of the College for 3 years. My guest lectures at the Madras University and the Madras Community College landed me as Principal of the Community college for a year. A new experience teaching students from underprivileged backgrounds! Help poured in from my friends at SMC and from generous multinational agencies. I was thus able to introduce innovative job-oriented certificate courses besides the degree from the Madras University offered to the students.

I then served as Correspondent at St Raphael's School for 3 years honing my people management skills. Despite my frail physique and failing health I carried on and returned once more to Stella Maris as Secretary when the new Principal, Sr Jasintha Quadras took charge. And now I am coordinating the one year certificate course in English language and life skills since 2010. I am now the Director of the course. Some Thai and Korean students joined for short term courses. Some of the first batch of students have joined the college for undergraduate programmes in science, commerce and social work.

Retirement is one long working holiday!

Dr Agnes Fernando



As a young student I could not fully comprehend the true significance of Browning's philosophy which he expresses through the persona in his poem Rabbi Ben Ezra

*Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life, for which the first was made...*

It's only now, having attained the honourable status of a "senior citizen" with three and a half decades of a fulfilling career behind me that I have begun to savour the serenity, the joy and the peace of old age in this hallowed period of my retirement.

Yes, indeed old age is "the best" - "the last of life for which the first was made." Or how else can you explain the excitement of being able to do things so different from the humdrum daily activities that you were mechanically engaged in for years!

Today the youth are adept at switching not just jobs but even careers not only for monetary gain but also for greater self-fulfilment. I however had never dreamt that after 35 years of teaching in an Arts and Science College I would have such diverse experiences as teaching basic English in a Community College (Grihini, Kodaikanal), business English in a Management Institute (LIBA, Chennai) and working as Supervising Examiner for the conduct of the ISC Board Exam at Abacus, Perungudi, Chennai; all helping to add spice to my life.

As for leisure time activities, how could I describe the thrill of wandering in the by lanes after having travelled on the highways of literature - lapping up best sellers, cracking the five star Sudoku and the Guardian Crossword each day, building up my philatelic collection, enjoying watching award winning movies and talk shows, being pampered by ministering minions in a beauty parlour the inside of which I had never even seen earlier, and the sheer joy of not having to wake up in the wee hours of the morning; and above all having time and space for God and fellow human beings - these are the rare jewels on the crown of retirement.

And so with confidence I can say with the poet:

*Our times are in his hand
Who saith "A whole I planned,
Youth shows but half; trust God: see all, nor be afraid!"*

Budget 2012 Decoded

TAX RATES

TOTAL INCOME (₹)	SENIOR CITIZEN	VERY SENIOR CITIZEN	OTHERS
Up to 2 lakh	Nil	Nil	Nil
2 lakh to 2.5 lakh	Nil	Nil	10%
2.5 lakh to 5 lakh	10%	Nil	10%
5 lakh to 10 lakh	20%	20%	20%
Above 10 lakh	30%	30%	30%

Cess @3% payable on the amount of income tax

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