

SMARTSMARTERSMARTEST

STELLA MARIS ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS

2016 - 2017

The 'senior' faculty who have turned 'senior citizens' cherish the 'home-coming' moments that we spend together in the college campus.

Dr. Geetha Sridharan and Dr. Thilagavathi Joseph, the office-bearers of the club, found a smart way to stay connected and created a WhatsApp group for SMART and since then information exchange has been made easier.

This year's programmes began on a sweet note, with Dr. Thangamani, retired faculty of the Department of Mathematics, cutting a cake, as we celebrated her 80th birthday. The members then visited the Language Lab and Dr. Thilagavathi demonstrated to them the application of the interactive language learning software – Tense Buster, Study Skills Success, Issues and Business Writing.

Dr. Bhuvanewari, the yoga trainer, had a remedy for many of our physical ailments, and all that we needed to do was bend and stretch and breathe in and breathe out. As she went on chanting, right leg... and left hand... left leg... and right hand, it was a delightful sight to see the youthful members trying out various asanas. We went home younger and smarter, agile and alert, pledging to practice the 10 asanas that we learnt, regularly.

Dr. Agnes Fernando who had gone to Belgium on a scholarly expedition returned home with good memories and many good stories to narrate. The SMART members had the privilege of listening to her as she shared with us her experience of her visit to the ancestral home of Dr. (Sr.) Edith Tömöry, fmm, in Budapest, Hungary. Dr. (Sr.) Edith Tömöry, who along with Sr. Sylvestra established the Department of Fine Arts in 1948, was one of the pioneers who dedicated her service to Stella Maris College from 1948 to 1972, in her capacity as the Head of the Department of Fine Arts, as a Research Guide, and as Vice-principal. With her Ph.D. Degree in *History of Fine Arts* and her book titled, *Introduction to the History of Fine Arts in India and the West*, her contribution to the Department of Fine Arts as a Professor and as a Research Guide is unparalleled. Dr. Agnes visited her home in search of Sr. Edith Tömöry's Ph.D Thesis "The Story of the Hungarian Chapel at Aachen, Germany", submitted to the University of Budapest in 1929, for Stellarchives, and in the process struck upon a treasure trove of information in the form of photographs and letters, including the one written by Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, informing the family about the demise of Sr. Edith Tomory on 30 May, 1998, at Stella Maris Convent, Chennai. The PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Agnes, with photographs of places and events brought to life the legacy that Sister has left behind for the Stella Maris family.

Clad in the colour of Christmas, red and green, the SMART members came together to sing carols and share the joy of Christmas. Dr. Christina Rajkumar who brought to us the Christmas message gave a new perspective to the Christmas narrative with special emphasis on the 'faith of the shepherds, who believed the message of the angels, and *the magi*, who followed the star'. The SMART members cheerfully sang Joy to the World and Away in a Manger and a few more carols, and we also had the Student Choir from the Hostel and the Department of Physics to sing for us.

The retired faculty, with their passion for learning anything new still afresh, tried their hands at 'macrame', the art of making jute pot hangers, guided by the deft hands of Dr. Chitralkha. There was excitement in the air as we tried out a new skill, measuring and cutting jute, making knots, and at the end each one had a new piece of handicraft and a sense of achievement.

The presence of some of our dear sisters, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Sr. Susan, Sr. Christine, and Sr. Leonie in most of the meetings, and our togetherness in the serenity of the campus, are some of the reasons for the successful journey of SMART.

Dr. Thilagavathi G Joseph
Retired Faculty
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Christmas get -together 2016



Meeting in progress