

# stella maris college

## 2005



# **STELLA MARIS COLLEGE**

(AUTONOMOUS)

(Accredited at the five star level by  
National Assessment and Accreditation Council)

17, Cathedral Road,  
Chennai - 600 086.



**ACADEMIC YEAR**  
**2004 - 2005**

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The sure-win mantra of this communication age is “connectivity, collaboration and networking.” All forms of life exist in an interdependent relationship. Francis Thompson describes this very poetically:

*All things by immortal power  
Hiddenly  
To each other linked are  
That thou canst not stir a flower  
Without troubling a star*

Simulating the trinitarian God and the constellation of stars, all human life is interwoven in a dynamic growth-oriented relationship. Like social and religious communities, institutes of higher learning and

research are constantly drawn together by centripetal forces that release powerful creative energies. Synergy is that extra power, energy and success achieved by two or more persons working together instead of on their own.

Inter-departmental collaborative ventures, interface between faculty, students and the corporate sector, and national and international exchange programmes have synergized the march of Stella Maris College towards the attainment of its goal. They have helped to enhance qualitative production ensuring sustainable growth.

Leafing through the pages of this issue of the college magazine will certainly create ripples in this vast ocean of adventures.

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## Editorial Board

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# College Day







# College Day Report

*Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, f.m.m.,  
Principal*



Honourable Minister for Human Resource Development, Government of India, Shri. Arjun Singh, Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission, Sr. Cecilia Joachim, Provincial Superior, Chennai Province, Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, Superior and Secretary, Sr. Sundari, Superior, Vice-Principals, Members of the Governing Body, the Academic



Priyanka Joseph, President Students' Union 2004-05 presenting a bouquet to Shri Arjun Singh, Hon'ble Minister.

Council, faculty, staff, benefactors, parents, dear alumnae and cherished students:

A warm welcome to our 58<sup>th</sup> College Day celebration.

It is a privilege and an honour to have with us Honourable Minister Shri Arjun Singh. Thank you Sir, for your participation in this celebration, in spite of the tremendous pressure of work. Your presence here stands testimony to your interest in the activities of educational



Sr. Cecilia Joachim, f.m.m., Provincial, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, f.m.m., Principal, Shri Arjun Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development, Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chairman, UGC, Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, f.m.m., Secretary.

institutions and also to the commitment of your government to the cause of higher education, especially of women. We are also immensely grateful to Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai for accepting our invitation to participate in this College Day function.

The pursuit of knowledge has never been so challenging as it is today, confronted as we are,

with multi-dimensional challenges arising out of the growth of trans-national economies and cultures. Universities and colleges therefore, have to rearticulate educational imperatives in order to accommodate the new world order. Stella Maris College has been in the forefront of educational innovation and reform, guided by our mission to empower young women to be builders of a humane and just society.

I am proud to place on record today, the singular achievements of faculty, staff and students of Stella Maris College.

First, let me acknowledge with gratitude the long and dedicated service rendered to this college by five of our faculty who retire this year. We pay tribute to their invaluable contribution to higher education.

Dr. Margaret Clarence, Head, Post Graduate Department of English has carried out her duties with quiet confidence, a sense of devotion and loyalty. She has contributed richly to the growth and development of the department for the last 34 years. In her capacity as Dean of Students she has generously shared in the college administration.

Mrs. Theresa Gregory, also from the Department of English, has been a dedicated teacher for the last 23 years at Stella Maris. Students of the department have benefited from her generous involvement in the teaching-learning process.

Dr. Kamala Aravind, Head, Post Graduate Department of International Studies retires after 31 years of service. She has served the college in different capacities - as Dean of Student Affairs, Academic Dean and Head Department

of History. Enthusiastic and committed, she has been instrumental in establishing the Post Graduate Department of International Studies.

I also place on record the 31 years of dedicated service of Ms. Prabhavathi Nair. As Programme Officer of the NSS, she has painstakingly and conscientiously co-ordinated its activities for 29 years. A woman of strong character, she has inculcated in students the need for assisting the less privileged and differently abled. In appreciation of her untiring services the management has instituted the Ms. Prabhavathi Nair Endowment Fund.

Dr. Kamala Viswanathan of the Department of Hindi retires, after 17 years of service. She has played a significant role in the Functional Hindi Programme and has shared administrative responsibilities in assisting the Controller of Examinations.

I would like to reiterate our deep sense of gratitude to our retiring faculty for their loyalty and dedicated service. Thank you for sharing the best part of your lives with us.



A Captivated Audience.



With a deep sense of sorrow I recall the demise of Mrs. Helen Dasan, former Head, Department of English who passed away in December 2004.

The spirit of learning and research continues to motivate faculty and is reflected in their enthusiasm to present papers, organise and attend workshops and conferences, and participate as resource persons at the international, national and state levels. Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy presented papers at international conferences in New Orleans and Pittsburgh, USA and at Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Usha Krishnan presented a paper at a symposium held at Robertson, New South Wales, Australia. Dr. V. Padma, received the Fulbright Visiting Lectureship for a semester at the University of California, Los Angeles, USA, and presented a paper at the University of Minnesota. Ms. Mary George of the Chemistry Department is a Visiting Fellow at the Randolph Macon Women's College, Virginia, USA on a programme sponsored by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. The United Board has also supported the Scholar-in-Residence Programme for the Department of International Studies this year and Faculty Development workshops in Biotechnology and Biochemistry.

Stella Maris College collaborates with five Asian Universities in a research project funded by the International Federation of Catholic Universities. In this connection, Ms. Sandra Joseph, Director of the Research project attended an International Conference at Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand.



The Provincial and Principal presenting a memento to the Hon'ble Minister as Prof. Rajasekharan Pillai looks on.

I would like to congratulate three of our faculty who have received Doctoral Degrees: Dr. Malathy Kumar, Dr Grace Paul, and Dr. Sr. Florine Monis. Six faculty have been awarded grants under the Faculty Development Programme of the UGC X Plan to complete their Ph.D.

I am proud to announce that the Department of Bioinformatics has been selected for receiving grant assistance under the UGC's scheme of 'Innovative Programmes for Teaching and Research'. Congratulations to Dr. Ordetta Mendoza, Head of the department and the faculty for their sustained effort and pioneering spirit.

The Department of Fine Arts has been selected for the prestigious project of designing sarees for Co-optex, earlier granted only to professional institutions such as NID and NIFT. Congratulations to Ms. Sumitra, other faculty members and the PG students specialising in Textile Design.

Sr. Jacintha Quadras, faculty, Department of Mathematics was awarded the 'Rev. Fr. Racin Award' for the highest number of research papers published in Loyola College during 2004. Dr. Ulaganayaki Palani, Head, Department of Tamil was honoured with the title 'Tamizh Ilakia Navarasi' and received a cash award by the Vasuki Educational Trust. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip received the 'Life Time Achievement Award for Women' from the Alpha Group of Institutions, Chennai.

The Department of Commerce organised a national seminar sponsored by the United Board on 'The Dynamics of Change in Human Resource Management'. The Department of Bioinformatics organised a national workshop in 'Separation Sciences and Mass Spectrometry for Proteomics', and the Department of International Studies organised a national seminar on 'Comprehensive Security Issues and Challenges: An Indian Perspective', both sponsored by the UGC. We are immensely grateful to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi and its Regional Office at Hyderabad for their prompt response and financial support.

This year the following degree programmes were introduced: M.Sc. Chemistry, M.Com (Commerce), B.S.W. (Bachelors in Social Work) and M.Phil in Social Work. We are proud to state that Stella Maris College took the initiative of introducing the BSW programme at the University of Madras, and the efforts of Dr. Poppy Kannan in this regard are noteworthy.

The project on 'Low Cost Processing and Preservation of Horticultural Produce' sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, coordinated by Dr. Geetha Swaminathan, Department of Chemistry, is based in Padappai village and the

nodal unit has begun work on vegetable and fruit preservation. The women of the village have been trained in the manufacture of fruit and vegetable products which are being marketed locally.

The student-centeredness of our institution is the base and essence of our functioning. The management has invested generously in improving infrastructure and other facilities in order to meet the needs of increasing numbers of students.

Faculty and Students have had good reason to celebrate again this year. Examination results have been praiseworthy with an overall 90% at the undergraduate level and 96% at the postgraduate level.

The Students' Union has had a successful and eventful year. They organised several inter-collegiate cultural programmes and interactive academic sessions for the student community. Our students have won several prizes at inter-collegiate cultural and departmental events.

I congratulate Ms. Priyanka Joseph, President, Student's Union who has been awarded the Fulbright Scholarship to pursue graduate studies in the USA.

Ms. Anupama Sekhar, a postgraduate student of International Studies is also a freelance journalist and a film-maker. Her digital film, 'The 45 Ways Around It' was selected from among 500 South Asian entries in the British Council's Digital Film Festival of 2004.

Ms. Nischinta Amarnath, II B.A. Economics, has co-authored a book titled 'The Voyage to Excellence' featuring the stories of top 21 women business leaders of India. She has been nominated for the Infosys and Education World Young Achievers Award.

We record our appreciation for Ms. Nandini Mani and Ms. Srividhya, who were awarded the Young Science Fellowship from I.I.Sc., Bangalore and Ms. Sharanya who received it from JNU. Ms. Avantika and Ms. Dharshini Babu, undergraduate students of the English Department were selected for the Global Peace Scholarship for a semester at Deakin University, Australia.

We are proud of the NCC unit of Stella Maris College, which received the Jeeva Sparsham Social Service Award for meritorious service. Three of our cadets were also selected to participate in the Republic Day Parade at New Delhi. Lance Corporal Sowmya was selected to march on Rajpath.

Several of our students have excelled in various sports and games and have represented Tamil Nadu and the University of Madras in Basketball, Baseball, Cricket, Table-tennis and Chess. Ms. J. Swarna has represented India in International Table-tennis championships and has won several prizes at the national level. Ms. Janavi Mahalingam represented the state in shooting. Dr. Mrs. Malathy Kumar, Physical Directress



Irene Sangeetha, the Games Captain receiving the Shield from the Hon'ble Minister

accompanied the Madras University Team as Team Manager for the World Inter- Varsity Chess Championship at Kuala Lumpur.

With over 250 volunteers, the NSS unit has reached out to large sections of society through 16 service organisations, both governmental and non-governmental. A ten-day special camp was held in Padappai village in addition to other blood donation camps and AIDS awareness programmes.

The Functional Literacy Programme in and around the villages of Padappai and the Social Awareness and Service Learning programmes continue their mission of transformation and empowerment of women.

Value Education and Campus Ministry programmes as part of the ongoing activities in the college have contributed richly to the growth and holistic formation of our students.

The ISTD unit of Stella Maris is in its fifteenth year of successful functioning. Several interactive meetings with noted speakers held over the year, invited a high level of participation among the students.

The annual play 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream-Coat,' was an adaptation of the Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice musical. The proceeds will be used for the education of children of families affected by the Tsunami.

All departments organised their annual intercollegiate festivals in a spirit of healthy competition that drew participants from several colleges in the city. These included 'Hispllosion' by the Department of History, ECOCENTRIC by the Economics Department, COMBAT by the Department of Commerce, Sociology's



SAMAGAMA, 'Carnavalesque' by the English Department, MATHZOOM 2005 by the Department of Mathematics, Chemistry's REACTIONS, Zoology's SYNAPSE, WIZIT 2005 by the Computer Science Department, Botany's 'Genera' and 'Beats 2005' of Physics. The first inter collegiate culturals of the Cercle des Francophiles was organised this year. The departmental newsletters published this academic year include 'Focus' of the department of International Studies, 'Ankur' of Economics, 'Radicals' of Chemistry and the annual college newspaper 'Star of the Sea'. Endowment lectures by distinguished speakers were also organised by departments.

The Alumnae Association of Stella Maris has grown with the launching of the UAE Chapter. The Career Guidance Cell, co-ordinated by Dr. Sr. Colleen North and Ms. Sarala Vasu, has successfully placed over 300 students in reputed companies. Thirty-three companies have visited the campus for recruitment.

We are proud to state that administrators and faculty from institutions across the country have visited Stella Maris to study the functioning of autonomy and the credit based system. Several foreign universities have explored the possibilities of linkages with Stella Maris.

The Indo-British Type Shop programme co-ordinated by the Department of Fine Arts was the outcome of the linkage programme with the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, England.

The prompt and sustained efforts of the college community in working for the victims of the Kumbakonam school fire and the tsunami disasters need to be placed on record.

The faculty and students of the department of

Social work initiated Psychosocial Counselling for parents who had lost their children in the fire disaster in Kumbakonam.

The entire Stella Maris family including the alumnae has been involved in relief and rehabilitation work in the Tsunami affected areas of Tamil Nadu especially Kasimedu in Chennai, Nagapattinam, Kanyakumari and Chengelpet districts. Several faculty members and over 400 students worked tirelessly, rendering psycho-social counselling and other relief work. Dr. Geetha Sridharan along with Sr. Lourthumary co-ordinated the relief camps for students at Kanyakumari district. The management, faculty and students have all contributed generously to the Tsunami Relief Fund, a gesture greatly appreciated. I am also moved by the calibre of our young students, their commitment to learn and serve.

Dr. Cecilia Thangarajan and a few senior Social Work academicians from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences initiated the Tamil Nadu Schools of Social Work Relief and Rehabilitation Project, in which nearly thirteen hundred students from 29 schools of Social Work in Tamil Nadu, and 250 academicians participated in a needs-assessment and enumeration survey.

Faculty of the Department of Social work, in collaboration with NIMHANS, Bangalore organised the "Training of Trainers" programme for psychosocial care. The faculty and students of the department stayed with the victims and carried out a needs-assessment survey in 23 villages at Sirgazhi over a period of three weeks.

Participants of the extension project of Stella Maris College – Sangamam - have been working with the fishing communities of Kasimedu, Royapuram. The project co-ordinator Mrs. Sandra Joseph and a team of staff were involved



from rescue to relief with those affected by the Tsunami there. We have also collaborated with The Royal Danish Embassy, Action Aid, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, NIMHANS, and other organisations in our unwavering efforts to reach out to the affected people and to help them rebuild their lives. We are grateful to Action Aid for their continued support in the rehabilitation of the people at Kasimedu.

As we forge ahead we continue to offer quality education and training to young women by our sustained responses to the changing dynamics of higher education.

In concluding this brief report of the activities of the past year, I would now like to reiterate my deep sense of gratitude to:

Sr. Cecilia Joachim, Provincial Superior and Chairperson of our Governing Body,

Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, Superior and Secretary of the College,

Dr. Sr. Colleen North, Dr. Jilly Joseph and Dr. Geetha Sridharan, Vice-Principals,

Dr. Patricia Gabriel, Dr. Geradette Davey and Sr. Kochutheresa, Deans of Students Affairs,

Dr. Poppy Kannan and Dr. Rukmani Sridharan, Academic Deans,

Dr. Nalinakshi Madhavamurthi, Controller of Examinations,

Members of the Staff Council and faculty, for your commitment to the teaching-learning process and for sharing responsibilities in the administration,

Sr. Florine, Sr. Ann Mathew, Sr. Hilda and to the administrative and supportive staff, our immeasurable gratitude. We know that with

your commitment and dedication our legacy will endure.

The University authorities, the Education Department, the Regional Directorate, the Directorate of Collegiate Education, and the University Grants Commission for their co-operation, advice and help extended so willingly and generously at all times,

The Indian Overseas Bank Extension Counter at Stella Maris College, and other public and private sector organisations and agencies for supporting our projects and programmes,

All the benefactors who have instituted scholarships to help deserving students,

- The Public utility departments and services of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Central Government for their timely assistance.

Thank you dear parents for your support, and thanks to all our benefactors, well-wishers and friends for being a source of encouragement and strength in this noble endeavour.

May the Star of the Sea guide us onwards and may the wisdom of the Almighty lead us on!

Thank you and God Bless!



Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni f.m.m., Secretary, presenting a bouquet to Sr. Cecilia Joachim f.m.m., Provincial.



# Presidential Address

College Day - 29 January 2005

*Shri Arjun Singh*

*Hob'ble Minister for Human Resource Development, Govt. of India.*



Distinguished Guests, Members of the Faculty and Dear Students, standing here before you this evening, my mind goes back to 1947, the year in which this Institution came into existence. 1947 was a year that marked the birth of a nation state, which encompassed in its history one of the most ancient civilizations of the world. As a nation we are only 58 years old, and as a civilization we are 1000s of years old. How one telescopes into the other, is what the marvel of our country is.

I have had the unique privilege of listening to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the Constituent Assembly of India at the midnight of 14th August 1947 as he guided Mother India to its

tryst with destiny. Where we have come from then to now naturally becomes the most vital question today. This college, as the Principal has just reported to us, has practically grown with free India. And I must congratulate the Institution for going step by step in a direction that ultimately merges its own destiny with the destiny of our country.

Being privileged to study in an Institution like this, way back at the tender age of seven, as a boarder in St. Mary's Convent at Allahabad, I have felt and experienced a communion of thought, inspiration and a sense of commitment which Institutions like these bring to the growth of their students.



The very concept of a country like ours, which the Republican Constitution of India defines in a most emphatic manner, is perhaps in my view the most challenging factor in our lives today. The Preamble of our Constitution begins with the words: "We the people of India, give to ourselves..." This very eloquently conveys the self-confidence, the commitment and the pledge that a new country, a new nation, wants to give to itself. And that has to be the beacon light that should guide us, just as similar ideals have guided this Institution, to making ourselves individually and collectively responsible and answerable in a country which today is at the threshold of a very great future in every sphere of activity whether it is education, commerce, science and technology or the advancing frontiers of knowledge. It is for us to shape this nation not only as the freedom fighters and the founding fathers of our republic wanted it to be, but also as the future generations of this country would like it to be.

It is this bridge between the past, the present, and the future, which I believe is the most important and the most crucial task that faces us today. Neither should we allow the present and the future of our country to be a hostage to the past, nor should we allow the present and the future of our country to cut itself away totally from the great heritage of our past. Contending thoughts and ideas come before us. Institutions like this empower those who study here to make critical decisions about their own conduct in this passage of time. Education is basically for that purpose.

Today when we look at many of the things that have happened in the country and many of the things that are still happening, we are apprehensive of the future. The young generation today is brimming with excitement,

courage and the need to go ahead sometimes at a speed, which we ourselves do not comprehend. At the same time we would be failing our future if we were not able to evolve that thought process, evolve that journey that has to be taken by this generation of young people to enable them to become the harbingers of the future. This is the task of education. This task cannot be fulfilled, cannot even be comprehended if we have closed minds, which are shackled by ideas and beliefs, even superstitions. Therefore the first necessity, or you may call it the first precondition, for education has to be an open mind; and that open mind does not descend upon us. It is the process through which we pass in our educational experiences that helps us to broaden our vision, our capacity and our minds.

Divisive thinking, divisive minds and divisive objectives cannot serve the cause of our country. It is only a through comprehensive, cohesive and committed approach to all the issues that are struggling for attention in our country that we can believe or we can hope for that India to emerge, the India that Rabindranath Tagore describes as a country where the mind is free and unfettered.

For all those who are really interested in the field of education this is their primary task; and when I have been seeing the progress that your Institution has made in the last 58 years, I must salute this Institution for all its achievements and wish it the best for the future. Actually I was to come here last year, but because of the vagaries of my office, I could not do so. I would like to apologize to all of you. I am here now to fulfill that commitment, and help this Institution to discharge the responsibilities, which it undertook fifty-eight years ago when India became free.



# Convocation Address

29 January 2005

N. Vittal, IAS (Retd)

Former Central Vigilance Commissioner, Govt. of India.



Stella Maris also performed a stellar role in providing relief and rehabilitation facilities for those worst affected by the tragedy.

An educational institution like Stella Maris does not operate in a vacuum. The mission of this college is to empower women to face the challenges of life with courage and commitment and to be the builders of a humane society, promoting a learning community, especially for those from less privileged backgrounds.

A convocation is an important milestone in the calendar of an educational institution. In the United States, convocations are also called as commencements. Perhaps the expression represents the fact that the convocation represents completion of an important stage in the process of education and marks the commencement of another, very significant stage when one begins a career in the real world outside the portals of the educational institution.

Stella Maris means the star of the sea. The sea has been very much in our minds in recent times thanks to the unprecedented tragedy of the tsunami that hit Chennai on 26 December 2004. It is very heartening to see that in facing this tragedy, the faculty and the students of

On an occasion like this convocation, the best exercise we can undertake is to have a look at the comprehensively defined mission of Stella Maris and see how it can be realized. Started on our nation's Independence Day, 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947, the college has a very close identity with India as a free nation, a new nation rooted in a long, glorious historic tradition and culture. I congratulate all the students who are graduating today and will be launching on a career in a new 21<sup>st</sup> century India. The present appears to be a very auspicious and hopeful moment for our country. There is increasing recognition all over the world that India and China are going to be the most significant economies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These are two economies, which are growing vigorously.

There is an enormously significant demographic fact about India and China. Both these countries have a substantial proportion of their population below the age of 35 years. This is happening at a time when the rest of the world, especially the developed world is facing the challenge of the greying of their populations. Youth represents idealism and vigour. Youth who have had exposure to excellent education, in institutions like Stella Maris, are particularly valuable for our nation and the development of our economy. I am sure each one of the students who is graduating is going to play a significant role in the development of our nation. Dr. Kalam a highly patriotic intellectual and President of our country in his book 'The Wings of Fire', points out that each one of us is blessed by God with some talents and the challenge in life is to ensure that these talents blossom to the full.

The youthful vigour of the Indian population is also becoming prominent at a time when the global economy has become a knowledge economy. India's strength in this context has been recognized. The much discussed BRIC report talks about Brazil, Russia, India and China as the four countries which are going to be increasingly significant in the global economy, in this century. Nevertheless, we must not forget that the very great strength of a youthful population will become a disadvantage if our youth are not able to get jobs and are not able to play a meaningful role. This brings us to the question of what should be the attitude of the youth of today, if we have to realize the vision of the President of India and the mission of Stella Maris.

One aspect of the knowledge economy is very encouraging, so far as our country is concerned.

In the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala, more than 60% of the students taking IT courses are girls. We can therefore, visualize the tremendous socio economic impact. Girls will dominate this vibrant sector of IT and this itself is a very hopeful sign. Added to that we are also facing the ICE age. Not in the geological sense. I am talking about the Information, Communication and Entertainment sector, which is growing very fast thanks to satellite communication and the explosion of TV channels. In this sector I find that girls have tremendous opportunities. As one surfs the channels, one realizes the extent of talent that girls in our country are blessed with. These are again, hopeful signs.

In the ultimate analysis, our success depends on ourselves. God helps those who help themselves. Then how do we help ourselves? How do we overcome challenges? As a person who is 67 and three times older than all the students here, is there anything, which I can say to you, which would be relevant today? People generally talk about the generation gap. Every generation faces new challenges. But at the same time, there are certain things, which are permanent and they never change. These are values. After all, when you come to think about it, values are at the bottom of every action that we take. Life is nothing but a continuous exercise in making serious choices. Decision making means selecting one course of action against others. It is in this selection of a course of action or actions, that values play an important role. The Franciscan sisters who run this college, represent some of the highest and best values of human kind. The message of Christian charity and the essence of the sermon on the mount of Jesus Christ represent the best in the human tradition.



In the context of India today, and the challenges faced by the new generation, I would like to share with you the values, which I have found useful as a practical guide in achieving success. The most important value is faith in God. Generally people advise you that to succeed in life, you should have self confidence. But then how do you increase self confidence? What is at the root of self confidence? Is it created by auto suggestion? Is it mere superstition? Is it increased by any exercise with the help of a psychologist or a psychotherapist? I find that the best formula for developing self confidence is to have faith in God. This is how it works. Once you have faith in God, you know that however great the trouble you face at present,

there is always the helping hand of God who will protect you.

The fundamental requirement for facing problems and adversities is to have a hope that the problems will pass away. A problem in fact, many a time, may be an opportunity in disguise. So faith in God, I find, is the basic requirement for developing self confidence. Having spent four decades in public administration, I will add one more factor to boost your self confidence and that is to keep your personal life absolutely clean. A high level of integrity is a great insurance against challenges like blackmail from people who are opposed to you and who want to destroy you.



The Academic Procession...

Faith in God and an absolutely clean personal life are the basic requirement, if you want to succeed in life.

This brings us to the principles and strategies that one should adopt to succeed in life. I have found three principles to be always useful. The first principle is to have a positive mind set. Norman Vincent Peale has pointed out the advantage of positive thinking. The person who has positive thinking finds every problem an opportunity and what people perceive as a weakness, he sees as a strength. Talking about myself, I became diabetic at the age of 25. There was every possibility that I could have become a hypochondriac. But I did not. For me diabetes was an intimation of mortality. This in turn made me realize the supreme value of time, which is the most precious resource we have in life. I can never understand when people talk about killing time. Killing time means, killing life. As a result, this adversity I faced in life had a totally beneficial impact on my attitude to life. In more than four decades in public administration I always found that a positive approach is a great source of strength.

But a positive approach is not enough. This must be supplemented by a second principle. This second principle is the principle of creativity and a creative approach. If you are able to think outside the box, you will be able to come up with solutions, which others cannot conceive. You may be wondering how IAS officers manage different jobs, which are totally unrelated. I have, for example, in my life handled

the department of health, run an industrial enterprise and worked in technical and scientific departments. How does one manage? I can say from experience that the great advantage of the Indian Administrative Service is ignorance. If you are ignorant and know you are ignorant, then you will learn from others and will develop the requisite humility.

Then there is a third principle needed for success in life. This is the principle of common sense. A positive approach combined with creativity should also be tempered with common sense. One can easily become too idealistic and lose one's head in the clouds or one can become too pragmatic and cynical and think nothing good will happen. However, a healthy combination of a positive approach, a creative mindset and commonsense, is a sure fire formula for success.

Every student who is passing through this college today, is already starting life with the advantage of having studied in an excellent educational institution, which is run by dedicated faculty who are inspired by the vision of Christ and a tradition of more than 55 years of building up this institution. All of you are, therefore, designed for success. I pray that each one of you will be able to rise to your full potential. I will suggest that we must remember always the Chandogya Upanishad, which says that if you apply your knowledge with faith and conviction and deep analysis, your action becomes strong and that is the sure basis for success.

*Yadeva vidhyayakarothi shradyaya upashadha  
Sadeva veeryathvayam bhawathi*



## Remembering a Legend

*The Birth Centenary of  
Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry f.m.m.*

Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry f.m.m. a person who belonged to a unique breed of people, lives on in the memories of hundreds and remains immortal through the words that she has penned and a lifetime of achievements. The department of Fine Arts owes its entire 'being' to her. And today it stands on the threshold of a yearlong celebration, marking her birth centenary.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, on 24 July 1905, Sister Edith studied at Louvain and at the Sorbonne in Paris and later went on to complete her Doctorate in Fine Arts in Germany. She also studied in Italy where she received a scholarship from the University of Perugia. She was fluent in French, Hungarian, Italian, German, Latin and English.

Being a woman of vision and fierce determination, she founded the Department of Fine Arts in 1948. She also served as Vice Principal of Stella Maris College. She brought out a comprehensive textbook on the study of Fine Arts in India and the West in 1968 and followed it with an elaborate and updated version in 1982. In preparation for this monumental work, she



visited the most famous temples and churches all over India. Her varied collection of artifacts, which she built piece by piece from several corners of the world, is displayed in a museum in the library. She achieved her goal through practical wisdom and indomitable spirit, astute scholarship and broad-minded vision. She continued as Professor Emeritus several years after her retirement and guided candidates in their doctoral programmes.

She was the recipient of the Director K. Subramanyam and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's 'Stree Ratna' award. She was also the recipient of a special award given by the Hungarian Government for her exemplary services.

The Department, as a token of gratitude as well as to perpetuate her memory, has set up 'The Sister Edith Endowment Fund' to foster and conduct art related activities.

Her fifty years in India from 1948 to 1998 were dedicated to the cause of higher education.

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While the magazine was in print we celebrated the birth centenary year of Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry.





## Homage

Mrs. Helen Dasan joined the faculty of the English Department of Stella Maris College in 1966, and retired as Head of the Department in 1986 a post which she held for five years. During this period she served the Institution with deep commitment and dedication. As a teacher she combined discipline and enthusiasm; she inspired her students not only in the field of academics, but by her example, imparted to them the more permanent values of life. Her love for literature and her thorough knowledge of her subject, combined with her sense of humour, made her classes truly memorable.

As Head of the Department, she organized seminars and workshops, which led the department to explore new areas of literary study. She encouraged faculty to constantly update their knowledge, and to engage in research; and also trained junior staff, and helped them to acquire both teaching and administrative skills. Her sensitivity to student

needs enabled her to provide timely counselling and assistance on many occasions. Despite physical setbacks, she never failed in her duty and commitment to the Institution and to her students. She was greatly respected by all her colleagues.



A warm, and fun-loving person, she effortlessly promoted an atmosphere of good will and cordiality and drew people to her by her generous and hospitable nature. Excursions with her were occasions of great enjoyment, for often it was her youthful exuberance that sustained the mood and temper of the group.

Being a person of deep faith and prayer she was an active member of prayer groups both in the college and in the community.

Her demise is deeply felt by all those who had the opportunity of knowing her and working with her. The Management, faculty and students of Stella Maris College will always remember her with affection and admiration.



## In Appreciation

**Dr. Ms. Margaret Clarence** joined the Department of English at Stella Maris College in the year 1971 and has served the college for 34 years. Her association with the college has been for almost four decades as she completed her entire course of higher education at Stella Maris. As Head of the Department, she has ably guided its activities reaping academic excellence and student development in focus. Ms. Margaret Clarence was actively involved in organizing the streaming of the English Foundation Course to suit the needs of students, according to their levels of language competence.

She has held several responsible positions such as Dean of Student Affairs from 1997-2000 and Member of the Governing Body from 2001-2002. She represented the college as an elected member of the Academic Council of the Madras University since 2003. Twice in Stella Maris College, she coordinated and conducted the Refresher Course in English on behalf of the Academic Staff College, University of Madras.

Dedication and loyalty are the two words that aptly describe her. She always gave priority to duty and to students. Her sense of loyalty to the institution is commendable. The values that she holds and which endeared her to the academic community are



integrity, honesty, kindness, generosity and a great sense of duty. Her faith and deep trust in the Almighty are her inner assets.

Ms. Margaret Clarence has given of her best to the college. She has been a blessing to the institution and we are sure that God's blessings will go with her.

God be with you through the years ahead, Ms. Clarence.

**Dr. Mrs. Kamala Aravind** joined Stella Maris College in 1974 and has rendered 31 years of dedicated service to this institution.

With a Doctorate in History, she has been Professor and Head of the Department of History from 1999 to 2002 and Head of the Department of International Studies, since its inception in 2002. She has also served the college as Dean of Student Affairs from 1979 to 1981 and Dean of Academic Affairs from 1998 to 2001.

Dr. Mrs. Aravind has been instrumental in introducing several innovative courses and academic programmes such as Vocational Tourism, Women's Studies, Performing Arts,



Time Management and, M.A. in International studies. As coordinator, she has designed the curriculum for 'The Semester in India Programme' for students of St.

Mary's College, Notre Dame University, Indiana, USA. She was visiting scholar for one semester at Davidson College, North Carolina, USA, sponsored by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia.

Dr. Mrs. Aravind has contributed extensively in organizing national and international seminars and workshops. She has presented papers at symposia at the regional, national and international levels. She has conducted several training programmes. To mention a few – Time and Quality Management, Family Life Education, Interpersonal Relations and Effective Communication. The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education invited her to develop a question bank in history.

Dynamic and cheerful, she is youthful, with a deep sense of commitment to the cause of students.

We wish you, Dr. Mrs. Aravind, a very peaceful and happy retired life.

May God be with you.

**Ms. Prabhavathi Nair** completed her graduation and post graduation at Stella Maris College. She has an M.A. in Social Work with specialization in Medical Psychiatric Social Work.

She joined the faculty of the college in 1976 as a programme officer of the National Service Scheme. Ever since its inception in that year, she has rendered selfless service for 29 years. As NSS coordinator, Ms. Prabha has been actively involved in



motivating, training and moulding students to become sensitive human beings and socially responsible citizens.

She coordinated the Integrated Tribal Development Programme in Javadi Hills, in the then North Arcot District, sponsored by the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu. Untiringly, she visited the tribal areas every weekend.

Single-handedly she has organized more than 30 ten-day rural camps, and has worked with students in a number of villages in the districts of Thiruvallur, Vellore and Kancheepuram. The focus of her service was to help the underprivileged, the physically challenged, the mentally challenged and senior citizens. Ms. Prabha Nair was a pioneer in promoting blood donation on the campus.

She was truly outstanding in the way in which she mobilized student volunteers to respond to relief work during natural calamities, in a true spirit of service.

Ms. Prabha has served as a consultant on several national and international statutory boards. In 1996, she visited Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio in USA on an exchange programme sponsored by the USIA. She attended an international conference on women, at Bangkok in 1987, and an international seminar on service learning in Japan in 2002.

Ms. Prabhavathi Nair is an epitome of service. A disciplinarian with a caring attitude, she is very generous and committed to the cause of humanity.

We wish you Ms. Prabha, all the joy of fulfilment in life.

May God be with you.



**Ms. Teresa Gregory** completed her post-graduation at Stella Maris College in the year 1970 and began her teaching career in Holy Cross College, Trichy. After 12 years she returned to her Alma Mater as a faculty of the Department of English in the year 1982, and served the college for 23 years. A dedicated teacher, Ms. Teresa Gregory has inspired and motivated many students. She is appreciated for her enthusiasm and passion for Literature, which she transmits to her students through her imaginative teaching. Her creativity has found expression in her poetry.



Her discharge of her duty as the faculty in charge of the Department Book Bank, is commendable, in the context of her concern for the development of the academically weak students. With her deep and abiding faith in God, she also instilled human values through her value education classes.

She has been a member of the Time Table and Evaluation Committee of the College and has helped the department in coordinating the Foundation Courses and editing the Literary Journal. She was a source of joy, warmth and good cheer to the Department.

We are grateful to the Almighty for the gift of Ms Teresa Gregory to the College and pray that He continues to bless her.

We wish you, Ms. Gregory, God's abundant blessings and a fruitful retired life.

**Dr. Ms. Kamala Viswanathan** began her teaching career in a school and later joined the Department of Hindi in Stella Maris College in the year 1987 and has served the institution for 17 years. Apart from being an effective teacher, she is a scholar who has published several research articles, short stories, books and translations. She has also compiled a

dictionary in Hindi, English, Tamil and French. She has presented several papers on Hindi Literature and Journalism in seminars at the regional and national levels, and has also



organized intercollegiate and national seminars and workshops.

Ms. Kamala Viswanathan has won public acclaim for her translation skills in the form of The Best Translator award by Sadhbhavana in 1999 and by Hindi Prachar Sabha in 2001. She has to her credit, the production of a video cassette for learning 'Spoken Hindi.' She has written and directed a Hindi play for Doordarshan, and has also written short stories and poems for All India Radio.

Her versatile talents include healing and she is a practitioner of Reiki, Acupressure, Pranic Healing and Homeopathy. She has been extremely generous in devoting time and energy at the Examination Office. Her simple and unassuming ways have endeared her to all on campus.

We thank you, Ms. Vishwanathan, for all the service that you have so generously rendered to the college. We wish you God's abundant blessings in the years ahead.





*Significant Additions*

**Significant Additions**



**M Sc. Chemistry**



**M.Com**







# The Dynamics of Change in Human Resource Management

The Indian Industry is waking up to the challenges in the market economy. To survive in this highly competitive scenario, managers are being pressurized to improve quality, increase productivity, cut down waste and eliminate inefficiency. The collective effort of the employer and employee is needed to attain this goal. The human side of the organization plays a crucial role in this regard. The working environment is changing and it is important, now more than ever before, that every one understands the diversity of change.

In response to this need, the Department of Commerce, in keeping with its goal of innovation and its pioneering spirit, organized a three day National Seminar on "THE DYNAMICS OF CHANGE IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT" from 23 to 25 September 2005.

The seminar was designed to enable both academicians and the student community to develop deeper insights and sensitivity. It attempted to improve understanding among leaders and operating employees in the organization.

The seminar included a panel discussion on "Retaining Manpower," and also paper presentations and lectures covering the following aspects:

- Developing Competence - the cutting edge of success.



Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip f.m.m., addressing the gathering;  
Sitted : Mrs. Leema Francis, Head PG Dept.,  
Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, f.m.m., Secretary,  
Mr. N. Kumar, Chairman, SANMAR Group, and  
Ms. Rasheeda Banu, Head UG, Dept. of Commerce.

- Managing Diversity in Workforce.
- Ethics in HRM.
- Women Executives - A myth or reality?
- Leadership Paradoxes.
- Managing People for Creativity and Innovation.
- HR Training and development.

Eminent speakers from manufacturing and service industries participated and shared their expertise and experience in the field of HRM.

Mr. N. Kumar, Chairman SANMAR Group, delivered the inaugural address. Mr. Pandia Rajan, Managing Director & CEO, Ma Foi Management Consultancy Ltd. emphasized that the critical challenge facing organizations was to manage change.



Mr. Mahalingam, Vice President, IBM Bangalore, elaborated on challenges in human resources, which can be viewed from two different but related angles. First there are challenges that arise from the context and environment that are uncertain, ambiguous, and turbulent. Secondly there are challenges that the maturing HR functions have to come to terms with, in re-discovering, re-architecting itself in order to deliver the business value that will take it to the strategic table.

In his address, Mr. C. Venkat, CEO, Symrise Ltd. said that the main objective of Human Resource management is to create value through people ethically.

Mr. G.D.Sharma, Vice-President (L&T), emphasized the need to measure and manage performance.

Ms. Asha Mathen, AGM (Sales) ICICI Bank spoke about the emergence of women as a force to reckon with in the corporate world. Her statement "Behind every successful man is a woman competing to get his job" is indeed true in today's business scenario.

Mr. Narayanan Arunachalam Senior Manager WIPRO SPECTRAMIND, addressed the audience on Leadership Paradoxes.

A conducive office environment for nurturing creativity and innovation was dealt with by Mr. R.K Belapurkar E.D, - HR BHEL Ltd.



The Audience

Mr. Mahopatra, while addressing the audience on "Progress of Change" spoke about the global order workplace. He stressed on the need for organizations to move away from feudalism and move towards meritocracy. He also re-iterated that "knowledge is power" and elaborated on the importance and value of the continuous upgradation of knowledge.

Looking into the future, HR deliverables will come under serious scrutiny and will be demanded more than ever before. Some of the key challenges arising out of "Value Creation Paradigm" as opposed to the more comfortable "Program Peddler Paradigm" will necessitate the re-discovery and re-architecting of the HR profession and professionals of the future.

We are grateful to the United Board for Christian Higher Education for sponsoring this seminar.

# Comprehensive Security Issues and Challenges

*An Indian Perspective*



The Department of International Studies organised a National Seminar for the third consecutive year. This year it was held on the 6 and 7 January 2005 on “**Comprehensive Security Issues and Challenges: An Indian Perspective.**” The rationale of the seminar was to evolve a fresh perspective on the changing paradigm of comprehensive security in the Indian context and elicit wider response from the academia and the public on emerging areas of concern and to suggest effective strategies.

The seminar drew experts from the fields of political, social and economic sciences, international relations and IGOs in order to arrive at a wholesome and holistic perspective on a wide spectrum of issues. There were around thirty papers that were presented in the entire two-day seminar spread over five sessions. The papers presented by the postgraduate students of the Department of International Studies displayed a thorough analysis and critical approach that was well received.

The inaugural function was presided over by Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India, who delivered the keynote address. He was welcomed and felicitated by the Principal, Dr.



Prof. Abhijit Sen lights the lamp as Principal and Ms. Aarti S. Faculty look on.

Sr. Annamma Philip f.m.m., and the theme was introduced by Dr. Kamala Aravind, Head, Department of International Studies. The Chief Guest, in his address, delved deep into the issues of collective risk sharing, especially in the wake of natural disasters such as the tsunami. He also traced the roots of conflict and methods of resolving them. Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni f.m.m., Secretary of the College, released the department newsletter **Focus** which was entirely a student effort and the theme for this edition was the role of the individual in shaping the course of world events. The Valedictory function of the seminar was presided over by Mr. B. Raman, retd. I.P.S., who spoke at length on the distinction between

traditional and non-traditional security issues confronting India.

The seminar was widely appreciated as a successful attempt in initiating a thought process on the varied security problems facing India and the proceedings were extensively covered

in all the leading dailies. It was another feather in the cap for the Department of International Studies, the only such department in the State, which is striving to carve a niche for itself in the field of International Relations, both at the national and international levels.



From Left : Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, f.m.m., Secretary, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip f.m.m., Principal, Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission, Govt. of India, Dr. Ms. Kamala Aravind, Head, Dept. of International Studies, Ms. Priya Suresh.





# 'Separation Sciences and Mass Spectrometry'

4 – day national workshop on Proteomics 4 -7 January 2005



Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai lighting the lamp. Looking on are Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, f.m.m., Principal, Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, f.m.m., Secretary and Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza, Head, Dept. of Bioinformatics.

PROTEOMICS - the word conjures up images of things beyond human thinking! This emerging area of science, today holds promise for health research and drug discovery. It is in an extraordinary growth phase. This is due, to a great extent, to the fact that the major undertaking of sequencing the human and other important genomes has largely been accomplished, which has opened the door for Proteomics by providing a sequence based frame work for mining the human proteome and that of other organisms.

It is evident that proteomics has attracted a substantial group of scientists, from various sciences including Biotechnology. Today, pharmaceutical companies are taking an active

interest in the field. There is also an influx of a new generation of scientists involved in training in Proteomics across the globe. This undeniable and pressing need for training in proteomics which would facilitate the use of related methodology in current research was the basis for the Department of Bioinformatics organizing and conducting the well attended National Proteomics workshop on 'Separation Sciences and Mass Spectrometry'.

The chairperson of the workshop, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, f.m.m., Principal, was the motivating force who inspired the department to organize the workshop. Her constant encouragement and support gave the Convener, Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza, Head, Dept of

Bioinformatics, and the organizing committee, the impetus to take up this challenging task and bring the workshop to fruition.

Sponsored by the University Grants Commission, (UGC) and the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA), the workshop drew participants from both academic and research laboratories around India. The 4-day workshop provided the participants with a theoretical introduction and practical sessions. The Tuberculosis Research Center - Indian Council for Medical Research, (TRC-ICMR) Chennai, and Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) extended the use of their laboratory facilities for the workshop.

The postgraduate students of the department of Bioinformatics were permitted to participate in the lecture sessions.

Resource persons were drawn from National and Private Laboratories and educational institutions: Dr. K. Sankaran, from Centre for Biotechnology, Anna University, Chennai, Dr. Ravi Srideshmukh, Head, Dept of Proteomics, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, Dr. S. Prabhakar, Indian Institute for Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, Dr. Alamelu Raja, Scientist, TRC-ICMR, Dr. K. Vivekanandan, Principal Scientist, Dabur Research Foundation, New Delhi, Dr. P. T. Manoharan. Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras and Prof. Emeritus, SAIF, IIT, Madras.

The participants were introduced to the fundamentals behind the techniques currently being



From Left : Ms. K. Shyamala, Faculty, Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza, Head, Dept. of Bioinformatics, Principal, Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai and Secretary of the College.

used in proteomics today and the applications of the techniques in proteome analysis. Emphasis was laid on mainstream methodology of 2-D Gel Electrophoresis and Mass Spectrometry. 2-D electro-phoresis is still the most successful method of resolving a proteome with increasing reproducibility and automation. All aspects for the successful performance of 2-D electrophoresis and image analysis were addressed in practical detail. Subsequently the importance of Mass Spectrometry, sequence database and search engines for successful protein identification was discussed. The practical sessions for the workshop were conducted at TRCICMR, Chennai and IIT, Madras. This unique experience was well appreciated by the participants given the fact that they were able to view first-hand, the working of sophisticated instruments and experiments using 2-Dimensional Gel Electrophoresis and Mass Spectrometer (MALDI - TOF).



The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission, (UGC), New Delhi. He also delivered the keynote address. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philp, Principal, Stella Maris College, delivered the welcome address and Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, Secretary, Stella Maris College, participated in the inaugural and valedictory functions.



Session in Progress

Prof. P. T. Manoharan, Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras and Prof. Emeritus, SAIF, IIT, Madras delivered the valedictory address.

Participants were impressed with the level of scientific address and practical input and they requested the college to conduct more such workshops that would help them in their teaching profession while taking newer areas of science to their institutions.

The Chairperson, Convener, members of the organizing committee, participating faculty

members and students are grateful to the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia and the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi for their generous financial assistance towards the workshop.

As the technical developments in this field are proceeding rapidly, it is becoming more imperative that faculty who are working in institutions keep pace with this rapidly developing field of science which is all set to change the world of medicine and health care.





## Silver Physics

In the centenary year of the great physicist Dr. Albert Einstein, the Physics Department of Stella Maris College celebrated their 25th anniversary with pride and enjoyment on 2 and 3 February 2005.

Dr. (Sr.) Annamma Philip, Principal, Stella Maris College, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the 25 glorious years of the department since its inception in 1980. This was followed by an overview of the two-day celebration programme by Dr. Rajni K, the Head of the Department of Physics. The former Principal Dr. (Sr.) Helen Vincent shared reminiscences of her cherished associations with the department.

Ms. Gnanam and Ms. Shantha, the former Heads of the Department were then felicitated. The trip down memory lane continued further, by remembering the former lab assistants Mr. Das and Mr K. K. Raghavan.

Dr. V. Balakrishnan, Professor of Physics, I.I.T, Chennai, defined physics as a science which deals with the reasoning and understanding of the simple things in the world in his inaugural address.

Physics students from nearly twenty colleges were invited to participate in the various events. The competitions held included collage, Pot Pourri, quiz and crossword. Loyola College emerged overall winners.



# The Pursuit of Knowledge

*The Scholar in Residence Programme*

*Yearning in desire to follow knowledge like a  
sinking star, beyond the utmost bounds of  
human thought.*

*- Lord Alfred Tennyson, Ulysses*

The Department of M.A. International Studies, Stella Maris College, organised the first United Board of Christian Higher Education (UBCHEA) national and international Scholars in Residence programme in November - December 2004. The programmes provided the department with invaluable learning experiences in hosting two International Relations scholars; Mr. Arvind Kumar of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, and Dr. Kripa Sridharan of the National University of Singapore. The scholars spent up to five days lecturing to the students of the department, on various aspects of International Relations.

Mr. Arvind Kumar, Research Faculty, National Security Studies Programme, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, was the national Scholar in Residence at the department from 24 - 26 November 2004. An M. Phil. degree holder in American studies from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Mr. Kumar is a prolific writer who has undertaken policy-oriented research on nuclear, strategic, defence, foreign policy issues and technology. His work is concerned more particularly with surveillance and monitoring, ballistic missiles, deterrence theory and matters related to international security.

Mr. Kumar's lecture series covered :

- IR theories on deterrence
- India's nuclear doctrine and regional security strategy
- Nature and significance of contemporary warfare

By skilfully interspersing the lecture-presentation mode with interactive Question-&-Answer sessions,

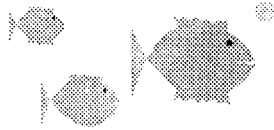
Mr. Kumar kept his sessions intellectually challenging. Students were constantly invited to make observations and apply IR theories to the South Asian context.

Dr. Kripa Sridharan, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore, was the international Scholar in Residence at the Department from 13-17 December 2004. Dr. Sridharan's research and publications focus on foreign policy analysis, comparative regionalism, foreign and domestic politics, human rights and Third World issues.

In her five-day lecture series, Dr. Sridharan focused on :

- Origin and management of international political systems
- Sources and resolution mechanism of intra-state and inter-state conflicts.
- Competing levels and models of foreign policy decision-making
- Diplomacy, economic statecraft and the use of force as foreign policy tools.
- Comparative regionalism with special reference to South and South-East Asia

By linking concepts and issues across international political economy, history and IR, Dr. Sridharan's lectures threw light on the existing and shifting patterns in the discipline. The lecture series sensitised students to the significant issue of orientation in IR. They learned to scrutinise both their own and that of scholars and authors studied. Delivered in an engaging style and peppered with anecdotes, Dr. Sridharan's lectures were both interesting and informative.



## **UGC - ASC Refresher Course in English**

The UGC-Sponsored Academic Staff College Refresher Course in English, Batch X was organized and conducted at Stella Maris College from 18 November 2004 to 8 December 2004. The coordinator of the course was Dr. Margaret Clarence, Head, Department of English. The theme was "Post-Colonial Studies." The course was attended by Faculty from Orissa, Maharashtra, Goa and the Andamans, as well as the southern States.

The multi-disciplinary thrust of the course - which included disciplines like History,

Economics, Sociology, Literature and the Fine Arts, enabled the participants to examine and understand the various aspects of colonialism and post-colonialism, and also gave them the opportunity to exhibit their in-depth knowledge through seminar presentations and written assignments. The Refresher Course was a rich learning experience for all the participants, and successfully accomplished its objective of updating the knowledge of the participants, thereby equipping them to be better teachers.

## **Orientation Course in English**

Stella Maris College conducted an Orientation for English teachers of Government Colleges from 17 to 20 and 22 January 2005. This was part of the Quality Improvement Programme sponsored by the Department of Higher Education, Tamil Nadu. Ms. Agnes Fernando was the Co-coordinator of the Programme. About 50 English language teachers with varying levels of teaching experience were exposed to many innovative methods of teaching and evaluation.

Dr. P. Ramani, Dean of Education, SASTRA Deemed University, Thanjavur, gave the

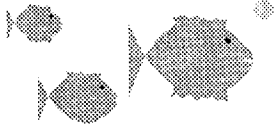
Inaugural address highlighting the growing demand for the teaching of English in the context of globalization. Dr. V. Saraswathi and Dr. Seetha Srinivasan, retired professors of English were among the resource persons who shared their rich and valuable experience in English language teaching. There were also input sessions on general topics such as personality development and empowerment of women as Value Education formed part of the Syllabus for General English in the University of Madras.





Synergy on Campus  
Synergy on Campus





# Spinning New Beginnings

## Students' Union Report

To 'Spin A Beginning' – that says it all- the motto of the students' union 2004-2005, was in consonance with the principle of life that the old order is always replaced by the new and yet the new is built on the traditions set by its predecessors. So, this year saw the unraveling of a number of firsts.

The Students Union office bearers for the academic year 2004-05 were:

- President – Priyanka Joseph
- Vice president – Kaavya Krishna Kumar
- General Secretary – Ketaki Chandrasekar
- Treasurer – Vaishnavi Ramakrishnan
- Cultural Secretary – Natasha Telles
- Cultural Secretary – Chachu Joseph

The Union's first activity was to conduct orientation programmes for the entire college reminding the seniors of their continued responsibilities to the college. The various clubs of the college put together a show at the OAT to welcome the first years with entertaining music and dance. A new venture termed 'Breaktime Presentations' was inaugurated wherein all clubs were compulsorily required to make presentations. Club registrations also happened during the break, after the presentations.

Another first time venture was the introduction of the investiture ceremony, wherein all the class reps, both UG & PG, executive reps, club presidents and the student heads of NCC/NSS/

Games, along with the office bearers of the students union, received their badges.

A special OAT was organized to mourn the loss of young lives in the Kumbakonam tragedy. In keeping with the growing concern for road safety, a special unit 'Citizens for Safe Roads' was inaugurated in the college in the presence of many dignitaries.

Freshies Talent Day, termed 'Neptunalia 2004', was held on 22nd of July, to provide the first years with a platform to reveal their talent. This was followed by 'Sangharsh 2004', the inter-departmental cultural on 23 and 24 August wherein the various departments were organized into groups and encouraged to participate in a spirit of healthy competition. 'Hysteria 2004', the biggest intra collegiate cultural event took place on 7, 8 and 9 October encouraging the talent, skill, and participation of the students. A total of 27 events were organized and the 2nd years emerged winners.

The student leaders of various city colleges came together to form 'S4S' or Students For Society, with the objective of creating social awareness programs for students of member colleges by networking through their union office bearers.

A variety of special OATs & celebrations were organized through out the year, beginning with MTC Day, to felicitate the workers of the Metropolitan Transport Corporation.



Friendship Day was celebrated by screening the movie 'Hum Tum'. In addition, various stalls were put up during the break. Independence Day & the birthday of Stella Maris College were celebrated and the retiring faculty were felicitated. One of the most special OATs was the Tibet Awareness day, dedicated to the cause of Free Tibet. Mr. Tenzin Tsundue, a Tibetan activist, was the speaker for the day. Tibetan students belonging to the city colleges from the Madras Tibetan Students Association put up performances.

A special poetry/hip hop workshop and media discussion workshop with Nikhil Chinappa, media personality as the speaker was conducted on 15 December 2005

Following the Tsunami tragedy, Stella Maris College organized a special OAT to mourn the lives lost due to this tragedy. Various people

voiced their opinions and concerns. A report on the rescue operations carried out by Sangamam and S4S was also presented.

One of the various first time ventures organized by the Union was T-Shirt signing day, on which the outgoing seniors were encouraged to come in their college t shirt, allow their friends to sign it and create their very own souvenirs of life in Stella.

Various other events like, Ethnic Day, Onam celebrations, Teachers' day, Workers' day, Christmas carnival, Christmas OAT, Pongal OAT and AIDS awareness Day took place through out the year.

Intent on spinning as many new beginnings as they could, the Union set about introducing the following:

- Talent scout forms for first years, creating a database.



Executive Members of the Students' Union 2004-2005, with the Principal, Vice-Principals and the Deans of Students.



- Suggestion boxes
- E – polling, computerized elections
- Introduction of the Common room

The college play 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat', staged in Chinmaya Heritage Hall, organized as a fund raiser for the Tsunami Back to School Project, ran to 5 sold out shows.

Stella Maris participated in a variety of inter collegiate culturals and won many accolades. Besides winning a variety of prizes at various events, our college was the overall winner at Deep Woods at MCC, Neherika of Anna Adarsh, and runner up at Fest-Eve of WCC.

However the 'biggie' this year was our very own inter-collegiate culturals AQUILAE 2004, named after the sailor's star, which shines bright in the December night sky, Stella Maris or Star

of the Sea appropriately introduced the co-educational culturals after almost a decade. With the combined efforts of both students and management, it was a resounding success. With 17 colleges displaying their talent and prominent people judging the events, it was indeed a 'Stellar Show!'

Eventually on the Union Day, the reports of the Union's activities for the year 2004-05 were presented. The formal oath taking ceremony for the incoming Union was followed by the traditional Carnival with a wide range of stalls. A blockbuster movie was also screened.

It was indeed a year of new beginnings and the old order had yet again to change, yielding place to the new office bearers. All in all, it was a fulfilling, eventful year for the Stella Marian Community.



### Conch Woman

Surrounded by herself  
 Enfolding her own body  
 Rigidly twining her softness  
 She awaits...

Breeding life within  
 The moist womb  
 Catches life and swallows it whole and then  
 She awaits...

Her world is ensconced  
 In an eerie silence  
 Lonely yet cramped  
 With her limbs bound  
 She awaits...

Her release comes at last  
 At the hands of another  
 Her flesh torn ravaged,  
 Enjoyed and joyful.  
 With bated breath for that one moment  
 She awaits...

*Ms. Lakshmi Priya  
 Dept. of Fine Arts*



# Temple of Learning

Geetha Balachandran, Librarian

*"The most basic raw material of the future is information"*  
-Alvin Toffler

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the city of Chennai, is the quiet, sprawling campus of Stella Maris College that boasts of a fully automated library with a collection of more than one lakh documents. The library provides an open access system that facilitates a free access to books.



The library is visited by 1200 users a day on an average. It is possible to collect this statistical data because of the introduction of the slot machine placed near the entrance.

This computerised library (Courtesy E-bliss) is well equipped with all systems of dissemination, retrieval and search. All types of information regarding availability of books and about any particular topic from leading periodicals and journals can be obtained at the click of a mouse ensuring rapid and efficacious service. Reservation of books, Flash news, CD-ROMs on various subjects and maps are some of the other facilities made available to the users.

The 'COZY CORNER' is a new addition to the library. Students wanting to spend some quiet time and indulge in some light reading occupy the slung back chairs in the carpeted space provided here.

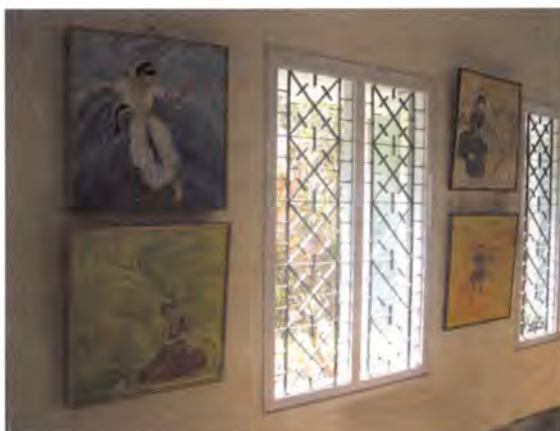


Pamphlets and other reference materials are provided on the mezzanine floor, which also houses the Internet section and the on-line library.



There is also an air-conditioned conference room that is used for conducting orientation programmes and a 'first of its kind' certificate course in "Documentation and Information science".

The library also has another unique feature: the walls provide free exhibition space for display of the artistic talents of faculty and students. This also lends an artistic ambience to the library. The exhibits are frequently renewed and are on sale.



### Unwind

A man walked into a café one early morning and noticed that he was the only black man there. As he sat down he noticed a white man behind him. The white man said, "Coloured people are not allowed here."

The black man turned around, stood up and said,

"When I was born I was black.  
When I grew up I was black.  
When I'm sick I'm black.  
When I go out in the sun I'm black.  
When I'm cold I'm black.  
When I die I'll be black.

But you, Sir,  
When you were born you were pink.  
When you grew up you became white.  
When you are sick, you turn green.  
When you go out in the sun, you turn red.  
When you are cold you turn blue.  
When you die you will turn purple.

And you have the nerve to call me coloured?"

The black man then sat down, and the white man walked away.

M. Mariya Johnsi  
II B.Sc. Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology



During the academic year, 2004-2005, Stella Maris students brought home laurels, after having participated in games with great enthusiasm, vigour, and a spirit of healthy competition.

In the inter collegiate tournaments, our college table tennis team bagged the winners trophy and the lawn tennis team got the runners-up. Several of our students represented Madras University 'B' zone in the following major games and athletics.

**Basketball:**

- M. Seema, III B.Com
- D.Indhumathy, III B.Sc. Maths
- Diya Susan Pallikal, I B.A. Fine Arts
- Jeevitha, I B.Sc. Maths
- Nishchala, II BCA
- Ruvitha Chacko, III B.Com
- Madhumita, II B.Sc. Chem
- S. Sethukkarasi, II B.Com



**Cricket:**

- Irene Sangeetha, III B.Com
- Beulah Kavitha, III B.Com
- Vishvaa, II B.Com
- Roselita, II B.A.
- Jacquellin, I B.A.

**Shuttle Badminton:**

- Anandhi, I B.Sc.

**Lawn Tennis:**

- Kaveya K, III B.Sc. Chem
- Rupha Ramani, III B.A. Lit

**Volley Ball:**

- Divya, III B.Com
- Harini, III B.Sc.

**Table Tennis:**

- J. Swarna, I B.Sc.
- N. Aishwarya, II BCA
- G. Archana, III B.Com



Altius, Citius, Fortius ...  
Higher, Faster, Stronger

B. Siva Ranjini, I B.com  
Preetha, I B.Sc.

### **Hockey:**

A. Santhoshi, III B.Com  
N. Deepa Rekha, III B.Com  
J. Deepa Arasi, III B.Com  
P. Thilakavathi, II B.Com

### **Athletics:**

Mary Sherin Jose, III B.Com  
Tanya, I B.A.  
Vanitha, I B.Sc.

### **Chess:**

Madhusree V., II B.Com

Some of our students represented Madras University and participated in the All-India Inter-University tournaments in the following games.

### **Basketball:**

Diya Susan Pallikal, I B.A.

### **Cricket:**

Irene Sangeetha, II B.Com

Table Tennis:

Swarna, I B.Sc.

N. Aishwarya, II BCA

### **Lawn Tennis:**

Sanjana Prabhakar, II B.Com

Rupha Ramani, III B.A. Lit

### **Chess:**

Madhushree V., II B.Com

Some of our students represented the Tamil Nadu State in the following games.

### **Baseball:**

Irene Sangeetha S. I., III B.Com

Beulah Kavitha, III B.Com

J. Deepa Arasi, III B.Com

N. Deepa Rekha, III B.Com

A. Santhoshi, III B.Com

Roselita, II B.A.

Thilakavathy, II B.Com

Rohini, I B.Com

Vishvaa, II B.Com

### **Table Tennis:**

J. Swarna, I B.Sc.

Aishwarya N., II BCA

### **Shooting:**

Janavi M., II B.A FA

The Madras University table tennis team won the South Zone and All India Tournament conducted by Allagappa University, Karaikudi, in which J. Swarna, I B.Sc. and Aishwarya N., II BCA, of our college were the main players.

J. Swarna, I B.Sc., represented Tamil Nadu State in the National Championship and won many medals.

This year, our college teams participated in several State and All India tournaments and secured the second and third places respectively.

Thanks to the consistent hard work of the students and the sustained support of our Principal and the Management, we have achieved great success this year, and we hope to continue to do so in the years to come.



Hop, Skip and Jump to Service.

Impressions are never erased and the indelible impressions that the NSS has left on the countless number of students who have graduated are living testimonies of service to others and the country. The NSS has enabled scores of Stella Marians to face problems, to brave the turbulent waves of difficulties in life and to kindle the fire of service in the society they live in.

Throughout the academic year, the NSS volunteers participated in several special programmes. With the motto of 'NOT ME BUT YOU,' their enthusiastic and smiling faces were present whenever and wherever needed, within the campus as well as outside. Interactive sessions for the juniors by the seniors proved to be opportunities to know more and gain new skills of communication. They promised a sharing of views and exposure to an reality. These 'bridging the gap' sessions were held in July and August 2004.

External agencies seeking the assistance of

SMC's NSS volunteers for organizing and conducting programmes for special children or disabled adults, has been an annual feature.

The Inter School Junior Talent Contests conducted by the Le Park Leo Club for handicapped children on 19 and 20 August 2004 saw twenty NSS volunteers extending help.

Active service by ten NSS volunteers helped the College Students and Graduates Association for the Blind to conduct their General Body Meeting in September 2004. This is the second year of service by our students to the visually impaired.

A Cultural programme by our NSS volunteers, at the Life Help Centre for the Mentally Challenged, Palavakkam, brought a little more joy and colour to their Children's Day Celebrations on 14th November, 2004.

World Disability Day on 3rd December 2004, organized by the Shakthi Foundation at Rajarathnam Stadium engaged our fifty volunteers in a hectic daylong programme. 'Amarthaya', a fundraiser by the Shakthi Foundation, Chennai, at the Music Academy, had a group of thirty NSS volunteers giving of their best, as representatives of the organizers for the Zakir Hussain Show.

The 13th Handi Park Sports Meet, organized by the Leo Club of Park Town at Rajarathnam Stadium, for physically challenged children proved to be a fruitful experience to the NSS



volunteers who extended their help the whole day. The Leo Club of Park Town has been requesting the services of our NSS volunteers for the fourth year in succession.

NSS volunteers helped to create awareness about non-conventional energy sources through their participation in the formation of a human chain at the Marina. The event was organized by the Ministry for Non-conventional Energy Sources, Government of India, on 20th August, 2004.

AIDS Awareness has also been an area of priority with the NSS of Stella Maris which was declared an 'AIDS AWARE' college, as early as 1992 by the University of Madras. The volunteers of the NSS have proved in more ways than one that the NSS Units of the College will strive through its awareness activities to create an AIDS-free society. The NSS Units organized several activities towards this purpose and our volunteers participated in many programmes pertaining to this cause.

As one of the few colleges selected under the 'AIDS prevention and Control Programme among College Students', by the department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Madras, four of the volunteers attended a one day in service training programme for peer educators at VHS, Adyar in September 2004.

Blood donation is an annual feature of the NSS, which motivates students to understand the cause and need for voluntary blood donation, supported technically by the Madras Voluntary Blood Bank. The blood donation camp in February 2005 saw 142 students donating towards a noble cause.

The year's activities culminated in the NSS Day Celebrations on 8 March 2005. Coinciding with

International Women's Day, the NSS had the responsibility of bringing out the significance of that day. The theme was appropriately chosen as 'A TRIBUTE,' not only to the women of the NSS, but to all those women achievers and their contributions to the NSS, as guiding lights from 1969 to 2005. The Guests of Honour included:

Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent – former Principal of SMC.

Dr. Mrs. Radha Paul – former NSS advisor and Head of the Dept. of Social Work, SMC, as well as the former first Regional (Woman) Director of World Vision.

Mrs. Vasantha Raghvir – Director, Shakthi Foundation, Chennai.

Mrs. Rani Mani – self-help group representative from SHARE, Vellore.

Specially chosen for their contribution to society and the involvement with the NSS of Stella Maris through the years, these special guests added to the spirit of joy and service during the programme.

Invitees from the various institutions where volunteers render their service and other special guests added colour with a wonderful display of talent. The institutions were honoured with mementos for their continued support and faith in the NSS and the service rendered by its volunteers. The entire college community of staff and students witnessed the colorful programme of sharing and caring. The programme ended with a mighty performance of the 'Thoodumbu' instruments by the members of the Unnarvugal Team consisting of past and present volunteers of the NSS, Pachaiyappa's College, Chennai.



Talent Display by Institutions where NSS Volunteers render their service



Yet another annual feature of the NSS has been the Special Camping Programme for ten days in rural areas. The start of the camp at Padappai was scheduled for 27 December 2004, but was threatened by non-participation of students due to the tsunami that struck on 26 December 2004. However forty-eight volunteers braved all odds and participated in the camp, which carried the theme of "Role of the Youth in the Enrichment of Water Resources" for this year. Various need-based programmes were organized for the village community through the volunteers along with external resources. The cultural shows and other activities proved beneficial to the villagers and were well received.

For thirty-six years the NSS Unit of Stella Maris, through its scores of volunteers has wiped away tears, created smiles, lent a shoulder to cry on and extended a hand to hold, whenever and wherever the need has risen. The silent parade of unsung sharing has enabled the NSS movement in Stella Maris to leave behind footprints on the sands of time with its various ideals and commitment to its vision. After

thirty-six years of selfless service, we have left footprints that will live on forever and serve as an illustrious example for generations to come. A psalm of life by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow says:

Lives of great men all remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Foot prints on the sands of time.

Footprints, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate,  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labour and to sweat.

The NSS unit hopes that the future generations of students will take a courageous step towards humanity and leave behind footprints on the sands of time.



# The Future Architects of the Nation

N.C.C. Report

The National Cadet Corps was started in 1948 by our first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in order to train young boys and girls to be better citizens in all walks of life. The youth are the future architects of India, on whose shoulders rests the responsibility of nation building. The NCC today has become an established avenue for channeling the physical resources of the youth and inculcating in them a spirit of service, nationalism and patriotism. Ever since its establishment, the Stella Maris NCC Company has been one of the most active units of the NCC.

The year's activities for the NCC began even before the commencement of the academic year with four of our cadets attending a fun-filled and exciting All India Trekking expedition in Ooty. The first combined annual training camp was also conducted before the commencement of the college term in June 2004. Fifteen II year cadets participated in it, and the Stella Maris NCC Company emerged the runners-up in the overall medals tally.

The freshmen were enrolled in July 2004 and were initiated into NCC activities at the annual inaugural camp held on August 13 and 14, 2004, at the Besant Nagar Theosophical Society



Eyes Right

camping site. The camp was a two-day programme consisting of numerous competitions such as Line area, Flag area, NIAP, Quiz and cultural activities. This was the first taste of camp life for the I year cadets and they worked enthusiastically with the II and III years, making the camp a memorable one. Our chief guest for the occasion was Col. S. James, the commanding officer of the signals unit, Tambaram.

Two of our cadets, Cdt. Sonia of the Commerce Dept. and Cdt. Charlet of the Physics Dept., were selected for the state-level Thal Sainik Inter-Group competition at which cadet Sonia won the silver medal for firing. Cdt. Cpl. C. Poorni of the Physics Dept. and Cdt. Cpl. Jenifer Ketsia of the Maths Dept. attended the inter-group competition at



Thanjavur during which they won the gold and silver medals respectively for microlite flying, and were selected to represent Tamil Nadu for the Vayu Sainik camp at Bangalore.

Three Army wing cadets and three Naval cadets were selected for the Republic Day inter-group competitions held at Trichy. Leading cadet, Sowmya, of the Maths Dept., won the gold medal for Cherry Blossom.

To foster a spirit of unity among the youth of the country and to help them realize that under all petty differences lies a bond of commonality that integrates us as a nation, the NCC organizes NIC camps, which are attended by several of our cadets. CSUO Leebu Babu attended the NIC at Leh-Ladakh and won prizes for debate and group discussion. Cpl. Aje Theresa and L. Cpl. Shalini Maria attended the NIC at Punjab. L. Cpl. Chris Selvina and L. Cpl.

Sumi attended the NIC at Mysore. Cdt. Infanta Judith Priya and L.C. Pooja Padmanabhan attended the NIC at Delhi. Cdt. Cpt Nancy Priya, Cdt. Petty officer K.P. Divya Vasudevan, Ft. Cdt Morin Diana, Ft. Cdt. Suman and Ft. Cdt. Trasina attended the NIC at M.P.

Three of our cadets were selected for the Republic Day parade 2005 at New Delhi - Cdt. Marian Antony of the Sociology Dept., L.C. Sowmya of the Maths Dept. and L.C. Anuradha Nair of the Commerce Dept. L.C. Sowmya was selected to march on the Rajpath.

The Youth Exchange Programme provides cadets with a once-in-a-lifetime experience of visiting foreign countries as youth ambassadors. CUO Roshini of the History Dept. was selected for the Youth Exchange Programme to Singapore, during which she was awarded the Cadet Proficiency Prize.



The Pride of a Nation - The outgoing NCC Students

Seated from Left : Dr. Ms. Patricia Gabriel, Dean, Student Affairs, Dr. Ms. Geetha Sridharan, Vice Principal, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip f.m.m., Principal, Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni f.m.m., Secretary, Ms. Dolly Thomas, NCC Officer, Dr. Ms. Jilly Joseph, Vice Principal

Through the Social Service Programme, Jeeva Sparsham, the Stella Maris NCC Company reached out to the less fortunate in society. The cadets organized special programmes for elderly citizens, patients at the Cancer Hospice, an Aids awareness rally, a garbage segregation awareness campaign, Annadanam at churches, and a medical camp at a government hospital. We conducted an eye donation camp and a blood donation camp here on campus; there was an overwhelming response from the college students to both these activities. We had a record number of students pledging their eyes and donating blood. Thank you Stella Marians, it is because of you that the Stella Maris NCC Company has won the prestigious Jeeva Sparsham social service banner for the year 2004-05. The cadets also enthusiastically participated in social service activities conducted by Madras Group A, like the awareness campaign on rainwater harvesting and female

infanticide. The I year cadets performed a street play on female infanticide, that was so well appreciated by the press, that we were invited by the Centre for Women's Development and Research, Chennai, to conduct a series of street plays on violence against women in various slums in the city of Chennai. Cadets also participated in the Tsunami relief operations launched by Madras Group A, as well as the relief camps conducted by Stella Maris College.

The Inter-Company competitions were conducted among the four companies Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta on December 20 and 21, 2004. The various competitions that determined the best company of the year included - contingent drill, individual drill, cross country, communications, first aid and map reading, best cadet competitions, best Tsc, GK & IQ. Charlie Company emerged the overall winners and were declared the Best Company of the year 2004-2005.



# Aspirations

*Indian Society For Training and  
Development Cell,  
Stella Maris College  
– A Report*

The student cell of ISTD at Stella Maris College has the unique distinction of being the first student cell of its kind to be established in India. It began in the year 1991, when for the first time, students were encouraged to be members of ISTD, and as members, they were provided a preview into the working of organizations in the public and private sectors and co-operative and service sectors. Through various workshops and training programmes held by the student's cell of the ISTD, the students were taught important skills that would give them a competitive edge over their peers and would facilitate the process of transition from a student to an employee in an organization.

The activities of the student cell of ISTD at Stella Maris College, focuses on three main areas namely, development of self, development of group skills and teamwork, and development of professional skills. These are covered in ten programmes every year.

As another year of relentless efforts to bring the student community up-to-date with contemporary issues and challenges in the business world drew to a close, Smt. Letika Saran, IPS, a woman of grit and determination, delivered the Valedictory Address to the ISTD students' cell for the year 2004-2005.



Inaugural Ceremony - ISTD





# Achievement through Consolidation and Innovation

*Career Guidance Cell*

For the Career Guidance Cell (CGC), the year 2004 – 2005 was a period of consolidation and forging ahead with a host of initiatives culminating in successful placement of students in prestigious organisations.

Intensely aware that the success of the CGC objectives rests on having skilled and trained manpower with a professional attitude and approach, we started the academic year 2004 – 2005 with a workshop on Self Motivation and Time Management, designed and customized for the CGC members and faculty directly involved with the CGC.

Mr. & Mrs. Paul, who conducted the morning session on self motivation, effectively brought out the importance of understanding one's self as the single most important step towards self development and realization of one's goals.

The second session on Time Management by Mr. Joe Britto drove home the vital lesson that one has to be proud of the work that one does and that time management is essentially self-management. His clever introduction of popular film songs as part of the training helped drive away any post-lunch lethargy. Preparing the candidates comprehensively for the demands of interviews and their careers ahead was a major focus of the activities.

Participants were motivated to think of their future through an innovative programme "Creating My Future" in the beginning of June

2004 and they were later taken through a year-long Communications Improvement programme.

The first week of June 2004 saw a large number of final year students attending the programme "Creating My Future." Experienced Resource persons guided the students in great detail on the following topics: Communication skills, Interpersonal skills, Time management, and Stress management.

The trainers' experience in the corporate world helped them give useful tips to the students. Mr. G. D. Sharma, Senior VP - HR, Larsen & Toubro, and Mr. Ravikumar, VP, SIFY, gave the students a clear overview of career opportunities and the skills required to be honed for success.

Taking into consideration that a large number of students are from vernacular schools, the CGC saw the need for improving their spoken English as a prerequisite to the start of a career.

With this in mind, a continuous weekend programme on "Improvement of Language Skills" was established with the help of faculty from the English Department. We are deeply grateful to those faculty members who generously gave their time to the 1 year students, on alternate Saturdays, to improve their language skills.

Campus recruitment was a huge success both in terms of the success rate and in terms of the organizations brought in.

The students were put through preparatory simulations of Group Discussions, CV writing, one to one and Group Interviews. Four alumni achievers addressed the students, delivering motivational talks on their chosen careers and shared their rich experiences with the aspirant students. This paid rich dividends as all the students who went through the training programmes landed excellent jobs with prestigious organizations.



## With an 'EYE' for Service

The Department of Economics and International Studies, in collaboration with Sankara Nethralaya, involved their M.A students in a Diabetic Retinopathy Project as part of their Social Awareness Programme. The aim of the programme was to impart greater awareness and understanding of issues related to health with specific emphasis on the impact of diabetes on vision.

The programme began with a lecture given by Dr. Kumara Manikavel from Sankara Nethralaya. The students participated in an eye camp held at Kilpauk Medical College and also involved themselves in different aspects of the camp, like registration, vision screening and counselling. They also attended a one-day rural camp at Pollur near Thiruvannamalai.

In addition to the training in vision tests and counselling, the students received exposure in Patient Satisfaction Study (KARS study). The

Companies who recruited our students were Cognizant Technology Solutions, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Hewlett Packard, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) and Scope International.

The new team leader, Sr. Colleen, gave the members a lot of freedom to experiment with new ideas and this has helped them grow in strength and spirit. The members retain their spirit of camaraderie and fellowship, and hope to achieve more in the next academic year.

students participated in a Tele-Ophthalmology experiment for the first time.

The Tele-Ophthalmology experiment aroused curiosity and expectations among the students as the patients in the village were examined with the help of pictures taken and sent through a satellite. Doctors from Chennai rendered immediate advice and treatment through the satellite. The students were also exposed to the process of dilation and the dangers of glaucoma.

This humane undertaking by Sankara Nethralaya met with great enthusiasm from all the participating students. The programme not only functioned as a forum to create awareness on Diabetic Retinopathy, but also left the students feeling privileged to be part of such a programme. This effort undertaken by Sankara Nethralaya truly bridged the gap between rural and urban eye care.



“Words are very powerful tools of communication. They are used in many different forms; from the most endearing to the most sublime. They can be warm or hostile. They can evoke a particular atmosphere or a sense of feeling. Their interpretation can subtly change simply by the way they are written or by the media employed to render them.”

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College, Chennai, and the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, University of Central England, in August 2003, led to in the organization of a workshop on typography held at the Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College, Chennai.

Prof. Aftab Gharda, Deputy Head of the Department of Visual Communication, Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, conducted the workshop. The British Council funded his visit. The beneficiaries of this programme were 20 undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The workshop which was conducted for four days (17 - 20 August) was initiated three weeks prior to the actual days of the workshop. The students were asked to select one item from three different categories: (1) sporting terms (2) phrases (3) famous Hollywood quotes. They



Professor Aftab Gharda with the students cracking the code.

were further required to conduct a thorough research and arrive at an understanding of the chosen item.

As a follow-up they were required to visually communicate, using typographic means without establishing mere literal interpretations or meanings of words. The intellectual idea or concept was stressed upon. Their choice of typeface had to be appropriate. They could not design letterforms but had to use the existing type styles. There was no restriction in colour or media.

After producing initial thumbnail sketches and concept discussions, the students proceeded to the final stage, which involved the execution of final ideas and concepts. The students were able to meet the challenges posed to them, and produced a variety of interesting solutions.



The workshop received positive feedback from both the leading dailies in the city, namely The Hindu and The New Indian Express.

Here are excerpts from the feedback from students:

“Wordspeak was quite fittingly the theme of the Typeshop. The whole exercise was designed for us to look at type differently - they tell stories. We realized we didn't need to use different typefaces to convey an idea that could be done by using the basic Arial.”

“As Prof. Gharda said “The solution lies within the problem.” We were indeed astounded to find the words jumping at us, which made the whole workshop a complete fun ride.”

The entire workshop saw its logical fruition in an exhibition organized at the British Council at the behest of Ms. Eunice Crook, the director. The exhibition which was held in December 2004 received accolades from every quarter and was a great success.



Professor Aftab Gharda with the Principal and Faculty Ms. Margaret Thomas at the Exhibition held in the British Council.



Drapes of silks, cottons and jute vied with one another in visual richness and texture. The room beckoned visitors with a swirl of colours. The effort and ideas behind each of the creations by the II M.A. Textile Design students of the Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College, reached its fruition at Amethyst on 15 April 2005 in the form of an exhibition of their works.

An impressive jury comprising experts such as Ms Nirmal Mirza, of Nirmal Mirza Design Company, Ms Mathangi R. Mydur of Anokhi and Ms Anuradha Pashupathy of A P Textile Design Company, first critically examined their works. After that test of fire these designs were thrown open for public consumption. Approval and accolades boosted the morale of the students, for they had not only shared their prowess and skills in textile design but had also infused them with a character, each of which was unique and individual.

Sakina Laila's cushions and curtains reflected variously the tempestuousness of the waves as well as its calming, cool depth. Mandeep's collection of dupattas and yardage for salwar-kameez sets dazzled, again inspired by the sea, but showed yet another facet highlighting the beauty of the washed seashore. Sajita's durries emerged from the seashell, and translated themselves into beautiful orange checks and stripes. Beneeta, Amritha and Ayesha journeyed through forms that were so compellingly

different. Beneeta's toy like 'Jamini Roy' cushions, Ayesha's collection of saris with 'Musicians' inspired by Nandalal Bose and Amrita's stoles with 'cloissone'-like geometric motifs were truly engaging and alluring. Yasmin and Deoli sourced out designs creatively from their penchant for sequins and kutchi embroidery in their salwar-kameez design and table story collections respectively.

A mood of celebration pervaded the design collections from the Textile Design studio of Stella Maris College.

The simple and the celebratory, the chic and the traditional, the soft and the bright jostled with each other for company, finding a perfect balance while reflecting a unique emerging genre of design impulses.











# Magic of Miniatures

Ms. Ashrafi S Bhagat  
Dept. of Fine Arts

Courtesy - The Hindu, Dec. 2004

Endowment lectures on art, delivered by eminent art historians, are a rarity in Chennai.

The Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College, recently had the unique opportunity of conducting the first endowment lecture, instituted in memory of its founder, Professor Emeritus Dr. (Sr.) Edith Tomory. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip f.m.m., the Principal of the College welcomed the gathering. Eminent art historian and Professor Emeritus Dr. B. N. Goswamy of Punjab University, Chandigarh, delivered the lecture.

Instrumental in setting up the Department of Fine Arts in 1948, Dr. Tomory furthered the process of education by authoring a comprehensive textbook titled *Fine Arts in India and the West*. Hungarian by birth, she obtained her doctorate from Germany and came to the southern shores of India in 1948, along with other members of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary to establish and introduce art education at Stella Maris College. Her vision, passion and dedication to the cause of art pedagogy and practice yielded fruit with the establishment of the Department of Fine Arts. As a fitting memorial to the yeoman service rendered by her, the Department of Fine Arts instituted an endowment lecture this year. Dr. Goswamy, an authority on the Indian miniature



Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, f.m.m., Principal, Dr. B.N. Goswamy, Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, f.m.m., Secretary, Dr. Sr. Mary Ann, f.m.m., Former Head, Department of Fine Arts.

tradition, particularly the Pahari School, delivered the lecture titled, 'Like a Mirror in the Hand: The Context of Viewing Indian Paintings.'

The lecture, supported by slides, focused on establishing the context through meaningful details and poetic suggestion, that enabled one to gauge the richness of the work of the Indian karigar. The craft came alive through the wealth of finely delineated details that ranged from birds and animals to the swirling waters, the poetic and gracious nayikas and their kundan jewellery adorning their sensuous bodies, and the representation of fire in decorative and patterned nuances.



## Expressions and Evocations

Amidst the aroma of coffee and flowers wafting through the air in 'Amethyst' an art exhibition found its rightful place!

Every year, the outgoing students of the Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College, hold an art exhibition thrown open for public viewing. This year's exhibition held in March 2004 had a new twist - it combined creative work with folk expressions. The spectators who walked through the large hall found on display, paintings which at once exalted and disturbed, provoked and soothed, engaged and

overwhelmed. The textures, colours and styles in their myriad variety, were the hallmark of these young artists.

The rooms also housed an incredible range of handmade products and works done in the folk idiom. From pottery to clothes, wall hangings to accessories, everything on display spoke of a skill honed by the intellect.

That Stella Maris College and the Department of Fine Arts have always celebrated the individual is well known, and herein lay the secret of the exhibition's success!







## Mylapore Art Street

*Sheila Thomas & Sneha Stephen  
II B.A.Fine Arts*

The annual Mylapore Fest that was held from the 6 - 9 January 2005 showcased a variety of talents. These talents included dance, music, Indian cuisine, art and lots more. The Fine Arts Department of Stella Maris College transformed 'Pitchupallai Street' into a veritable feast for the eyes with their 'Art Street'.

The students let loose their creativity, producing a wide array of arts and crafts. Jewellery (terracotta, Mseal & bead), glass paintings, water-colour paintings, paper bags, gift wrapping, bread craft, self-designed

traditional clothes (hand painted), murals, hand-painted stationery, pot-painting, etc. were just a few of the crafts to be displayed (and sold!), including the more conventional on-the-spot oil paintings. Needless to say, 'Art Street' proved to be a huge hit with the public. The queues of people waiting till as late as eleven in the night, stood testimony to the popularity of the street. The girls worked long and hard, both on the spot and at home to satisfy the customers. Seeing their work appreciated was a great high, especially since sales was booming! The fest proved to be an exciting experience,

giving the students a platform to showcase their abilities, and providing a lot of fun while doing it!

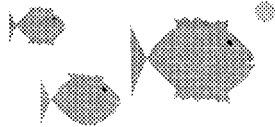
The event gave the students an insight into designing, marketing, pricing, and the other aspects of commercialising their talents. The public also got an idea of the intricacies involved in creating artistic work.

The Fest proved to be an enlightening and fruitful experience, for all involved — the organisers, the students and the participating public.



Street of Colour





# Beyond Books and Facts

## Along The East Coast

Our Faculty at the Fine Arts department had prepared us for our final year educational tour even from our first day at college . A much-awaited event, it was worth the wait in more ways than one. A bagful of enthusiastic girls and two sportive teachers, we set off on a full ten-day trip.

Bhubhaneshwar in Orissa, a city dotted with exquisitely carved temples was our first halt. It was an entirely different experience to witness the grandeur of the temples in the 'flesh' as stone replaced our rather elementary book illustrations. The temples of Puri were not as accessible to some of us, who instead, had to rest content with the beach at Puri.

The high point of our trip was the famous Sun temple at Konarak, which really lived up to its name that particular morning. Moody and irritable we were woken up at around 3 a.m. A bus ride and a short walk had us at the gates of the temple before sunrise. The splendour of that moment when the first rays of the sun hit the stones of the temple and transformed it

into that brilliant yellow hue is to be experienced rather than described.

The last lap of our journey covered Calcutta and its vicinity. Shanthi Niketan and its sprawling idyllic campus was of course, a must-see. Impromptu sculptures sprung a surprise at different turns. The dedication of the artists on campus was awe-inspiring while the green open spaces refreshed our minds. Calcutta, the following morning was a study in contrast – bustling city life, traffic snarls, messy shopping malls, rasagullas and kulfis.

The learning process during our educational tour, we discovered much to our delight and sometimes to our chagrin, was more than art and facts. Despite the confined spaces of buses and trains, make-do roadside breakfasts, shared beds at hotels, noise and laughter, we shared, we bonded, sometimes stepped on each others toes and tempers, but learnt the whole process of living together while absorbing the art and beauty of some of the most famous temples of India.

*Anisha Verghese  
III B.A. Fine Arts*

## Down South

Despite our hectic academic schedule, we, the second year students of the Department of Fine Arts, decided to go on a tour of South Indian temples in the first week of February. The excitement bubbled over on the night of February 3rd, as we began our journey from Egmore railway station. After reaching Tanjavur next morning, we got ready for our first visit-Brihadisvara temple. Built in the eleventh century A.D. by Raja Raja Chola, this magnificent structure represents a coming together of the scientific and aesthetic minds of the brilliant sculptors and architects of that period. We got special permission to visit the circumambulatory passage with centuries old Chola frescoes, which is otherwise closed to the public. From there, we went to the Museum of Chola Bronze and Manuscripts.

We next visited two temples in Kumbakonam-Darasuram Temple and a modern temple at Pattamesvara. Darasuram is again centuries old and the Archaeological Survey of India has, at present, taken up the restoration work of this temple.

Our last visit for the day was to the Brihadisvara Temple at Gangai Konda Cholapuram, which is a two-hour drive from Kumbakonam. The Chola dynasty built this temple after conquering vast areas in the North, in fact, all the land up to the river Ganges. After exploring this temple and all that it has to offer, we sat on its lawns until some time after sunset. That was our last stop on the first day.

On the second day, we set off early for Madurai, and went to the famous Meenakshi temple. This colourful temple had a lot of things that attracted us like its golden shikara, numerous sculptures and wall paintings. We also visited the famous thousand-pillared mandapa within the enclosure of this temple. It houses the famous musical pillars as well as numerous sculptures that form part of the pillars.

The tour was truly enjoyable, educative and informative.

*Anoopa John*  
*II B.A Fine Arts*



# Synergy in Service Tsunami







# Tsunami





The tsunami of December 26th 2004 stunned the entire world. The outpouring of love, concern and affection that the people offered to the tsunami victims, overwhelmed Stella Maris College. As a college, striving to sensitize its students and those associated with it, about the responsibility every single person has in developing the community, this tragedy taught us many a lesson.



Sangamam, an extension project of Stella Maris college has been working with the fishing community of Kasimedu since its inception in 1994. This year was burdened with many a crisis but the staff of the project sprang into action with the dedication and devotion of social workers who empathize with the people they work with, and the cause they work for.

Sangamam played a major role in relief efforts for the most affected the fishing community of Royapuram, both in the distribution of necessities immediately following the disaster, as well as in the sustained process of rehabilitation and renewal. Community volunteers were identified and trained in psychosocial counselling to aid in the relief process. A total of 4691 tsunami-affected families living along the coastal areas of Chennai, including Pattinampakkam at Santhome area and

Kasimod in Royapuram were taken care of by the sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Sangamam, staff and students of Stella Maris College.

The regaining of livelihoods was a major rehabilitation task that Sangamam shouldered. Fishermen were motivated to face the challenge of getting back to the sea and psychological fears were addressed. Alternate employment opportunities for fisherwomen were identified and the relevant training was organized. This effort to empower them was liberating and challenging both to the community and the social workers involved in the process. A visit made by Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni f.m.m., secretary and superior of Stella Maris College and Sr. Sundari f.m.m., former superior, provided a much-needed fillip to the renewal process.



In May 2005, for a duration of ten days, children belonging to the focus community were involved in a summer camp. This camp helped them relieve their angst and channelize their potential. Sangamam provided school uniforms, books and school bags to the tsunami affected children of Kasimedu in June 2005. The presence of Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip f.m.m., the Principal of Stella Maris college and President of the project, Dr. Sr. Florine Monis f.m.m., Superior, Stella Maris Convent and Sr.



Kochu Theresa f.m.m., Dean of Student Affairs and technical co-coordinator of Sangamam – was encouraging and offered a positive reinforcement for the field staff of Sangamam.

In June 2005, when a fire broke out at Kargil Nagar where the tsunami victims were relocated from Sangamam affiliated communities, the staff worked persistently to alleviate the crises with monetary assistance provided by Action Aid. Ploughing through disaster and reaching for positive reminders is an arduous task, but the staff of Sangamam forges ahead to restore faith and hope in the hearts of people.

Stella Maris College is privileged to be associated with international NGOs like Action Aid, Caritas India, International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) and the Royal Danish Embassy. Locally, Sangamam networks with NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) working in Kasimedu. It is our hope and mission to make Stella Maris College one of the forerunners in linking

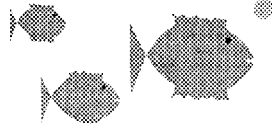
community development work and students; we aim to cultivate in every student who enters its portals, a sense of responsibility towards the society we live in.

The contribution of the students of various schools of social work in Chennai to Sangamam is invaluable. Their professionalism, maturity and emotional control in a crisis of such enormity reaffirm the basis of professional practice. In this context, the profession of social work has afforded a deep meaning and relevance. Moving at the pace of the community with a firm belief that the social fabric of the community must be protected is the cornerstone of the profession today.

The constant support and encouragement given by Dr. Sr. Annamma Phillip, f.m.m., have always been a source of inspiration to Sangamam.

Sangamam expresses its heartfelt thanks to the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, the funding agencies, community volunteers, staff, students, parents and well wishers. Your generosity in these times of adversity has deeply moved us.





# Waves of Faith

Nisha Padmanabhan  
II B.Sc. Zoology

On 26th December 2004, a tsunami hit the coast of India. Its cosmic consequences were beyond comprehension. It was only three weeks later that its reality hit me hard. With a view to helping the affected villages, a trip was organized by our college in association with MSF (Medecins sans Frontier) for a week. The team comprised of sixty persons, including students from Dindigul. Initially, we students were apprehensive about the way in which we could help and whether we could in any way be able to make a difference. Yet, the predominant feeling was one of determination to do as much good as we could. Five days later, we were in Nagercoil.

So in what way did our group make a difference? Most of our time went towards listening to people give vent to their emotions and helping them come to terms with the present through interactions. One day it was an old woman weeping because her entire family was lost; another day, it was a child who was psychologically affected by the killer wave. Prior to the trip, we had a couple of training sessions, which not only prepared us to help the victims but also to train ourselves to handle the situations personally.

Even though our primary objective was to help the victims, we were exposed to a multitude of inputs from the different people we met on our trip. Within a very short period of time, our interaction with the group established

relationships, which reinforced our belief in the goodwill of mankind. The experience was truly an eye-opener.

There were numerous incidents, each more painful than the other. There were instances when eight members of the same family were swept away, and other more miraculous ones when a three-year old girl was rescued after three days. There were some who were grieving over their lost ones, there were others who were glad that it was only their property that was damaged, and there were some others who were taking advantage of the situation financially. What stood in complete contrast to all these images was the mental strength of a few people. There was this ubiquitous feeling in the victims, an unshakeable faith in God. One would have expected otherwise, but it was indeed beautiful and refreshing to see this willingness to live, to go on and not to lose faith.

What made every moment worthwhile, was the time that we spent with the children. It was deeply satisfying to experience the kind of difference that we could bring into their lives. The school children in the affected villages were all petrified of the sea. The same shore they had spent years playing on, was now ominous to them. We made an attempt to rid them of the fear by explaining the incident factually, and making them understand that it was safe to play on the sands again; but I guess it is only

with time that they will come to trust the sea all over again. One afternoon, we took a group of school children to the beach to help them overcome their fear. Through the afternoon, we could hear shrieks of excitement, laughter and joy. Even as we helped them recover, we had a whale of a time with them.

We saw devastation of life and property. We also saw a zeal to help. It is the latter we remembered. This experience made us realize that we could make a difference, we learnt that the decision to help can be a simple yet significant choice that can transform our lives and the lives of those around us.



On 26 December 2004, Chennai woke up to a day that was not to be merry. Giant waves that terrorised parts of South East Asia on the day after Christmas altered more than just coastlines, for lives were mercilessly destroyed and futures disfigured.

Yet as millions of lives perished, many good samaritans were born. The world was witness to a humanitarian awakening which was in keeping with the monumental nature of the tragedy. Heads of State expressed shock and sympathy. International aid organisations rushed relief material to affected areas. The media played its part by not just highlighting the extent of destruction, but also by encouraging contributions from the general public. Online 'missing hunts' were launched to make possible

family reunions. Most importantly, counselling services were offered to help victims recover from shock. All these measures are a perfect example of a synthesis of efforts to make lives better for the less fortunate. And for once, the familiar differences of caste and creed were overlooked as people joined hands to participate in the mammoth task of reconstructing millions of lives.

Days after the tragedy, prayer meets were organised and pujas performed to foster general well-being and perhaps even to appease the divine powers; for people have not forgotten that the temples by the seashore remain undisturbed, the Gandhi bust in the Andamans is intact and the Buddhas in Sri Lanka still smile...despite the ferocity of the waves!



# Kumbakonam Tragedy







## Tragic Wreaths

Stella Maris College has a long history of responding to the victims affected by major calamities. A few days after the major school fire in Kumbakonam, on 26 July 2004 in which 92 children perished, the students and staff from the Department of Social Work and volunteers from other departments rushed to Kumbakonam. They empathized with the grieving families, paid homage to the children who perished in the fire, and helped the surviving children to return as soon as possible to the school routine.



With the support of the management of Stella Maris College and the then Collector of Kumbakonam Mr. Radhakrishnan, the team was able to bring back the smiles on the faces of the surviving children.

While extending these humanitarian gestures, the Social Work students also almost had a "hands on" experience in grief counselling, group work, psycho-social care and disaster management. They were also led to examine some of the issues related to violations of child rights, especially the right to protection.

Sharing the sorrow of each and every family that had lost one or more children was an emotional journey. Some family members were in a state of shock, Others like Gangamma could not believe her grandson

was dead; she was on the road everyday calling out to him and searching for him. To those who asked "Why me?" no answer could be given. However being with them and sharing their sorrow and understanding their pain, helped them as they knew their sharing was respected and they could do it at their own pace, without being forced to share under the glare of the camera as the media persons had done.

The volunteers paid homage to the children - victims of the fire, in their respective houses, at the school premises, at the burial ground or by participating in the last rites. Several volunteers were visiting the burial ground for the first time.

One of the important human rights children should enjoy is protection. Children perished because the school authorities violated the

construction and safety norms. While the state looked into these issues after the fateful event in a more focused manner, the team from Stella Maris concentrated on sending the children as soon as possible to the new schools they were enrolled in.

At the time of the visit all the survivors of the traumatic event were still experiencing nightmares, loss of sleep and appetite. Several children could still hear 'the cries of their friends every night'; they were afraid of fire or even to pass by the ill-fated school. Fear had gripped them; they did not know how to cope with it.

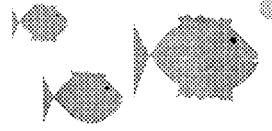
Play and group dynamics are important modes of psychosocial therapy for treating children experiencing trauma. The volunteers provided crayons, paint, colour pencils, chart paper, cloth etc., but also used several other means such as songs, group dance and games to help the survivors express their fear, pain and trauma through these activities.

Dance helped the children to overcome their anxieties. Action games helped them to give expression to their fears, and other emotions. Art therapy helped them to give vent to those feelings that could not be expressed verbally.



Such daylong sessions in four schools helped the children to unwind for the first time after the traumatic event. They regained their childhood, and laughed, sang, danced, played with colours and painted on paper and cloth with gay abandon. They paid homage to their lost friends by lighting lamps, writing verses and painting on the banner "Kari Kanavu". The group activities helped to put back the smiles on their faces and resume the school routine. A few children were followed up individually, through home visits, to harness the support of the other members of the family.

To us it was a moving experience as we saw the sorrow, pain and the resilience of the families and children. The transformation that can take place with psychosocial care, in the face of trauma, was indeed a valuable lesson.



## Kora

Lob Tsang

Lakshmy Ramanathan

II B.A. Literature

Tibet's fifty year struggle to break free from Chinese control found in Tenzin Tsundue a voice that reverberated through the campus of Stella Maris College on 13 August 2004. With Tibetans having found a second home in India, and having a considerable strength in our own college, Stella Maris invited Mr. Tsundue, Tibetan refugee cum poet-activist, on the occasion of 'Tibetan Day.'

Tsundue, who gained global recognition in 2002 when he met Mr. Zhu Rongji with a "FREE TIBET" banner and Tibet's national flag, made Stella Marians understand how dear and integral freedom is to the peace-loving Tibetans.

Students and teachers realized for the first time how tightly-knit the Tibetan community is, and also learnt about the atrocities that they had have to undergo for being Tibetan.

Tibetan students from other colleges like MCC and Loyola along with those from Stella Maris performed the native Tibetan dance in traditional attire and followed it with a group song.

Lunchbreak saw a change of atmosphere with a few of the Tibetan students strumming the guitar to enthusiastic cheers from the crowd.

Mr. Tsundue was also seen autographing his book - KORA (an allegory on Tibet's struggle), that was being bought by numerous students.

The Tibetans who were invited spoke out, not to glorify their history or bewail their traumatic present, but in order to urge more people to become sensitive to their issue and work alongside them.





## The Technicolour Dream of Stella Maris

Manasi Subramaniam  
I B.A. English

The Stella Maris annual college play is, by all means, a celebration more than anything else. It's a magnificent collaboration of efforts and the manifestation of several dreams and several hours of work; several hours of joy and laughter; several hours of blood, sweat and tears; several hours of song and dance.

This year, quite naturally, it was a musical. And what grander musical than 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice? The endeavour was stupendous, and the result, heart-warming, at the Chinmaya Heritage Centre auditorium in Chetpet from the 16 - 18 February 2005.

An imposing team of professionals stood behind the show. With Yog Japee, a veteran of performance arts, as director; Denver Anthony Nicholas, assisted by Raaj, as choreographer and Paul Augustine as musical coordinator, this colourful attempt was a dream come true (do forgive the puns!). The magnificent sets were designed by Thota Tharani and live music was performed at the venue by Shyam. With such experts and specialists at work, the play was inevitably a success.

The cast was huge and lively, matched with an enthusiastic and supremely patient crew, and

led by Production Managers, Vaani, Vaishnavi and Dharshini. There were the usual last minute hassles of props that didn't work and beards that wouldn't stick; curtains that couldn't be drawn and doors that can't be shut; the cast was always hungry and the crew somehow managed to be incredibly serene. Yet at the final moment of hugging and clapping and cheering what mattered was the incredible support that we Stella Marians are capable of. Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat took several breaths away.

The cast still remembers incidents and hilarious anecdotes from what they fondly call "the play days." Some claim that they can never sleep beyond 6 a.m. anymore, thanks to the early morning rehearsals and warm ups. Starting with a three-month theatre workshop led by Yog, the production saw several transitions, bringing together the Dramatics Club, the Western Music Club and the Western Dance Club in one glorious oeuvre.

Yog muses stoically, and laughs, saying "After seeing the play, the rainbow must have been one happy soul." That's the effect the SMC college play had!





It was literally an explosion of 'historic' events. And here are a few highlights from the year, which was filled to the brim with a number of activities.

### **World Tourism Day**

The Department organized the "Indian Airlines Welcome Abroad Tourism Quiz" on World Tourism Day (27 September 2004) in collaboration with Hi-Tours, a destination Marketing and Conference Management Company.

More than forty colleges in and around Chennai participated in the Quiz contest; and prizes included free trips to Singapore, Malaysia and Sri Lanka for the first three teams. The winners were

|                 |   |              |
|-----------------|---|--------------|
| SVCE            | - | First Place  |
| Anna University | - | Second Place |
| Loyola College  | - | Third Place  |

### **History Fest**

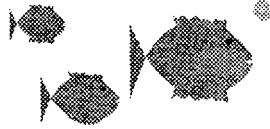
"Hisplasion" the annual Inter-Collegiate History festival was conducted for city colleges on 24 February 2005, and New College emerged as the overall winner.

### **Inter-Collegiate Debate**

In collaboration with the Centre for Security Analysis, Chennai, an Inter-Collegiate debate on the topic 'Nuclear Weapons are essential for National Security' was conducted on 24 February 2005. Seventeen teams from city colleges participated in this event. Sooraj Vishwanathan and Madhumitha K. Kumar of the School of Excellence in Law, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University secured the first place. Samyuktha Rajagopal and Niveditha of Stella Maris College were adjudged second and Natasha Telles and Kavya Krishnakumar, also of Stella Maris College were placed third.

### **Smt. Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture**

The Annual Smt. Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture was organized on 4 March 2005. Dr. Richard Haynes, Consul General, American Consulate, Chennai, delivered the lecture on 'Areas of Bilateral Co-Operation between India and the United States in the Changing South Asian Scenario.'



# Synapse 2005

Zoology Department  
Intercollegiate Cultural Fest

A synapse, by definition, is a gap between two nerve cells through which information is passed. Synapse 2005 was envisioned as a meeting point of minds and ideas: a social and educational context in which connections may be forged. The coming together of people and the exchange of information in creative and innovative ways serve to broaden the scope of education. Like impulses transmitted between nerve cells, when learning from books, teachers or experiences, knowledge is transmitted to one's peers. A gap is bridged and connection made.

These ideals were successfully realized on 13 January 2005. This was a memorable day, one

in which fun and learning were mingled in equal measure. The chief guest – Dr. Ms. Hannah John, former Head of the Department, inaugurated the daylong festival. Our Principal, Dr. Sr. Annamma Phillip, Vice Principals, Deans, and faculty members of the Zoology department also participated.

The offstage events included an Exhibition, Creative Writing in Tamil and English, and Collage. The onstage events were a Debate in Tamil and English, Myriad, and Paper presentation, Quiz, Ad zap, Skit and Pict-Charades. The over all winner of Synapse 2005 was Loyola College.



## Brain Teasers Encore

- ❖ Why was the Egyptian boy confused?  
Because his father was a mummy!
- ❖ Where did frogs borrow money from?  
Riverbanks!
- ❖ What did one squirrel say to the other?  
I am nuts about you.
- ❖ What did the dentist say to his wife who was baking the cake?  
Can I do the filling?
- ❖ Why was the kangaroo not willing to go in the bus?  
It was afraid of pickpockets.

Aishwarya.R  
I B.Com





# Happy Hostel Days

Riba Mohan  
III B.A. Fine Arts

It is a fact well known among college students that hostelites have the most fun. While day scholars spend less than half the day in college, hostelites get to spend more than twice as much time in college. It naturally follows that they have more than twice as much fun. In addition to Sundays and National holidays, hostelites have extra fun during special occasions like Hostel Day, Christmas and Hostel Sports Day.



Poised Hostelites!

Hostel Day begins with the morning Mass. As a treat, a special breakfast is served, followed by the customary photo-shoot. As on all important occasions, the third year students dress in saris. Hostel Day is also the only day on which, after a strict screening process, visitors are allowed into the hostel. The day's highlight is the cultural programme after tea, when the students dance, sing and perform skits. As every student is part of the performing group at some point of time during the course of the evening, nobody dares to make fun, resulting in exemplary understanding and cooperation between cast and audience. After dinner, an informal jamming session is held, which continues well past decent hours and musical ability.

A much-awaited day of the year is Christmas. Mass is held in the evening, with a well-practised carol performance by the college

choir. This is followed by a much awaited meal of the year, the Christmas dinner, where hostelites look forward to rare treats made by the kitchen staff – not for nothing is their dominion called the Mess.

According to hostel custom, third year students decorate every floor of the building as a surprise for their juniors, after locking them up in the night. The juniors, if they get out before daybreak, decorate the dining hall and chapel. Needless to say, this day is very colourful and vibrant.

Hostel Sports Day is hailed with enthusiasm by all. The events are supposed to encourage team spirit and 'friendly competition' between the students. The games begin with a tug-of-war

or a round of dodgeball. Volleyball and basketball matches follow. There is also the ever-popular obstacle race, in which participants crawl through tortuous tunnels, jump horrible hurdles and eat biscuits strung on a line, without using their hands. There are no prizes for the winners, the honour and glory being reward enough (an added incentive being the fact that the biscuit probably constitutes the only meal

for the evening). Losers are pelted with leftovers from the previous night's dinner by their fellow hostelites, in a continuation of the afore-mentioned spirit of friendly competition.

Despite their differences, the hostelites are the students who best embody the spirit of the Stella Maris family and the camaraderie and goodwill in the hostel ensure that they have a memorable three years in the college.



### **Rain Falling On My Soul**

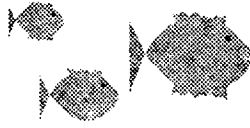
Millions of raindrops fall on me drenching my soul  
Strumming thro' my nerves  
Pulsing thro' my veins  
Cleansing, purifying.

Confession time arrives  
I sit in the crowd and watch  
My eyes awash with tears  
My lips gently apart  
Cleansing, purifying.

Rhythm and dance on the sitar  
The world seems to wait  
With bated breath  
As the master awakens my soul  
Cleansing, purifying.

The will to live is strong  
To love stronger still  
As the music pounds at the door  
My soul races and thrills  
Cleansing, purifying  
Giving new birth, new life  
The rain falls on my soul

*Ms. Lakshmi Priya  
Dept. of Fine Arts*



# Blood, Sweat and Mosquito Repellant

*"It's been a hard day's night . . ."*

*Amrita Neelakantan*

*III B.Sc. Zoology*

As the Beatles belted it out through the computer speaker, I realized why it is at times like these you feel it's all worth it. Paper fishes on sari upon sari lie folded in my shopping bag. I'm comfortably back in last year's XL College T-shirt accompanied by old trusty denims. It's 7 pm and we've just taken down the monumental backdrop of yet another freshies culturals. Now it lies, torn in places, on the floor of the union room. The sadness, that in all its glory it was put up only for a few hours, is deepened by the thought of all that went into the making of the Neputanalia backdrop. Two entire working days and so late in the day that the day-scholars involved were in danger of being locked in and the hostelites of being locked out! Blood, sweat and mosquito repellant!

And then you start thinking of the smaller things that made the big picture possible. The great planning for the never-seen-it-before backdrop and decorations! It's this feeling that drives each batch of seniors to the edge of insanity and sparks its creative genius as well. The conceptual idea was simple – Greek god Neptune's head with the ocean pouring out of a celestial Greek urn. Then of course, the paint and ideas spilled over the entire thing to create zoological ocean creatures, fine-arts pottery and jaw-lines, all forged by the skill of the B.Com and Economics students with a paintbrush, and the Literature students with a pair of scissors. You'd never believe it.

You think back on how unfinished pieces of Neptune's head were ridiculously carried to households in every corner of the city, from Parrys to Velacheri. Apologies of midnight power-cuts and dirty paint-water accidents were strategies to counter. In my head I can vividly see monkey faces with war paint, echoing: "See, that can be his beard and the star-fish crawling onto it! Problem solved. Right?"

After a certain point in chaos and frenzy, hysteria sets in (reminds me of another day that shall be penned down in diaries across the college!). It is past this point that every member of the working group truly believes in Murphy's Law – Everything that can go wrong, will. But being the youth of the country and inspired by the wisdom and energy of the present, such profound and true statements do not faze us! We laughed hysterically at each paint spill, an overly enthusiastic cut of scissors and exploding packets of glitter (though to this day I can't figure out why colourless glue when bought in opaque containers is always discovered to be a yellowish-brown fluid.)

On the morning of the event, things become clear at last. We will never be able to carry it whole. It is just too big. Still we persevere and finally cart it in bits to the auditorium.

To successfully put up anything in our auditorium, you need: Very tall people, a truck load of pins, faith and patience in bushels; or



very small agile people on stilts or ladders. And in dire circumstances, chairs. We had the latter.

But once I saw it put up on stage...I can still proudly swagger around the campus and say – It was the best backdrop ever to have been up. The suggestive power of greek mythology and the magnificence of the oceans – it had it

all and more! Those of you who saw it, I know, will not refute this statement.

Until the next freshies culturals then.

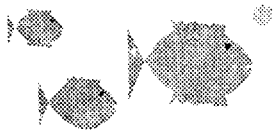
The select band of ladies who brought about this masterpiece know exactly what I'm saying, for they will be at it again, as soon as the next batch walks in past Assunta Block for the first OAT assembly of their lives.



### **Brain Teasers Encore**

- ❖ What is the difference between a watch seller and a jailor?  
A watch seller sells the watch, a jailor watches the cells.
- ❖ Why did the boy throw his mother out of the window?  
He wanted to see his motherland.
- ❖ Which word contains the largest number of letters?  
Postbox!!!
- ❖ What will happen if you drop a red hat in the Black Sea?  
It will become wet!
- ❖ What is the difference between a policeman and a fireman?  
A policeman fires when he spots a Wanted and a fireman is wanted when there's a fire!

*Aishwarya.R  
I B.Com*



# Wings of Fire

– A Review

Madhumitha. R.  
II B.Sc. Chemistry

'Wings of Fire' is the first in-depth examination of the life and work of a scientist, distinguished technocrat, and the President of India, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Written with Arun Tiwari, the book aims to give an account of Kalam's spiritual progress towards success and his personal account of India's space rocket and missile programme. What makes the book a 'must read' for every Indian is Kalam's lucid and powerful message that Indians can be world-beaters even though they may have no foreign training or academic degree. As part of the team that put India in a position to compete with the Russian and American space programme, Kalam, a nuclear scientist, with a degree from the Madras Institute of Technology, is himself an example of his own message.

The journey of Kalam from a middle-class home in Rameswaram to the Rashtrapathi Bhavan in Delhi is a story of hope, dream and achievement. Inspired by his sister's faith in his abilities and her willingness to pawn her jewellery to finance his education, Kalam, from a young age, was determined to achieve his

best. Flying symbolised a sense of freedom in the mind of this small-town boy. His decision to become an aeronautical engineer seems a natural offshoot of this vision.

Absolute truth has been Kalam's sovereign life-principle. The book elucidates this in an enthralling manner when he openly confesses the failure of the first two Agni launches.

As for his style of writing, be it the magic of prose or the charm of narration, there cannot be any other effective elixir to the reader's mind. The book is peppered with Kalam's favourite poets as well as his own words of poetry. Kalam's ability to deal with the scientific world by using literature as a way to boost his self-esteem is remarkable. It is an experience, reading through these anecdotes in the book.

'Wings of Fire' has the power to inject strength, courage and determination. It is sure to kindle the passion and patriotism lying within even the most sceptical of readers. Above all, it inspires us to believe that if we can dream it, we can do it.



## Unwinding the Stress of Today's Life

N. Sivabalambikai  
III BSc Maths

“Our life is what we make it by our own thoughts and deeds. The vanity of human life is like a river constantly passing away and yet constantly coming on. Such is the question of greatness of our lives.”

How true are the words of Bailey!

“What is this life, full of care  
We have no time to stand and stare”

wonders W. H. Davies in one of his popular poems. Man has been reduced to a mere machine, ever busy in moving, rolling back, pushing forward, never ceasing but always grinding, grinding. Nature holds no fascination; the songs of the birds at daybreak, the shimmering light of the setting sun and the twinkling stars of the midnight sky have nothing to convey. Like a huge roller, our present material civilisation is engaged in rumbling up and down without any pause or relief.

As Swami Vivekananda said, “Man’s only aim today is to struggle to make his material life more and more material.” Modern civilisation, which is based upon scientific materialism, has multiplied man’s worries, cares and anxieties. The materialistic impact of our so-called sputnik civilisation has been breeding germs of war, cold as well as hot. We have been turned into

machines and we have one and only one aim in life – to struggle breathlessly with little concern for any other thing. But the fact is that life demands from us the strength we possess. The one glaring result of this mechanisation of our outlook is our complete alienation from nature.

Man, who in the distant past, lived in the calm and tranquil lap of nature, obtaining an endless chain of joy and spiritual relief, has become too time-conscious. Indeed, punctuality is an essential attribute to our success in life, but the mad craze and struggle for work and material gain, which is characteristic of our age, must be condemned. This tendency towards time-consciousness over-reaching its limit has become the sole cause for the multiplication of our wants, cares, anxieties and misfortunes. True to the words of Josk Billings, “Life consists not in holding good cards but in playing those you do hold, well.” However, this life neither provides opportunity nor leisure to think of the higher values of life. Man must learn to appreciate nature and try to cultivate the higher spiritual values in his life or else meet a terrible disaster – a catastrophe that will turn this earth into hell. We need to live in this world, not as mechanical prisoners or purchased slaves, but as free human beings.





# The Pseudo Dream

*The myth of the American dream has taken the world by the throat.*

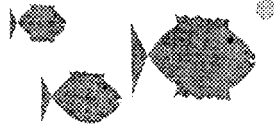
*Ms. Lakshmi Priya  
Department of Fine Arts*

What is this dream all about? In our context it is the transformation of the Indian psyche en masse to the western way of living, thinking and even imagining. Eating the proverbial American pie, we have the mandatory two or three children, we talk the Yankee language and dress the yuppie way. This has become our way of life!

This cult was propagated and established in the 1960's. It was done through a variety of means, one of which was the graphic medium of advertising. Posters showing 'Uncle Sam Wants you' beckoned, and till today it remains a powerful icon; hoardings depicting the quintessential American family- 'mama, papa, one boy and a girl' became the ideal globally and is still used to promote every product imaginable! From toothpaste to air-conditioners,

our environment seems to be conditioned by the voice of America.

The pseudo-westerner who has been created is even more of a stickler for rules than the original for he/she is a Power Dresser, Sunday Lounger, and Party Animal all rolled into one. Grooming oneself to be perfectly attuned for the occasion is mandatory! So, the next time you look into the mirror, just check to see how much of you has become Americanized. It appears at times that every person whether living in Chennai or in China has become the devotee of that ONE dream – THE PSEUDO DREAM - that salutes tradition, culture, ethnicity and democracy, fulfills your aspirations and is the ultimate goal of every self-respecting middle class INDIAN!



## Like A Woman Scorned

*"Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned"*  
- William Congreve

Radhika Prasad  
I B.A. Fine Arts

If children can destroy sand castles that they have created and if people can take the lives of other people, don't I have the right to take away what I have created?

You always hurt me. You cut down trees. You pollute the air and water, and you hurt me in many ways. You are afraid of your own kind. You avoid certain places fearing terrorist attacks or war. Yet you are not afraid of me.

I remember September 11th, 2001. So many innocent lives were lost to satisfy the greed for power. And I am aware of its disastrous and violent consequences in other parts of the world. How many innocent lives were lost! How much pollution was caused! In so many ways you and I were harmed!

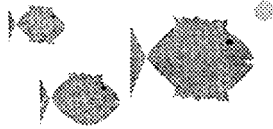
People come to my oceans never realizing that I too may be in an unhappy mood. A few months earlier, one morning they were all enjoying themselves. Children were playing on my shores. Older people were taking their morning stroll. And others were just relishing the cool breeze. But I was unhappy with all

the things people were doing to me; I just couldn't take it any more. Why am I always slighted?

I felt the movement of plates at the end of my feet as I moved them with my toes. I knew this was going to cause problems, but I was helpless.

The seas were at war! They furiously roared with intense pain, bringing to me the lives of several innocents – those that I had once nurtured! I could see the terror-struck looks on the faces of the children at the sight of a huge mass of water mounting several feet over their heads. And once they were swallowed I saw the looks on their parents' faces. Some parents were trying to hold their children close to them even as they were mercilessly swept away. The tsunami was not over yet... Hundreds of buildings, vehicles, and trees were washed away.

However, at the end of it all, I wept over the destruction and misery I had caused. And I wondered: "Am I as cruel as man?"



# Learning Economics and much more

Neetha J

III B.A. Economics

The Department of Economics, Stella Maris College, a research-oriented department, has undertaken a micro-level project titled “Empowerment of Women through Self-Help Groups” funded by Malcolm and Elizabeth Adisheshaiah trust. This project enabled us students to combine theory and research, which helped in gaining deep insight and adding new perspectives to classroom learning. In connection with this project, we visited the villages of Kuthambakkam and Athnancheri and interacted with the women in these villages. From our visits, we gained not only hands-on training of data collection and research, but also personal experiences that have influenced our thought processes as students of Economics.

We were able to understand the grassroots of economics. We were also able to gauge the benefits of including women in the process of production. Sitting in classrooms and studying theories do not always provide the kind of practical knowledge this kind of experience gives us. Through our interactions, we were able to see the differing impact of policies on women in different villages.

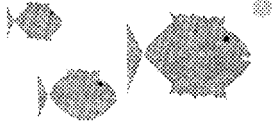
However, it was not just in terms of academics that we benefited. Our interaction with the rural people gave us an insight into their

lifestyle. In the brief conversations that we had with many women, we were able to imbibe their values of hospitality, respect and gentleness. We had the chance to meet some women who had borne great burdens in life and yet faced it with hope and courage. Some of the women we interviewed had joined Self Help Groups against all odds just because they wanted to take their destiny into their own hands instead of subordinating themselves to a state of dependence. There were, of course, other women who had a tendency to blame others, especially the more affluent sections of society and the government, for their situation. The assortment of opinions gave us a better understanding of rural life. We also had a glimpse of the differing thought processes in people.

A failure to mention our one-to-one interaction with Mr. Illango would make this report an incomplete one. From our first trip, he gave us inputs that helped us apply the economic theories of Gandhi on the field and enabled us to examine it as a working solution. He also helped us to understand better the functioning of the networking system at the panchayat level.

On the whole it was an enlightening and enriching experience, which we will cherish always and treasure.





# The Incomprehensible Universe

*“The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible”*

*- Albert Einstein*

*Sinduja R & Vidya K  
I BSc Physics*

The origin and evolution of the universe can be a fascinating study. This article is an attempt to link the synergy between the various energies and the universe.

The size and homogeneity of the universe as one sees it today is the result of the exponential expansion that took place during the inflammatory period, post Big Bang.

During the formation of the universe, radiation dominated, as every element was under tremendous pressure and compression. As the universe expanded, the density and the temperature continued to drop, and electrons and nuclei combined to form stable atoms. The radiation, which had been trapped, was free to escape (Cosmic Background Radiation).

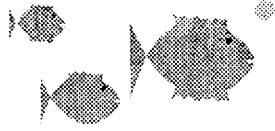
At crucial points, this expanding matter condensed under the effect of gravity to form small clouds that became galaxies. This was how the Milky Way galaxy was formed. In the Milky Way the sun was formed as a medium-sized star, from a collapsing cloud of gas about 4.6 billion years ago. The sun was formed with a surrounding, swirling disc of dust and gas. Heavier elements were then drawn together to form the planets with helium and hydrogen being swept into the outer gaseous giants.

About 600 to 700 million years ago, atmospheric oxygen levels rose significantly and have remained relatively constant since. Multi-cellular life is associated with this oxygen increase. It is this equilibrium between all these energies in the universe that sustains life.

The planet Earth receives an inflow of solar energy that is more than 15000 times the amount of energy consumed by all human societies. This colossal amount of energy that flows into the planet virtually provides all the energy required to keep the planet warm, driving the cycles of matter and nourishing life.

It is the synergy amongst the various forms of energy-solar, hydroelectric, wind, biomass, thermal and nuclear provided by the planet, that essentially sustains life.

Applications of solar energy include heating-cooling, electricity production and chemical processes. With advancement in science, solar energy is being used for crop drying in agriculture. Apart from this inexhaustible source of energy, another form of energy that can be put to use in our lives is geothermal energy. This energy is obtained when steam or hot water escapes from cracks or holes present in underground rocks. This energy can be used to melt ice from the pavement, in aquaculture, for car washes and other heating applications. Both hydroelectric power and wind energy are renewable sources of energy that can be put to numerous applications that can help whole communities; from setting up mills to factories, thereby providing employment. Bio-energy on the other hand is produced by the release of stored chemical energy contained in fuels made from biomass. Moreover, the latter form of energy improves the condition of the environment for the better. It is this synergy between all these energies that drives human life forward.



# Cosmic Synergy

*Manisha. A*  
*I B.Sc. Plant Biology*  
*And Plant Biotechnology*

Life on earth exists due to the synergy that is inherent in nature. When human beings no longer live in consonance with nature, the latter steps in to restore order by unleashing its cosmic energy

A popular definition of synergy is that it refers to a cooperative action whose total outcome is greater than the sum of the individual parts that participate in the action. An apt example is that of a fist, where the force of the fingers individually summed up is far less than that exerted by the combined fist.

Cosmic synergy is basic to all life. It is the invisible wand that conducts the harmony of life. Be it the beating of the heart, the blowing of the wind or the flowing of water, all these processes take place as a result of the synergic action of the numerous components of nature.

A number of landmarks in the history of mankind have had a lasting impact on the way men live and function as when primitive man became a two-legged animal from being a four-legged one, or when he discovered fire. Similarly, the Industrial Revolution brought about the migration of people from the villages to the cities and introduced the novel concept of urban life. What stimulated and directed these changes that drastically altered the course of humanity? Cosmic synergy, I believe. Cosmic synergy not only controls all natural phenomena, but also directs the path of life on earth.

Unfortunately, as man grew in power owing to his innovations and inventive spirit, tools and technology, he began to consider himself lord and master of the earth and its resources. This action, instead of being co-operative and mutually beneficial to himself and his surroundings, became destructive and detrimental to nature's balance. His actions were no longer in sync with those of nature but dissonant with them.

When terrible natural disasters, like the recent tsunami, strike, we find it impossible to justify or explain them. How can the death of innocent children, men and women be justified? What supreme power, perceived compassionate, would allow this? Nature, unlike man, has to think for all its children. These calamities take place not to punish man but to attempt a restoration of the balance and equilibrium of life. Global warming is a good example. With increase in carbon dioxide levels in the air due to industrial and automobile emissions, nature has had to respond with gradual, yet apparent increase in global temperatures.

Our perspective of these disasters is restricted to only how it affects our lives. In order to fathom cosmic synergy and its functioning we need to rise above our obsession with ourselves and look at the big picture. As Shakespeare says, "There is providence in the fall of a sparrow."



# Study Abroad A Whole New World!

Avantika Srinivasan  
III B.A. English

Study abroad is frequently considered the new-age remedy for all student maladies. Disillusioned university students who are indifferent to all else, are unanimous on one point – they are all confident that going abroad will make all the difference to their lives. It is the most obvious and prudent step to take after one has completed an undergraduate degree – there's no disputing it! However there are the more mundane (read practical) aspects such as finance, which need to be looked into. This is where most aspirants find their dreams going 'pop' like balloons at a birthday party.

The writer's balloon was left un-inflated for a long time fearing the disappointment of seeing it deflate later. The last semester, though, saw this balloon expand and fly high...in the most unexpected manner; an opportunity arrived to study abroad. The Global Peace Scholarship offered a chance to do one term in an Australian University, with all expenses paid! From July to November last, it was Au Revoir to Stella and Hey Deakin!

Five months in Melbourne, Australia, passed quickly and did not seem much, quantitatively. But they amounted to several years of learning. Not only is their university system quite different, but also there were lifestyle changes and attitudinal changes that one had to make. This is not a 'memoirs' column, so I shall confine myself to the academic details alone.

Learning is a two-way process. The students are expected to put in twice the amount they receive in the form of lectures and handouts. There is no learning by rote, which is sadly, a chief characteristic of the education system here in India. The library is well equipped to meet the academic requirements and rarely disappoints one. Teachers (Professors would be the more politically correct term) guide and discuss, rather than instruct and dictate. Readily available technology makes things far more interesting and facilitates student discussions. For instance DSO - Deakin Studies Online is their online student portal, which is similar to a virtual classroom. Important announcements, websites, hyperlinks, campus activities, lecture summaries, grades, assignment topics and student debates could be accessed at the click of a mouse!

Classes were divided into lectures and tutorials. While lecture theatres could accommodate up to 500 students, tutorials were meant for smaller numbers. There were forums for discussion and analysis. Assignments could be submitted online. The facilities in the university were incredible: Computer terminals, printers, pay phones, a tourist shop, a convenience store, ATMs, vending machines, a book shop and even a pub for the more adventurous, were all there for the staff and students. Cafés were meeting points for the bored, the fun loving and the intellectuals. I can recall several occasions when

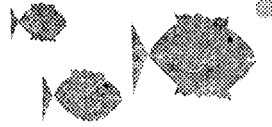


I saw students scribbling away on napkins and tissues in the café – couldn't help wondering if there wasn't another J.K Rowling in the making!

Being in Melbourne, I was in a shopper's paradise. Even those who think shopping a chore will definitely find perceptions undergoing a radical change! In Melbourne, shopping is an art and a pleasure. Public transport is excellent and the places of interest, innumerable. There are sprawling parks, sunny beaches, shopping malls, sanctuaries, zoos, orchards, vine-yards, river-cruises, casinos, aquariums and museums, to name a few of the many attractions that the city offers.

And then, homecoming. Chennai is home sweet home, but the difficulty I had in adjusting to

the place and the old routines surprised me. Constantly answering queries about my stay there made me feel even more distanced from present circumstances, initially at least. I learnt how the term 'homesick' could be double-edged and far more complex than it seems. I had seen a whole new world, another world, if only for a short time. From my experience, I would strongly advocate it to others as well. If you do have the chance, go for it, or try and make the opportunity come to you instead. Studying abroad is not an elitist, snobbish activity that is reserved for a small minority. It is a humbling adventure and learning experience. So forget what I said in the beginning about balloons popping - inflate them and proudly behold them flying high instead.



# Botanical Wedding

*Princy Noela A  
II B.SC Plant Biology  
And Plant Biotechnology*

Mr. and Mrs. LAMIACEAE and family,

Cordially invite you  
To the wedding of their son

**LEUCAS ASPERA**

With

**TRIDAX PROCUMBENS**

D/O MR & MRS. ASTERACEAE

The wedding ceremony will take place at the  
**BOTANICAL GARDENS OOTY** and will be

Solemnized and blessed by

Rev. Father GREGOR JOHANN MENDEL

Father of MENDELISM at 6.00pm.

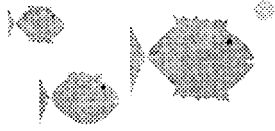
This will be followed by a reception.

With Compliments :

HYPTIS SUAVEOLENS (Brother)

&

MENTHAVIRIDIS (Sister)



# Would My Clone Love Calvin & Hobbes Too?

Nisha Padmanaban  
II B.Sc. Zoology

It is uncanny to see yourself, not in the mirror, but in someone else, or literally as someone else: a possibility that is not sci-fi anymore but could be a reality in the near future! The pace at which technology and scientific discoveries are growing is astonishingly rapid and one amongst them is 'human cloning', a dynamite concept, which is highly controversial in the scientific arena.

A clone literally means 'carbon copy'. Cloning would be to make a replica of the original. Animal cloning started successfully with creating Dolly, a sheep. The basic methodology behind cloning is quite ingenious. The genetic material or the nucleus of the donor adult cell is removed, and transferred to an egg cell whose nucleus has been previously removed. To many, cloning is only 'recreating an organism/individual' (reproductive cloning) which is partially true. There also exists another approach. Therapeutic cloning involves usage of stem cells of an embryo, which is primarily derived from an adult genome for organ replacements. This has been legalized in a few countries, whereas reproductive cloning is still regarded unethical and illegal in others. The stem cells have the potential to differentiate into adult cells of a particular tissue, required by the patient to treat the organ failure. Thus, cells of one's own genetic constitution when introduced into the body will be rejected by the immune system. This therapeutic strategy has an explosive

application in the field of medicine.

The number of arguments questioning the ethics of cloning is innumerable. To obtain stem cells needed for organ replacements, a five-day embryo has to be killed. Is this equivalent to killing an infant? To kill a bowl of cells and to see a baby killed! Does it trigger the same emotions in the on-looker? For some yes, but not for the rest. Defining when life begins in the embryo, or rather defining life itself, poses problems. Where therapeutic cloning involves termination of an embryo, reproductive cloning allows the embryo to grow into an adult. The individuality or the uniqueness of the original donor is questioned when a clone is produced. Is there a need to create a clone of one, against the law of nature? If a couple loses their three year old child, are they justified in making a clone of their lost child? These questions cannot be easily answered. But even if the answer is yes, the clone would only look identical to the original child, the reality is that they would never be the same. Now, why is that?

The genome of every individual is unique. To a very large extent, our genetic constitution rules our 'being'. But, it is not the absolute and only factor that defines us. The fundamental question, 'Is it the genes or the environment that makes us,' crops up again. This highlights itself especially in the context of human behaviour and thought. Even though there exist many genes that govern our mental faculties,



our mental constitution and behaviour today is a resultant of how our life has been till date, reflecting the varied inputs we have received over these years. Thus, the mental sphere of the individual is determined both by genetic and environmental factors.

'The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed.' The man, who said the above, Einstein, was known to be a brilliant scientist. Hypothetically, if he were cloned, his clone (hereby christened Einstein junior as he would be younger) and he would be genetically identical to each other. But the clone could grow up to be like the original Einstein or could shock the world by being someone like Elvis Presley. The environment that Einstein junior is brought up would constitute a significant factor in defining who he would be. Thus, the mental sphere of Einstein junior would not be exactly that of Einstein himself. Such is the uniqueness of the human mind. There can be no replicas. No clones. The evolution of the mind from a child to an adult is highly complex, and not just a physiological process. It develops from the physical, emotional, mental and social inputs it receives from its birth, sometimes even in pre-natal conditions. Thus at the end of the day, a clone remains only a genetic clone.

Human reproductive cloning is a fascinating prospect because man has in his hands the

power to recreate himself. We see this phenomenon in nature in the form of identical twins who have the same genetic constitution. They are living proof that it's not all about the genes or the environment. Most often, identical twins are brought up in similar environments. Yet, they grow up to be two different people. The number of 'whys' increases as you probe deeper, as there are so many processes that remain a mystery in nature.

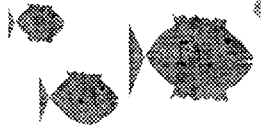
Man's successful attempt at cloning is not entirely complete. There are many deleterious effects seen in the cloned organisms whose causes remain unknown to man. A commonly observed effect is accelerated ageing, which has been attributed to a genetic cause. It is interesting to note that a man-made clone, within a few years of its birth shows physiological signs indicative of an older age. It would be quite strange if the same were to be seen in a human clone, wouldn't it?

Human cloning is not just a technique to be discussed by those involved in scientific pursuit. Its consequences must be comprehended on a broader scale. People need to truly understand what cloning can and cannot do for us.

The above passage is the conclusion. So, what's this last paragraph for? When will I get to the part about Calvin and Hobbes? About now. Bill Watterson's comic creation puts a huge grin on my face. But whether or not it would do the same to my clone would be quite impossible to figure out for the above-mentioned reasons!

\* Which by itself is completely unrelated to the article! It was purely included to prevent mighty sedation if the alternative choice of title, 'Cloning at a Glance' was used.





# Leaves from the Wordsmiths

## **Ethnicity**

A stranger's eyes look on  
Eager for traces of  
Ethnicity  
Dhoti-clad, half-naked men  
Schoolboys in slippers  
Exhausted mounds of boards  
Homes, unofficially.  
Ethnicity?

Let's play the host  
All secrets are where they have been  
Hidden under that russet skin  
Surely it's not  
Tough to play host?

A tourist, a host, a stranger  
Look on.  
Pairs of eyes that belong  
And don't belong.

## **Spotlight**

The rings of light  
From the lampposts  
Are too faint.  
Hurried footsteps  
Anxious to make it on time.  
We don't excite anyone  
Just keep still.

Not so far away  
Night-lights betray.  
Everything is in spotlight:  
What are my chances?

*Nirmala Iswari  
I B. A Literature*

## **A Bundle of Joy**

When the little one was born  
The father stormed into the room with scorn  
For he was not overwhelmed with joy  
And loudly proclaimed, "Hell! I only want a  
boy!"

He cursed the gods and his wife  
For giving him a girl and ruining his life  
"Of what use can this child be,  
To a man who has no money, like me?"

He swore at the mid-wife who  
Had delivered his daughters two.  
One was still alive; one was killed  
By her own father whose heart was chilled.

"Trouble, trouble and a wasteful burden,  
That is all she will be. This little demon!"  
He pointed and shouted at the little one  
Hoping that his screams would turn her into a  
son.

Was she killed? Was she spared?  
Nobody knew and nobody cared!

*Meenakshi Alliappan  
II  
B.Sc.Plant Biology and  
Bio-technology*

## The Night Affair

Headlights dimmed, eyes on gate  
Dozing gate lights woken up -  
And crash the gates are thrown open.  
Music dims and engine's put to sleep.  
She stands still and unruffled.  
Tobacco smell intoxicates the air as  
Turbaned watchman opens the house  
Calm and quiet descends again.  
Stealthy steps tiptoe to the gate.  
Outside, the iron-man's coals still burn.  
The neem tree fans herself and  
Her yellow squashed fruits lie still,  
Dispelling heavy scents into the night.  
The house is quiet but breathes.  
Legs fold at the neem's roots.  
Neck strained, soft blinking eyes  
Stare up through the chiselled leaves.  
Moonlight weaves in and out,  
Through the leaves, creating a kaleidoscope.  
The white orb slides in and out  
The light slithering towards her branches  
To his yak-yak friend - Lady of the night.  
He flirts with her till she laughs,  
Throwing back her head and shaking  
Till fruits fall dispersed.  
Legs unfold and scurry back inside  
Eyes turn back and look  
The moonlight-neem tree saga continues.

*Lakshmy Ramanathan  
II B.A. English*

## Simply 'God's Own'

Kerala! What a beautiful find,  
A heaven is what comes to mind!  
Houses and roads surrounded by greenery,  
A handsome picture of fantastic scenery.  
Have you ever seen such a serene land?  
A perfect image for a painter's hand,  
Time and again the camera clicks,  
Yet there's more to come as each scene flicks,  
Houseboats, cruise-boats and catamarans alike,  
Cutting through water, what a delightful sight!  
It increases its awe with the sands of time;  
A reflection of God, not just another sign!

*Saima Banu  
III B.C.A*



## உடைந்தெறிந்து வெளியே வா!

இளைஞனே!

இன்று நீ சிக்கியிருப்பது  
இரும்புச் சிறையிலல்ல  
இன்பச்சிறையில்

இதன் ஒருபக்கத்தை அறிந்த நீ  
ஏன் மறுபக்கத்தை அறிய மறந்துவிட்டாய்?

இச்சிறையை  
கட்டியவன் நீ  
தாழ்பாள் இட்டவனும் நீ!

உடைத்தெறிந்து வெளியே வா!

இந்த உலகம்  
உன் இரும்புக்கரங்களின் பலத்தை நம்பியே  
இயங்கி வருகிறது!

சோம்பலை விடுத்து  
உற்சாகத்தை உடுத்து!

இன்றைய உன் முயற்சி  
நாளைய முறியடிப்பு!

இன்றைய உன் வியர்வைத்துளி  
நாளைய விருட்சம்!

உருவாக்கு நம் இந்தியாவை  
உயர்ந்த சிகரமாய்  
உன் சிறையை உடைக்கும்  
கற்களைச் சேர்த்து!

உடைத்தெறிந்து வெளியே வா

சூ. மார்கரெட் சோனியா  
IIInd Year Plant Biology and  
Plant Biotechnology



## இவையே இன்று! நமக்கு வேண்டும் !

உலகில் ஒற்றுமை நிலவ வேண்டும்  
உன்னத அமைதி நிலைக்க வேண்டும்!  
கலக்க மில்லா மனமே வேண்டும்  
கருத்தில் ஒற்றுமை ஓங்க வேண்டும்  
நல்லதை நாளும் விதைக்க வேண்டும்  
நல்லதேயாரும் நினைக்க வேண்டும்  
குலமோ இனமோ பார்க்கா வண்ணம்  
குணத்தில் ஒற்றுமை வளர்க்க வேண்டும்!

சுனாமிப் பேரலை வந்த போது  
சுற்றம் உறவு யார்தான் பார்த்தார்  
கனவா நினைவா என்பதற்குள்ளே  
கடலலை பலரை வாரிக் கொண்டது  
அந்த நேரம் அந்த மக்கள்  
யாரும் இனத்தைப் பார்க்கவில்லை  
சொந்தம் பந்தம் மொழியோ, நாடோ  
எந்தப் பிரிவும் ஏற்க வில்லை

இந்திய மக்கள் மட்டும் அல்ல  
இந்தோனேசியா மட்டும் அல்ல  
இந்தத் தரணி மக்கள் மனதில்  
இதமாய்ப் பூத்தது மனித நேயம்!  
எப்படி எப்படி உதவினர் என்பதை  
எடுத்துச் சொல்ல வார்த்தை இல்லை  
அப்படி இருந்த ஒருமைப் பாட்டை  
அகிலம் முழுவதும் கண்டோம்! மகிழ்ந்தோம்!!

மனித நேயம் உலக மெங்கும்  
மலர்ந்து நின்றதை சுனாமியால் கண்டோம்  
புனித பூமியாய் இந்திய நாட்டில்  
பொங்கியது தங்கியது மனித நேயம்!  
மனித நேயம் மனதில் இருந்ததால்  
மதிப்பிலா ஒற்றுமை தரணியில் வளர்ந்தது  
தனியாய் உயர்வது ஒற்றுமை அல்ல  
அகிலம் இணைந்து உயர்வதே உயர்வு!

டாக்டர். விஜயலட்சுமி இராமசாமி  
விரிவுரையாளர் - தமிழ்த்துறை



## ஒற்றுமை

அண்ணல் காந்தியின்  
அமைதிப் போராட்டமெனும்  
அகிம்சையால்

பெற்ற சுதந்திர  
கீர்டத்தை  
இன்னும் நாம்  
சூடிக் கொள்ளவில்லையே!

காரணம் ஒற்றுமை  
மறந்த வேற்றுமை

அமைதிப் புரட்சியில்  
அழகாய் மலர்ந்த

சுதந்திர பூமி  
இன்று ஊழல் புரட்சியில்  
மாற்றம் அடைந்ததால்

வறுமை நமக்கு  
வாரித் தந்தது  
வெறுமைகளை

அன்பு நண்பர்!  
வெறுமைகளை நாம்  
பெற்றதற்கு அடிப்படை  
ஒற்றுமை இல்லாமையே!

ஒற்றுமைக்குப் புகழ் சேர்ப்போம்!  
உண்மைக்குத் தோள் கொடுப்போம்!  
நன்மைக்கு நம்மையே அளிப்போம்!

டாக்டர். உலகநாயகி பழனி  
தமிழ்த்துறைத் தலைவர்



## भटकता मन

किसी गाँव में एक संत रहते थे. वे हर रोज एक पेड़ के नीचे बैठ ध्यानमग्न रहते। उस पेड़ के पास एक नदी बहती थी। एक खूबसूरत लड़की हर रोज नदी से पानी लेने आती थी। एक दिन ध्यान भंग होने पर संत की नज़र उस लड़की पर पड़ी। तब से हर रोज उनका ध्यान उस लड़की की आहट से भंग होने लगा। अपने मन को नियंत्रित करने हेतु उसने आँखों पर पट्टी बांध ली। फिर भी उनके कान उसके कंगन की आवाज सुन उन्हें विचलित करने लगे। उन्होंने अपने दोनों कान भी बंद कर लिए आँख और कान दोनों के बंद होने पर उनका मन विचारमग्न हो गया। अरे उस लड़की के आने का समय हो गया वह अब तक आई क्यों नहीं ?

कु. प्रीति,

III B.Sc., Physics



## सुनामी

लहरों के बाद लहरें  
ऊँची ऊँची लहरें आती गईं  
किसे पता कितनों ने  
जान गंवाई।  
लाशों के बाद लाशें  
आती गईं।  
लहरें फिर भी  
बेरोक आती रहीं  
समुद्र ने बिछाया  
ऐसा जाल  
जिंदगी हुई बेहाल  
लुट गई जिंदगियाँ  
मिट गई खुशियाँ  
अब तो लगने लगा है  
समुद्र भी विकराल  
जिन लहरों ने  
लिए है इतने प्राण  
विज्ञान ने दिया  
उसे सुनामी नाम।



आशा जैन,

II B.A. English

## पल भर की जिंदगी

पल भर की है जिंदगी  
जरा हमें भी जीने दो  
लड़की हूँ तो क्या  
स्वच्छंद जीने का अधिकार दो  
इतनी पाबंदियाँ क्यों  
जीवन के रंगों में रंगने दो  
कुछ करने से पूर्व टोकते हो  
स्वच्छंद जीने का अधिकार दो।  
क्या हसीन है नजारा  
परिवर्तन है कितना सारा  
लेने दो हमें जीवन का मजा  
स्वच्छंद जीने का अधिकार दो।  
हम भी सपने देखते हैं  
बड़े हों या छोटे  
वे सब हमारे अपने हैं  
लड़की कहकर क्यों ठुकराते हो  
स्वच्छंद जीने का अधिकार दो।  
हमें भी लड़कों सी आजादी दो  
स्वच्छंद घूमने की इजाजत दो  
हमपर विश्वास करना सीखो  
फिर हमारा करिश्मा देखो।

प्रीति ए थॉमस,  
II BA Economics



## सुनामी का न्याय

रामू ने क्रोध भरे स्वर में कहा-‘वह सेठ खुद को समझता क्या है ? पैसे का इतना गुरुर तो मैंने आज तक किसी और में नहीं देखा। मानवीयता तो उसमें जैसे है ही नहीं।’ उसके मित्र ने कहा ‘भई...नसीब वाला है। आजकल तो पैसा है तो सब कुछ है....शान, मान, इज्जत सब कुछ तो पैसा देता है।’

रामू ने पसीना पोंछते हुए कहा-‘सब कुछ किस्मत का खेल है।’

सात ही दिन बीते होंगे। सुनामी की विनाशकारी लहरों ने कई लोगों के घरों को अपनी चपेट में ले लिया। आज सेठ और उसका कर्मचारी रामू एक साथ राहत कैंप में बैठे चाय पी रहे हैं।’

कु. आविशी,  
III B.Sc. Plant Biology &  
Bio-Technology



**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI - 600 086****LIST OF OVERALL PERCENTAGE OF PASSES***April - 2005*

| CLASS                                  | APPREARED | PASSED | % OF PASS |
|--|-----------|--------|-----------|
| B.A.                                   |           |        |           |
| History                                | 49        | 33     | 67.35     |
| Sociology                              | 50        | 38     | 76.00     |
| Economics                              | 59        | 48     | 81.36     |
| Fine Arts                              | 36        | 30     | 83.33     |
| English                                | 59        | 46     | 77.97     |
| B.Com.                                 |           |        |           |
| Section - A                            | 70        | 62     | 88.57     |
| Section - B                            | 150       | 134    | 89.33     |
| B.Sc.                                  |           |        |           |
| Mathematics                            |           |        |           |
| Section - A                            | 63        | 57     | 90.48     |
| Section - B                            | 48        | 41     | 85.42     |
| Physics                                | 62        | 55     | 88.71     |
| Chemistry                              | 47        | 40     | 85.11     |
| Plant Biology & Plant<br>Biotechnology | 51        | 50     | 98.04     |
| Zoology                                | 48        | 37     | 77.08     |
| B.C.A.                                 | 75        | 66     | 88.00     |
| M.A.                                   |           |        |           |
| International Studies                  | 9         | 9      | 100.00    |
| Economics                              | 12        | 12     | 100.00    |
| Fine Arts                              | 13        | 8      | 61.54     |
| English                                | 17        | 16     | 94.12     |
| M.S.W.                                 |           |        |           |
| Social Work                            | 27        | 26     | 96.30     |
| M.Sc.                                  |           |        |           |
| Mathematics                            | 31        | 28     | 90.32     |
| Information Technology                 | 22        | 21     | 95.45     |
| Bioinformatics                         | 17        | 17     | 100.00    |
| P.G.D.C.S.                             | 2         | 2      | 100.00    |



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I, Annamma Philip, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date : **15-08-2005**

Signature of Publisher : Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, *fmm, Ph.D.*

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