

Stella Maris COLLEGE



60

Diamond Jubilee

1947-2007

Stella Maris College

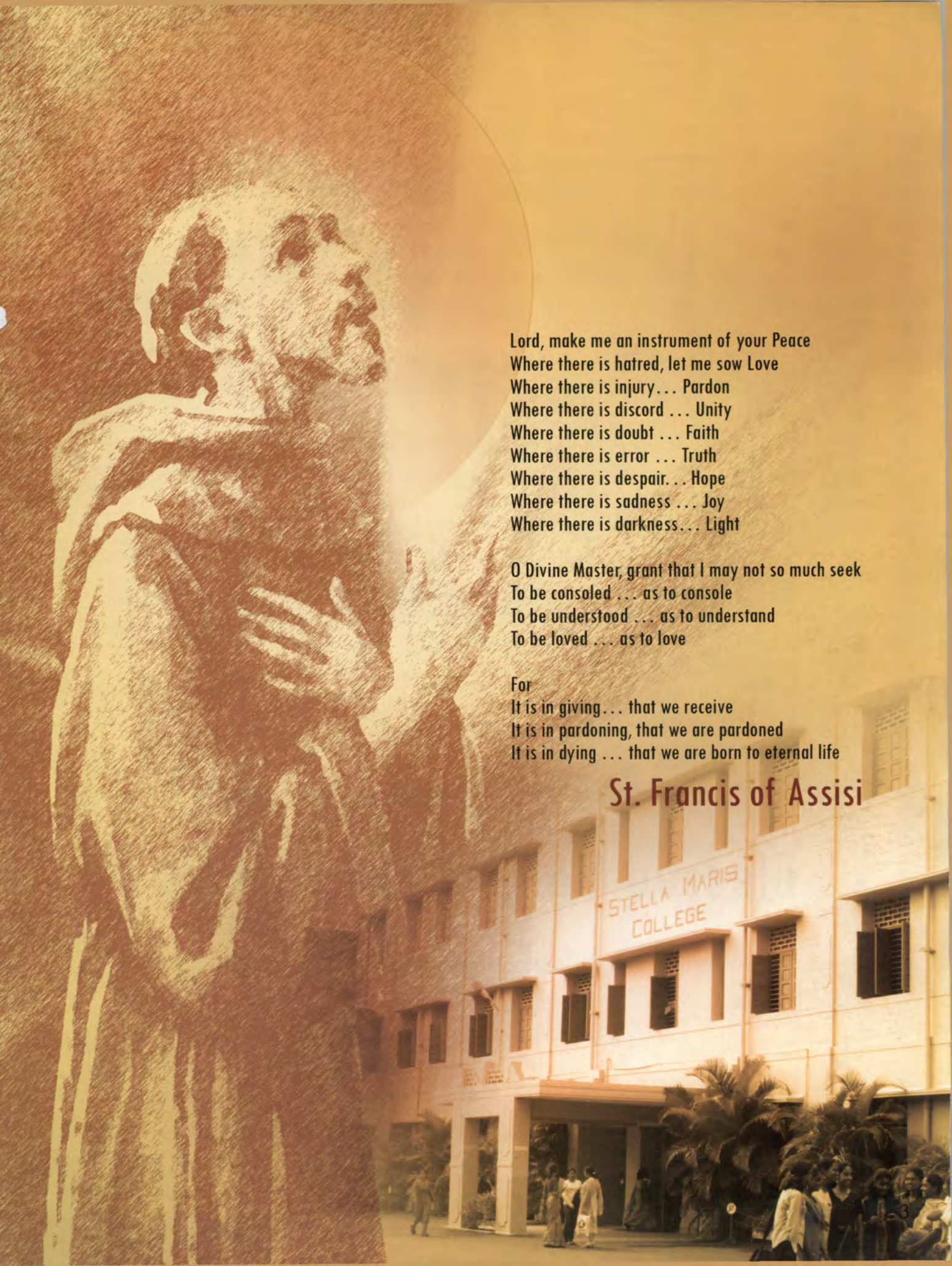


Stella
Maris
College
Diamond
Jubilee
2006-07

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1947-2007

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Lord, make me an instrument of your Peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow Love
Where there is injury... Pardon
Where there is discord ... Unity
Where there is doubt ... Faith
Where there is error ... Truth
Where there is despair... Hope
Where there is sadness ... Joy
Where there is darkness... Light

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled ... as to console
To be understood ... as to understand
To be loved ... as to love

For
It is in giving ... that we receive
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned
It is in dying ... that we are born to eternal life

St. Francis of Assisi



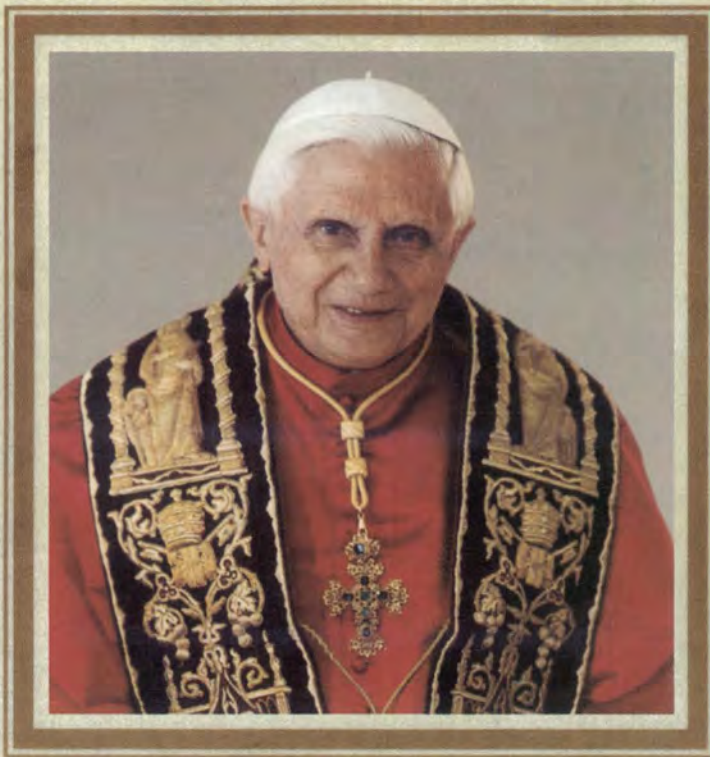
Blessed Mary of the Passion

1839-1904

Foundress of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary

*Happy is the simple soul, who lives in the
transparency of truth and charity*

- Mary of the Passion



His Holiness Benedict XVI
cordially imparts the requested
Apostolic Blessing to the
Franciscan Missionaries of
Mary of Stella Maris Convent,
Chennai - India
and to the Staff and Students
of Stella Maris College
on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee
and invokes an abundance of divine graces

Ex Aedibus Vaticanis, die 2.6.2007

+ *Onor. Rizzato*
Archiepiscopus
Ecclesiarum Summi Pontificis



Chief Editor

Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm

Editors

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Dr. Sr. Colleen North fmm

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Photographs

Dr. Razia Tony

Ms. A. Jhansi

Cover Design

Ms. Samyukta Baliga I MA Fine Arts

Ms. Durgalakshmi Gopalan

Ms. Swapna Satish

Secretarial Assistance

Ms. Rameswari

Ms. Premi S.

Design and Layout

Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm

M. Selvam

Mr. Jesu Durai

Technical Assistance

Mr. Murali Krishnan

From the Editor's desk...

A Jubilee is a time for celebration, a time for introspection and a time to look ahead with renewed vigour and vision.

The Diamond Jubilee of Stella Maris was a joyous occasion and a special milestone in the annals of the college, an anniversary that everyone on campus looked forward to.

For many who lived through the Silver Jubilee and Golden Jubilee, it was a time to celebrate joyously their labour of love.

This 60th anniversary souvenir offers the Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumnae, Well Wishers, Parents and Friends a glimpse of the programmes and activities of the institution in the Diamond Jubilee year.

The strong affiliation that a Stella Marian has for her Alma Mater is expressed in the messages that we have received from several persons who have left indelible marks in the history of this great institution.

The pages also elucidate the growth and development of the institution through the history of the various departments, with several pictures from the past, rekindling in Stella Marians a fiery passion for their Alma Mater, and in others, a calling to be part of its lasting legacy.

The need to contribute to the educational process is realised through the many scholarships instituted by the Management, Faculty, Alumnae, Students, Benefactors and Friends.

Never before has Stella Maris seen such large gatherings and active participation in events and programmes which captivated everyone on campus.

The Principal and Editorial Committee hope that you enjoy leafing through the pages as much as we have enjoyed bringing this souvenir to you.

Stella Maris College 1947-2007

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Results April 2007

From the desk of the Principal...



Sixty years is a long time in the life of an institution that has grown from its infancy to become Stella Maris College, a glorious shining star in the firmament of higher education in India and more particularly women's education in the city of Chennai.

I feel honoured to have been closely and intimately associated with the evolution and growth of Stella Maris College for the last thirty-four years. I joined the college as a faculty member in the Silver Jubilee year and I have been privileged to serve this great institution till its Diamond Jubilee.

Images flash in rapid succession as I look back at this long and enriching association as a student of the Pre-University course and B.Sc. Chemistry before joining the convent, as a lecturer, as a Vice-Principal and as a Principal.

■ To speak of what I have given to the college would take only a few lines...I gave of my best, I gave myself heart and soul to this glorious landmark of Higher Education for women.

■ To speak of what the college has given to me would take an impossible number of reams of paper. Stella Maris formed and shaped my character, permitted me to evolve along with it all the while offering me impossible mountains to scale, meandering rivers to ford and letting me discover the tools required to do so.... "Thought

is the sculptor who can create the person you want to be", said Henry David Thoreau and Stella Maris College certainly gave me ample opportunity to think.

■ To speak of what Stella Maris means to me, I do not find adequate words. What does the star say to the night sky? What does the grain of sand say to the vast desert? What does the little drop of water say to the wide ocean?

'There came a time when the risk to remain tight in the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom' said Anais Nin and Stella Maris gave me the courage to blossom. I am linked intimately to every blade of grass, every bush and tree, to every thing in this beautiful campus. The faces of countless persons who have crossed my path flash before my eyes: of Sisters, of Faculty, of staff, of students, of parents, of well-wishers and of benefactors. Every single encounter has left an indelible mark on me. I remember them with gratitude and respect.

I only know that wherever I am, whatever I become, Stella Maris will always remain an integral part of me, at the very core of my being. All that is best in me is what Stella Maris has given. As Anais Nin said, "The dream was always running ahead of me. To catch up, to live for a moment in unison with it, that was the miracle". That hopefully will be what Stella Maris will be to posterity – a miracle.



தலைமைச்செயலகம்,
சென்னை - 600 009

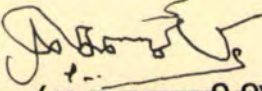
மு.கருணாநிதி
முதலமைச்சர்

வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி

சென்னை ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் கல்லூரியின் வைரவிழா கொண்டாடப்படுவதும், அதனையொட்டிச் சிறப்பு மலர் வெளியிடப்படவிருப்பதும் அறிந்து மகிழ்கிறேன்.

இந்தியத் திருநாடு சுதந்திரம் எய்திய 1947 ஆகஸ்டு திங்கள் 15ஆம் நாள் அன்று தோன்றிய “ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் கல்லூரி” சென்னை மாநகரின் மையப்பகுதியில் அமைந்து, கடந்த 60 ஆண்டுகளாக ஆயிரக்கணக்கான மகளிர்க்கு உயர்கல்வி வழங்கித் தன்னாட்சி பெற்ற கல்லூரியாகவும் உயர்ந்து, தமிழகத்தின் உன்னதமான கல்லூரிகளில் ஒன்றாகத் திகழ்கிறது. திராவிட முன்னேற்றக் கழக அரசு இந்தியாவிலேயே முதன்முறையாக மகளிர்க்கு அரசு வேலைவாய்ப்புகளில் 30 விழுக்காடு இட ஒதுக்கீடு, பெற்றோர் சொத்தில் சம உரிமை, உள்ளாட்சி அமைப்புகளில் 33 விழுக்காடு இட ஒதுக்கீடு எனச் சட்டங்கள் நிறைவேற்றிச் செயல்படுத்தியதன் மூலம் தமிழகத்தில் பெண்கள் பெறும் உயர்கல்வியின் மதிப்பு மிகுந்தது. இந்நிலையில் தரமான உயர்கல்வி வழங்குவதில் முனைந்து பாடுபடும் இக்கல்லூரி நிர்வாகத்திற்கும், ஆசிரியர்கள், மாணவியர் அனைவர்க்கும் என் பாராட்டுகள்.

துமிழக மகளிர் சமுதாய முன்னேற்றத்தின் வெற்றி வாயில்களில் ஒன்றாகத் திகழும் ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் கல்லூரியின் வைரவிழா நிகழ்ச்சிகள் சிறப்பாக நிகழவும், விழாமலர் மகளிர் கல்வியின் மாண்புகளைப் புலப்படுத்திடவும் என் உளமார்ந்த நல்வாழ்த்துகள் உரித்தாகுக.

அன்புடன்,

(மு.கருணாநிதி)

பெறுநர்

டாக்டர் சகோதரி அன்னம்மா பிலிப்,
முதல்வர்,
ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் கல்லூரி,
சென்னை-600 086.



Most Rev A. M. CHINNAPPA SDB DD Ph.D
ARCHBISHOP OF MADRAS - MYLAPORE

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE
41 SANTHOME HIGH ROAD
CHENNAI - 600 004.
Tel.: 044-2464 1102
044-2464 0833
Fax : 044-2464 1999
E-mail: archmsml@vsnl.com
bishopamc@yahoo.com

Seasons Greetings!

I hear this is the Diamond Jubilee of Stella Maris College. At the outset, I offer my heartfelt congratulations, felicitations and prayerful solidarity to you on behalf of the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore. May the college continue to render its indispensable share in the empowerment of the poor and the marginalized students entrusted to your care, for many more years to come.

'Stella Maris (Star of the Sea) – hope of humanity' always stood for its motto – Truth and Charity. The educated masses of the city of Chennai and others stand witness to the high quality of education and the incomparable standard of life they received from you.

All my predecessors, particularly Archbishop Dr. Louis Mathias, sdb, would definitely be content and proud from heaven for what they envisaged while handing over the De Monte property for the purpose of setting up a first grade college for women in this part of the country.

I would draw your attention to the *signs of the times*— empowerment of the poorer section through education envisaged by the All India Catholic Education Policy which is an expression of the mission of Jesus Christ and the Church.

I take this opportunity to place on record my sincere appreciation and heartfelt recognition of your selfless commitment and sacrifice to the cause of education and total empowerment of all our women.

With my cordial blessings and assurance of prayers

Your servant in Christ

+

+ Most Rev. Dr. A. M. Chinnappa, SDB,
Archbishop of Madras - Mylapore





Rt. Rev. Dr. Lawrence Pius D.

Auxiliary Bishop of Madras-Mylapore

Tel.: 044-2464 1102

044-2464 0833

Fax : 044-2464 1999

E-mail: archmsml@vsnl.com



Greetings from the Archbishop's House!

Happy to know that Stella Maris is celebrating SIXTY YEARS of its existence and that you are bringing out a Souvenir to mark this important event.

From a humble beginning, with a handful of students in 1947, Stella Maris has grown to a full-fledged autonomous institution with thousands on its rolls studying in different streams of education – arts, science and commerce.

Hearty congratulations to the Management, Staff and Students for all the achievements and awards. You have shown great initiative in promoting the empowerment of women and giving them a place under the sun!

With my most cordial blessings and assurance of prayers

Devotedly yours in Christ

+ Rt Rev Dr Lawrence Pius D
Auxiliary Bishop & Vicar General

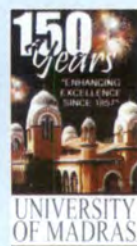




UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS

(Established under the Act of Incorporation XXVII of 1857 - Madras University Act 1923)
(State University)

CHEPAUK - CHENNAI - 600 005



Prof. S. RAMACHANDRAN

M.Sc., Ph.D., Ph.,D., (MIAMI)

Vice-Chancellor

This has been a significant year for us, as various milestones have been crossed: by our motherland India—celebrating 60 years of Independence, by our very own University of Madras—celebrating the 150th year of its founding and by Stella Maris College—celebrating its Diamond Jubilee.

It gives me great pleasure to greet the management, Principal, faculty, staff and students of Stella Maris College as they celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the College since they have the unique privilege of sharing this very historic moment with all our Indian brethren, August 15, 1947.

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, an order founded by the recently beatified Mother Mary of the Passion have had an extraordinary role to play in the field of higher education in Chennai. Under the able guidance of many visionary Principals and the management, their holistic approach to education has brought many laurels to the institution. With their dedicated faculty and committed staff, generations of students have

passed through the portals of Stella Maris College to be able to take their rightful place as talented and compassionate professionals, leaders, entrepreneurs and homemakers.

One of the earliest colleges to have become autonomous, the high standards of the Institution have been recognized by bodies such as the UGC and NAAC and it has earned a significant spot on the international map of higher education. Innovative courses that cater to the needs of women in society are regularly begun and we have seen Stella Maris successfully evolved in response to the changing academic horizon.

I have no doubt that this institution spawned by the University of Madras will continue to make us proud and be a gleaming pole star in the academic horizon.

Congratulations on completing 60 memorable years, wish you all the very best for the decades to come! May your light shine forth strong and sure!

(S. RAMACHANDRAN)

Prof. Dr. D. VISWANATHAN

B.E. (Mech.), M.E.(Prod.), Ph.D. (Mech-Met).
F.I.E., I.I.M., I.S.N.T., I.I.Pe., I.S.T.E..

Vice - Chancellor



ANNA UNIVERSITY

CHENNAI 600 025 INDIA

Phone : +91-44-22351445

: +91-44-22353445

Fax : +91-44-22350397



It is a matter of great joy that one of the most prestigious educational institutions of South India is setting foot in its Diamond Jubilee of service. Stella Maris College has been acclaimed as one of the reputed colleges in the whole region rendering yeoman service to the cause of women's education for the past sixty years with the rare distinction of having been founded on our nation's independence and freedom of knowledge, thought and action, particularly of women.

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, who run the college have been empowering women with education, thus leading them to become independent thinkers. Teaching is a uniquely demanding profession because the work of teachers is evaluated not only in terms of what teachers do but also in terms of what the students do. The students' intelligence, adaptability, creativity and general configuration of personality are important determiners of how much impact an educational institution can have on its students.

Stella Maris College is an Alma Mater to many illustrious women who have proved themselves significant contributors to the development of our nation. The various distinctions that have been conferred on the college, such as autonomy and the five star status conferred by NAAC bear ample testimony to the name and fame of the college.

It is my ardent hope that the programmes planned by the college for this memorable Diamond Jubilee year bring renewed strength and vigour to its efforts to equip many young women of this knowledge era with the advantages of higher education.

The publication of a souvenir on this occasion is an appreciable initiative as such a souvenir would be a lifetime record of the proceedings of the various programmes planned as a part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. I wish the management, staff and students of the college great success in all their academic pursuits.

(D. VISWANATHAN)



Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni fmm
*Secretary of the College (2003–) and
Former Vice-Principal*

The Lord has done great things for this institution for the past sixty years through so many dedicated FMM sisters, staff, friends, benefactors and students. A tiny mustard seed was planted on August 15, 1947 and now it has stretched its strong and beautiful branches to all corners of the world. Education is a noble profession which demands commitment, hard work and love for duty. Inculcating values, imparting knowledge and its application to the young women is the mission of this great institution. It is breath-taking to witness life, energy, vitality and activity taking place in every corner of this campus specially on important days of celebration. With folded hands I thank God our heavenly Father for His steadfast and constant love to this institution.

I am extremely happy and feel privileged to be a

part of Stella Maris and offer my felicitations for the yeoman services rendered to young women especially for the uplift of the marginalised in society for the last sixty years. Stella Maris has earned a name for its educational excellence at National and International levels. Thousands of students have passed through the portals of this college imbued with values and empowered to stand on their own feet. My prayer is that this renowned institution's loving service and sacrifice will remain always in the hearts and minds of students who will be ever true to their Alma Mater. My sincere wish is that this institution will celebrate many more glorious years as it forges ahead.

May the abundant blessings of the Almighty remain always with this institution.



Sr. Cecilia Joachim fmm
Provincial, Chennai Province (2003 -)

This is a historical moment for Stella Maris College and the Convent as we celebrate the event of the Diamond Jubilee. It is a landmark in the annals of the Institution over the years. Surely it is a story of faithfulness and dedication, of selfless service and love, handed down from generation to generation as we celebrate these sixty years. We gratefully remember all those who have been part of this Institution and have been the channels of God's abundant blessings.

When the idea to begin a college for women dawned in the minds of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, India had embarked upon its own path to freedom. It was in the mysterious plan of God that both types of freedom should begin on the same day. Higher education based on Gospel values is a process of intellectual, spiritual and human transformation, a process that enhances knowledge and brings about an integral human formation that changes attitudes, beliefs and behaviour leading to all round development. Higher education occupies a crucial position in raising the standard of women and Stella Maris College has been a shining Star bravely sailing to far distant horizons.

The outcome of such a journey with all its uncertainties does not appear overnight. It has taken long years of initiative and hard work of building up an Institution. Sixty years, therefore, is a very significant milestone in the evolution of the college.

By the Grace of God and the relentless and committed service of the FMM sisters, faculty and

staff, we have earned great adulation and recognition nationally and internationally. The success of all our endeavours has undoubtedly been the concerted effort of all who have lived and worked in Stella Maris.

With our hearts full of gratitude may this prayer of thanksgiving rise up to You, God of all gifts and great generosity.

We thank you
God of Mysterious Ways, that You have a holy design for each of us.

We are grateful
For that long line of great people, the sisters, teachers, staff and parents who have inspired us by their faithfulness and dedication to the mission of the college.

Blessed are You
For the dignity and creative challenge of our unique tasks for the work of teaching, guiding, and enabling.

By means of these labours we are able to give flesh to our spiritual dreams.

Blessed are You
For giving us these sixty years of service to young women and as we recall the past may our remembrance enable us to more fittingly prepare for the future.

And may the Blessing of God, rest upon all of us this Diamond Jubilee year and forever.



Sr. Sheila O'Neill fmm, (Sr. Joseph Michael)

*Former Head, Dept. of English,
Vice-Principal (1963–66) and
Principal (1966–68)*

Stella Maris College is sixty years young. Felicitations on this joyful Diamond Jubilee! When I think of Stella Maris, the first word that comes to me is LIFE! It has always been a source and centre of life, from its humble beginnings in 1947 with just 32 students in somewhat cramped quarters, to the great institution of higher learning it is today. When I joined the Stella Maris community at the end of 1950, the college was less than two-and-half years old, and still very small, but already fully alive. I have seen it grow and blossom and give new life to thousands of students and many others touched and helped by its staff and students.

I recall with gladness some of the big moments of its first sixty years: visits of FMM superiors general, M. Ste. Agnes, Sr. Alma and her whole Council for the Centenary of the FMM Institute, Sr. Maura, Sr. Christiane; of Vice-Chancellors and

Cardinals; the launching of Postgraduate Departments and later of doctoral studies in many disciplines; the new buildings rising one after the other all over the campus; Social Work Camps and International Seminars; the first play performed at the Museum Theatre; the service rendered after the tsunami.... But most of all I remember persons: dedicated women and men on the teaching staff, in the office, in the labs and the gardens, and thousands of students, each unique and precious, living life to the full, giving and receiving life in their Alma Mater and taking it out to share in the wider world.

May God continue to bless each one who is, has been or will be part of Stella Maris College, and may the Star of the Sea always shine brightly on and through your LIFE.

May all blessings shower down on all those wonderful and immensely kind women, both nuns and lay women, lecturers and others, who made my six years at Stella Maris some of the very best years

of my life. The memory of their inspiring example continues to give me joy in my life today.

With much love
From Karin Kapadia.

Ms. Karin Kapadia

*Alumna, Dept. of English
President Students' Union (1971 – 1972)*



Sr. Angela Hurley fmm

*Former Superior, Correspondent and
Provincial, Madras Province (1972–1979)*

Stella Maris, shine on our lives for ever...

These lines from the college anthem evoke nostalgic memories, which live in my heart and echo in my mind!

Sixty years of educational endeavour; achievement and success thousands of young women graduating from Stella Maris College have made a difference, not only throughout India, but in other parts of the world as well. What the 'FOUNDRESSES' envisioned sixty years ago has become a dream fulfilled, thanks to successive Principals, staff and students. It was not always easy, but it became possible. The original aim was not to prepare students to better their own individual prospects within society as it is, but to become more aware of injustice on both the national and international levels, and commit themselves sincerely to change society in order to benefit society as a whole.



Dr. Ms. J. Thangamani,

Former Head, Dept. of Mathematics

I am happy to learn that our college is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee. I look back with a deep sense of gratitude at the years I served as a faculty member in this great institution.

Hearty congratulations on all your glorious

On-going reflection on the 'signs of the times' urged by staff and students together posed searching questions which led to radical action resulting in out-reach programmes which made a huge difference in out-of-school education, and so much more...

May the God of Surprises who enabled the past, bless the present and guide the future of Stella Maris. May students present and future, as did students of the past, collaborate with the Principal, staff and may all together demonstrate a new type of education that is genuinely Indian in inspiration and close to the real needs of Indian Society.

This is my prayer as Stella Maris celebrates its Diamond Jubilee Year.

achievements! May the future continue to be fruitful in the cause of value-based higher education of Indian women.

My best wishes to all Stella Marians, past and present.



On this occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Stella Maris College, I would like to recall that this Institution was the work of God wrought through human hands!

In spite of the growing pains and the accompanying struggles, the college has grown steadily, responding to the challenging patterns and evolving methods of higher education.

It is a joy for me to highlight that all along its journey, Stella Maris has been striving to maintain a wholesome ambience of freedom with responsibility. In the same way, it is continuing to



I feel very proud and privileged to have been part of the Mathematics Department of Stella Maris College, to offer my felicitation on the happy occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Stella Maris College.

I was a student of the Department from 1952 – 1956 and was able to serve the department as a faculty from 1963 – 1992 with a break of three years in between. I have seen its steady growth due to the

Sr. Mary Lily Bernard fmm
*Former faculty, Dept. of Economics,
Provincial, Madras Province (1979–1987) and
Provincial, Bangalore Province*

take a special interest in inculcating in the students a keen sensitivity to the needs of the less fortunate brothers and sisters of our society, leading to relevant action for securing a fair deal for them from all concerned.

These values, I believe, have been strengthening the hands and hearts of Stella Marians as they move on in life to new situations and relationships. My prayer for you in this Diamond Jubilee year is that these values continue to be the hallmark of every Stella Marian in the future.

Congratulations! God bless you all!

Sr. Juliana Xavier fmm
Former Head, Dept. of Mathematics

devoted services of the staff and the encouragement of the management and Principals of the college.

I pray that God may continue to shower His Blessings on the present staff and students of the college as well as on those who will come after them; to continue the work of imparting excellence and relevance in training in all disciplines.



On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the foundation of Stella Maris College, it is my joy to unite in the celebrations with all the alumnae far and wide. I recall with gratitude my six years as a student (1961 – 1967), and as a hostelite, living on campus for two years, a memorable time indeed! These were very formative years in my Christian life and vocation as a Franciscan Missionary of Mary.

Later, my service as member of the faculty and management from 1978 – 1985 gave me the opportunity to participate actively in the life, struggles and growth of the Institution.

It is with much gratitude that I recall today, our many missionary sisters, Foundresses of the College, who through great struggle and hardship laid the foundations of a strong edifice, through their



I am delighted to be able to join the thousands who will be gathering to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Stella Maris College, in offering sincere congratulations on the achievements of these sixty years. What a beautiful record, not only of academic success but also of innovative courses, of dedicated service, especially to those in need! Who can forget the part played by Stella Maris during the tsunami?

unfailing faith and persevering courage, an edifice that has stood the challenge of changing times and varied circumstances. The vision of the Foundresses has enabled the little bark to sail through the storms of time. May the Lord of the harvest give them the reward of their tireless labour.

Time rolls on, the tides change, but the Star of the Sea shines on! May Truth and Charity, the hallmark of the lives of staff and students, past and present, who pass through the portals of Stella Maris, continue to inspire the lives of many in the years to come.

Stella Maris, shine on our lives forever!

*Currently at
Studium–Les Châtelets, France*

Sr. Bernadette Ward fmm, (Mother Catherine)

Former faculty, Dept. of French

I feel proud to have been associated with the college several years as a lecturer. I offer my very best wishes to the present staff and students and join with you in prayer that God may continue to bless and guide the college towards an even brighter future.

*Currently in
Toronto, Canada*



I am happy to know that Stella Maris College is celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of its foundation. The pioneering missionaries with a great vision started this Institution in 1947 for the higher education of women in the city of Madras. The college has made tremendous progress since its foundation and has been rendering excellent service in the field of higher education. Today, it is considered one of the best autonomous colleges in India. It has always aimed at the all-round development of the students, inculcating in them right values and principles with a special commitment to the cause of the less privileged of society.

Thousands of students who have passed through the portals of Stella Maris College are found all over the world doing a lot of good in a spirit of



Congratulations Stella Maris! Praise and thanks to God for all the unique achievements of Stella Maris College during the past 60 years in bringing out the best in thousands of women.

Prayers and Best Wishes for all that Stella Maris College aspires for in the future.

I recollect my past to have been groomed and

love, peace, service and harmony. I am proud to say that I have been associated with Stella Maris College as a student and had the opportunity to serve the Institution in different capacities as a faculty member.

On this occasion I send my prayerful good wishes to the Management, Principal, Staff, Students and Parents. I pray that the college, under the guidance of Mary, the Star of the Sea, may continue to grow to greater heights, reaching out to everyone in love and service.

May God bless everyone!

*Currently at
Villa Theresa Convent
Mumbai – 400026*

Sr. Mercy PV fmm
*Former faculty, Dept. of Sociology
and Vice-Principal (2001 – 2003)*

bloomed by “Stella Maris” my Alma Mater. Gratitude envelops my being for the experience gained, shared and cherished, having contributed my mite to her growth and development.

*Currently at
Holy Angels Convent,
T.Nagar, Chennai 600017*



Sr. Mary Rose Joseph Pulikottil fmm
*Former Faculty, Dept. of Fine Arts and
Provincial, Chennai Province (1995 – 2003)*

Hearty Congratulations!

It is with great joy that I send my message of felicitation on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the college, my Alma Mater. God, the Almighty, had done great things for the college during the sixty years of its life and growth. The college bears witness to the marvelous ways in which He has watched over the growth of this little sapling from the days when it was planted in St. Thomas Convent, Mylapore, to this day, in the spacious campus of 'The Cloisters' vibrant with life and progress of over three thousand young women. One cannot but thank God enough for His mercies.

I remember the days when I was a student of the Fine Arts Department. It was under the loving guidance of Sr. Edith Tömöry, Sr. Greta (Sr. Silvestra) and Miss Emma that I began to appreciate the world of architecture, sculpture and painting of not only India but of many other countries. The study of Art was not merely academic; it broadened my horizon, gave me a whole world vision of beauty, cultural, historical and traditional treasures of different nations and people, perfection and sanctity. A few years later as an FMM sister, I became a faculty member of the same department. It is a unique department as I remember it because we

were very united and there was a true family spirit among us staff and students. I am ever grateful for all that I received during the years of my study and later as a staff, for all that I was able to impart to the students and for the experience of the bond of fellowship and unity among us, the staff members. We worked hard to bring up the department and at the same time we relaxed and enjoyed the company of one another.

Today, the college can take legitimate pride in the variety of courses it offers, its autonomous status and the recognition of its quality education by NAAC. I congratulate Sr. Annamma and the staff, past and present, for your untiring zeal and efforts for having brought up the college to what it is today. May Mary, the Star of the Sea, continue to be your guiding star helping you to lead the students in the pursuit of wisdom, true knowledge, and joy that comes from serving their brothers and sisters. I assure you of my prayers for the future of the college.

*Currently at
Francescane Missionarie di Maria
Casa Santa Rosa,
Via Anagnina – 2600046,
Grottaferrata, Roma*



What a joy it is for me to offer you my best wishes for the Diamond Jubilee of the College! My days in Stella Maris have left me with unforgettable memories. I can say that they were among the happiest days of my life. I arrived in India in 1947 at the very beginning of my religious life. I was one of the foundresses of Stella Maris and had the privilege of inaugurating the Western Music Department.

In the beginning, there were a few students, since this was offered for the first time in India! My students were very young. I gave half-hour lessons twice a week. Students took lessons for two or three years. With time the college grew and so did the Music Department. Gradually numbers increased and the department became an active, vital part of the college and its functions.

I really had wonderful, talented students. Close ties



“No one lives forever and nothing lasts for long”, but the joy, satisfaction and fulfilment I have had in my 41 long years of association with Stella Maris College shall certainly last till I draw my last breath.

When the first group of seven Franciscan

Sr. Lucile Robitaille fmm (Sr. David).
Former Head, Dept. of Western Music

developed among us. After my return to Canada, we kept in contact through correspondence. Christmas and New Year’s greetings reach me faithfully every year! Several have come to study in the United States and in Europe. I have had visits from several of them. You can just imagine what a joy it was to be together again!

For about a year now, I have been living in our infirmary in Montreal, but I remain close in heart to all of you through unfailing friendship and prayer. May the jubilee gatherings revive happy memories and fill you with thanksgiving to the Lord of life!

I close on this note of gratitude for all my years spent in Stella Maris College, wishing your Alma Mater, the Professors and all who share in its life, continued success in the future, so that many other young students may enjoy an education of the highest quality, the pledge of a fruitful career.

Dr. Ms. Meera R. Paul
*Former Head, Dept. of Zoology and
Vice-Principal (1990 – 1993)*

Missionaries of Mary belonging to six different nationalities came to Santhome, Madras, in obedience to God’s call, the seed of Stella Maris College was sown. The seed, being of the finest quality, developed from a tender plant of just 32 students. Now it has become a big and strong

banyan tree with its branches and roots all over the globe, bearing abundant fruit. The devoted, dedicated and highly disciplined Principals that the college has had are excellent examples of wise and nurturing leadership. Having them at the helm of affairs has made Stella Maris College what it is today. Mother Lillian fmm, (American) was the first Principal when the college started the Natural Sciences; Mother Proincias fmm, was the Principal who took me on the staff; Mother Carla Rosa fmm, Sr. Sheila O'Neill fmm, Sr. Juliet Irene fmm, who sent thirteen of her faculty members, including me, to qualify for Ph.D. under the Faculty Improvement Programme of the UGC. Dr. Sr. Merlyn D'Sa fmm, whom it was my privilege to have had as my student, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent fmm and now we have Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip fmm, – all of whom, I have had the privilege of knowing and working with. Under these stalwarts, Stella Maris has grown from strength to strength, with never a plateau in its history and is continuing to grow. The variety of courses now being offered and the various niches occupied by a stream of young women who have passed out through its portals, bear ample testimony to this fact.

Growth, as experienced by Stella Maris College has been made possible due to the hard work of our highly motivated and sincere faculty members. The student who enters the college at a tender age needs inspiration and someone to believe in her. The teacher became a catalyst, guiding her student to heights much higher than the student had thought herself to be capable of. The teacher considered every student as a masterpiece in the making and felt in her heart that she had been given the sacred function of making this possible; she spared no effort to make the student fit for the role she would need to occupy after she left the protective walls of the college. It is a great joy to hear former students at the Alumnae Association get-togethers share about the qualities they had imbibed from teachers and mentors in the college. I have myself experienced the love and concern of my excellent teachers – Sr. Louise Therese fmm, Sr. Ria

fmm, Sr. Magdalene fmm, Dr. Sr. Eileen Riordan fmm, Ms. N. E. Rajalakshmi, Ms. Visalakshi and Ms. K.N. Shantha, all of whom continue to live in me because of the depth of their sincerity and conviction of values.

I am unable to think of any field where the college has not excelled. One cannot but remember Ms. Mangaladurai, a strict disciplinarian who led many a sports team to victory, Ms. Gita Balachandran and Ms. Felbin Kennedy with their smart cadets who won laurels for their performance at the Republic Day Parade in Delhi, and Ms. Prabha Nair who along with her volunteers brought glory to the NSS—on and on it goes.

The non-teaching staff were always cheerful, obliging and helpful in making the college have a good work environment. The band of loyal supportive staff maintained the surroundings spic and span.

All have had a part in making Stella Maris College what it is today – highly respected, valued and loved. So, it is no wonder that The National Assessment and Accreditation Council has accredited Stella Maris College at the Five Star level among the Autonomous Colleges of India in the year 2000. This is no mean achievement.

Growth is a process—it is never instantaneous. Each one of us who enters or leaves Stella Maris is a building block contributing to this growth. My wish and prayer is that we always remember and realize that: “I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything—but I can do something, and that which I can do, by the grace of God, I will do”.

This will help not only Stella Maris grow more in the coming years but in the long run our beloved country will also grow by the contributions made by us.

May God bless the college and everyone associated with it.



Ms. N. E. Rajalakshmi
Former Head, Dept. of Botany

It gives me immense pleasure to congratulate the Principal, staff and students on the Diamond Jubilee of the college. I worked in this esteemed college in the Department of Botany for 31 years. I found here a sense of dedication, co-operation and understanding among the management, staff and students.

The college was always a pioneering institution in many areas especially in introducing new courses and this is evident by the fact that the college today has many new subjects at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Innovative postgraduate programmes such as Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, International Studies, Public Relations, etc., add to the quest for knowledge and

broadening of vision of the institution. A few departments have research leading to M.Phil. and Ph.D. The college strives not only for academic excellence but also for the all round development of the student, which is very important for the present day.

Both staff and students are involved in social service activities, the hallmark of the college, besides curricular and extra-curricular activities, with a genuine intention of helping humanity. It is also heart-warming to note that the college keeps in touch with the retired staff and alumnae. I wish the college all success and may it grow from strength to strength in its service in the field of higher education.

Sr. Maddelena Lainati fmm
Former faculty, Dept. of Fine Arts

Dear Stella Maris! I still remember one evening of July 1970, when Mother Carla Rosa, our Superior General, told me in Rome that I was chosen to accompany her to India for her official visit to the convents in Tamil Nadu. After that, she would leave me in Stella Maris, where she had left a big portion of her heart.

We, young religious FMM in Rome, knew all the details about the beginnings of Stella Maris, thanks to her lively descriptions. I felt that it will be a privilege to become part of that wonderful family. Dreams and reality started mixing up in my mind, since our departure from Italy at the end of November 1970, until January 30, 1971, when after

months of traveling around to the various FMM convents in Tamil Nadu, we finally landed in Madras and were welcomed to Stella Maris.

My appointment was to the Fine Arts Department, where I taught History of Western Art to the M.A. students from 1971 to 1975. I also taught Greek History for one academic year to the P.U. students of the History Department. Our great Sr. Edith Tömöry, FMM, together with all the sisters and the dedicated staff, helped me to get acquainted with college life. One could not help but feel gratitude for the mutual support that made it easier to overcome the inevitable difficulties.

In spite of the short time that I was allowed to live

and work in the college, this experience had a great impact on my spiritual, psychological, cultural and professional life. I learnt a lot from the college management, staff and students, through the various curricular as well as extra-curricular activities. We always felt very close to each other, and to the less privileged people to whom we were sent, in order to help them reach a new consciousness of their dignity. When I left the college in 1975, as I was called to a different ministry, I felt I had grown tremendously. In August 1976, our Superior General asked me to leave India and come back to Italy, but Stella Maris remained a reference point during all these years.

I was involved in the celebration of the college Silver Jubilee, in 1972, the year when I made my final profession as a Franciscan Missionary of Mary. Now after 35 years, I am happy to express my gratitude to



On completing my Diploma in Physical Education in 1952, I came to know that a vacancy existed in Stella Maris for the post of Physical Directress. I walked in for the interview. Mother Lillian the Principal and Mother Edith the Vice-Principal at that time appointed me straight away!

The college was just five years old and had no proper games field—just a few courts around the hostel building. You can imagine my plight at supervising the students at play! Those days Stella Maris was not the best with respect to sports and we started from scratch. Slowly and steadily we made our mark in the field of Physical Education. We won several trophies in all the games and in the inter-collegiate competitions. Our students represented Madras

all those who helped in bringing this beloved institution to the present level. I wish that many young women may be able to grow in wisdom and in grace, according to the mission statement of the college.

Now, after many different engagements in my province, I am living in a convent near Orvieto, a famous beautiful art town in Umbria. My community formed by 42 sisters, almost all elderly and sick, work and pray for all the people they helped during their long life and mission. I was asked to write the history of our province of Italy, a long history starting from the foundation of the Institute. At the same time I accompany some groups of lay people in different places of Italy. The experience made in India opens new ways to reach out to everybody.

May God bless you all!

Ms. M. Mangaladurai

Former Physical Directress

University, Tamil Nadu State and India in several sports and games. Our athletic team won the prestigious Dr. A. L. Mudaliar Athletic Championship for several years consecutively, much to the envy of others. Initially, Stella Maris was known only for its academic excellence but now it has etched a name for its excellence in sports as well.

I am grateful to all our students who brought credit to this great institution by their deep interest and dedication to sports and games. I congratulate everyone who helped to keep the Stella Maris College colours flying high in every field. I have seen the institution grow from a small plant to a huge tree and I am sure by God's grace Stella Maris will soar to greater heights in the future.



Ms. Arumugalakshmi
Former Head, Dept. of Chemistry

Stella Maris College has grown by leaps and bounds in the last 60 years. There have been new UG and PG programmes every decade. History of Fine Arts, Drawing and Painting has been the crowning glory of the college as it was the only such programme in South India. Infrastructure expansion has also taken place with several new buildings that have come up. The credit goes to the Principal, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, FMM, who has been steering the college for the last 17 years. She has been instrumental in establishing good relations with the society at large and many benefactors have come forward to assist the college in its endeavour to improve the infrastructure facilities.

I entered the college in 1966, when Sr. Annamma was in her III B.Sc. Chemistry class. Sr. Irene Mathias, Principal, who also was a chemist, was



Sr. Christine Antony fmm
*Former Head, Dept. of Sociology,
Dean of Student Affairs and
Vice-Principal (Self-Financing Sections)*

Being actively involved in college for thirty years—1970 to 1997 and 2001 to 2004, I have seen and been involved in the growth of this esteemed institution. The college has always responded to the signs of the times: social considerations and pre-occupations were always present in every aspect of the educational process beginning from the policy

very efficient in managing the timetable or room allotment or ordering of chemicals and apparatus. As faculty, I remember one very thrilling day, that is, every March 31st when the entire salary of three months vacation would be paid in cash in advance. Semester system, CSS programme, Adult Literacy and visits to villages were all introduced by Sr. Irene and later it became a part of the curriculum during Sr. Helen Vincent's tenure as Principal.

The introduction of M.Sc. Chemistry under the leadership of Sr. Annamma has been a boon to the department and a great success also in terms of summer internships, project work and placement.

SMC has on many occasions retained its position as one of the top ten colleges in the country. I pray and hope that it will continue as 'The Best College' in South India and the country!

adopted in making admissions and going through the type of discipline imposed, the life lived in the hostel, the kind of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, dealing with parents and alumnae and even the way in which the curriculum was handled. Efforts were not lacking to motivate the students to be responsible citizens by creating awareness of the

life and problems of the community around them and in the country at large.

With great care and hard work the college prepared for the autonomous status which was conferred in 1987. Time and effort were not spared to derive maximum benefit from the freedom and opportunity it had offered to the academic community. From then on it became a big responsibility and commitment on the part of the faculty to keep abreast and to provide meaningful and relevant curriculum and quality education.

At this juncture what I wish to see in the students is an eagerness to develop a scientific spirit, which is the root of integrity of character. The scientific spirit could be integrated with the selfless search for truth coupled with courage to accept, assimilate and act upon the discovered truth. Could we as an academic community on the campus stand our



I recall with gratitude the pleasant memories of my life at Stella Maris College, as a student of the Department of History from 1957 to 1961 and as a member of the faculty from 1972 to 1998.

Teaching in the History Department was a rewarding experience. We had a beautiful team-spirit binding the staff and the students into one family. There were continuous efforts to up-date the syllabi, to introduce new methods and to be relevant.

As a young member of the faculty, I received an all-round formation in academic as well as co-curricular activities, through experience, in-service training and research opportunities. These enabled me to be at the service of staff and students, as Head of the Department of History, Dean of Students and Vice-Principal, and also to carry out

ground to recognize the truth of the situation in India and provide creative responses?

I extend my warm greetings to the Principal, Sr. Annamma Philip, and congratulate her for her creative leadership, commitment and untiring zeal for having brought the college to what it is today. My heartfelt wishes also to the faculty, administrative and the supportive staff for their collaboration, interest and valuable contribution to the growth of the institution.

Let us hold hands and forge ahead with hope and courage and take the college to even greater heights. We can never dream of a new society of freedom, equity and justice unless we believe in ourselves and as women, to create a world that is more just and humane and be willing to be equal partners to create a new world order.

Dr. Sr. Mary John fmm

*Former Head, Dept. of History,
Dean of Student Affairs and
Vice-Principal (1989 – 1994)*

other important charges entrusted to me by the management. It gives me much joy and fulfilment to remember that along with the others, I too, have contributed to the all-round development of several batches of students, especially of the Department of History, who have passed through the portals of this great institution and are now serving society in various capacities in different parts of the world. I am immensely indebted to my religious family, colleagues, students and others who have become part of my life and have supported me during those years.

Presently I am in 'Ishalaya', a Franciscan Ashram in Palmaner, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh. Stella Marians are welcome to this centre.

Peace and all good!



Dr. Ms. S. Ramani

Former Head, Dept. of Economics

It was indeed a pleasant call that I received one early August morning, to pen a few thoughts on my experiences at Stella Maris College, to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the college. This opened a floodgate of memories for me, having spent the better part of my life within the hallowed portals of a wonderful institution. It is indeed a difficult task to compress over four decades in a few hundred words.

As my Alma Mater celebrates her 60th year, it gives me great pleasure to share some of my thoughts, indeed moments that I cherish most, having had the opportunity to experience carefree student years and then grow as a faculty member of the college.

I joined the college just a decade after it was started, in 1957, for the Pre-University Course and followed by a Bachelor's and Master's in Economics. There were very few institutions of repute in those days and obviously SMC attracted the best students. It was, looking back, Divine Will that I should study and could groom myself in a college managed by a set of caring, dedicated and enlightened sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. They took great pride and effort in their duty of imparting quality education and inculcating in their wards good character and promoted all-round development of their personality.

As students, we had the opportunity to see the institution grow. The classes were less densely populated as the student strength was not very high. This gave us access to easy interaction and hence a more family like atmosphere. Personal touch and care resulted in a good rapport between the teachers and taught. Great importance was attached to excellence, in both curricular and extracurricular activities. However, we were not lacking in discipline, which was the 'Mantra' of the sisters. Most of the sisters in the initial years were of foreign nationality who took great pains to acclimatize themselves with the local culture. They laid the strong foundation for SMC to become what it is today. If I had to summarise their guiding principles in three words, they would be—Devotion, Dedication and Discipline—which were instilled in their wards too. And so, by the time we finished our college years we were ready to face the world, indeed a real metamorphosis. Having been well ensconced in the protective environment of home and college (more a second home) we realised the importance of having studied at SMC only in later years when our training stood us in good stead through many a rough time. It would be appropriate for me to mention here, that I had the privilege of being a student of Sr. Carla Rosa, former Principal.

Personally, for me the 'second coming' was a great moment to cherish, as a faculty member in the Department of Economics. It was an experience in

'becoming and blossoming'. It was filled with enriching and rewarding experiences under three eminent Principals – Sr. Irene Matthias, Sr. Helen Vincent and Sr. Annamma Philip. When I joined the college as a staff member, several of my teachers welcomed me with open arms and prodded me along. The college was growing by leaps and bounds, which provided me, along with many others, an opportunity to excel and enhance not only in academics but also in the many co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Personally for me, my academic progress continued, with the management actively enabling me to complete my M.Phil. and Doctorate degrees. I go nostalgic in remembering the good times spent in organizing and participating in the various seminars, guest



The seed of women's education as a service to the society sown by the FMM.

Stella Maris has today grown and blossomed into a huge tree with the nourishment given by the committed and dedicated management, staff and students. I am happy that I had been a cog in the wheel of progress of the college for nearly three decades. The innumerable achievements both in academics and non-academics such as NCC, NSS, sports and other cultural activities speak volumes of the hard work put in by the staff and students with the constant encouragement given by the college management. Every Stella Marian, both staff and student, of the past and present is proud to be part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of this great, prestigious institution. I am sure with God's abundant blessings it will grow to greater heights

lectures and college plays. These increased our sense of bonding and in spite of the growth in numbers the 'family' atmosphere prevailed. The later years saw several of my students joining the faculty and nothing gives more pleasure to a teacher than to see her wards shine. It indeed made me feel proud to see many of my students do well in their careers. In short, my three decades as a teacher saw me grow with the college and department and gave me tremendous strength and confidence both in my career and personal life.

I am sure I will be voicing the feelings of all Stella Marians, when I say, 'Stella, my heart beats for you'. I take this opportunity to wish the management the best in all their endeavours and many more years of fruitful service in the field of education.

Dr. Ms. M.D. Vijaya Parthasarathy
Former Head, Dept. of Botany

and will spread more new ideas as it marches towards its centenary.

The college, a pioneering institution, was under the University of Madras until it became autonomous. It used the academic freedom given to it effectively and today offers a wide variety of programmes and courses under the Choice-Based Credit System achieving its prime goal of the overall development of the students in this competitive world. The innovative curriculum, the infrastructure, the laboratories equipped with many sophisticated instruments and the highly qualified faculty have made Stella Maris unique amongst the women's educational institutions in Tamil Nadu.

I wish Stella Maris all success and progress and to be a beacon to the society at large as it marches majestically towards the future.



Dr. Ms. Meena N. Swamy
*Former Head, Dept. of Mathematics and
Vice-Principal (1995–1998)*

It gives me immense joy to convey my greetings to Stella Maris College on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee.

My association with this great institution started way back in 1954 when I joined the Intermediate Course. I have very pleasant memories of those student days and still recall the warmth and care extended by the sisters and faculty members in what was a protected but very enjoyable atmosphere. After my postgraduate studies and a stint of teaching for seven years in another college in Madurai, I was lucky to come back to Stella Maris in 1966 and have had the pleasure of serving this great college till 1998 as a teacher in the Department of Mathematics. The college has not only grown enormously during these thirty-two long years with me as part of it but it also enabled me to grow as an academician, qualifying myself further by acquiring a research degree. The college provided me innumerable opportunities to improve my teaching and administrative skills. As a teacher, Head of the Department of Mathematics and also as Vice-Principal, I had the good fortune to gain extremely enriching experiences by interacting with several batches of students, from other disciplines besides parents and alumnae. Indeed, the college became my second home.

It is ten years since I retired and I am amazed at the growth trajectory of this institution in the last

decade, so much steeper than that in its first fifty years—ever so many new and innovative courses, every department taking up several projects and great improvements in infrastructure! The library, which has always been the pride of this college, has become even better than before with new facilities. Managing such a fast growing institution, without sacrificing quality that has been its hallmark over the decades, must be a daunting task.

I pray to the Lord Almighty to shower His blessings in abundance on all those involved in the running of this college—the management, faculty members, administrative and supportive staff – and above all on the students who represent the young women’s force of our country. The students passing out of Stella Maris are indeed a privileged lot and must involve themselves actively in bringing about the necessary social changes that will make our country the most coveted place to live in. I seek God’s blessings to equip them adequately.

Sixty years of existence is a very special and significant milestone in the history of an educational institution. I am extremely happy to have been a part of this college for over half that period. Once again, I offer my congratulations to Stella Maris College on this very special occasion and my best wishes for this great institution to reach greater heights.



Dr. Ms. Evelyn Chandrasekharan
*Former Head, Dept. of Mathematics
and Vice-Principal (2000 – 2003)*

As India completes six decades of Independence as a nation, we at Stella Maris College have double joy in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of independent India and its twin associate Stella Maris College. Sixty years is a long period in the life of an individual, but not so in the life of a nation or an institution. During this short span of time, Stella Maris has made rapid and phenomenal progress in the field of higher education and elevation of women. This is thanks to the great contributions made by stalwarts like Mother Klemens fmm, Mother Lillian fmm, Mother Proincias fmm, Mother Carla Rosa fmm, Sr. Joseph Michael fmm, Sr. Juliet Irene fmm, Sr. Helen Vincent fmm, Sr. Annamma Philip fmm, and others. They richly deserve special mention and honour. They have made their mark in this institution as not only excellent teachers and administrators, but also and more importantly, as champions of great and noble values. They stood for truth and justice, commitment and dedication and selfless devotion to duty. This tradition set by them has been the guiding force of the college. Today, Stella Maris is one of the premier educational institutions in our country.

Stella Maris College offers a wide variety of courses. It has excellent infrastructure facilities for both staff and students. The well-equipped library,

the browsing and DTP centres are some of the most frequented places on campus. The college provides an ambience that grooms the student to take on her social commitments as a humane person in a multi-ethnic society. The crowning glory of Stella Maris as an autonomous college is the much-deserved accreditation at the Five Star level by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

I have fond memories of Stella Maris, my Alma Mater. Prayer and contemplation at the chapel, the stimulus of encountering a new book in the library, pleasant moments under the trees, and morning assembly as the college readies itself for the day, the euphoria that comes when a whole class breaks into delighted laughter – these are some moments that still linger in my mind even today. Over the years many sweeping changes have overtaken the campus, but these simple pleasures of exuberant and carefree youth still continue to lure students as of old, giving Stella Maris its unique identity.

On this happy occasion of the Diamond Jubilee celebration, I offer you dear Stella Maris my heartfelt congratulations. May the 'Star of the Sea' guide you as you re-dedicate yourself to the highest ideals of education, for in shaping women, you are shaping the destiny of the nation.



Dr. Ms. Kamala Aravind
*Former Head, Dept. of History and
Dept. of International Studies*

My work experience in Stella Maris College is deeply cherished. Today, I look at life with fresh eyes, gratitude, happiness, and a sense of fulfillment. I owe it all to Stella Maris College, which is 'a great school of experience and learning'.

I served this institution from 1974 – 2005. My passion for teaching found great expression here. The magical asset of the management unlocked the leadership potential in many of us. The spirit of freedom endowed with rich responsibilities made each one of the faculty and the staff committed individuals, thus adding richness to the quality of work and environment. Great Principals, great colleagues, and

rich learning experiences contributed to my growth.

What I admired most about this institution, when I joined the Department of History as a lecturer in 1974, was the ability of the management to enlist the support of the faculty and get their total involvement, through communication, instruction, and training and thereby, creating quality and standards in education of women for a new future.

I salute Stella Maris College on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee. May this institution live forever to make many more lasting contributions in the lives of individuals and society.



Dr. Ms. Hannah John
Former Faculty, Dept. of Zoology

It is indeed a great joy to pen my expressions on Stella Maris College where I had the opportunity to serve for twenty-one years. This college has played a vital role in imparting information, enlightening and in edification. It is really heartening to see the marvellous contribution to society at large, to the students and to the faculty leading them all to growth and maturity. As a faculty member I have had the satisfaction of having served this college with gratitude. May I quote from the Bible on this Diamond Jubilee Celebrations: "Thou hast made

man a little lower than the angels but hath crowned him with glory and honour" (Psalm 8:5). The growth of this college is tremendous in various dimensions. Faith in God enabled this institution to rise above all circumstances. The sail was set by the foundresses of this college with courage and conviction. The wind tosses it to the east or west. But the authorities concerned set the sail to move in a positive direction. Congratulations! Stella Maris College. What a privilege it is to be led by God, step by step until this day.



Dr. Ms. Mary John
Former Head, PG Dept. of Social Work

The celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Stella Maris College brings very many cherished memories of this great, premier educational institution to the forefront. Founded and built on universal Christian values, yet open to all communities, the college is endowed with many rich traditions and an institutional culture that is unique and outstanding, and that makes students vie with one another to get admission into this hallowed institution. It is fortunate that I too obtained a seat in the PG programme in Social Work, founded by the outstanding visionary Sr. Thecla Camacho fmm, formerly known as Sr. Eanswida. It was her dedicated ideals, values and work ethic that moulded me in my teaching profession in the department, which spanned over a period of three decades.

In wishing Stella Maris College a bright future and a pre-eminent position amongst other academic institutions, I wish to endorse a few thoughts. In the globalised existence of the present day world, let the college shine in all the frontiers of higher education as in the past. May the students and the staff continue to strive to acquire better knowledge and the finest skills in the pursuit of higher education. May the ideals and the seeds of peace and peaceful co-existence among different sections of people be promoted and inculcated as the finest values to be practiced in the lives of young people through their years of learning in the college. Wishing the college great strides forward.



Ms. Elizabeth George (née Ninan)
Former Head, UG Dept. of Chemistry

I have had the cherished and proud privilege of being associated with my Alma Mater for close to four decades.

After enjoying the formative and refining influence of college life for four years, I had the good fortune to re-enter the portals, as faculty, when the glowing STAR of the SEA was guiding young women and

spreading warmth and light while forging ahead. Over the years, I was fortunate to be a part of the institution growing multi-dimensionally to golden heights. And now as the Diamond Jubilee gleam of dawn sheds its light of hope on time to come, a prayer of gratitude arises from my heart. May the ideals of truth and love shine on our lives forever.



Ms. Rita Chaudhuri (née Dorairaj)
*Alumna, Department of English
and President, Students' Union (1972-1973)*

You reach a certain point in your life where calendar years seem a minor detail and life's important moments stand out crystal clear and so real that it seems you can reach out and touch its very fabric.

My six years at Stella Maris College, right from PUC (the acronym sticks but what did it stand for?) right through to M.A. – were defining moments.

Looking back, it feels like one long summer with bright skies and where each day seemed filled with endless possibilities. It is hard to pin point just one reason why that period seemed to flow effortlessly, one into another, into a shaping fabric with rich highlights and the beginning of identity.

Perhaps the clue lies in the atmosphere of genuine freedom that came from the combination of nurture and academic excellence. Our Principal, Sr. Irene was a sophisticated educator who set high standards and at the same time effortlessly brought a human touch to all her interactions. She also seemed to attract the kind of staff who role modelled a similar combination of intellectual rigour and an easy

personal style. I remember with affection, the English Department, Mrs. Helen Dasan, Mrs. Sowmu Francis, Ms. Mary B., Ms. Lavanya, R– long hours of intellectual debate always combined with weighty matters of the soul!

And it all came back recently, when after so many years, it was with real delight that I met Sr. Sheila O'Neill back in the college working on a book – the same sharp insights, the same charming personality.

And so a dual progression—where you sharpened your mind and skills and at the same time learnt critical lessons of the heart— this to me is the best gift that the college gave to me. It is a gift that remained conscience keeper in my long career as a Corporate Manager where grace under pressure is not easy to find.

And so, it is with gratitude and great affection that I look back on this most important time of my life. My wish is that new Stella Marians continue this marvellous journey of discovery with the hope that each of them will find their own abiding gifts.



Dr. Ms. Chitra Krishnan
*Former Faculty, Dept. of French
and Vice-Principal (2003 – 2004)*

One a warm day in June 1976 a young girl in pigtails walked through the hallowed gates of Stella Maris College for admission into the infamous PU7 class. What a long and winding road it has been since then. A road that led to a B.A. Degree in English Literature, a place on the faculty of French and then the crowning glory twenty odd years later, nomination as Vice-Principal of my Alma Mater. Never did I, in my wildest dreams, imagine the extent and scope of my association with this famous institution.

[Memory is] a man's real possession...In nothing else is he rich, in nothing else is he poor; rightly stated Alexander Smith and the period of my association with the college is filled with wonderful memories of friendships won and lost, of inspiring teachers and dry as dust classes, of generous and kind sisters and others less so. However, the one thing that stands out and I am able to recall with crystal clarity is the ambience once we entered, the rightly named campus of 'The Cloisters'. The cocoon of peace and calm, that cut us off from the humdrum rat race of the world outside, that enveloped our very souls, that allowed us to retain the age of innocence awhile longer. For that sense of security, my dear Alma Mater, I am truly grateful.

James A. Froude once claimed, *You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one.* Stella Maris allowed us the chance to dream and at the same time permitted us to hammer and forge our character at the anvil of opportunity. None of the Sister Principals I had the good fortune to know, both as student and as faculty,

learned to take the word *no* for an answer. The word *impossible* was simply banished from our campus dictionary. Be it finding lights at an improbably low cost, persuading local scrooges to part with their hoards, cleaning the litter on campus after a do, creating magic out of nothing based on faith and little else—Stella Maris believed we could and therefore we did. For that faith, my dear Alma Mater, I am truly grateful.

What has life at Stella Maris meant to me? Opening doors, revealing unexpected vistas, forming my personality, instilling in me rock solid values, inspiring in me the quest for excellence in all aspects of my life, granting me independence with the assurance of providing a safety net as I negotiated the tightrope, moving me from adolescence to adulthood, that is what comes to mind immediately! For making me what I am, my dear Alma Mater, I am truly grateful

Today, I wish upon a star ... one named Stella Maris that shines forth like a beacon irradiating the lives of her alumnae with hope and trust...

May this noble matron, who in her 60th year scintillates like a sparkling diamond, have many more valuable carats added to the splendour of her future! My Alma Mater, may you twinkle brightly in the galaxy of higher education institutions forever!

*Currently
Chairperson, School of English and Foreign
Languages,
Head, Dept. of French, University of Madras*

The Tall Coconut Trees...



Coromandal Coast – tall coconut trees and strong catamarans are a scenic vision, familiar to the average Indian or to an enthusiastic artist, or to a contemplative philosopher.

The persons who would read the title with a smile on their face and gratitude in their heart on the Diamond Jubilee of Stella Maris are few and far away enjoying retirement. There are ways of writing history – we can trace the course of events date by date or open a wide range of memory windows to get the glimpse of great moments and personalities that contributed towards the making of history. The story of the coconuts fondly recalled by Stella Maris sisters speaks volumes of the glorious past – the adventurous beginnings and hilarious experiences of the dedicated band of early missionaries – The Seven Sisters belonging to six nationalities, where all but one had fluency in English who started to teach University students in Stella Maris. Their first English lesson was about coconut trees – needless to say that they sat wondering what a coconut tree was – like, without knowing that they were going to be the first coconuts offered to God in the cause of higher education. The breaking of coconut was akin to their cracking heads in learning the English language – even though all were highly qualified from Universities of Milan, Hungary, France and Canada. Who are these ‘coconuts’? Mother Klemens, fmm (Maria Hofbauer – Austrian), who was the Foundress of Stella Maris College, a great missionary with far-reaching vision christened them collectively with the term ‘THE COCONUTS’. They were:

(Late) Mother Lillian fmm, (American), Principal (1948 – 1955)

(Late) Mother Edith Tömöry fmm, (Hungarian), Ph.D. Fine Arts (1948 – 1998)

(Late) Mother Carla Rosa fmm (Luigia Vittoria Alini - Italian) – Ph.D. Political Economy (1947 – 1966)

(Late) Mother Silvestra fmm (Maragaretha Bestal–Yugoslavian) – Diploma in Fine Arts (1948 – 1980)

(Late) Mother Chapdelaine fmm (French) – French (1947– 1970)

Mother Claude Sauveboeuf fmm (M. Jean Louis French) – Triple Masters (1947 – 1949)

Mother David fmm (Lucille Robitaille – Canadian)– Diploma in Music (1947– 1983)

They were the so - called coconuts ‘nicknamed’ ever since, in the annals of Stella Maris. It was my privilege to love and live with those COCONUTS.

Stella Maris College crossed the threshold from Golden into the ‘Diamond Era’ and we praise and thank the goodness of God that allowed the college to step into heights of greatness surmounting challenges to develop this institution of higher learning along the Coromandal Coast. Started by an international, dedicated community of FMM sisters to cater to the development of the promising Indian women of the South, today it has excelled itself as an internationally reputed college run by capable women religious sisters the very products of her growth and development in the field of higher learning.

The people of India had great expectations from Independent India as it was steeped in poverty, illiteracy and backwardness. The sixty years of Independence has seen tremendous progress and growth in all fields – thanks to the right direction and the foundation laid by Nehru and the idealistic leaders who launched the country on its voyage with freedom. India owes its success in the field of industrial development, commercial achievement and technical prosperity to

many stalwarts. We praise and thank God and acknowledge the guidance and protection thus far in spite of the so many trials, struggles and obstacles.

What did the coconuts—the veteran foundresses do?

Stella Maris College founded in August 1947 has followed a similar pattern of the success story of India, closely. The coconut tree draws its strength and sustenance from mother earth and in due course yields abundant fruit to the people. Stella Maris too passed through thick and thin drawing dynamic energy from God and remained green in order to grow... They did not seek to make money; or to get awards and applause but forged ahead to develop the Indian women in whom they saw, Scientists and Stateswomen, Poets and Scholars – heroic mothers and responsible leaders. As India surprised the world with a first woman Prime Minister and President and a Space Scientist, these pioneers of Stella Maris visualised the blossoming of women who would make history. Among the alumnae we have IAS, IPS, IES officers, Padma Shrees and executives of International repute and not to forget devout religious women who head institutions and the Congregation, in different capacities with utmost

loyalty. ‘The coconuts’ successfully introduced three new departments – life work oriented disciplines, at the University – The Fine Arts, Social work and Music – Western and Indian. ‘Diamond a chunk of coal that gets stuck to its job’ so also the persevering, ongoing, determined efforts of the college management and faculty have seen the Silver Star along the Coromandal Coast turn Gold and shine bright as a Diamond witnessing to the calibre of those who sowed the seed. The tall coconuts will continue to be a source of inspiration, life and livelihood for strong women to build a great Nation.

*“Sweet is the shade of the coconut glade
And scent of the mango grove” – Sarojini Naidu*

Sweet are the sands at full of the moon
With the memories of great coconut trees
Row Stella row to the end of the verge
Where the God of your goal shall crown you with joy.

Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent fmm
*Former Head, Dept. of Economics
Vice-Principal and
Principal (1978 – 1990)*



Golden Memories

Ms Chandra Parthasarathy, Professor of Tamil (1950 – 1987), was interviewed by Sr. Colleen North, FMM, about her association with the college from its earliest years.

Ms Chandra you were among the earliest of the retired faculty of the college. Would you like to share with us your memories of those early years of the college?

Fifty-eight long years of association with Stella Maris College! I joined in 1950 when the college was then just a toddler, two years old. I have proudly seen it grow, from

strength to strength and I have grown with it. It has been twenty-one years since I retired in 1987 but I realize I am still very much a part of the college. Every time I receive an invitation from the college for a function, I feel the excitement of a child. I am always thrilled to read articles in the newspapers about happenings in the college.

My remembrance of the first day in Stella Maris College will ever remain fresh in my memory. I first came to Mylapore, St. Raphael’s School looking for a job. I met

Mother Proincias. I still vividly remember her words 'Just walk across the campus to Stella Maris, they are looking for a Tamil Lecturer there'. I walked across, just as she had instructed me. I met Mother Edith. She was so welcoming. She asked me to join the next day, November 1, 1950, a day I will always remember with joy. In subsequent years I used to celebrate every November 1st, by giving 'Laddus' to the children of Shanthi Bhavan.

Jaya (Late Ms. B. Jayalakshmi) and I did the Bachelors Degree in Tamil together at Queen Mary's College from 1948 – 1950. While I joined Stella Maris not long after, she went on to teach in Sharadha Vidyalaya for two years. Mother Edith was looking for another lecturer for Tamil. So I asked Jaya if she would be interested in joining the college. This was the beginning of a very long association between Jayalakshmi and me. The following year Ms Kamalakshi joined us. We were a wonderful team. If any one of us could not make it to college, and that was very rare, the other would step in to take her classes. Both Jaya and Kamalakshi were scholars. Jaya was always a very quiet person, very scholarly. She taught me grammar and I am proud to say this. There was no question of a Head of Department. We were a team – the Tamil Department. It was only much later that Sr. Susan handed me a letter to the effect that I was officially to be known as Head of the Tamil Department. It made no differences to our well-bonded relationship with one another and to the other faculty of the college.

Ms. Chandra your students everywhere still remember you with great affection.

This affection is reciprocal. In our time we had students who passionately loved Tamil. They were very focused and highly motivated. There were only occasional failures. There are some outstanding students who still stand out in my memory. Sr. Helen Vincent is one of them. She was excellent. In Ms. Chellam's batch, everyone of them was an outstanding student. I had the extraordinary experience of having a mother and her daughter in my class, Sr. Flavia and her mother. I remember Meenakshi who was a gold medalist. She stood Second in Tamil in the whole State. I also had a student who was five years my senior in school. She was a friend of my sister. She too was brilliant. In short my students challenged me to maintain the highest standards as a teacher. I must accept that by God's grace I was and continue to be a good teacher. In the late 1970s the Lion's Club awarded me the Best Teacher Award at a function at the Taj Hotel.

Share with us something of the early Foundresses of the College.

Except for Mother Lillian who was the Principal (she was

American) none of the other nuns in the early days spoke fluent English. Naturally they were impressed with my English. I remember in the early 1960s I was asked to give the Independence Day message to the college. The whole phenomenon of the Freedom Struggle Movement and India's Independence was fresh in our memories. I communicated this enthusiasm and patriotic sentiments to the college. My speech was applauded by all, students faculty and sisters alike. I felt a sense of legitimate pride in my country India, and for the achievements of the college for women's education and empowerment.

The principal at that time checked and signed all the question papers. Mother Lillian signing the Tamil question paper said to me 'Chandra even if this is my death warrant I am signing it'. It was partly fun but the trust she communicated in me was energizing.

We had no photocopying machines. We hand wrote question papers and used carbon paper to make duplicate copies. Sr. Edith looking at my good hand writing asked me for a 'big help'. At that time the nuns rarely moved out of 'The Cloisters'. She requested me to go to the university library and copy notes for her for the Fine Arts Department. This was indeed a 'big help', when the Fine Arts Department was still in its infancy stage. Today, I can say with some sense of pride and satisfaction that the Tamil Department also had something to contribute to the Fine Arts Department. I would do anything for Sr. Edith. She was an astute administrator. When the then Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, Shri A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudhaliar presided over the College Day Celebrations, he had this to say about Mother Edith 'When Mother Edith enters my room and makes a request for something I could never say no. I somehow knew it could be only for something good', This statement of the Vice-Chancellor was met with thunderous applause.

It was great working with the nuns. Mother Lillian had a fantastic sense of humour which made a lot of sense especially in tense situations. At that time there were no problems, only challenges. Mother Edith was an excellent administrator. Mother Peter Damien, the quiet, gentle nun and the bouncing French-Canadian, Celine Francoise. Mother David gave life to the college through her vibrant Music Department. I remember the Music Concerts we had on the feast of St. Cecilia. Who could forget the excellence and the yeoman services rendered by the sisters in the cause of women's education. I feel so happy whenever I remember them. At the end of the day it was 'our college'. While being happy to be associated with Stella Maris in this Diamond Jubilee year, I wish this institution many more years of fruitful service in the cause of women's education.

Stella Academics – Some Perceptions

Sixty years of service to women's higher education in India is no mean achievement. Like other similar institutions, Stella Maris had humble beginnings—thirty-two students in a small building. The thrust was towards liberal education in the Arts and Sciences. The human and social values of intellectual upliftment, humaneness, integrity and humility underscored every aspect of campus life. The dissemination of knowledge, the emphasis on achievement was paved on values – young women were moulded into home-making intellectuals of character.

From its inception, each decade saw quantitative growth in the number of students and courses, the pure sciences and arts being given importance. Merit was given top priority and initially students were intellectually and materially fairly well to do. The faculty focused on value-based educational endeavours leading to all round development to pursue with commitment. Manageable numbers, manageable courses – it was not too difficult to maintain a standard of excellence. The students were highly motivated and open to learning, they were knowledge-centered. The stamp of Stella Maris was a valid and coveted passport to higher studies, marriage and career, as all-round excellence was the watchword.

With a larger number of economically, less privileged students opting for higher education, serious and planned efforts are constantly made to include them in the mainstream. 'Bridging the gap', so to say, became a commitment and it worked very well to improve competence. It continues even today.

The campus efforts changed in not only Stella Maris but elsewhere too. In spite of odds, the college was steadfast in its pursuit of 'quality education' and academic excellence. A creamy-layer of students realized this goal; the other, thanks to the resilience of Stella Maris approximated to it. Undaunted, they strove to reach this ideal helped by the clear goals of the management, motivated and zealous faculty and carefully planned infrastructure – the science labs, the computerised library, the playing fields ...

Dedication and discipline – be it in the classrooms, lab, playground or library – were synonymous with Stella Maris. This led to the smooth transition to autonomy. Members of the faculty were excited about framing syllabi with relevance and reach, evolving testing techniques and

evaluation methodology. Students were happy with the Choice-Based Credit System – at least some subjects would suit their aptitude. Also, evaluation was continuous and this made for systematic study. Stella Maris became a 'model' autonomous institution. However with the passage of time, the routine took over, the excitement wore off. Faculty was bogged down by administrative responsibility – too many records, too many courses, increase in evaluation work. Holistic education was slowly being replaced by fragmented acquisition of knowledge. More autonomous colleges were the order of the day. How do these graduates compare with others in local, national or international sites? Some students are always achievers whatever the system. But the others? Again the clamour for vocational and job-oriented education has made the degree an adornment or an accessory for a 'skills' job. Whatever the 'choices', a mature student makes meaningful ones. Today, more and more graduates are on the threshold of employment, a lesser number for higher studies. The situation may serve a positive change for women.

Stella Maris had to change – from offering only purely academic courses to vocational, job-oriented ones promising employment. Journalism and translation jostled with Shakespeare, Tourism with South Indian History and so on. Faculty had to walk the tightrope of pure and application-oriented knowledge – they rose to the occasion!

The need for job-oriented courses reflected the change in social values. Also, science education was preferred to liberal arts. The mushrooming of engineering colleges is a threat to the very existence of arts and science colleges. But Stella Maris remained a coveted choice for those pursuing higher education.

The adaptability of the institution, its willingness to change with the times has been its strength. Also, progressive and futuristic thinking with a readiness to accept educational challenges have been its forte. Hence, it has satisfied the needs and aspirations of many a student and will continue to do so. It has become synonymous with excellence in the field of women's education both nationally and internationally.

Yet, there are needling concerns to be addressed in the 'jubilee' of sixty years. Democratisation and falling

standards, growing student numbers, non-availability of teaching staff, infrastructure for upbeat courses and cost-effective education - these are a few. To attract the best, infra structure facilities must be excellent. And of course the teacher has to be highly paid. Technology also must be used to improve classroom dynamics.

Stella Maris, as it moves into the twenty first century, will strive to make the vision of savants like Kalam a reality. It



God in all His Love and Grace transplants people in variously new and strange locales and cultural climates to carry out His work, in order to give meaning to His Word and to affirm His all-pervading Spirit. The beauty of such work is that it is done in humility and in a spirit of service. The mortals are thus made instruments of God's Will on earth. The difficult responsibility of thus transplanted people is realized only when it is borne in His Name. According to me, this is the essence of missionary work; and this I have witnessed in the nurturing soil of Stella Maris College.

My six years as a student in the mid 1960s and subsequently as a teaching faculty are an integral part of what I am today. We, the batch of 1963 – 67, were a studious lot—yes, we were; and we were moulded under strict supervision befitting that generation. We evolved under the watchful eyes of the teaching staff and the sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. We had our share of fun – played pranks, got caught in some, got away on many occasions. Our tutelage was one of a rare and formidable combination of erudition and compassion; as students we combined business with pleasure.

For many years, since its inception in 1948, the Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College was nourished and upheld by the two stalwarts in the persons of Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry and Sr. Greta (known to me as Sr. Silvestra). Sr. Edith took care of theory and Sr. Greta, the studio. With the help of a few staff, the winsome twosome made a wholesome Department. I had been an ardent student under them, but I flowered as a teacher under the unassuming 'talent-spotter' - Dr. Sr. Mary Ann.

The home coming as a teacher was both warm and

can lead the way to provide education for all without discrimination or reservation, an education that will bear the stamp of uncompromising 'quality'.

Dr. Ms. Seetha Srinivasan
Former Head, Dept. of English

demanding. In seven years, the college had grown in stature, its flag held aloft. Then started a trail wherein I was a teacher and a learner at the same time. Challenges that entailed changes and action-oriented decisions came in quick succession.

Classroom teaching had always remained my favourite activity in the college. It encouraged innovative teaching methods, student-centered knowledge dissemination, and special concern for the disadvantaged. I cherish my art students' achievements – big or small – with pride and humility.

My engagement with the co-curricular programmes and the extra-curricular activities has been a heartening experience. Like honey-seeking bee, I found myself invariably, amidst the rehearsals for the students' cultural programmes, year after year, for many years. Those hours of creativity coupled with discipline and extreme talent extended into all my waking hours. Tackling emergencies on the day of the final performance was as much fun as the break during the rehearsals. Conceiving and choreographing along with the students were the richest of my experiences in the college.

To this day, Stella Maris College stands testimony to the missionary zeal and social commitment with which higher education is imparted. Multitudes of young ladies have passed through its portals—often entering it as jagged stones and leaving with the sharp angles softened and themselves formed into pebbles.

The mission continues...

Dr. Ms. Ramaa Narayanan
*Former faculty, Dept. of Fine Arts and
Dean of Student Affairs*



A College With A Heart

I begin by paying homage to Mother Mary of the Passion, the Foundress of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary whose vision and mission has guided the growth of Stella Maris College. How deep and strong her faith must have been, to inspire and shape the vision of generations of sisters! Modern management gurus can learn a lesson or two by studying her life and the growth of the institutions of the FMM. It is indeed a unique achievement that Mother Mary of the Passion's vision of service remains relevant in the modern world.

Several hundred faculty and innumerable students have passed through the portals of this College. Every one of them has been touched by the grace that envelops the college. I will not dwell on the academic excellence or the multifarious activities that make the college so vibrant, but will share the manner in which so many sisters have touched my life. I have been to school and college and worked as a schoolteacher and lecturer, in institutions run by them.

When I first joined Stella Maris as a postgraduate student in 1968, I was looking around for a familiar face. I was delighted to find Mother M. Catherine fmm, now known as Sr. Bernadette Ward fmm. She had come to Stella to teach French. She used to be the Headmistress of St. Francis Convent, Coimbatore, where I spent all my formative years. As a young girl, I was touched by the simplicity and deep faith of this Canadian nun. Every morning, during the assembly, she said this prayer: "My God, I offer you my heart, my thoughts, my words and my actions of this day, in union with the desires of Thy Sacred Heart. May everything in my day tend to Thy greater glory and the salvation of my soul. Amen". Her faith and fervour touched me so deeply, that this has been my prayer on waking up everyday. It has given me enormous strength and confidence and helped me to understand the strength one can get by offering everything and surrendering to the Lord. When I was in the second year, I was engaged to be married. Sr. Catherine knew that I came from a traditional family and tactfully gave me a book on marriage to read. It really helped. It was Sr. Joseph Michael fmm, now called Sr. Sheila O' Neill fmm, who interviewed me when I got admission. Her classes on

the Catholic poet G.M. Hopkins were so inspiring that years later, in 1985 I decided to work on this poet for my M.Phil thesis.

I remember with affection Sr. Pauline the hostel warden at that time. Here I was, a diffident girl from a small town, come to the big city to stay in the hostel. I met her for the first time on the road leading to the hostel and she greeted me warmly, saying, "So you are Padma Malini". I was so pleasantly surprised and wondered how she knew my name. I then realized the thoroughness with which she had studied the application forms. She knew the names of all her wards even before they joined the hostel! Try as I did to emulate her, I could not remember the names of all the girls in class, even after months of teaching them.

Sr. Juliet Irene fmm, was Principal when I was a student. Her gracious ways will be remembered by all. Eight years after I passed out, I needed a job. With a prayer in my heart, I entered the gate of Stella Maris College. Just at that moment, a car was going out and it suddenly stopped. Sr. Juliet Irene leaned out and greeted me. Which Principal will do that to a student who had passed out long ago? I just told her I needed a job. With a gracious incline of her head, she smiled and said, "I'll see what I can do". And the car drove on. When college reopened after summer, I got the job. Sister understood.

Sr. Helen Vincent fmm, who was Principal when I joined college as lecturer, is really one of a kind! She took us through those years of difficult transition to attain the status of an autonomous college. She seems to be equipped with some kind of radar inside her head and her heart. If modern technology can be used as an analogy, she has a sensor chip embedded inside! As Principal, she knew almost all the students by name. She seemed to know exactly where the girls who had bunked were hiding and often surprised them. She knew when someone needed help and reached out. She knew when I was in the 'dumps' and with an uncanny accuracy she would stop to ask what the matter was—just along the corridor, or at the staff counter. Her help was extended so unobtrusively, yet effectively. She was such an unflinching support.

Currently, Sr. Annamma Philip fmm is the torchbearer of this legacy. Calm and dignified always, she has propelled the college into the twenty-first century, introduced the choice-based credit system with so many innovations, that Stella Maris is now a premier institution. Yet, it maintains its role of social responsibility. It is but fitting that she is at the helm during this Diamond Jubilee year.

I remember with affection and regard, Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry fmm, who taught me what perseverance and love of a subject can achieve, Sr. Silvestra fmm, who taught me painting in her free time, Sr. Celine Paul fmm who helped me when I was feeling upset over something, all the sisters who managed the college campus like Sr. Annamma Luka fmm and Sr. Hilda fmm – What a lesson in dedication and hard work when you see the sisters!

My department! The famous English Department! I



REMINISCENCE

The association with Stella Maris began way back in August 1968, when I entered its portals as a postgraduate student of English Literature. I was in awe of its impeccable academic reputation and its well-known disciplinary standards. Little did I know then that it was going to be a life-long association of give-and-take, of teaching and learning, of personal introspection and public acknowledgement. Sr. Joseph Michael (Sr. Sheila O'Neill), Head of the English Department then, warmly welcomed those of us who had come from other colleges. Our batch of PGs was later to yield perhaps the largest number of lecturers in the future. My contemporaries in the M.A. class were the likes of Lavanya Raja, Mahema Devadas, Kamala Rajagopal, Margaret Clarence, Padma Malini, Maria Teresa (Gregory), Teresa Grace (Swaminathan), V.P. Renuka, Swarup Rani, Eugenie Pinto (nee D'Monte), Yamuna and many more. What I learned from Sr. Joe Mike, FMM, who taught us Hopkins' mystic Sprung Rhythm and brought alive T.S. Eliot's 'Murder in the Cathedral', Mrs. Helen Dasan who waxed eloquent on

worked under heads of the department, each one so different from the other – Mrs. John, so dignified and ladylike; Mrs. Dasan, so jolly and caring; Dr. Ms. Seetha Srinivasan, such a meticulous academician; Dr. Sr. Flavia fmm, so gentle and caring. Now, I can only say thank you to all of them. We were always a diverse and difficult bunch in the department, even though new faces replace the older ones. Somehow the Heads learn to cope!

I will cherish memories of the various events of the Literature Club that I helped organize – the Elizabethan Extravaganza, the Poetry Reading competitions, the drama competitions and so on. What a lot I have to be grateful for – I humbly acknowledge that I have received much from Stella Maris College. It is a College with a Heart!

Dr. Ms. Padma Malini
*Former faculty, Dept. of English and
 Dean of Student Affairs*

Robert Browning's potter-clay image, Mrs. Sowmu Francis' perceptive comments on Keats's 'Hyperion', Ms. Seetha's (Srinivasan) wonderful expositions of Shakespeare, Ms. Vyjayanthi's discursive analysis of Shelley's 'Defence of Poetry' and Ms. John's expansive take-off from Albert's History of the English Language was this amazing combination of ardent love for literature and an objective evaluation of its total worth—in other words, the ideal research-oriented approach to literature and language as a reflection of life itself—the capacity to think and feel at the same time. What a gift to receive—how would I ever pay back?

The year 1968 was an eventful year for Tamil Nadu and for the world at large. The state lost an elder statesman in the death of C. N. Annadurai and Sri M. Karunanidhi, then Finance Minister in the State Assembly (once said to have quipped 'I have only Karuna'— compassion – but not enough nidi-finance-for your project), stepped in as the new C.M. Neil Armstrong of the USA stepped on the moon—'a small step for man a giant leap for

mankind'. At Stella Maris I remember listening to these events at the morning assembly of Sr. Juliet Irene (Sr. Principal), as prayer and praise went hand in hand. 'Bliss was it that dawn to be alive – But to be young was very heaven' Wordsworth's rapturous verse echoed with new meaning.

The time to pay back came in July 1981, when after ten years of married life spent in Calcutta and Delhi and a brief stint in JNU as ESP (English for Specific Purposes) teacher, I came to Chennai with two small children, on my husband's official transfer. I had done the CIEFL Certificate Course in ELT and Linguistics, I received a call from Stella Maris – Ms. Dasan was the English Head of Department: Would I be interested in teaching Linguistics to the PGs and Literary forms to the UGs just for a month—a one-month vacancy? Ms. Padma Malini helped me take the decisive step and say 'yes' – and then there was no looking back. In the twenty odd years that I worked in the English Department, it was rich give and take – whether in interactions with students (drawn from every strata of society) in and outside class, with faculty members of the English department all other departments (there were day-long inter-departmental sessions during Sr. Helen Vincent's time), with the office staff who did all the laborious administrative work for us, or even with sweepers, peons, gardeners and technicians.

In the course of a long career, we were taught to take on various responsibilities—from organising group music for Independence Day celebrations, helping with Inter-departmental Projects, creating teaching modules for the bus conductors' English Course, editing the College Magazine and the Literary Journal, supervising the entertainment programmes for College Day, accompanying NSS volunteers to Senior Citizens' homes, helping with PG and UG admission tests, escorting students on outstation excursions or even simply formulating the college calendar for the forthcoming academic year.

With the sanction of autonomy came new responsibilities and challenges. Day-long discussions on curriculum expansion, core courses, total and additional credits, teaching and testing methodology, heated differences of opinion and a democratic 'agreeing to disagree', until a Benthamite 'greatest good to the greatest number' was arrived at. The new requirement of recording every single detail of both teaching and testing modules needed speed,

alertness and alacrity. The old sense of expansive time for teaching literature and for leisurely interaction with students dwindled. But as Tennyson remarked – 'The old order changeth, yielding place to the new...' and who could stop this? We had sessions and seminars on TQM (Total Quality Management) – necessary when education was getting packaged and corporatized the world over.

Looking back over the many years spent in this ever-changing institution of higher learning, never hesitant to adapt to the changed social and economic situation of the country at large, I can say as a faculty member of the English Department, that some things never changed – the earnest desire to sustain excellence in teaching methodology, the necessary checks and counter checks that enforced this, the eagerness to heed and appreciate the students' point of view, the missionary zeal of the sisters to go all out to help students of the weaker sections of society (I particularly remember the efforts of Sr. Christine fmm, Sr. Helen Vincent fmm, and Sr. Colleen fmm, in this direction) and the capacity to understand and sympathise with fellow staff members' difficulties at home. The sisters visited homes (Sr. Flavia, fmm, particularly) when husband or children were sick; there was spontaneous help from fellow staff members who took on guest lectures for my students when I had to go on long periods of leave. Some memories are evergreen—the unstinting generosity of Heads of the Department, Ms. Dasan, Ms. Seetha and Ms. Clarence who simply understood, and held the balance amidst contrary pulls, the fellowship fostered by healthy academic discussions with Susan Oommen, Sharadha Bhanu, Prema Jagannathan, Padma Seshadri, Padma Malini, Mridula Jose, Mangai, Jean Fernandez, the numerous friendships made with faculty members of every other department, the open house on Christmas morning at the convent attended by families of the staff and above all the sheer graciousness of Sr. Annamma Philip fmm, is her spontaneous acknowledgement and appreciation of every little thing you did for the college—who could ask for more? The veritable procession of happy memories in unending....

Ms. Meera Balachandran
Former Faculty, Dept. of English

Vintage Memories

I became part of Stella Maris very early. To be more precise, during the Pre-university class. And I am sure not many would have even heard of such a course today. To go back to June 1959 when the college was at its old premises in Santhome, (And how many of you know this bit of college history?), that is when I made my first acquaintance with this institution.

Yes, I am an antediluvian alumna from the same batch as Sr. Colleen North fmm. (So now you know to which pre-historic period she belongs!!) I stayed on to do a Bachelors' in Western Music (Oh, yes such a course existed!) and finished with a Masters' in English Literature in June 1965.

Despite our courses being different, Sr. Colleen and I became good friends. (Don't ask me how). During my annual summer visits to Madras from Delhi, where I taught for thirty-eight years in the English Department of Miranda House (Delhi University), we made it a point to meet up and reminisce about college and college mates most of whom have disappeared into the mists of time.

Imagine, then, to my surprise, when some twenty-five years after my Stella Maris days, one afternoon in the early 1990s, someone who was my senior by a year in college, called me out of the blue. It was Meena Nayak, who was also, I learnt, in Delhi. She reeled off names—to my surprise, there were many. A little later we had a very pleasant lunch gathering, about twenty-five of us: a few, I'm glad to say, were of even earlier vintage than I. Imagine that!

We contributed spontaneously for Stella Maris, though the exact sum and purpose of fund raising, slips my memory. I do remember though, how effortlessly and efficiently the money flowed in. Around the same time, my husband also was involved in raising funds for his college association and I recall gloating, that we had raised our money that much faster, glory be! (Unlike my memory, my ego never fails me. Impressive! He remained his long-suffering stoic self.)

I cannot think what we can attribute our success to... except that, despite the somnolence of the afternoon classes, we all had a very pleasant experience at Stella Maris. As the saying goes, those indeed were the

days... And that brings me to my anecdote. Another good friend and batch mate, who came from Good Shepherd Convent to do her B.A. in Economics, was this Irish nun, tall, slim, young, pretty and twinkle-eyed. I know, I know. I'm breaching decorum here; nuns are meant to be disembodied beings. But in my mind's eye, she is still all of this. (Who is she? Just a little touch of mystery folks, to help my story along.)

Nuns at that time wore veils. An unfair advantage, when eyes start to droop shut in the afternoon heat and theirs is the only profile, veiled from the prying eyes of those seated beside. But we eagle-eyed 'backbenchers' were always quick to detect the nodding heads; and they'd have to brace themselves at the end of the class for the inevitable, merciless ribbing. She always took hers with a smile. Came the day for Union elections and I as the candidate for presidentship, told her that I was going to promise cushions for the afternoon nap / classes. She dared me to. I did! Facing the rows of students at the morning assembly, I promised just that! Her whole body shook with laughter. Like most election promises, nothing came of it, except success at the polls. I presume I got your vote, Sister F. If you are reading this, do get in touch, I owe you a cushion.

There are other memories as well... especially of the good teachers. Joyful, gentle and spry Sr. David, who sang and played the piano so well. Irish wit aplenty – Mother Ria, who wagged her finger and twinkled at me not to worry, "nobody wants you as a nun here". Sincere Sr. Joseph Michael, who, while speaking of Wordsworth's exaltation of childhood, objected to the modern practice of calling children "kids". Demeaning, she thought. (As was often the case, I privately resisted, finding the skittishness of baby goats, a good deal more charming than... but let it be. And finally, Sr. Jude Andrew, (God rest her soul) whose tart tongue matched mine. All of them, handled the recalcitrant backbencher that I'd become with grace and patience. Mea Culpa. Remembering my college student attitude, when I became a teacher, I gravitated towards the kindred spirits in my class. But that's a subject for another day...

Ms. Angela Koreth (née Reddy)
President Students' Union (1962-63)

Reflections

I entered the portals of Stella Maris in 1964 at the insistence of my mother. My sister, nine years older than me, had studied at the Intermediate level in Stella Maris, taking music as one of the subjects. Piano music is the enduring love that my sister has to this day. She went on to specialise in English literature and ended up in the Administrative Services at a young age. In a way, I carry the memory of my sister who was one of few in the Intermediate Class in Santhome.

The college moved to the present location in 1960, so the four rooms above the canteen occupied by the Department of Fine Arts was practically new when I entered. I enrolled in the Department of Fine Arts as an undergraduate and as part of the requirement I studied English Literature under Sr. Edward, who brought Shakespeare, Milton and Ruskin within my reach. There was just a handful of us at the undergraduate level and one junior and one senior student in the M.A. course. While Ms Emma, as the senior, taught us Indian Art History, Sr. Edith taught European Art History. Sr. Edith taught with so much intensity that although I appeared inattentive I could visualise art of Romanesque, Gothic and Italian Renaissance periods even in my dreams. Our enthusiasm for the subject was considerable in spite of lack of enough art books for reference. The sisters made up for this by typing copious texts, cyclostyling and binding them into several copies. These bound books of well-thumbed yellowing pages as thin as kite paper but somewhat strong, withstood waves of students who continued to pour over them. The hand-made texts of museum quality are part of the history of Stella Maris. They were replaced in 1982 by Sr. Edith Tömöry's textbook History of Fine Arts in India and the West. In Delhi, an American University professor considered Sr. Edith's book significant and to my pleasure evinced great interest to know more about the author.

A ship sailing on stormy waters guided by a star is the emblem of Stella Maris College. It symbolises my life, like that of so many other students' of Stella Maris who are guided by the light of the Star of the Sea. Truth and Charity is the motto of the college and in "The Cloisters", the Sisters set the example for us. From Sr. Silvestra who taught me drawing and painting I also learnt that 'Patience is Virtue', as she intoned these words while I stood by amazed at her miniature painting. Her brush, wet delicately by her tongue now and then, deftly made tiny strokes on parchment to

manifest divine images in glowing colours. The Sisters at that time wore a creamy white habit and her appearance bent over the miniature painting is still vivid. Sr. Silvestra's dedication and patience was shared by Sr. Edith, both of whom steered me with the firmness and unwavering kindness of a mother. Sr Edith's gentle reprimand 'Impertinent' on one of my answer sheets which I had left empty except for a few lines of poetry and her advice to use my eyes to see works of art and not depend solely on printed words has taught me important lessons that has stood me in good stead.

Back at Stella Maris in 1984 I had the pleasure of completing my studies on centuries old Portuguese mansion in the campus, which was once the secluded Convent.

Progress, change and growth are true companions, as Sr. Helen Vincent would often remind us. In 1986 the department moved to the impressive St. Francis Hall. With the college gaining autonomous status the innovative curriculum generated excitement among students and faculty. Later, Sr. Annamma Philip as Principal extolled us to catch opportunity by the forelocks, for at hindsight she remains bald! For ten years I taught at the Department of Fine Arts before moving on in 1996 to my present position as Professor in History of Art in the National Museum Institute (Deemed University), New Delhi. The frequent interaction with administrative staff and faculty members of numerous Departments in Stella Maris has given me friends whom I value to this day.

The sisters have remained dear to me and recently I visited Rome to meet Sr. Maddelena Lainati who had taught us briefly, to tell her in person that since our parting in 1969 her trust has helped me.

Stella Maris is a family and wherever I may be I am part of the family and I am proud to be a Stella Marian like scores of others. Although I may be far away I am still drawn to the sheltering trees of Stella Maris, where white egrets gather after rains to preen at their reflection in puddles, to this place of equal opportunity where one receives much more than just quality education.

Ms. Arputha Rani Sengupta,
*Professor in History of Art,
Former Head, Dept. of History of Art,
National Museum Institute, New Delhi.*

வாழ்ந்த பின்பும் வரலாறு!

பேராசிரியர் ப. ஜெயலட்சுமி அவர்கள்
(தமிழ்துறை)

செல்லும் இடமெல்லாம்
செந்தமிழ் உணர்வினை
அள்ளிக் குவிக்கும்
அன்புப் பெட்டகம் !

தாழ்விலாச் சான்றோர்
தன்னிகர் அற்ற
பேராசிரியர் ஜெயலட்சுமி
மாண்புகழ் வாழ்கவே !

கன்னலின் மேலாம்
தமிழைக் காக்கும்
கவினார் பேராசிரியர்
அன்னைத் தமிழின்

அரும் புகழ்காத்து !
சேவை புரிந்தே உயர்ந்து நின்றீர் !
கல்விப் பணியே ! கடவுட் பணியென
உழைத்த நீவிர் ! உழைப்பின் சான்று !

மாண்பமை முறையினில் தமிழ்ச் சொல்லும் பெரியீர் !
செஞ்சொல் மொழிந்து
சேய்மை யோரையும்
செம்மை சேர் நண்பராய் ஆக்கிடும் உம் திறன் !

விஞ்சு புகழ்சால்
வித்தகர் போற்றும் நற்றமிழ்
கலையே ! நீதான்
அம்மா !

நெஞ்சரம் மிக்க பேராசிரியர் சந்திராபார்த்தசாரதியுடன்
நேர்மை தவறா பேராசிரியர் கமலாட்சியுடன்
நீவிர் ஆற்றிய தமிழ்ப்பணி ! சுடர் மணி விளக்காய் ! ஒளியுடன்
அன்னைத் தமிழுக்கு
உயர்வைத்தந்து ஓங்கி நிற்கிறது !

வெள்ளப் பெருக்காய்
வழிந்தோடும் உம் தமிழ் அறிவால்
மாணவர் நெஞ்சை அள்ளி எடுத்து
உம் மனத்தகத்து வைத்தவரே !
கருமேகத்தின் திருமகளே !

வைணவத் தமிழை

நெஞ்சார சுமந்தவளே !

திருப்பதி திருவேங்கடவன்மலையில்

ஏதேனும் ஆவேனோ ? என ! குலசேகர ஆழ்வார் பாடலை

இனி எடுக்க யாருள்ளார் ? அம்மா ?

அன்பென்னும் ஊற்றுக்கண்கள்

அகநெஞ்சில் திறந்து கொண்டால்

இன்பமாம் மலர்கள் பூத்து

இதயத்தைக் குளிரச்செய்யும்

அன்பென்னும் அணியே மக்கள்

அகத்தினை அழகு செய்யும் என்று

நீங்கள் வகுப்பறையில் பேசும் அழகு தமிழ்ச்சொல்

மாணவர் உள்ளத்தில் அன்பென்னும் ஆழியை

காட்டியதன்றோ ! அம்மா !

ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் கல்லூரியின் வைரவிழாவிற்கு நான் அழைக்க வந்த போது

பொங்கும் தமிழ் மொழி எங்கும் பொலியத் தங்கும் தமிழன் தரணியிலெல்லாம்

ஆக்கும் பணியாக ஏற்று முடிக்கும் இயற்றமிழ் பெண்ணே ! நீ வாழ்க !

என வாழ்த்தினாயே ! அள்ளக் குறையா அமுதத்தமிழ் உம் தமிழ்.

கற்பவர் ஆர்வம் கனிவுடன் தூண்டும் உம் தமிழ்ப் பணி வாழ்க ! வாழ்க !

மொழியை உமது விழியாய் எண்ணி !

வழிவழி தமிழை மாணவியர் குறையில்லாமல் கற்க விரும்பிய தாயே !

கழி நெடிலடியாய்க் காலம் வென்று எழுகதிர்க்கீற்றாய் வாழி ! வாழி !

பூ மணம் வீசும் உம் தமிழ்ப் பணிக்கு “பா” மணம் வீசி வாழ்த்துகிறேன் !

அம்மா ! வாழ்க நீ ! எம்மான் இவ்வையத்து நாட்டில் !

கவி அமைப்பு

கவிஞர் முனைவர் உலகநாயகி பழனி

தமிழ்த்துறைத் தலைவர்

ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் கல்லூரி

'Home is Where The Heart is'

Three years ago, teetering on the brink of a new phase of life, the word 'hostel' conjured up in me terrifying visions of tiny cell-like rooms, of rows of girls washing piles of dirty laundry, of 'common' bathrooms and toilets, and of inedible food. Reality, however, has proved that elusive silver linings do exist, if not elsewhere, in Stella Maris. Of course, the first sighting of the wire-meshed windows of the hostel prompted a defiant protest of "This looks like a jail!" from my apprehensive self, but the Hogwartian world of wonders it actually conceals has taken me three fun-filled years to fully discover and appreciate.

When I entered the nondescript, albeit hallowed portals of St. Joseph's Hostel, the first few days were spent in long hours conversing with strangers who would, in time, grow into close friends; in frantic searches from one-rupee coins to operate the phone box, to receive sympathy from worried parents and gloating from school friends who laughed at your misery; in vainly trying to deduce the key ingredients in certain culinary delicacies, which to this day remain mysteriously named 'yellow rice' and 'unknown vegetable curry', and in trying to come to terms with the sad fact that no one would wash your clothes for you any more. Nevertheless, these initial shortcomings were in due time overcome by various 'freshies' programmes, the lifting of the mobile ban, the discovery of renowned food joints in the vicinity, and the welcome sight of a lady to do the laundry...

In all the while that it has taken me to joyfully accept the hostel as my 'second home', I have come to understand the truth in my mother's statement of hostel life making a woman independent, in every sense of the word. I've learnt more in these three

years of Stella hostel life than I could possibly imagine learning elsewhere. Making friends gains a new meaning when all you have is six semesters to accept, trust and love. Fun is magnified to a whole new level when it is defined by 'silent' midnight birthday bashes and 'cake facials', by persistent attempts at breaking stringent rules, by looking forward to 'jam sessions' of dance on days of special celebrations, and by the solidarity and camaraderie revealed when we 'refugees' were forced to come to each others' aid during the floods that hit Chennai in my first year! Of course, the good times aside, we've all had our lows, times of sadness only made worse by the distance from home. But you learn to bounce back and enjoy every minute of this unique existence that two hundred other girls are blessed with every year. 'Hostelite' was a term I once despised, but now proudly bear with a happy grin.

If someone gave me a chance today to give up St. Joseph's and become a day scholar, I wouldn't think twice before point-blank refusal. I would have missed out on the decades-old friendly war that has raged between the two hostels, Our Lady's and St. Joseph's, statues standing as guardians to the throngs of girls a from variety of ethnic, religious and race background that stream into Stella Maris every year.

As the end of a wealth of college experiences looms on the near horizon, I reluctantly think of farewell parties, of rivers of tears, of hugs and laughter, and of the future. To step out into the world as a Stella Marian is a gift in itself, but as a Stella Marian Hostelite –now that is an honour.

Ms. Roshini Teresa Pochont

III B.A English

Vice-President, Students' Union (2007-2008)

Hostel life, in Hindsight

Life in a campus hostel does have its advantages – being able to walk into the library on Saturdays in worn-out T-shirts and pajamas; sleeping late till 7:45 am and still managing to reach classes on time at 8:00 am (I have since reformed: this is specially intended for our warden); coming for classes in chappals, etc.

After two years of living in Our Lady's Hostel, I consider myself an authority on hostel life. In fact, the hostel has even served as my 'muse' at times. For instance, during the creative writing contest of an inter-collegiate cultural, event the topic 'Banana Blues' instantly caught my fancy. I took the topic word-for-word and that night I wrote a funny piece on the day I was caught trying to take an extra banana under the vigilant eyes of the 'akka'. That we were not permitted to go back to that college and submit our entries because of the flash flood, is quite another matter. Anyway, it proved to be a great hit with my family – especially since I had been a self-professed banana-hater until I left home.

Speaking of floods, my first experience of a flood was at hostel. We woke up one fine morning at 5:30 am and came downstairs to find the ground floor in ankle-level water. It soon rose to mid-calf height. For a week, we waded around the place, along with tiny tadpoles, like Plastic Age robots with our legs secure in plastic bags. The waters then receded but two weeks later, we were flooded again and a girl woke up one morning to find her shoes floating around the room. Well, I can afford to be flippant about it because I was high-and-dry on the first floor. When I was allotted a room on the ground floor the following next year, the heavy rains did cause some anxious moments but the hostel walls had been mended by them.

While writing about the floods, I cannot but mention the unsung heroes of that period – the 'chettans' in the mess. They stood in the water to prepare hot meals for us day and night. Though badmouthing the food is one of our favourite pastimes, these people are the ones who gladly make lime tea, toasted bread and the like, when any of us falls sick. Or that instance last summer, when a friend and I diffidently went to them asking for salt and chilly powder (it was our warden's idea!) to spice up the raw mangoes that we had knocked down from the trees on campus – they were only too glad to oblige us with tumbler-fulls of both.

What is hostel life without homesickness – that longing for home and parents? I used to have panic attacks on hearing about the 'waiting-list' status of tickets for Trivandrum Mail. Some others staged elaborate countdowns towards the holidays by crossing out the days on every calendar in the vicinity. We used to console particularly homesick friends with upbeat remarks like "This time next week we'll be on the train!" or "This time next month you'll be having dinner at home!"

Last month I overheard a friend remark that this year she had not felt homesick as yet – this from someone who had moped around the first three months of first year. Why is it that most of us echo this sentiment now? Have we matured or 'grown up'? Or have spats between roommates regarding opening or closing windows, or whose bed was closer to the fan, ceased to be earth-shattering matters which made us long for home? Or has the hostel truly become a sort of second home to us so that word 'homesickness' loses its meaning?

While surfing the net the other day, I was going through the pages of an online group of Stella Maris hostelites. An alumna had commented that since the hostelites were now allowed to use cell phones and laptops, they were unlikely to have the kind of rapport that they used to share while at hostel. I felt quite indignant. If anything, keeping us connected to loved ones mitigates home-sickness – that chief dampener of spirits of hostelites leaving us free to have a good time with friends.

Being in my final year at hostel, I feel duty-bound to offer a piece of advice (albeit unasked) to my juniors. Enjoy hostel life while it lasts. The three years are going to slip away before you even realize it (I feel like the wise, old owl) and you'll be missing hostel once you leave it, as most of my seniors tell me when I run into them. Savour each moment, as hostel life is the only phase of your life where you will be forced to celebrate midnight birthday parties in whispers and on tiptoe because the warden may catch you in the act, (though I've always suspected that she plugs her ears at night, not wanting to spoil the fun!)

Ms. Cheryl George,

05 / EL / 40

COLLEGE DAY REPORT - March 23, 2007

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip fmm
Principal

(Following is the text of the media presentation made on the college day)

Respected Guest of Honour for this evening Prof. Rao Aiyagari, Advisor and Head, Science and Engineering Research Council, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, Sr. Cecilia Joachim fmm, Provincial Superior, Chennai Province, Sr. Rita Marneni, Secretary and Superior, Sr. Florine Monis, Superior Stella Maris Convent, dedicated faculty, respected members of the Governing Body and Academic Council, administrative and supportive staff, loyal alumnae, cherished students, dear parents, benefactors, well wishers and friends,

We've adopted the Biblical concept of Jubilee for the 60th year of the founding of the college. The year of jubilee, in the Christian tradition, is a time for joy and the year long celebrations also gave us time to reflect on the people and events that have significantly affected us, and to re-affirm our commitment to social equity, order and freedom according to God's plan.

Before we go on to enumerate the activities for the year, I have the onerous task of thanking five of our faculty members and three of our administrative and supportive staff, on the eve of their retirement, for their dedication,

commitment and loyalty to this institution.

Dr. Ms. Jilly Joseph, former Vice-Principal and former Head, Dept. of Zoology, Dr. Ms. Cecilia Thangarajan, Head, Department of Social Work, Ms. Elizabeth George, former Head, department of Chemistry, Ms. Chandra Ilango, faculty, Department of French, Dr. Ms. Rukmani Sridharan, Head, Department of Mathematics, Mr. Alphonse, Ms. Felcy Romeo, and Mr. Simon John,

You have given of your best and we thank each one of you for the many years of gracious and generous service to our institution.

It has been a year filled with activity—academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular.

August 15, 2006 marked the beginning of the celebrations for the Jubilee year. Independence day celebrations were followed by a solemn prayer service in which Sr. Cecilia Joachim and Dr. Ann Mary Fernandez, the then Registrar of the University of Madras, also participated.

The members of the staff council and student representatives offered 60 lamps, symbolising the light of knowledge, transmitted to generations of students.

Seated in the front row are the retiring staff, from L-R: Dr. Rukmani Sridharan, Ms. Elizabeth George, Dr. Cecilia Thangarajan, Dr. Jilly Joseph, Ms. Chandra Ilango and Ms. Felcy Romeo, Mr. Simon John and Mr. Alphonse



The academic year began with the introduction of two new Postgraduate programmes—M.A. Public Relations and M.Sc. Biotechnology.

Imbued with the spirit of learning the faculty organized numerous National, International and State level conferences, seminars and workshops.

The Department of Mathematics, in collaboration with IIT-Madras and Forum for Interdisciplinary Mathematics, organized an International Conference on Computational Mathematics and Statistical Methods, in January 2007. This conference was sponsored by UGC, INSA, CSIR and TNSCST.

The department also organized a Compact Course on Mathematical Modelling and Computing sponsored by NBHM, Department of Atomic Energy, with resource persons from reputed universities abroad.

Stella Maris College, attempting to keep pace with scientific advancements in the field of Nanotechnology, organized a National level workshop on 'Nanostructured Materials and applications'. This was a joint venture of the departments of Botany, Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Physics and Zoology, in collaboration with IIT-Madras. It was sponsored by the UGC, CSIR, INSA and TNSCST. The workshop included Videoconferencing with resource persons from USA and a practical demonstration, of the formation of carbon nanotubes and other 'nano' particles at IIT-Madras.

The Department of English organized a national conference on 'Literatures of West Asia', sponsored by the UGC. It contextualised issues and concerns in the region. Translated texts were identified to explore peace initiatives and their relevance to the reality of women's lives.

Network security is the current concern of the IT industry and the Computer Science department taking their cue, organized a National conference on 'Network Security' in February 2007. Resource persons from several private sector institutions spoke on the various aspects of network security, including the threats and solutions, in both wired and wireless networking.

A two-day national seminar 'Co-creating prosperity for fostering corporate social responsibility community based organisation partnership', was organized by the Department of Public Relations in collaboration with the Covenant Centre for Development, Madurai, and Lead India, New Delhi. The department, under the leadership of Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy, also released four CD's on March 8, 2007, documenting the work done by the first year students. The CD's related to 'Learning from the community', 'Women and Environment', 'Children and environment' and 'Environment and Community'.

'Developmental Divides'— a two-day national seminar was organized by the Department of Economics, in December 2006. It highlighted the impact of economic growth on the various sections of the Indian Population and the impact of reforms.

The Scholar-in-residence programme, sponsored by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, provided a forum for interaction between Dr. C. P. Chandrasekar, Professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU, and the faculty and students of the Department of Economics.

The Department of International Studies hosted Dr. K. P. Vijaylakshmi, Associate Professor, School of International Studies, JNU, as a Scholar-in-Residence.

'Conflict Transformation and Peace Building in South Asia' was the theme of the conference organized by the



department of International Studies, in collaboration with the Centre for Security Analysis, Chennai. This conference examined the issues and challenges of the South Asian State actors in conflict transformation and the role of international intervention.

The Department of Hindi acknowledged the role of freedom fighters of the Indian independence struggle by honouring 40 freedom fighters, along with one hundred and forty three teachers and fifty-three creative personalities, at a special function in March 2007. The department also organized a one-day national level workshop on 'Effective Classroom Teaching Methodology' in which over two hundred teachers participated.

The National Seminar on 'Social Entrepreneurship' was organized by the Department of Social Work, in December 2006. Its objective was to help participants assess risk, gauge opportunities and develop new project ideas.

The 13th Annual Session of the Tamilnadu History Congress was hosted by the Department of History. This forum has been involved in the study and research of the development of Tamizhalagam, past and present.

The Department of Tamil organized a National seminar on 'Tamil Iyakkayathil Vazhviya Sindhanaigal' in February 2007. The papers that were to be presented at the seminar were collated and published in two volumes by Dr. Ulaganayaki and released during the inaugural function.

The college also organized two conferences relating to Christian Higher Education. 'Mission, Innovation and

Transformation of Catholic Higher Education' (MITCHEI 2007) was held for the managements of Catholic Higher Education Institutions. Organized in collaboration with the Commission for Education and Culture, CBCI, New Delhi, and the Xavier Board for Higher Education (XBHEI), Bangalore, the focus was to rethink and reiterate the mission of Catholic higher education institutions in a changing world. His Grace, Most Rev. Thomas Menampampil sdb, Bishop of Guwahati, inaugurated the conference and delivered the keynote address while His Grace, Most Rev. A.M. Chinnappa, sdb Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, was the chief celebrant of the Eucharistic celebration.

'The Church and Christian Higher Education in India' was the theme of the national conference for catholic faculty organized by the College and XBHEI. The objective was to reflect on Christian presence in higher education and promote inter-faith dialogue, cultural harmony and peace. His Excellency, Most Rev. Lawrence Pius, Auxiliary Bishop of Madras-Mylapore, celebrated the Inaugural Eucharist.

The outcome of both the conferences was the emphasis on access to higher education for the marginalised and networking among the catholic colleges.

Stella Maris College, in cooperation with the Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre, presented a philatelic exhibition: Stamps, first day covers and post cards from Hungary, thematic collections and stamps on various personalities such as Mother Theresa and Mahatma Gandhi caught the eye of the viewers.

Stella Maris College is proud to have hosted the first Annual Convention of the student cells of ISTD,

Sr. Claude Sauveboeuf, one of the founding sisters of the college being honoured by Sr. Cecilia Joachim, Provincial



Chennai Chapter. It revolved around the central theme 'Emerging Trends in HR - a Global Perspective'. Mr. P.K. Mohapatra, President and CEO, RPG Enterprises, was the chief guest at the inaugural function.

Endowment lectures give students and faculty an opportunity to listen and interact with eminent speakers:

-The Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture was delivered by Dr. Ms. Padmini Swaminathan, Director, MIDS, Chennai.

-Mr. Shekar Dattatri, renowned Wild Life Film maker, delivered the Dr. Ms. Meera Paul and Dr. Hannah John Endowment Lecture of the Department of Zoology.

-The Sr. Thecla Endowment Lecture was delivered by Dr. Frank Tesorerio on 'Social Work and Human Rights: A way forward in an era of globalisation'.

-Ms. Scharada Bail, Sociologist and Writer on Social issues, delivered the first Endowment Lecture in honour of Sr. Christine Antony on 'Endangered Human: Poverty and Creativity in the Indian City'.

-The Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry endowment lecture was delivered by Mrs. Jaya Jaitley, former MP, on 'Indian Crafts Journey'.

-The Sr. Juliet Irene Rolling Trophy for the annual intercollegiate quiz conducted by the Department of Chemistry was won this year by R. K. M. Vivekananda College.

Stella Maris was privileged to have on campus Ms. Jane Goodall, noted wild life conservationist and United Nations messenger of Peace, as the guest of the department of Zoology. She interacted with the students and appealed to them to nurture and preserve the environment.

A two-day workshop on networking of colleges was conducted in June 2006 for the faculty, with Dr. Ann Mary Fernandez, Registrar, University of Madras, Dr. Sunithi Phadke, Prof. Christ College, Bangalore, Dr. Fr. Christy, LIBA, and Mr. Shankaran P. Raghunathan, Chairman, Blue Shift Inc. Chennai as the resource persons.

Dr. Fr. V.V. Abraham, sdb, visiting faculty at Stella Maris College, was the resource person for several workshops on Teacher Effectiveness, for the junior faculty.

Fr. Abraham and the IQAC team from IIT-Madras, also conducted a three-day UBCHEA sponsored workshop on Total Quality Management for a group comprising members of the management and faculty.

Many of our faculty have been invited to other institutions as visiting professors or on exchange programmes.

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal, Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy, Dr. Millie Nihila and Ms. Pearl Paul visited the US as part of the Towards a more connected world- cross cultural exchange programme with Eastern Iowa Community College District (EICCD).

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Dr. Rita Marneni and Ms. Sandra Joseph attended the General Assembly of IFCU held at Assumption University, Bangkok, in August 2006.

Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm, was the recipient of the Rooney International Visiting Professor Fellowship at Robert Morris University, Pennsylvania, USA in the summer of 2006. She was also given a citation in recognition of achievement and leadership for her contribution to the development of a Bioinformatics curriculum.

Front Row-L to Right: Sr. Rita Marneni, Sr. Claude, Sr. Annamma Philip, the Chief Guest, Shri Rao Aiyagari, Sr. Cecilia, Sr. Helen Vincent and Sr. Florine Monis

Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, former Principal being honoured by Sr. Cecilia Joachim, Provincial





Ms. Preethi Kandaswamy receiving an award from the chief guest

Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy participated in an International Conference on 'Cognitive Science: Model based reasoning in Science and Medicine', organized by Sun Yat-Sen University of Pavia, Italy, at Guangzhou and made a presentation on 'An examination of model based reasoning in Indian Philosophy and its impact on Indian Science and Medicine'.

Ms. Priya Suresh received a fellowship to attend the US Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Programme on US National Security, by the US department of State, from Jan. to March 2007.

Ms. Maragret Thomas, Department of Fine Arts, is the UBCHEA visiting scholar at Wellesley College, Boston, USA.

Sr. Annamma Philip represented India at the meeting of the Italian University Cooperation between Europe and Asia, in March 2007 at Rome.

Faculty and students have also received other awards and citations in recognition of their distinguished services.

The International Federation of Catholic Universities conferred the first *Sciat Ut Serviat* Award – 2006, on Stella Maris College for the social commitment of its faculty and students in favour of the affected communities by the Tsunami in December 2004.

Distinguished citizens of Chennai city, including the Prince of Arcot felicitated Sr. Annamma Philip at a public function, for her contribution to the field of higher education, and instituted an endowment fund in the college.

Dr. Ms. Madhu Dhawan was felicitated by the Tamil Nadu Hindi Academy with the distinguished academicians award, while the All India Tamil Poetess Association gave Dr. Ulaganayaki Palani the 'Kavimamani' award.

Dr. Ms. Ruth Manorama, an alumna of the college, was the recipient of the Right Livelihood Award – 2006, widely known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize'. Dr. Ruth Manorama was honoured by the department of Social Work in February this year.

Ms. Athira Krishna, II year Sociology, has been recognised for her musical talent and has been the recipient of the 'Prodigy Achiever of the year 2007' from Infosys Technologies. She will also receive an award that recognises young maestros, from the honourable President of India, on April 9th this year. She will be the youngest South Indian Classical Musician who will be honoured.

Table tennis player Ms. J. Swarna, Department of Botany, was selected for a coaching camp in Table tennis in Zhengding, China. She has represented the country and has won a number of medals including four gold medals in South Asian Junior table tennis championships, in various international and national competitions.

The vibrant kaleidoscope that is Stella Maris is seen in the several extra-curricular activities that take place on campus.

The SMC unit of the NCC hosted a State Level

Intercollegiate Championship, 'CADOSTAR', which had an overwhelming response from colleges in Tamil Nadu.

Three of our cadets - Flt. Cdt. Mareli, Cdt. Sangeetha Mary and Cdt. Jennifer participated in the Republic Day Camp at New Delhi. Flt. Cdt. Mareli was selected to march on the Rajpath. She was also selected for the Youth Exchange Programme. Cdt. Sangeetha Mary and Cdt. Jennifer were selected for the Prime Minister's rally.

Lt. Dolly Thomas, our NCC officer, was selected to lead the girls' contingent at the Republic Day parade held at the Marina in Chennai. She was also awarded the Director General's NCC Contingent Medal.

The three hundred and nineteen volunteers of the NSS have left their mark on the twenty-two welfare agencies with whom they collaborated.

The Stella Maris College NSS unit received three different awards from the Madras Voluntary Association, the Tamil Nadu Aids Prevention and Control Society and the Madras Voluntary Blood Bank, for the highest number of women blood donors among city colleges, the highest number of women blood donors in a single camp, and for mobilising more than 100 donors respectively.

The NSS unit also hosted the essay competition in view of the Geneva Convention Day celebrations and conducted an intercollegiate seminar for NSS volunteers titled 'Fostering Entrepreneurship'.

Dr. Ms. Poppy Kannan, the dynamic co-ordinator, was ably supported by Dr. Ms. Millie Nihila and Dr. Ms. Annie Cherian.

Sports and Games attract a large number of student participants who engage in various activities ranging from field events to indoor games.

Ms. Ancy Emmanuel, Physical directress, was instrumental in organising the Diamond Jubilee State Level Intercollegiate Tournament. Our College teams secured the first place in Chess and Table Tennis, and the Second place in Basket Ball, Lawn Tennis and Hockey.

Ms. Sana Saleem, II year Fine Arts, represented India in Bowling at the Asian Games held in Doha, in December 2006.

In the Madras University-B Zone inter-collegiate tournament, our college won the first place in Chess, Tennis and Table tennis and the second place in Hockey, Volley Ball and Basket Ball.

In athletics too, our students recorded notable achievements.

Thirty-three of our players represented the Madras B Zone and nine players represented the Madras University. They also participated in several National and State Level Interuniversity and Intercollegiate tournaments and championships and have won many laurels.

The concept of Service Learning is fast gaining momentum in the college. Dr. Ms. Poppy Kannan, Co-ordinator for the Service Learning Programme convened a workshop for the faculty involved in Service Learning in projects such as Textile Embellishment, Plants and People, Painting and Crafts, English Language Teaching and Basic Computer Applications, the students worked with their community partners, who are mostly women from villages around Chennai and High School children of corporation schools in the city.

Social Awareness Programmes that form a part of the curriculum encompass various areas of work, including welfare of the aged, child welfare, rural realities, Health education and Care of the handicapped.

Value Education and Campus Ministry programmes, as part of the ongoing activities of the college, have contributed richly to the growth and development of students. Retreats for Catholic students and prayer groups have helped the Catholic students in their spiritual formation.

'Convocation 2006' was held in January 2007. Over eight hundred students graduates received their degree certificates. Prof. S. Ramachandran, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, was the Guest of Honour.

The heartbeat of the college, the vibrant Students' Union with their motto 'A Whole New World', cast their spell on the various activities that they organized. 'Aquila' the intercollegiate competitions, Razzle-Dazzle, freshers' talent day, Ethnic Day, Friendship day, MTC day and other days of celebration brought out the talents and creativity of the students. At 'Kalakriti', the inter year cultural competition, the first place was won by the Second years. The highlight of this year's activities was 'PRAXIS', a National Youth Convention that drew students from across the country in a cross-cultural academic exchange. The speakers included Mr. N. Ram, Editor-in-Chief, The Hindu, Prof. M. S. Ananth, Director, IIT-Madras, Mr. T. N. Seshan, former CEC, Mr. Sashi Kumar Menon, Asian College of Journalism and Mr. Ramesh Krishnan, former tennis star.

The departmental fests also provided students opportunities for showcasing their talents: 'BC to AD' of the History department, 'Ecocentric' of the Economics department, 'Combat' of the Commerce department, 'MathZoom' of the Mathematics department, 'Synapse' of the Zoology Department, 'Replicon' of the Botany department, 'Reactions' of the Chemistry department, and 'Electra' of the Physics department were received with eagerness and enthusiasm.

The Department of Zoology also organized a number of Workshops and lectures by eminent speakers to conclude the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the department.

Stella Maris College is an associate of the Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access (FAEA), an organisation funded by the Ford Foundation. The funds from the foundation are utilized to conduct workshops and training programmes for students from less privileged sections of society. A series of Life Skills Training Programmes entitled 'Self Discovery', Training in English Communication, Basic Computer Skills and Employability Skills have been conducted to improve their confidence level and communication abilities.

A multimedia language lab has been set up for the use of the students. JAWS and Openbook software have been installed for the visually impaired students of the college. FAEA also supports six students by way of scholarships.

The Department of Social Work, in collaboration with UNICEF, TISS Mumbai and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, is continuing its work in the Tsunami affected villages. Capacity building programmes for rural youth on child's rights is the major thrust of this project. Two residential programmes were organized for the youth from the various districts of Tamil Nadu.

The activities of Sangamam, the extension project of Stella Maris, continues at Kasimedu, Royapuram. Five

thousand families of the fishing communities residing alongside the Chennai harbour are the beneficiaries of this project. Action Aid International, Caritas India and the International Federation of Catholic Universities continue to fund the project, now in its final phase of intervention for the Tsunami affected. The project has also mobilised seventy-five Self-Help Groups for women and two SHG's for transgendered groups and seven hundred children for the Children's forum. Ms. Sandra Stephen, Director of the project, and Sr. Kochu Teresa, technical co-ordinator, presented a paper at the Asian and Latin American Countries Conference organized by IFCU at Paris.

IFCU has sanctioned a project entitled 'Insights into the Displaced Populations', which aims at conducting research on displaced populations in Chennai city. At present, thirty thousand households have been identified for the study. The project is a cross-cultural research study in the Asian context.

An ongoing feature of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations is the institution of the Diamond Jubilee Scholarships for deserving students, on a merit cum means basis. The interest obtained from a principal amount of Rs. 60,000/- will be given annually to a deserving student.

Several donors have instituted scholarships and we are proud to state that over seven hundred and fifty students benefit from management and private scholarships as well as fee concessions at Stella Maris College.

In this context I wish to thank our benefactors, whose generosity enables us to help the economically disadvantaged to have access to quality higher education. This year the Indian Overseas Bank has come forward to set up a state-of-the-art computer facility in the college. We are indebted to IOB for this generous gesture.

Students performing a Mexican dance



Ms. Athira Krishnan, internationally renowned violinist



We are also grateful to the Science and Engineering Research Centre, DST, Government of India, for the grant sanctioned to the Department of Mathematics under the FIST Programme and to NSTE Development Board, Govt. of India, for establishing an Entrepreneurial Development Cell. This cell is currently involved in conducting awareness programmes among the students, through lectures and workshops.

The college is also immensely grateful to the United Board for Christian Higher Education and to the International Federation of Catholic Universities for the support extended to the institution. Several programmes have been conducted for the faculty through the generous support of the UBCHEA.

The alumnae of the college were also a part of the celebrations on campus. An evening of music, in December, brought together a large number of alumnae. In January this year, the students of the college interacted with successful entrepreneurs, who put up sixty stalls showcasing their ventures. January 20, 2007 was homecoming for hundreds of alumnae. It was a fun packed day that included a past vs present basketball match, which the alumnae won. Present students and alumnae presented a cultural programme and the day ended with dinner on campus.

As we end this presentation, I would like to thank each member of the Stella Marian family, both immediate and extended, who have contributed richly to the growth and development of this Institution. I express my profound gratitude and acknowledge the services rendered to the college by all our benefactors, well-wishers and friends. We are immensely grateful to God for the bountiful blessings bestowed on us.

Inspired by the vision and charism of Blessed Mary of the Passion, we continue to forge ahead to empower young women with courage and commitment, to face the challenges of life and to be builders of a humane and just society.

Thank you and God Bless!



Sr. Cecilia Joachim honours the retiring Faculty and Staff



Dr. Ms. Jilly Joseph



Ms. Elizabeth George



Dr. Ms. Cecilia Thangarajan



Dr. Ms. Rukmani Sridharan



Ms. Chandra Ilango



Ms. Felcy Romeo



Mr. Karuna Alphonse



Mr. Simon John

Looking Back to Look Ahead

- On the threshold of a Jubilee

On August 15, 2006 a twin celebration took place: Independence Day and The inauguration of the Diamond Jubilee year celebrations of Stella Maris College. The resounding steps of the NCC parade kindled the patriotic fire in the hearts of all present. The Indian tricolour flag was hoisted by our Chief Guest for the day, Dr. Anne Mary Fernandez, former Registrar, University of Madras, followed by the song *Thaayin Mani Kodi* rendered by the students of the college.

Sr. Cecilia Joachim, Provincial, Chennai Province, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, former Principal and Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, Secretary of the college lit the traditional 'Kuthuvilaku' heralding the beginning of the celebrations. This was followed by a prayer service which included readings of verses from the Bible, Quran and the Bhagavad Gita and a song from Tagore and a bhajan, *Inayadi Pottri*. Members of the management, Faculty, both present and retired, administrative and supportive staff, students and alumnae numbering sixty in all offered a lighted lamp each to mark the sixty years of the existence of Stella Maris.

Sr. Cecilia, in her speech conveyed the importance of three feasts being celebrated on this day: Independence

Day, Assumption of Mother Mary and the 59th anniversary of Stella Maris. She recalled the beauty of the tricolor – saffron, white and green, portraying sacrifice, purity and simplicity respectively, while Chakra symbolises hard work and self-sustenance. She also spoke on the themes of terrorism, poverty and women's education.

Stella Maris College was awarded the IFCU award for Post Tsunami work at the General Assembly of the IFCU. This award was represented by Sr. Cecilia to Sr. Annamma Philip, Sr. Rita Marneni, Dr. Sandra Joseph and Sr. Kochu Theresa Paulose on this festive occasion.

Then came the eagerly awaited part of the programme: the cultural programme which began with a performance of Bharatanatyam and presentation of two songs of Bharathiyar, the latter well presented by the NSS choir. It was a patriotic moment when, accompanying the song 'Vande Matharam', girls in bright colourful attire portraying the cultures of the various States joined together and danced in a variety of styles. The highlight of the day, however, was of course the treat of ice cream in a variety of flavours!



Inauguration of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – August 15, 2006



National Symposium *on* Literatures of West Asia

The Department of English organized a National Symposium on 'Literatures of West Asia', on September 28 and 29, 2006. The University Grants Commission (UGC) and Google, India, sponsored the programme. Mr. Guy Biran, theatre director from Israel, Dr. A.K. Ramakrishnan, Professor, School of International Relations, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, and Dr. Hoshang Merchant, Reader in English, Central University, Hyderabad, poet and writer, highlighted the political tensions and literary and cultural landscapes in Iran, Iraq, Israel and Palestine. The resource persons and participants identified texts from the regions available in translation.

Dr. A.K. Ramakrishnan, in his keynote address 'Images and Realities: Naming, Borders, Imagination', underscored acts that problematize the West Asia region. Mr. Guy Brian conducted a theatre workshop for the students and spoke on 'Theatre in Israel'.

The Symposium served as an introduction to the politics and aesthetics of West Asia. This was open to teachers and researchers and aimed at developing a curriculum in West Asian Literature for English Departments.

Presentations from the symposium have been brought out in a publication titled 'Notes on West Asia'.

L to R: Dr. Hoshang Merchant (extreme left), Mr. Guy Brian (centre) and Dr. A. K. Ramakrishnan (extreme right)



13th Annual Session of the Tamil Nadu History Congress



The Department of History was proud to host the '13th Annual Session of the Tamil Nadu History Congress' to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the College.

Eminent professors of History founded this Congress twelve years ago with the aim of creating a forum for the study and research of all aspects of the development of 'Tamizhalagam'.

The Congress began with a pre-conference dinner for the executive members and the advisory committee members, on October 26, 2006. Dr. M. Naganathan, Vice-Chairman, State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu and Chief guest for the function, inaugurated the Congress, while Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip delivered the presidential address. Dr. Ramachandran, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, released the proceedings and offered felicitations. Dr. G.

Venkataraman, General Secretary and Dr. A. Chandrasekharan, General President, Tamil Nadu History Congress, read the Annual Report and delivered the General President's Address, respectively. Two books written by delegates were released on the occasion.

Over one hundred and eighty papers on various topics such as Political and Administrative History, Social and Economic History, Art and Cultural History and Historiography were presented at the Congress. More than 350 delegates from all over India attended the Congress.

Dr. Anne Mary Fernandez, former Registrar, University of Madras, the Chief Guest, delivered the Valedictory Address and Dr. Chandrasekaran presided over the function. This historical event was much appreciated by the delegates and well reported by the press.

National Seminar on Co-creating Prosperity for Fostering Corporate Social Responsibility – Community Based Organization Partnership

The Department of Public Relations celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the college by organizing and dedicating its first national seminar on ‘Co-Creating Prosperity for Fostering Corporate Social Responsibility –Community-Based Organization Partnership’. The seminar was organized in association with the Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Madurai and LEAD India, New Delhi, and was held from December 5 – 6, 2006.

The seminar also saw the formal inauguration of the department by Mr. David Hopper, Consul General, US Consulate, Chennai. In his inaugural address, comparing businesses worldwide, he expressed the view that companies that were building global brands had become extremely sensitive to their social roles and that even in management schools and research, there was talk about social strategy. He also emphasized that the leading companies not only had a business strategy, but also a social strategy, because brands were built not only around the quality of the product but also around emotions and values that people ascribed to those products.

LEAD India took on the task of bringing in the participation of more than 15 corporate houses, led by NTPC, Reliance–Anil Ambani Group, Shell India, Hindustan Lever Ltd and CCD and facilitated the involvement of twenty-five Community-Based Organizations from Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The seminar ended with the inauguration of a Decentralised Resource Centre (DRC) by Mr. Pieter Bult of the UNDP, for industry, NGOs and academia to promote CSR.



The Alumnae Association Celebrates...

The Alumnae Association is veritably one of the jewels in the crown of Stella Maris College.

Over the years several batches of students have passed through the portals of the college, and they have made valuable contributions to the fabric of the nation.

The association organized three special programmes to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. The first was the 'Night of Music – Melodies Old and New' by Anand Mahadevan and his orchestra, on December 9, 2006, at the Kamaraj Memorial Hall. The young alumnae, Ms. Swetha Mohan and Ms. Subiksha Rangarajan, accompanied him.

The organizers aware of the fact that long speeches would affect the main performance, kept them brief and the vote of thanks was given in advance. Almost all the songs were melodious and slow paced. The music lingered in our ears long after the event.

Another event was 'Salute 60' held on January 19, 2007, that got the college transformed into a mini fair ground. It was done under the direction of Dr. Poppy Kannan, Faculty Co-ordinator of the Alumnae Association. Sixty alumnae showcased their entrepreneurial skills in an exhibition-cum-sale. The stalls ranged from a mind-boggling array of foods to casual and designer clothes, from exciting accessories to paintings and artefacts to books, toys and consultancy services. The chief guest was Ms. Sunitha

Reddy, Executive Director, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai. The infectious enthusiasm of the alumnae entrepreneurs and their evident pride in being Stella Marians was an eye-opener and a great source of inspiration to the students, who thronged the fair in large numbers.

'Alumnae Homecoming', held on January 20, 2007, was the final event that began with the traditional 'Kumkum Chandan' welcome. Every member was given a tag to fill in her name, subject and year of graduation. Then began the great 'Treasure Hunt', organized by the executive committee of the alumnae, which took people to all the nooks and corners of their yester-year haunts. A photography session and a basketball match between the alumnae and the present students were the other events of the day. Given their gusto, enthusiasm and team spirit, coupled with the cheering support of the alumnae audience which included retired faculty members, needless to say, the alumnae won the trophy. After a tea break, the group wound its way to O-1 to be entertained by a mélange of cultural items, from both past and present Stella Marians. The festivities came to a close with a delicious dinner at the OAT – the perfect end to a nostalgic trip down memory lane.

Bilkhis B. Sait,
Cecilia Sundaram and
Shankari Subbiah

National Seminar *on* Developmental Divides



The Department of Economics organized a national seminar entitled 'Developmental Divides' to mark the Diamond Jubilee year of the college. The seminar, inaugurated by Dr. Prabhat Patnaik, Vice-Chairman, Kerala State Planning Commission, was held on December 13 and 14, 2006. In his inaugural address, Dr. Patnaik stressed the overall need to change the role of the government, so as to bridge the inherent developmental divides existing in the Indian economy.

Prof. Padmini Swaminathan, Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai, in a special address, spoke on interface between unemployment and education. Dr. Puja Juyal, Head, Department of Political Science, Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow, in her paper 'Raising Issues – Some Existential, Some Theoretical: Women and Citizenship in India', highlighted the way in which politics-based reservation became meaningless unless women got their social space.

Faculty, research scholars and participants presented papers during the two days of the conference. Chairing the post inaugural session, Mr. Elango, former Panchayat President of Kuttampakkam village, spoke on the viability of an alternative development paradigm in the rural context. The paper presentation sessions were followed by a panel discussion on the theme of the seminar, chaired by Mr. Venkatasubramaniam, IAS (Retd.). Panelists included Prof. S. Subramanian, Faculty, MIDS, Dr. Ms. Rama Kashyap, Special Advisor, United Nations Tsunami Relief Fund (UNTRF) and Mr. Venkatachalam, General Secretary, All India Bank Employees' Association.

Dr. N. K. Kumar, IES, Director, Evaluation and Applied Research Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, in his valedictory address, categorically stated that an interdisciplinary approach such as a public-private partnership might offer a solution to the problem of developmental divides.

Despite the wide dimensions and contexts within which the phenomenon of developmental divides was discussed, there seemed to be a consensus that the future lay in kindling knowledge, persistent action and citizenship.

State Level Inter-Collegiate Tournament

The Diamond Jubilee State-Level Inter-Collegiate Tournament was organized to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the college, from December 14 to 16, 2006. It attracted 15 colleges from across the state: MOP Vaishnav College, The Ethiraj College for women, Patrician Arts and Science College, JBAS College, Chellamal Women's College, SDNB Vaishnav College, Dr. MGR Janaki Arts and Science College, Quaid-e-Millet Government College, PSGR Krishnammal College, Coimbatore, RVG Chengalpattu, Bharathi Women's College, Nazareth Arts and Science College, Dr. Ambedkar Government Arts and Science College, Women's Christian College and Queen Mary's College. The events organized included volleyball, basketball, hockey, chess, table-tennis and lawn-tennis, besides events for faculty from participating colleges. Mr. Benny

Coonghe, International volleyball referee and Mrs. Sumathi Hariharan, the first Indian woman umpire in cricket, were the guests of honour during the inauguration. Mr. D. Mukherjee, IPS, the Tamil Nadu Director General of Police, was the chief guest at the valedictory function.

In the ensuing competitions, Stella Maris student teams won the first place in chess and table tennis and were runners-up in basketball, lawn tennis and hockey. MOP Vaishnav College won the first place in basketball, hockey and tennis. Patrician Arts and Science College secured the first place in volleyball and SDNB Vaishnav College and Ethiraj College for women were runners-up for chess and table tennis, respectively.

The college was placed first in chess and table tennis and second in Basketball and Hockey.

In the competitions for faculty, Stella Maris secured the first place in throwball and table-tennis, while SDNB Vaishnav College secured the first place in tennis and JBAS College was runners-up for throwball, table-tennis and tennis.



National Seminar on Social Entrepreneurship

The Department of Social Work, recognising the importance of developing entrepreneurship for the social sector, organized a national seminar on 'Social Entrepreneurship' on December 15 and 16, 2006, in collaboration with the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (Tamil Nadu) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Chennai. The objectives were to create a forum for Social Workers, Social Work Institutions, Management and Entrepreneurship experts and institutional policy makers to deliberate on three topical themes: Social Entrepreneurship, Social Marketing and Social Enterprises. It aimed at educating, sensitizing and providing space and opportunity for students and NGOs to cultivate entrepreneurial competencies, to empower self and others and to create knowledge-based networking among various stakeholders.

Thiru. Aludiapillai, former Vice-Chancellor, Madurai Kamaraj University, in his keynote address spoke on the concept of Social Entrepreneurship stating that though it was only two decades old, the 21st century belonged to it. Ms. Mathura Chathrapathy from the Asian Centre for Entrepreneurial Initiatives, Bangalore, emphasised that by being partners and collaborators in any initiative, social entrepreneurs should empower people to create their own destiny. Dr. T. Karunakaran, Vice-Chancellor, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul, shared an integrated Gandhian approach towards promoting entrepreneurship among youth. Mr. K.M. Nair, General Manager, SIDBI, presented the various policies, programmes, support and expertise provided by SIDBI in training people to become entrepreneurs.

The seminar was attended by 175 persons including students, scholars, practitioners and faculty representing 32 academic institutions.

Twenty-two experts delivered lectures that provoked discussions. NGO leaders were invited to present their experience on Social Entrepreneurship while 25 papers were presented. They included topical issues such as SHGs, IT sector, Sustainable Development, Service Learning Programmes, Abolition of Child Labour, Family Planning, etc. The Tamil Nadu Women's



Development Corporation organized an exhibition-cum-sale of products manufactured by Self-Help Groups supported by them.

In his valedictory address, Mr. Pandia Rajan, Managing Director, MAFOI, spoke on the need for preparedness and risk-taking behaviour to enter the present competitive global market. Dr. R. Jayaraman, Member-Secretary, Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, Madurai, delivered the special address, emphasising that social entrepreneurs should nurture a proactive behaviour and find solutions to any problem. Sr. Rita Marneni, Secretary of the College, distributed the certificates to the participants, while Sr. Lourthu Mary, Organizing Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks.



It's Christmas in Stella!

Christmas is one of the biggest feasts for the people belonging to the Christian faith and it would be wrong to assume that it is only celebrated among the Christians. With the world becoming a global village, Christmas is now celebrated in many countries around the world.

At Stella Maris the Management, Faculty, Staff and Students decided to have a carol service on December 16th 2007. We welcomed parents and the public to listen to the cherubic singing. This was also an event to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the college.

Carols sung by choirs of angels represented by faculty, sisters from the convent, students and administrative and supportive staff rent the air. A very meaningful talk by Rev. Fr. Anthony Swami, Parish Priest, St. Louis Church,

Adayar and former Rector of the Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonamallee, sent home a powerful message on Love.

The students put up a short skit depicting the nativity in the modern era, with the message of caring and sharing our resources with less fortunate people.

Santa Claus made it a point to visit the college that day all the way from Lapland and caught us unawares, especially the little children who had come along to enjoy the carol service. He generously distributed sweets and gifts!

The programme ended on a beautiful note with 'O Holy Night' sung by Ms. Ordetta Mendoza fsm and Ms. Anne Samuel.



பெண்ணியக் கல்வியில்

ஆண்டுகள் அறுபது!

ஸ்டெல்லா மாரீஸ் கல்லூரி வைரவீழா ஆண்டின் தொடர்பாகத் தமிழ்த்துறை இலக்கியத்தில் வாழ்வியல் சிந்தனைகள் என்ற பொருளில் 15.02.2007 அன்று தேசியக் கருத்தரங்கம் நடத்தியது. இப்பொருளில் தமிழ் நாடு மட்டுமின்றி தேசியம் முழுமையிலிருந்தும் பேராசிரியர்கள் கலந்து கொண்டு கட்டுரை வாசித்தனர்.

"விடுதலை அடைந்த நான்
பாரத அன்னை தன்
வீழிகளால் தேடிய பெண்கல்வி"

ஸ்டெல்லா மாரீஸ் கல்லூரியால் பெருமை பெற்றது என்ற பொருளில் அறுபது நற்றமிழ்ச் சான்றோர்கள் தங்களின் உள்நூலில் இருந்த பெண்கல்வி பற்றிய சிந்தனைகளை வாழ்த்துரையாகத் தந்து பெருமை சேர்த்தனர். இந்த வாழ்த்துரைகள் வைரவீழா ஆண்டின் வாழ்த்து மலராகவே மிக அருமையான முறையில் பதிப்பிக்கப்பட்டது. 15.02.2007 அன்று தமிழ் இலக்கியத்தில் வாழ்வியல் சிந்தனைகள் என்ற தலைப்பில் தேசியக் கருத்தரங்கம் நடத்தியது. கருத்தரங்க நாளன்றே அனைத்துக்கட்டுரைகளும் இரண்டு தொகுதிகளாக வெளியீட்டில் தமிழ்த்துறை நிர்மாந்து நின்றது! தொகுதி ஒன்றில் 157 பேராசிரியர் பெருமக்கள் தங்களின் ஆய்வுக்கட்டுரைகளை வழங்கியுள்ளனர். தொகுதி இரண்டில் 127 ஆய்வுக்கட்டுரைகளை ஆய்வு மாணவர்கள் வழங்கியுள்ளனர். தமிழ்க் கூறும் நல்லுலகம் பெருமை கொள்ளும் நிலையில் இவ்விரண்டு நூல்களையும் கருத்தரங்கம் அன்று தலைமையுரை நிகழ்த்திய அண்ணா பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் துணைவேந்தர் முனைவர் திரு. விஸ்வநாதன் அவர்கள் வெளியீட்டது தமிழ்த்துறை கல்லூரிக்குத் தந்த பெருமையாகும். தலைமையுரை நிகழ்த்திய முனைவர் திரு. விஸ்வநாதன் ஸ்டெல்லா மாரீஸ் கல்லூரியின் அருமைகளைத் தொகுத்துப் பேசினார்.

தமிழ் இலக்கியம் தரும் வாழ்வியல் சிந்தனைகளை நூற்பது சிந்தனைகளைத் தொகுத்தார். பின்னாளில் அத்தொகுப்பிலிருந்து இருபது சிந்தனைகள் B.A. / B.Sc. / B.Com / B.C.A. பாடத்திட்டத்தில் அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்டது. அறிஞர் அண்ணா-விற்குப் பிறகு ஒரு பேச்சாளர் மேடையில் பேசிய பேச்சு பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுப் பாடத்திட்டத்தில் இணைத்தது இதுவே முதல் முறை என்ற பெருமையை இக்கருத்தரங்கம் பெற்றது தனிச்சிறப்பு.

தமிழக முதல்வரின் கரத்திற்கு வைரவீழா மலரும் ஆய்வுக்கட்டுரைகளின் தொகுப்பும் பரிசாக அளிக்கப் பெற்றது இக்கருத்தரங்கின் வரலாறு.

வீழாவில் சிறப்புரை வழங்கிய சென்னைக் கம்பன் கழகத் தலைவர் அருளாளர் திரு ஆர். எம். வீரப்பன் அவர்கள் வீழாவிற்குப் பெருமை சேர்த்தார்.

வீழாவில் சிறப்புரை ஆற்றிய கவியரசர் திரு. வைரமுத்து அவர்கள் மாணவர்களுக்கு "வீரவுரை" நிகழ்த்தினார். மாணவர்களின் எதிர்கால வாழ்விற்குத் தமிழ் இலக்கியம் தந்த செல்வம் உழைப்பு முக்கியம் வெற்றி நிச்சயம்" என்ற பொருளில் தன்னம்பிக்கை உரை கொடுத்தார்.

வைரவீழா மலரைத் தொழிலதிபர். திருக்குறள்நெறிச்செல்வர் திரு. கிருஷ்ணசுந்தரோடயா அவர்கள் வெளியீடு

ஸ்டெல்லா மாரீஸ் கல்லூரியின் வரலாற்றுப்புகழ் பெற்ற முன்னாள் முதல்வர் முனைவர், அருட்சகோதரி ஹெலன்வின்சென்ட் அவர்கள் பெற்றுக்கொண்டு வாழ்த்தினை நல்கினார். அன்று மாலை தேசியக் கருத்தரங்கின் நிறைவு வீழா மங்கலமாக நடந்தது. அண்ணா பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் முன்னாள் துணை வேந்தர் முனைவர் பேராசிரியர் திரு. வா. செ. குழந்தைசாமி அவர்கள் நிறைவுரைத் தந்து பெருமை சேர்த்தார். கருத்தரங்கத்தில் கலந்து கொண்ட 80க்கும் மேற்பட்ட பேராசிரியர்களுக்குச் சான்றிதழ் வழங்கிச் சிறப்பித்தார்.

"கல்வி என்றால் ஸ்டெல்லா மாரீஸ் கல்வி தான்! கல்லூரி என்றால் ஸ்டெல்லா மாரீஸ் கல்லூரி தான்!" என்று மதிப்புரைத்தார்.

இந்தியத்தாயின் புகழ் வானில் ஏழு நட்சத்திர மலர்களைக் கொய்து ஏழு நட்சத்திர விருதுகளை எதிர் நாளில் பெற இருக்கும் கல்வி வளாகத்திற்கு என் அன்பின் வாழ்த்துக்கள்! என திரு. வா. செ. குழந்தைசாமி அவர்கள் வாழ்த்தியது இக்கருத்தரங்கம் அடைந்த பெருமை!

ஸ்டெல்லா மாரீஸ் கல்லூரியின் தமிழ்த்துறையில் தலைவராகப் பணியாற்றி பேராசிரியப் பெருமக்களின் ஒத்துழைப்போடு இக்கருத்தரங்கம் நடைபெற இறைவன் எனக்கு அளித்த வாய்ப்பினை எண்ணி மகிழ்கிறேன்! வீழாவிற்குப் பெருமை சேர்த்த ஸ்டெல்லா மாரீஸ் கல்லூரியின் முதல்வர் முனைவர் பேராசிரியர் அருட்சகோதரி அன்னம்மா பீலிப் அவர்களின் ஒத்துழைப்பும் ஆசிரியர்களை மதிக்கும் உணர்வும் மேலும் இக்கருத்தரங்கம் வெற்றி அடைய வழிகாட்டியது!

வாழ்க்கை ஒருமுறை!
வாழ்த்தட்டும் தலைமுறை!

என்ற கண்ணதாசனின் வர்க்களுக்கேற்ப வீழா இனிதே நிறைவுற்றது. இறை அருள் துணை நின்று இவ்வீழா சிறப்புற்றது. வணக்கம்! வாழிய நலம்!

டாக்டர் உலகநாயகி பழனி.
தமிழ்த்துறைத்தலைவர்



International Conference of the International Forum for Interdisciplinary Mathematics On Computational, Mathematical And Statistical Methods (CMASM)

The 14th International Conference of the International Forum for Interdisciplinary Mathematics (FIM) on Computational, Mathematical and Statistical Methods (CMASM) was jointly organized by the Department of Mathematics and IIT-Madras, from January 6 to 8, 2007. The conference, held as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the college, aimed at promoting exchange of information on various analytical and computational techniques used by Mathematicians, Scientists and Engineers. The focus of the conference was on Computational, Mathematical and Statistical methods germane to interdisciplinary investigation, as greater numbers of technology-driven industries are outsourcing their core units to India.

The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Idy Chandy, Dean, Academic Research, IIT-Madras at IC & SR Auditorium, IIT-Madras. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip fmm, Chairperson, CMASM, delivered a special address. Among the eminent delegates comprising Mathematicians, Statisticians, and Engineers was Prof. Bhu Dev Sharma, Professor of Mathematics, Clark Atlanta University, USA, and Chief Editor, Journal of Combinatorics, Information and System Sciences (JCISS), who spoke on FIM and its activities.



Mr. C. Rajasekar, Vice-President, Mega Corporate, Satyam Computers Ltd., Chennai, delivered the keynote address, on January 7, 2007. Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent fmm, former Principal, released the souvenir.

About three hundred mathematicians participated in the conference, which hosted 16 symposia, seven plenary sessions and seven paper-reading sessions, including one in which papers were presented for the R.S. Varma Best Paper Award. There were also eight paper presentations by the faculty of the department, among the total of sixty seven papers presented. These papers were submitted to the International Journal JCISS for publication as a special issue, after being reviewed by a panel of experts.

The topics for the symposia included Applications of Statistics in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Computational and Statistical Methods in Applied Mechanics, Formal Languages and Automata Theory, Functional Analysis and Operator Theory, Mathematics for Real World Systems and Ranked Set Sampling.

The topics for the paper-reading sessions included Differential Equations and Differential Geometry, Fluid Dynamics, Queues, Networks and Stochastic Models, Real, Complex and p-adic Analysis, Statistics and Applications, and Networks and Allied Topics.

Ms. Jude Annie Cynthia, faculty of our Department, received the Prof. R.S. Varma Memorial Best Paper Award for her presentation titled 'On Minimum Matric Dimension of Petersen Graphs'.

Prof. T.T. Narendran, Dean IC & SR, IIT-Madras, delivered the valedictory address.



Fostering Entrepreneurship: The Role of Higher Education

Intercollegiate Seminar for NSS Volunteers of all Women's Colleges in Chennai

The National Service Scheme (NSS) of the College organized an Intercollegiate Seminar for NSS volunteers titled 'Fostering Entrepreneurship: The Role of Higher Education' as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. A unique feature of the seminar was that all the speakers were alumnae of the college.

The objective of the seminar was to promote awareness among youth to create social entrepreneurship as a career.

Mr. Prabha, General Manager, Canara Bank, Chennai, delivered the Inaugural Address on the theme 'Promotion of Business Initiatives among Youth'.

Ms. Sumathi Iyer, Canara Bank, spoke on the 'Role of the Bank in Promoting Entrepreneurship'. Sr. Lourthu Mary, fmm, Lecturer, Dept. of Social Work, SMC, dwelt

on 'Entrepreneurial Competencies: The Road to Development' while Ms. V. Mary Teresita, Lecturer, Dept. of Chemistry, SMC, spoke on 'The Need for Entrepreneurial Development in Institutes of Higher Education'. The topic of 'The Ethical Values in Entrepreneurship' was presented by Mr. K. Panchakcharam, Secretary, SIPA, Chennai.

In her valedictory address Dr. Ms. Bhooma Parthasarathy, Director, Tirumala Charity Trust, Ranipet, TN, spoke on the 'Importance of Higher Education on Promotion for Entrepreneurship'.

Three hundred NSS volunteers from twenty-five city colleges participated in this seminar held at Stella Maris College on January 18 and 19, 2007.

The seminar was convened by Dr. Ms. Poppy Kannan, NSS Programme Officer of the college while Canara Bank was the sponsor.



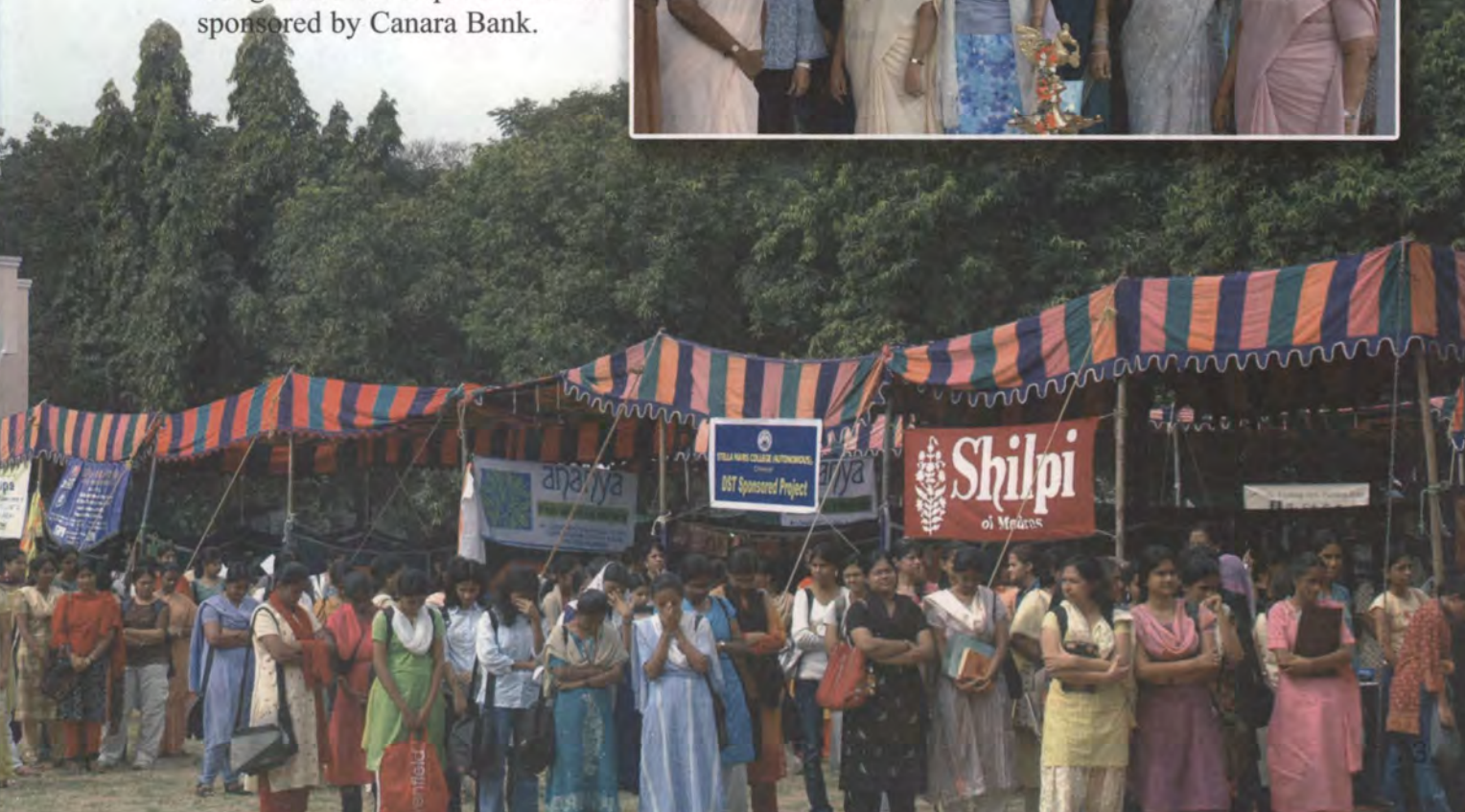
Alumnae Entrepreneurship Expo 60 stalls for Star studded years

60 Star-studded years.... and stalls was an expo exclusively for the alumnae of Stella Maris College, to exhibit and sell their products and to promote their projects and services. This concept was conceived and convened by Dr. Ms. Poppy Kannan, Reader and Head, Department of Social Work and Alumnae Coordinator of the College.

The Expo was held on January 19, 2007. Ms. Sunita Reddy, Executive Director, Finance, Apollo Hospitals Group and alumna of the college inaugurated the Expo which was sponsored by Canara Bank.

There was an overwhelming response from the alumnae from the 1950s to 1990s. They took pride as Stella Marians to showcase their products such as designer wear, textiles and ready-mades, eatables, Tanjore paintings, handicrafts, books, leather products, beauty products, jute products, health products and food products.

These super seniors were a great source of inspiration to hundreds of junior Stella Marians.



National Workshop on Nanostructured Materials and Applications



Nanotechnology offers the promise of breakthroughs that will revolutionize the way we detect and treat disease, monitor and protect the environment, produce and store energy and build complex structures as small as an electronic circuit or as large as an airplane. Nanotechnology is expected to have a broad and fundamental impact on many sectors of the economy, leading to new products and new industries. It impinges on so many different scientific fields that its future applications seem almost boundless. How soon will the “nano” revolution be sensed by the commoner is uncertain, but the general consensus is that nanotechnology will quite simply find its way into everything and will be as much a part of our daily life as plastics are today.

In view of keeping abreast of the developments in this field, the faculty of the departments of Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Botany, Chemistry, Physics and Zoology of the college organized a national workshop on ‘Nanostructured Materials and Applications’, in collaboration with IIT-Madras, from January 23 to 25,

2007. The patron and convenors, were Dr. M.S. Ananth, Director, IIT-Madras, and Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal, Stella Maris College, respectively, while Dr. Ramaprabhu, Professor, Alternative Technology Lab, Department of Physics, IIT-Madras, Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm, Head, Department of Bioinformatics and Dr. Ms. Rukmani Srinivasan, Head, Undergraduate Department of Chemistry, were the co-ordinators.

Dr. K. A. Padmanabhan, Professor of Eminence and former Director IIT Kanpur, inaugurated the workshop and delivered the keynote address. His lecture dwelt on the super-plasticity of 3D structures that set the tone for the rest of the workshop.

Dr. P.S. Anil Kumar from IISc., Bangalore, elucidated the principles involved in preparing nanomaterials, while Dr. Shanthi V. Nair from Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi, gave an explanatory lecture on the use of nanomaterials in drug delivery, wound healing and other biomedical applications. The idea of using nanotubes to overcome the gap between supply and demand in the energy sector was the topic dealt with by





Dr. Dhathathreyan from the Centre for Fuel Cell Technology, ARC International, Chennai. Dr. Sundar of IGCAR, Kalpakkam, spoke on the obstacles involved in making nanoscale devices and their use in defence exercises and equipment. Several eminent speakers such as Dr. Ramachandra Rao, Prof. Ramaprabhu, Dr. T. Pradeep from IIT-Madras, and Dr. T. Prem Kumar, Scientist, CECRI, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu, enthralled the participants with their knowledge of the subject and the possible application of nanostructured materials in various areas of science and technology, including medicine and cancer remediation.

Workshop sessions at IIT-Madras, were organized and coordinated by Dr. Ramaprabhu and his team, who gave a practical exposure to the intricacies involved in the preparation and application of nanostructured materials.

A videoconference session with Dr. Apparao Mohan Rao, Clemson University, USA, was well appreciated by the participants. Dr. P. S. Anil Kumar and Dr. Gopalan, MCC, Chennai, judged the paper presentations by young researchers.

Delivering the valedictory address, the chief guest, Dr. Ramasamy Sinnanadar, Co-ordinator, Department of Nuclear Physics and Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, University of Madras, encouraged the faculty and students to engage in active research in this field, since he felt the same way as R. Feynman did when he said 'there is plenty of room at the bottom'.

The workshop, which attracted faculty, research scholars and postgraduate students from all over the country, was well appreciated and the efforts put in the college to make the event an enriching experience was also lauded.

This national workshop was preceded by a two-day lecture-cum-demonstration, 'Capturing the Excitement at the Bottom', for the faculty of the science departments and was held from November 9 to 10, 2006. The resource person Dr. T. Pradeep, Prof. Dept of Chemistry, IIT-Madras, enlightened the audience on the synthesis and characterisation of nanoparticles, emerging frontiers and societal implications of nanoscience and technology. He also demonstrated the formation of 'nanogold' particles, which was then tasted by many of the faculty members.



All India *Conference on* Mission, Innovation and Transformation of Catholic Higher Education in India

The All India Conference on 'Mission, Innovation and Transformation of Catholic Higher Education in India' (MITCHEI 2007) was organized and held at Stella Maris College on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee, from February 1 – 3, 2007. It was conducted in collaboration with the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) Commission for Education and Culture and the Xavier Board of Higher Education in India (XBHEI).

In view of the many challenges facing Catholic Higher Education, especially commercialization of higher education, rapid growth of technologies and the decreasing number of competent religious leadership, teachers and administrators, the objectives of the conference were:

- To rethink and reiterate the mission of Catholic Higher Education
- To reflect on the need to update approaches, policies and structures
- To examine a more inclusive and participatory form of institutional functioning
- To consider the importance of networking

The participants included Provincials of religious congregations, Superiors, Secretaries, Principals of Colleges and other stakeholders in the field of Catholic Higher Education.

Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil sdb, Chairman of the CBCI Commission for Education and Culture and patron of MITCHEI, inaugurated the conference and delivered the keynote address. He said that we should take up higher education with a clear sense of its mission, namely, perfection of the human person, and not let a market-dominated world of individualism and aggressive competition dominate us. We should focus on the spiritual development of all students and fulfil our special responsibility to the Christian youth by offering them genuine education in faith. Service to the poor and the marginalized is an absolute value. Trusting in Divine providence, he declared, we plunge boldly in favour of

them. He cautioned that quality in education should not be narrowly conceived. Academic and professional excellence must form part of the all-round development of the human person, who learns to consider life as a gift and a service. Thus, higher education should equip young people to become honest citizens who are rooted in their culture, open to other cultures, and capable of interpreting social processes, so as to take responsibility for bringing about transformation in society. He also stressed the need for further collaboration and networking among various institutions.

Most Rev. Dr. A. M. Chinnappa, sdb, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore and Chairman of Tamil Nadu Catholic Educational Association, was the main celebrant at the inaugural Eucharist, which was enriched by the much-appreciated singing of the Stella Maris College choir. During the homily, he emphasised that Christian higher education should transcend petty considerations like caste or language and rediscover the evangelical spirit of becoming 'Good News to the poor'. The poor and marginalized, he insisted, should once again occupy centre stage, in keeping with the far-reaching vision and commitment of early missionaries.

Besides excellent presentations made by several experienced and learned educationists, such as Prof. J. Philip, Director, XIME, Bangalore, Dr. Fr. Casimir Raj sj, Director, XLRI, Jamshedpur, Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier sj,

From L-R: Sr. Cecilia Joachim, Archbishop Menamparampil, Fr. Kuriala, Fr. Joseph Xavier, Sr. Rita with the Principal



*Top: The Archbishop congratulates the Choir
Bottom: The celebrants at the Eucharist
during the inauguration of the conference.*



President XBHEI, and Prof. Maxwell J. Correa, School of Management Studies, Robert Morris University, PA, USA, the conference was enhanced by a videoconference with Prof. Philip G. Altbach, Monan professor of higher education, Director, Center for International Higher Education (CIHE), Boston College, MA, USA. There was also a discussion on 'An Outsider's Perspective of Catholic Higher Educational Institutions' with Dr. M. Anandkrishnan, Former Vice-Chancellor, Anna University and Director, Madras Institute of Developmental Studies (MIDS), Dr. Ms. Latha Pillai, Advisor, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), and Dr. L.S. Ganesh, Head, Department of Management Studies, IIT-Madras, on the panel.

Some of the topics that were discussed dwelt upon standards of excellence and quality of education in Catholic institutions, access to higher education for the disadvantaged sections of society, lay partnership in administration, the problem of finance and campus culture.

During the final evaluation, the participants were unanimous in acknowledging the high quality of the conference proceedings and the immense benefit they drew from it. The main ideas that surfaced during the deliberations enabled the participants to come to a clear consensus on certain guidelines and recommendations for reforming Catholic higher education in India today. These

ideas were summarised and spelt out in the form of proposals.

It was hoped that the proposals, adopted by the participants on February 3, 2007, would serve to reorient policies and activities at the national, provincial/regional/diocesan and local levels.

Some of the proposals were:

- An inclusive approach to education with a clear option for Catholics, the poor and the marginalized
- A strong commitment to serving the people of God in their pilgrimage of faith to the transcendent goal which gives meaning to life
- Promotion of social justice in the light of the Gospel
- Facilitating access to the disadvantaged
- The need for more Catholic colleges and universities
- To give equal importance to the spiritual growth and moral education of students
- Lay partnership in administration and policy formation
- Social commitment and involvement in public life
- Student leadership
- Networking among the institutions, within India and abroad, to maximize the sharing of human and physical resources
- The need for the Xavier Board of Higher Education to study the possibility of developing an e-learning degree programme for training faculty and staff in leadership, management, creativity and teaching skills so as to ensure quality

The Patrons of the conference were Archbishop Thomas Menamparambil, sdb, and Msgr. Guy Real Thivierge, Secretary, IFCU, while the Convenors of the Conference were Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Fr. C. Kuriala sdb, Executive Secretary, CBCI, Commission for Education and Culture and Fr. Joseph Xavier sj, President XBHEI.

Dr. Fr. V.V. Abraham, sdb
Organizing committee member
(MITCHEI) and
Salesian Youth Ministry
Delegate, South Asia
S. Asian co-ordinator for education and culture

Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm
Co-ordinator (MITCHEI)
Head,
Dept. of Bioinformatics



State Level Inter Collegiate NCC Championship CADOSTAR

As part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, the college NCC Company hosted its first State Level Inter-Collegiate NCC Championship 'CADOSTAR'. Commodore U.N. Chitnavis, Nav Sena Medal, Deputy Director General-NCC, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Pondicherry Directorate, inaugurated the two-day event on February 7, 2007.

The response from the colleges was overwhelming, with 18 teams from the Tamil Nadu Directorate participating in the various competitions. Some colleges sent two teams representing the armoured and infantry battalions, respectively, as well as senior wing cadets from many schools.

The competitions included contingent drill, individual drill, cross-country, obstacle race, flag area designing, quiz, communication, first aid and map reading. There were also best cadet competitions, which included GK, GSK, IQ, best Tal Sainik competitions, and cultural competitions, which had the cadets on the move and each college vying for the trophy.

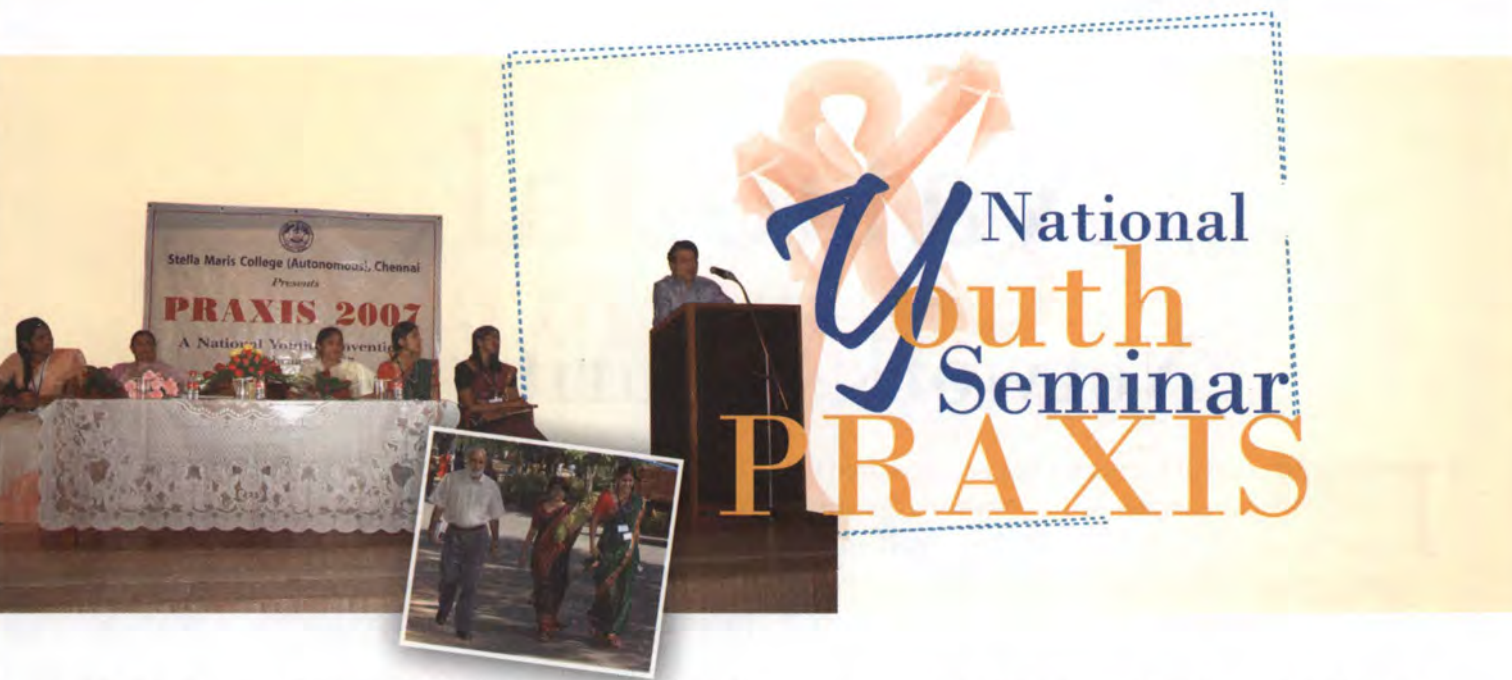
The officers of the Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai, were the judges at the competitions.

The Best Cadet Competition was won by D.G. Vaishnav College, while the Runner-up was Air Squadron of the Tamil Nadu Directorate. The overall winner of the 'CADOSTAR' Championship was R. K. M. Vivekananda College, Chennai, and the Runner-up was Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur.

The cultural events marked the grand finale to the championships. The valedictory function was held on February 8, 2007 and the chief guest for the occasion was Col. K. Bhaskar, Group Commander, Madras, Group A.

The NCC Company did the college proud when it became the first women's college to host a state-level championship. The company received much appreciation and excellent positive feedback from the officers of the Directorate and OTA, who felt that the conduct and organization of the competitions were par excellence.





National Youth Seminar PRAXIS

The Students' Union (2006–2007), representing the vibrancy of youth on campus, were as enthusiastic as the faculty to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the college with an event that would be a milestone. Honing their skills, they organized a two-day national seminar that was instrumental in bringing together over two hundred students from various city colleges and other reputed colleges across the country.

The Students' Union office bearers and a core committee of eleven students were assisted in the organisation of the seminar by three faculty advisors. The advisory team comprised student representatives from several departments from each year. They worked for two months to make 'PRAXIS' a reality. The aim of the seminar was to enlighten the youth through interactive sessions with some of the brilliant minds of our country. It included sessions on Youth and Media, Youth and Social Issues, Youth and Sports, Youth and Governance, Youth and Science and Youth and Economic Issues.

The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. N. Ram, Editor-in-Chief, The Hindu. This was followed by six sessions presided over by the various speakers, and three workshops on dance (Ms. Padmini Chettur), drama (Mr. P.C. Ramakrishna) and creative writing. Dr. M.S. Ananth, Director, IIT-Madras, Mr. T.N. Seshan, former Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Ramesh Krishnan, Tennis Professional, Mr. Sasikumar Menon, Director, Asian College of Journalism and Dr. L.S. Ganesh, Head, Department of Management Studies, IIT-Madras, were some of the resource persons. Student delegates from other colleges also presented papers at each of the six sessions.

A high level of enthusiasm was sustained throughout the two-day rigorous schedule, and it was this enthusiasm that made PRAXIS a huge success.



National Conference on Network Security

The Department of Computer Science organized the first national conference on 'Network Security', on February 16 and 17, 2007, as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the college. Network security is the protection of network resources against unauthorised disclosure, modification, utilisation or destruction. An intelligent network improves efficiency of networked systems, allowing the institution to achieve its goals quickly.

The conference was inaugurated by Mr. Sreeram Iyer, CEO, Scope International. He also delivered the inaugural address on the importance of network security and its implementation in their organisation. Dr. S.V. Raghavan, Prof. IIT-Madras, delivered the keynote address covering some of the important aspects of network security and the role of academia in this regard.

Dr. N.S.N. Pillai, DGM, Ashok Leyland, discussed the human aspects of network security, quoting real life incidents from their organisation. Dr. Pandurangan, Prof. IIT-Madras, spoke on 'Securing Multiparty Computation' and also addressed some of the challenging issues in securing the networks.

Dr. R. Ramanujam, Prof. Dept. of Theoretical Computer Science, Institute of Mathematical Science, spoke of the foundations of security protocol analysis and also judged a few of the informative paper presentations by the participants from various colleges.

Some of the other resource persons included Dr. Ranjani Parthasarathi, Prof. Anna University, who spoke on security in a wireless network and Mr. Venkatesh (Regional Manager, Websense) and Mr. Ramesh Kumar (Sun Microsystems), who briefed the participants about security threats and the solutions offered by their products to overcome them. The conference was an enriching experience for all the participants from various colleges.

The department also instituted a Diamond Jubilee Scholarship to mark the occasion.



The First Endowment Lecture in honour of Sr. Christine Antony fmm

The Department of Sociology was instrumental in initiating an endowment lecture in honour of Sr. Christine Anthony, fmm, former Head of Department. Sr. Christine also served as faculty in the Department of Social Work and was Dean of Student Affairs for several years. After her retirement, she continued to serve in the capacity of Vice-Principal of the self-financing section.

Ms. Scharada Bail, Sociologist and writer, delivered the Sr. Christine Endowment Lecture on 'Endangered

Human: Poverty and Creativity in the Indian City'. She emphasized the creativity that exists among the deprived and disadvantaged urban poor. This first lecture was held on February 21, 2007.

The event brought together several alumnae of the department who were students of Sr. Christine. They recalled with nostalgia their experiences in Stella Maris College and their association with Sr. Christine.

Students rendered the vote of thanks in the form of a dance.



From L-R: Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Dr. Sujatha Ramanathan and Dr. Scharada Bail



National Conference on the Church and Christian Higher Education in India

The National Conference on 'The Church and Christian Higher Education in India' (February 23 and 24, 2007) had its genesis in the growing concern about the relevance and effectiveness of Christian higher education in a rapidly changing world. This Conference also formed part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the college.

The special feature of this National Conference was the total involvement, at every phase, of all the Catholic faculty of the college. In order to enter more fully into its spirit, the Catholic faculty studied two relevant and significant documents – *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* (Apostolic constitution of John Paul II on Catholic Universities) and the UN document 'World Declaration on Higher Education for the Twenty-First Century: Vision and Action' (1998). The resource person for this study was Dr. Bernard D'Sami. His presentation was followed by an animated discussion on both the documents.

The Inugural Mass was celebrated by His Grace Rev. Dr. Lawrence Pius, Auxillary Bishop of Madras-Mylapore who spoke on the Catholic University as a centre of creativity and dissemination of knowledge. Continuing along the same lines Prof. Babu Mathews, Country Director, Action Aid India, emphasized the need for Catholic Colleges like Stella Maris to foster good strong leadership for social transformation.

The Conference was attended by over eighty participants, representing the different regions of India, who came

together to reflect on the major challenges facing Christian Higher Education in India and the response to these. The five broad areas of concern were:

- The Church's role in Higher Education
- Innovations and Strategies for Higher Education
- Intercultural Dialogue and Peace Education
- Catholic Colleges and Social Change
- Catholic Responsibility on Campus – Future Directions

Dr. Xavier Alphonse, sj, member UGC, emphasised the unique and specific role of Christian Higher Education and the significance of the moral values imparted by Catholic Institutions. Dr Louis Anthuvan, faculty, LIBA, Loyola College, Chennai, addressed the problem of making higher education accessible to the marginalized and stressed the need for equity and dignity to the less privileged students. Dr Felix Wilfred, Head, Department of Christian Studies, University of Madras, spoke on the concept of 'Inclusion of Subaltern Groups' in the educational process in order to make peace education a reality.

Dr. Lawrence Surendra, Professor, Chair of Planning Commission, University of Mysore, spoke on the symbiotic relationship between innovation and education for sustainable development. He stressed the need to adapt educational policies, programmes and practices in such a way that they would result in the economic, cultural and ecological vitality of rural areas and communities. Dr. Ann Mary Fernandez, former Registrar



University of Madras, highlighted the need for new directions in the context of a fast-emerging knowledge society dominated by capitalism and technological revolution. She urged collaboration between educational institutions and industries, with a view to addressing the problem of unemployment. Dr. Ignacimuthu, sj, Director, Department of Entomology, Loyola College, and former Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, presented issues relating to the field of biotechnology, highlighting the ethical issues involved.

In the context of a multi-cultural and multi-religious country like India, Dr. Fr. Anand Amaladass sj, Academic Dean, Sathya Nilayam, explained the concept of interculturality and recommended the use of religious symbols with sensitivity, as a means of promoting peace in the world today. Dr. Fr. Paul Parathazham, Professor, JDV, Pune, highlighted the potential of Catholic colleges to be agents of social change, through a liberative pedagogy and the promotion of justice. Dr. Fr. Rudolf Heredia sj, Jesuit Theologate, Mumbai, emphasized the factor of pluralism in education as the only viable option, in a society as diverse as ours. He identified tolerance and dialogue as guidelines to ensure peace and harmony.

Ms. Virginia Saldanha, Feminist Theologian, Mumbai, stressed the role and contribution of women's lay leadership in the Church. She expressed her strong conviction that women theologians are called to practice 'healing priesthood' in a fractured society. Dr. Bernard D'Sami, Professor, Department of History, Loyola College, Chennai, affirmed emphatically the role of Catholic faculty as facilitators and collaborators in the mission of a Catholic college.

In her Valedictory Address, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, former Principal, Stella Maris College, and former Secretary, Xavier Board for Christian Higher Education, summed up the dream of Catholic educationists. Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier sj, Director, Indian Social Institute Bangalore, and President, XBCHEI, expressed his joy and satisfaction that the lay Catholic faculty of Stella Maris College had taken the initiative to organize such a meaningful conference, to mark the Diamond Jubilee year of the college.

The conference made participants aware of the following issues that needed to be addressed on our campuses:

- Equity of access to the marginalized

- Resources available in the Church to be used adequately for educating deserving Catholic students
- Catholic Education to be made possible for all Catholics, with emphasis on Catholic women
- Making concerted efforts to work against casteism wherever it exists
- The focus of higher education on social transformation
- Supporting and nurturing lay leadership
- Promoting sustainable development
- Working towards an education that is inclusive and laid stresses to move on cooperation rather than competition.

The following recommendations emerged from the conference:

- Networking is imperative to move forward to achieve common identifiable goals
- The marginalized need to be included in dialogue to ensure access, equity, relevance and quality in higher education processes.
- Promote tolerance and communal and religious harmony through intercultural dialogue.
- Equip young Catholic men and women with skills to face the challenges of life and the world of work.
- Make Catholic institutions centres of social change and transformation which can be visibly measured.
- Awaken critical consciousness in the students.
- Balance self-development and altruism.
- Create a climate of justice leading to peace and creativity.

The Conference brought into focus the following four priority areas for action:

- 1) Emphasis on higher education for the marginalized
- 2) Training for lay leadership through Catholic education
- 3) Initiating departments of inter-religious studies
- 4) Regional networking and forming action groups in Catholic colleges.

As a result of the Conference the participants felt that the time had come for Catholic colleges all over India to examine and adopt strategies for a new Church and society, in which the youth of India would be able to assume leadership and provide a strong and meaningful Christian presence in the world.

Dr. Sr. Colleen North fmm
Vice-Principal, Self-Financing Section



Celebrating
Sixty years of India's
Independence and

Sixty years of Stella Maris College

Stella Maris celebrated sixty years of India's Independence with the traditional NCC. parade followed by the flag-hoisting. Mr. N. Ram, Editor-in-chief, 'The Hindu', delivered the Independence Day message. While acknowledging and applauding the survival of Indian democracy, he reminded the audience of the poorer side of India and the need for a knowledge society.

The message was followed by a prayer service which included readings from various religious texts, prayers of thanksgiving and intercession and a blessing by the Provincial Superior, Sr. Cecilia Joachim. Sixty lamps were taken in procession by members of the management, faculty, staff, students and alumnae, in symbolic commemoration of the sixty years of India's Independence and sixty years of Stella Maris College.

A short but meaningful cultural programme followed, in which students presented the ideas of freedom and empowerment in song and dance. The programme ended with saffron, white and green balloons being released, a picturesque scene of celebration.

This was followed by the inauguration of the Stella Maris College Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) by Mr. S.A. Bhat, Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB). The Indian Overseas Bank (main sponsor), the college and the Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access (FAEA) contributed to the creation of

this facility. It has four computer laboratories – two teaching - learning laboratories for the undergraduate and postgraduate students, a multimedia language lab and a browsing centre. There are over one hundred and thirty personal computers, networked and with the latest operating systems and software.

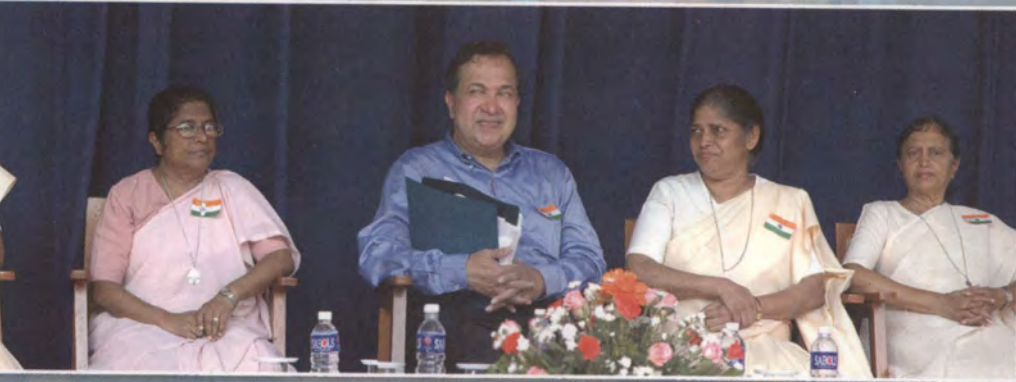
The college also inaugurated a newly installed fountain in the garden in front of the Main building. This was a gift from Ideal Beach Resorts.

Representatives from all departments and various offices of the college then planted sixty saplings of various trees on campus. This was co-ordinated by the Botany department.

To conclude the morning's celebrations, ice cream was distributed to all the students followed by lunch for all the faculty and staff. A delicious end to a memorable morning!

The birthday song filled the campus, a celebration of the 60th birthday of Stella Maris College organized by the Students' Union, who added to the festive spirit by decorating the stage and the cake-stand with balloons and ribbons. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal, Dr. Ms. Sundari Krishnamurthy, Dr. Ms. Savithri Sankaran and the members of the college union, cut the birthday cake as students cheered enthusiastically and colourful confetti was showered. An interesting feature of the celebration was the releasing of two doves to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee.





Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on August 15, 2007



March past by the cadets of the NCC Unit



Sisters offering lamps



Mr. N. Ram at the hoisting of the Indian Tricolour



Faculty and staff offering lamps



The choir renders patriotic songs



Students offering lamps

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on August 15, 2007



Sr. Florine Monis greets Mr. Dharmalingam, owner, Ideal Beach Resorts



Guests and Faculty at the newly inaugurated fountain



Mr. S. A. Bhat, Chairman IOB and Sr. Cecilia open the SMC ICT Centre in St. Francis Hall



Sr. Annamma with the Guests of Honour



The interior of the new ICT Centre

At the right: Sr. Rose, Sr. Celine Paul and Sr. Florine planting a sapling



ALUMNAE GET-TOGETHER - AUGUST 16, 2007



Alumnae during a game at the OAT - a show of energy and youthfulness



Cherubic voices! Alumnae perform at the get-together



Shri Dayanidhi Maran, Ms. Priya Dayanidhi and Ms. Kaveri Kalanidhi handing over a donation in memory of Thiru Murasoli Maran



A section of the audience



Shri Dayanidhi Maran addresses the gathering comprising Alumnae and Faculty



Another section of the audience

Stella Maris College – Sixty Years at a Glance

The College founded on August 15th 1947, is a milestone in the history of women's education in India. It was at the request of His Grace Dr. Louis Mathias, sdb, the Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore that Mother M. Klemens fmm, with the approval of the then Superior General, Rev. Mother Margaret of the Sacred Heart, courageously accepted the intimidating task of beginning this institution. Minutely, wisely, providentially, God laid the foundation upon the Blue Print of his eternal Wisdom. The founding sisters carried on this mission by instilling in the students the values of honesty and morality, selfless service and religious sensibility so as to uphold the dignity of persons.

The college with its initial strength of thirty-two students began in a one-storey building in Mylapore. Mother Klemens remained Principal in-Charge until the arrival of Mother Lillian from USA in January 1948. Under her able guidance the college grew in stature with the addition of new courses and also moved into a new three-storey building on Palace Road by July 1949. Thanks to the vision and ceaseless efforts of its foundresses, within a decade, Stella Maris grew into an institution offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Stella Maris was granted permanent recognition in 1950. To the college belongs the unique credit of starting the Bachelor's degree in Western Music and in History of Fine Arts as well as the Master's Degree in Social Work at the Madras University. In 1952 the Natural Science course was started with seventy-two students. The college also has to its credit the distinction of being the first to introduce the M.A. course in Indian Music and the first women's college in Madras to offer M.A. English, Economics and Fine Arts.

On the occasion of the annual day celebrations after the foundation stone was laid for the new college building

on the present campus, late Mother Proinsias fmm, former Principal has this to say "In these days of space exploration, with rockets soaring off to the other side of the moon, Stella Maris is solving her won space problems in the modern way – by launching out from her old orbit in Mylapore, to the new skies of 'The Cloisters'. The venture, like any flight into space, is a daring one, but with the help of God, with whom all things are possible, we trust that the college with all its equipment and over eight hundred students aboard will make a happy landing at Cathedral Road for reopening in June".

In keeping with the objectives of Higher Education, the thrust of the college is to be an agent of social change in the community in which it is situated, so that the goal of liberation may be achieved. Since knowledge must be directed toward building a world of justice and peace, the formation of the students is holistic with emphasis on imparting spiritual, moral and social values. A high premium is placed on sensitizing the college community to the social reality of the country and on training young people to be of service to the society in which they live. As a Catholic College, Stella Maris affirms and commits itself to the Declaration of Education formulated by Vatican Council II (1962), in which there is a new perspective to understanding the human person, the universe and other religions. Involvement in service projects since its very inception gave the college an impetus to begin the Diploma Course in Social Service as early as 1952. Stella Maris was once again the first women's college to have a Social Work Degree Course with the introduction of the postgraduate course in 1962.

The Silver Jubilee of the college was celebrated in 1972. All the while the college kept growing and evolving and making giant strides, keeping abreast of changing trends. The three-day celebrations in August 1972 were marked with a spirit of thanksgiving and festivity. A spacious library was erected on this

occasion and occupies pride of place on the campus as well as in the city of Chennai.

In 1976 the college introduced the semester system while still under the University pattern. The number of Major departments increased over the years as well as the number of faculty, staff and students.

The administration has spared no efforts to make available the best resources for the teaching-learning process. Audio-visual facilities and Internet services in the Library, additional classrooms, furniture and playgrounds are continuously being renewed and made available to the students. The construction of St. Francis Hall in 1986, the 'G' Block in 1995, the St. Clare Centre, the New Canteen and Students Centre in 1997 and more recently the Helene de Chappotin Centre have added to the existing facilities on campus. The Nava Nirmana Social Institute building has been given for the use of the college since 2004 with the introduction of B.S.W degree programme.

The college has always been alert to National Commissions: Radhakrishnan Commission Report 1948; Kothari Commission Report 1966, New Policy on Education 1986. Based on the reports and findings of these commissions, and guided by its own feedback system, the college has sought to strengthen the infrastructure in Value Education, Social Awareness Programmes, Vocational Education and in-Service Training. From 1978 onwards, there was a shift in the admission policy with the thrust of the college towards social justice.

Conscious of the growing need for academic freedom, with meticulous planning and preparation, the college launched into autonomy in 1987, introducing new courses with an interdisciplinary approach. The Autonomy Review Commission which visited the college at the end of three years had this to say of Stella Maris: Here is an institution which has thought of autonomy, planned for it carefully over a period of

time, with full participation of the faculty and is functioning smoothly and well, as an autonomous college.

Restructuring the system of education is undoubtedly a challenge. Ten years of autonomy was an experiential learning process, which prodded us to open up new avenues in our endeavour to improve academic standards. In response to this need, the college introduced the Choice-Based Credit System in 1997 with the objective of offering a broad-based education and flexibility in the choice of courses.

The Institution has grown by leaps and bounds and with it the Faculty, Staff and Students. The dynamism of the institution is displayed in all its aspects particularly in the manner in which Stella Maris has evolved in response to societal needs and aspirations.

In recognition of its academic excellence, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited Stella Maris College at the Five-Star level among the autonomous colleges of India in April 2000.

Keeping with the changing needs of education, the management introduced the Bachelor's Degree in Computer Applications in 1998. In 2001 the Masters Degree in Information Technology was launched, and in 2002 M.Sc. Bioinformatics and M.A. International Studies commenced. The college was instrumental in introducing these two new courses at the University level.

The year 2004 saw the dawning of 4 more programmes – BSW (Bachelors in Social Work), M.Sc. Chemistry, M.Com. and M.Phil in Social Work. M.Sc. Biotechnology and M.A. Public Relations were introduced in 2006.

Today, the college has to its credit 13 Undergraduate departments, 2 PG Diploma Courses, 12 Postgraduate Departments, with research facilities in 5 of the PG Departments.

Superiors General of the FMM



Bl. Mary of the Passion



M. M. de la Redemption



M. Madeleina de Passi



M. Ste. Michael



M. M. du Sacre Coeur



M. Ste. Agnes



Sr. Alma du Fault



Sr. Maura O'Connor



Sr. Christian Megarbane

DOWN



Bonaventure Block -before renovation



The Main Block on 'The Cloisters'



THE AGES



The Management, faculty and students of Stella Maris College in 1950.

St. Francis Hall erected in 1986



DOWN



Mother Edith, Mother Lillian Principal Dr. P.V. Cherian, President, MLC and Mrs. Tara Cherian at the College Day celebrations - Feb. 28, 1953.



Mr. Louis St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada with Sr. Celine Francoise & Sr. David at the college on Feb. 28, 1954 while on a visit to the Cathedral of St. Thomas at Mylapore.



The Guest of Honour Ms. Sundaravadivelu with Mother Proincias, Principal at the College Day prize distribution function - March 1958.



Dr. A. L. Mudaliar, V.C., University of Madras at the College Day celebrations in March 1968.



His Excellency, Shri. P.C. Alexander, Governor of Tamil Nadu chief guest at College Day - March 1990 with Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Principal



His Excellency, Hon'ble Shri.. R. Venkataraman, President of India at the College Day celebrations in March 1995

THE AGES



His Excellency Shri Prakasa, former governor of Madras arrives to inaugurate the College Associations.



M. Joseph Michael, Principal, felicitating Dr. A. L. Mudaliar, V.C. University of Madras on his Silver Jubilee as Vice-Chancellor



Hon'ble Shri. Jawaharlal Nehru,, Prime Minister, visited the stall of the Social Work Dept., SMC at an exhibition held at the College of Engineering, Guindy.



His Excellency, Shri. K.K. Shah, Governor of TN, and Sr. Angela Hurley, Superior,, SMC, at the Valedictory Celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of the College.



Ms. Margaret Alva, Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel and Public Grievance, greeting Dr. Sr. Edith Tomory at the College Day celebrations - March 1996



NAAC peer team visit Jan 2000 (seated R - L) Prof. Ranganath, Prof R.P Kaushik, Chairman, of the peer team, Sr. Mary Rose, Provincial, Dr. Sr. Christine Rebello, & Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent

DOWN



Students of Intermediate and first batch of B.A. degree students - 1950



Mother Oliveria, fmm, Superior, Rev. Fr. L. Murphy, Mr. N.D. Sunderavadelu, Director of Public Instruction and Chief Guest, Mrs. Sunderavadelu, Mother Proincias, fmm, Principal at the College Day celebrations, 1958.



Students of the first batch of the Diploma Course in Social Work of the University of Madras with the Principal Mother Lillian and Mother Eanswida (Sr. Thecla).



Lay staff: 1959-1960



First Batch of Botany students -1979-82



College Day 1960 - The college choir

THE AGES



Former Principals Sr. Irene Mathias, Sr. Sheila O' Neill, Mother Carla Rosa and Mother Proincias



Visit of the Superior General of the FMM on January 17, 1964. (from l to R) Sr. Ann de la Vierge, M. Klemens, Mother Marie de Ste. Agnes, Superior General M. Carla Rosa, M. Claude de la Columbia (Sr. Alma du Fault) and students.



Rev. Fr. Kurien Thomas and Rev. Fr. C.M. Milton Fernandez, Chaplains of Stella Maris Convent



From L-R: Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Dr. Sr. Merlyn D'Sa, Rev. Sr. Maura O' Connor, Superior General and Sr. Irene Matias, Assistant General.



M. Sylvester fmm. Founding Member of the College



Rev. Sr. Christian Megarbane, Superior General, fmm.in Stella Maris for the inauguration of St. Clare Centre, Jan. 21, 1998

DOWN



The college Table Tennis team - 1960



Sr. Juliet Irene with a prize winner



Three legged Race -Sports meet



Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Principal, pinning the medal on Sharada Achanta, Games representative



Mrs. Magaladurai, Physical directress with the Basket Ball team 1977-78



Ms. Gita Samuel, Dr. Sundari K, Sr. Christine Anthony, actively participating in the Tug of War at a Sports day

THE AGES



NSS Seminar



Felicitations to Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah, Vice Chancellor, University of Madras (right extreme) Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Principal and Mrs. Hilda Raja, Department of Social Work are also seen.



NSS day celebrations



Felicitations to Mother Teresa



Sr. Christine, Sr. Evelyn Delcarta at the National Disabled Day 1981



Rev. Dr. Arulappa blessing the foundation stone of the St. Francis hall

DOWN



Most Rev. Dr. Louis Mathias, Archbishop of Madras Mylapore, with M. Edith Tomory fmm and M. Lillian fmm, Principal - September 1953



Sr. Leony Dhanaswamy with the students in the first computer laboratory located in St. Francis Hall



Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India with +Bishop Carvalho, Dr. A.L. Mudaliar and M. Proincias at the Opening of the Main Building - July 1960.



Administrative and Supportive staff with the Principal and Members of the Management



Students Union President interacting with the office bearers



Sr. Juliet Irene visiting the Exhibition of the Botany Department - 1982.

THE AGES



Sr. Annamma Philip, Vice-Principal, Ms. Anuradha Oza, Union President, Sr. Helen Vincent, Principal, + Bishop Casmir Gnanadikam, sj., Archbishop of Madras -Mylapore, and Dr. Sr. Merlyn D' Sa Provincial at the College Day celebrations



Sr. Celine Grace, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Dr. Sr. Mary Ann with Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthi who received her Doctoral Degree – 1985



Mr. T. N. Seshan, former CEC, with Dr. Sr. Mary John, arriving to deliver the Smt. Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture of the History Department



Mr. David Thomas, Director, Computer Centre, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Principal, Dr. Raja Chidambaram, Director, PGDMLT and the Chief Guest-Convocation 1988



Consul, Consulate of Japan, Chennai, along with Most Rev. Dr. Arul Das James Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore and Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal at the inauguration of the Helene de Chappotin Centre



Students singing the tree planting song during the Valedictory function of outgoing students.

DOWN



The college Orchestra performing on College day



Ms. Ordetta Mendoza receiving the gold medal for intercollegiate essay writing competition conducted by the Students Union from Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Principal - 1981



Sr. Celine Francoise and Sr. David (at the piano) with the western music choir on College Day.



Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent giving away the Sindhu Memorial Dance competition award



Sr. Angela Hurley (left) Rev. Mother Klemens, Superior, St Thomas Convent and Principal in-Charge (August 1947 – January 1948) with the students of the History Department during the Silver Jubilee Celebrations.



Winners on sports day from among the Supportive staff. L to R: Sarojammal, Pattammal, Nagammal, Ponnammal and Ragammal.

THE AGES



Sr. Susan, fmm with students in the Physics laboratory (1980-81)



Sr. Juliana, Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry, Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza, Dr. Eileen Riordan, (M. Edwin) along with Sr. Claude, and Sr. Jeanne de France, founding members of the College, at the Golden Jubilee College Day, March 1997.



Faculty at a seminar- Front Row R-L: Ms. Sushila Felix, Ms. T.B. Rajalakshmi, Ms. Bharathi R., Ms. Rajini, Row 2: Ms. Jesurietta, Dr. Radha Paul, Ms. Rukmani S., Ms. Geetha Sridharan, Row 3: L to R: Ms. Helen Dasan Ms. Gowri Nayak, Ms. Ashrafi



Faculty - Dr. Ms. Ramani, Dr. Ms. Vijaya Parthasarathy and Sr. Teresita



Dr. Sr. Merlyn D'Sa, Provincial handing over a memento to Mr. Rajan (Lab attender Botany Department) on his retirement.



Thanksgiving Mass held to commemorate the centenary of the FMM-1977



Library - The Silver Jubilee Commemorative Building

Bioinformatics – A Marriage

BIOINFORMATICS – A marriage of Biology and Information Technology, a subject holding immense potential for the future.

The proposal came during the Pongal holidays of January 2001 through Ms. Rukmani Srinivasan, Department of Chemistry. It was an invitation to attend a conference on ‘Genomics and Bioinformatics’ at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Three faculty members, Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm, Dr. Ms. Usha Krishnan and Ms. Shiny John were deputed to attend the conference. Dr. Ordetta Mendoza also attended a summer programme on ‘Bioinformatics: Principles, Methods and Applications’ at MIT, MA, USA, under the auspices of the UBCHEA. It resulted in the engagement between the management and the faculty of the science departments culminating in a commitment to begin a postgraduate course in Bioinformatics at Stella Maris College.

Then began the preparations for the marriage and the addition of a new member to the growing postgraduate departments in Stella Maris – the Department of Bioinformatics. The progression of the romance included instituting the programme at the University of Madras and designing the curriculum and framing the syllabi in the span of a few months, through the collective effort of the faculty of Chemistry, Mathematics, Zoology, Botany

and Physics. Visits to several institutions such as the Centre for Biotechnology, Department of Biophysics, University of Madras and discussions with stalwarts such as Prof. Greg Stephanopoulos, Bayer Professor of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology at MIT, MA, USA, Dr. Shankar Subramaniam, Professor, Supercomputer Centre, University of San Diego, CA, USA, and Dr. P. Gautam, CBT, Anna University, Chennai, kept the faculty of the various science departments well informed of the different courses and the syllabi that would be taught.

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Mr. P.K. Mohapatra, RPG Group of companies, Dr. P. Gautam and Dr. Felbin Kennedy during the inauguration of the department.



A section of the audience at the UGC sponsored National Workshop on ‘Separation Sciences and Mass Spectrometry’



The marriage took place on August 16, 2002, when Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal, gave her blessings and the department was officially declared open. Shri. Pradipta K. Mohapatra, President and Chief Executive, IT and Telecom Business Sector, RPG Enterprises and Chairman, CII – Tamil Nadu, was the officiating guest at the ceremony, while Dr. P. Gautam, CBT, Anna University, delivered the special lecture on ‘What is Bioinformatics?’ Dr. Ordetta Mendoza was appointed Head of the newly formed Department of Bioinformatics.

Present and former faculty from the Departments of Botany, Chemistry, Physics, Zoology, Mathematics and Computer Science formed the list of dignitaries, while twenty-two bright, young women, our students, were the wedding guests. The ‘Mantap’ (Laboratory) was a state-of-the-art enterprise and the guests were delighted to be given such excellent infrastructure facilities.

The marriage celebrations were conducted under the ‘shamiana’ of the interdisciplinary nature of the programme. The feast menu decided by the Board of Studies ranged from the main courses in Bioinformatics, Genomics and Proteomics, a sumptuous choice of biology and biotechnology, side dishes of mathematics, computer science, biophysics and biochemistry, and pickles of molecular modelling and molecular evolution. The dessert, of course, was the project that the students needed to undertake to make the meal complete.

The first anniversary of such a joyous occasion was celebrated in the company of the Department of Botany, the parent department, with the organization of the UGC sponsored National Seminar – ‘Bioinformatica 2003’. ‘Separation Sciences and Mass Spectrometry’, also sponsored by the UGC and held in January’05, was another high-level workshop held in collaboration with IIT-Madras and the Tuberculosis Research Institute, Chennai.

Invited guest lectures, paper presentations, seminars and workshops on various themes are a part of the daily routine in this new relationship. The new home continues to be set up with not just computers, software, books and journals, but with love, care and constant nurturing. Intelligent outpourings and web-conferences are part of the dedication and commitment of the faculty and the students to this bond.

The faculty continued to update their knowledge and skills to keep pace with this fast-track subject, by attending workshops and conferences in India and abroad. Dr. Ordetta Mendoza received fellowships to attend courses in ‘Genomics and DNA Science’ (Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA), Bioinformatics (University of Nijmegen, Netherlands), ‘Separation Sciences and Mass Spectrometry’ (University Hospital, Geneva and Proteomics Analysis Facility, Switzerland), ‘Homology Modelling’ and ‘WHAT IF’ – Molecular Modelling course (Radboud University, Netherlands).

Inauguration of the Computer Laboratory set up with partial assistance from the UGC under the Scheme for Innovative Programmes in New and Emerging areas.



Dr. Usha Krishnan, faculty, Department of Botany and Ms. Mary George, faculty, Department of Chemistry attended courses in Bioinformatics at the University of Nijmegen, Netherlands while Dr. Ms. Jesurietta Sathian (Faculty, Department of Chemistry), attended a course on Bioinformatics at CBT, Anna University and Dr. Nirmala Kanakaraj (Faculty, Department of Botany) and Dr. Juliana Joe (Faculty, Department of Zoology) attended a course on Bioinformatics at Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai.

Dr. Ordetta Mendoza, Dr. Shymala Subbha Rao and Ms. Maria Shobana, faculty of the department, attended courses in Bioinformatics at IIT-Bombay, Maharashtra. Dr. Ordetta Mendoza also received a fellowship to attend a summer programme at MBU, IISc., Bangalore from the Indian Academy of Sciences, in 2005. She worked under the supervision of Prof. P. Balaram, Director, IISc., on a fungal peptide antibiotic.

Dr. Ordetta Mendoza, was the summer 2006 Rooney Visiting Scholar at Robert Morris University, PA, USA. She delivered lectures in Bioinformatics and assisted the School of Engineering and Sciences to develop a programme in Bioinformatics.

The Department has, over the last five years, contributed richly to the academic atmosphere of the college. About seventy students have been delivered with 100% pass

results. The department is also proud to be located on the national and international map. In 2005, the UGC recognized the M.Sc. programme as an Innovative Scheme and awarded it a grant to ensure that it continued with sufficient faculty and infrastructure, for the next five years, while the International Society for Computational Biology listed the Department as one offering quality education.

The students' catalogue of achievements in this brief span is impressive. They are offered projects in both private and public sector companies and in national laboratories, including ACTREC, Mumbai, NCBS, and IISc, Bangalore, and CCMB, Hyderabad. Alumnae of the Department are pursuing doctoral programmes and research in international and national laboratories including Johns Hopkins, Iowa State University, Arizona Genomics Institute, USA and EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany.

The faculty of the fledgling department, Dr. Shyamala Subba Rao, Ms. Mary Auxilia Sunitha, Ms. Gayathri Selvaraj and faculty from the departments of Mathematics, Computer Science, Chemistry, Physics, Zoology and Botany, work diligently to ensure that this new bond between the sciences continues and students receive quality education that the mission of the college promises them.

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal, Prof. V. N. Rajasekaran Pillai, Vice-Chairman, UGC, Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, Secretary, and Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm, at the inauguration of the UGC sponsored National Workshop on 'Separation Sciences and Mass Spectrometry'.



Biotechnology – Emergence of a Promising Technology

The Postgraduate Department of Biotechnology, the result of sustained collaborative efforts of the Departments of Botany, Bioinformatics and Zoology, especially Drs. Usha Krishnan (Botany), Chitrlekha Ramachandran (Zoology) and Ordetta Mendoza, was started under the able leadership of Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, in August 2006. Dr. Ms. Nirmala Kanagaraj, took charge as Head of the Department and was supported by Ms. Sally Gloriana. The first batch of fifteen students were as excited as the faculty to be a part of the large Stella Marian family, some of them returning to their alma mater for this postgraduate programme.

The college ensured that the department had the infrastructure and facilities to begin the programme. Sophisticated instruments were initially shared with the Departments of Botany and Bioinformatics, but in a few months the department had procured its own laboratory equipment and also built up its library resources (encyclopaedias, books and journals).

The department organized and attended various academic activities that focused on enhancing the academic experience of the faculty and students. One such

programme was an Indo-US workshop on 'Agricultural Biotechnology for Global Public Good' jointly organized by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences of India, United States National Academy and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai, from October 4–6, 2006. The topic of the workshop was 'Global Dialogues on Emerging Science and Technology–Policy and Global Affairs'.

Ms A. Sally Gloriana, accompanied by the students, attended a one-day workshop on 'Industrial Biotechnology: Taking ideas from Lab to market place', on January 5, 2007, conducted by Departments of Biotechnology and Management Studies, IIT-Madras.

Students participated in the Career Fair on 'Opportunities in Biotechnology Sector' jointly organized by Australian Trade Commission and the Australian Government, in March 2007.

Visits were organized to the Animal Biotechnology laboratory at the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS).

The department continues to progress, with assistance and support from different institutions in the state and abroad.

Inauguration of the Biotechnology Laboratory on July 9, 2007



Botany – From a Seed to a Tree

The Department of Botany was established as an independent department offering B.Sc. Botany as the major subject from 1979. It stemmed from the department of Natural Science, which was established in 1952, under the guidance of Mother M. Basil and Ms. Grace Mathews. Natural Science was offered in the Intermediate course from 1952, with student strength of seventy two. During 1954–55 the Intermediate course was bifurcated into Humanities and Natural Science. The faculty of the Department of Natural Science during that period were Ms. N. E. Rajalakshmi, Ms. Esther Joseph and Ms. Lizy Abraham with Mother M. Edwin fmm, as Head of Department, under whose efficient guidance the department strength grew to 150 students, who were taught in two groups.

The Department of Natural Science had two separate laboratories, one for Botany and the other for Zoology, which were well equipped with water, electricity and gas connection and instruments. Extra-curricular activities were organized by the science association. It organized regular talks and debates on current topics. P.U. course was introduced in 1956 and in 1957, Branch VI B.Sc. Zoology was started with Botany or Chemistry as minor subjects. In 1958, Biology was offered as a minor subject under Part III in BA–Branch XI History of Fine Arts as an interdisciplinary subject. Between 1965 and 1968, Ms. I. Sushila Mary joined the department as lecturer and Ms. Vidya Vishwanadhan as demonstrator, as well as Ms. Vijaya Parthasarathy as lecturer. The department took up a few commendable extension activities like National

From L– R: Sr. Rita Marneni, Secretary, Ms. Gauri Venkatesan (1982 batch), Sr. Helen Vincent, former Principal, Ms. N.E.Rajalakshmi, former Head of Dept., Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal, Sr. Mary Rose, Provincial, Ms. M.D. Vijaya Parthasarathy, former Head of Department and Ms. Usha Krishnan Head of Dept., at the inauguration of the Silver Jubilee celebrations.





Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal viewing 'Aushadiyam', the exhibition of herbal products and medicines.



Sr. Juliet Irene, former Principal, Ms. Vijaya Parthasarathy, former Head of the Department and Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal.

Service Corps (1969–1970), an alternative to NCC. Ms. Vijaya Parthasarathy took care of Hospital Services, while Ms. Rajalakshmi was in charge of the Kitchen Garden. The Pre-University Course continued till 1978, with several students obtaining university ranks.

The Department of Natural Sciences won the A.L. Mudaliar Rolling Shield for the highest percentage of passes and rank holders for six consecutive years.

The Department of Botany was established in June 1979 under the stewardship of Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent fmm, the then principal, and Dr. Sr. Merlyn fmm, the Vice-Principal. Ms.N.E.Rajalakshmi was the head and Ms. M. D. Vijaya Parthasarthy and Ms. Roseline Paul were the other members of the faculty. The department began with temporary affiliation for one year and received permanent affiliation from the University of Madras the following year. It had two laboratories and functioned as a full-fledged department with thirty-one students. Ms. Gowri of the 1979 batch won the university gold medal. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza and Ms. Geradette Davey, currently faculty in the department, also belonged to the first batch of students. The second batch, with three rank holders, and successive batches continued to do the department proud with the laurels they received in academics and other activities.

With the college becoming an autonomous institution in 1987, the department was happy to introduce new application-oriented courses such as Microtechnique, Horticulture, Microbiology and Food Technology. In order to keep students abreast of recent developments

in the field, the department conducted several seminars, exhibitions and workshops at both national and international levels. The thrust areas were Herbal Science, Biotechnology, Ecological Awareness and Environmental Issues. A noteworthy project titled 'The Flora and Fauna of Guindy National Park' required enumerative work which led to the declaration of the Guindy National Park as a Green Zone – the lung of Madras. In 1993, the department organized a workshop on 'Experimental Cell Biology', with Dr. Sally Nyquist Fulbright Scholar (1993–1994) from Bucknell University, Pennsylvania, USA.

The department received financial assistance for conducting seminars and conferences and for the book bank from the UGC, under several schemes including the College Science Improvement Programme (COSIP) and the UG development grant.

In 1990, the UGC granted permission to introduce vocational courses, following representations from several city colleges. Dr. Ms. Vijaya Parthasarathy, Head of the Department, represented Stella Maris College at the meeting. The vocational course, Food Science and Quality Control, initially sponsored by the UGC for five years, continues to be offered to students of the Departments of Botany, Zoology and Chemistry. The course involves 'on-the-job' training during summer in Food Microbiology, Packaging, Food Chemistry and Food Adulteration and Detection. This helps students in job placement and entry into postgraduate programmes in Food Technology.

In 1990, the department established a well-equipped laboratory, which gave the undergraduate students 'hands-

on' experience in the field of Microbiology, Tissue Culture and Genetic Engineering.

Under the CBCS, new courses such as Fruit Preservation, Herbal Therapy, Indian Medicine, and Fermentation Technology were introduced. The General Elective courses – Herbal Therapy and Fruit preservation – are in great demand among students of various disciplines.

In keeping with the changing times and the rapid strides made in the field of Science and Technology, the course was renamed Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, in the academic year 2001–2002. The well-balanced syllabus combines both classical Botany and Biotechnology, which has resulted in students getting access to various postgraduate programmes such as Biotechnology, Immunology, Genetic Engineering, Molecular Cell Biology and Bioinformatics, in leading institutions.

In 2004, the department celebrated its Silver Jubilee with pride at its achievements and with a firm determination to stay in the forefront in the years ahead. To mark this occasion, a national seminar and exhibition on 'The Significance of Herbal Products' as well as a workshop on 'Teaching Methods for Biology' for school teachers were organized.

The department acknowledges the selfless services and the able guidance of Ms. N. E. Rajalakshmi, Dr. Ms. M. D. Vijaya Parthasarathy, Ms. Roseline Paul and Dr. Ms. Usha Krishnan and the lab attendant, late Mr. Rajan.

Many of the alumnae of the department have pursued higher studies or have chosen other careers. Many are employed and return to their alma mater from time to time.

Currently the faculty in the department are: Dr. Ms. Nirmala Kanagaraj, Dr. Ms. Beulah Vijayakumar, Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm, Dr. Ms. Priscilla Jebakumari, Dr. Ms. Geradette Davey, Ms. Antony Rose Immaculate, Ms. Arokia Premalatha and Ms. Metilda Rosalin and Laboratory Assistants Mr. Joseph Robin and Ms. A. Amali Fathima.

From top down: Ms. N. E. Rajalakshmi, Dr. Ms. Vijaya Parthasarathy, Ms. Roseline Paul, Dr. Ms. Nirmala Kanakaraj, Dr. Ms. Usha Krishnan, Dr. Ms. Beulah Vijaykumar, Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm, Dr. Ms. Priscilla Jebakumari and Dr. Ms. Geradette Davey.



Chemistry – The Essence of Life

Chemistry, the essence of life, was offered as a subject in Stella Maris College at the Intermediate Level in 1949, with Ms. S. Visalakshi and Ms. Lakshmi Rajagopal as lecturers in the department. Later, the following staff joined the department: Ms. Vimala (1950), Ms. Lakshmi Devi (1951), Ms. Rangamani (1952) and Ms. Gowri (1953). Mother M. Basil fmm, who taught in the Natural Science department for a year joined the Department of Chemistry in 1953. The department continued to offer chemistry as a Minor subject for B.A. courses (History, Economics, Indian Music, Western Music, Drawing and Painting, History of Fine Arts) and as an Ancillary course for B.Sc. Zoology, from 1957. With the abolition of the Intermediate courses and the introduction of Pre-University Courses (PUC) in 1956, Chemistry was offered for Group I and II students.

The visionary, Sr. Juliet Irene fmm who joined the department, as Lecturer in June 1960, became the Head in 1964. She was instrumental in introducing an undergraduate programme, Branch IV–Chemistry Major, with Physics and Botany as ancillary subjects with five faculty members and a strength of twenty-four students on June 22, 1964. Physics and Mathematics were offered as ancillary subjects from 1966. An academician and an able administrator, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, the current principal of the college (since 1990), belonged to the first batch of B.Sc. students. The staff who joined the department subsequently: Mrs. Sushila Felix (1963), Ms. Komalam (1964), Mrs. Arumugalakshmi (1966), Dr. Yesodha Doraiswamy (1966), Ms. Bhuvaneshwari (1968), Ms. Kamala (1968), Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip (1971) and Mrs. Elizabeth George (1972) have contributed immensely to the intellectual enrichment of the department.

Under the leadership of Sr. Irene Mathias (Sr. Juliet Irene), Principal from 1968 to 1978, the department grew from strength to strength. Sr. Irene with a vision and foresight deputed thirteen faculty members from the different

departments (most of them Heads), on Faculty Improvement Programme (FIP) for Doctoral work, in 1978. Over a period of time, seven faculty members from the Department of Chemistry have benefited by the FIP.

The department has been making continuous efforts to keep pace with developments in the field and has regularly introduced challenging and innovative courses, under the able guidance of Heads of the Department, Sr. Juliet Irene, Mrs. Arumugalakshmi, Dr. Yesodha Doraiswamy, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Ms. Elizabeth George, Dr. Geetha Swaminathan and Dr. Rukmani Srinivasan. The Silver Jubilee of the Department was celebrated in 1989, with an informative Exhibition and lively interactions among staff, students and the alumnae.

The Postgraduate programme in M.Sc. Branch IV – Chemistry was introduced in 2004, with specialization in Polymer and Environmental Chemistry. The effective functioning of the department continues, due to the tireless efforts of the present dedicated team of faculty members who have joined the department since 1971 – Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Head, Postgraduate. Department (1971), Dr. Rukmani Srinivasan (1977), Head, Undergraduate Department. Dr. Geetha Swaminathan (1977), Dr. Jesurietta Sathian (1978), Dr. Shiny Join Vairamon (1988) and Ms. Mary George (1995). The other faculty members of the department include Dr. N. L. Mary, Dr. Mahasampath Gowri, Ms. Avila Josephine, Ms. Mary Teresita, Dr. Sunaja Devi and Ms. Nancy Ratnam.

Many of the faculty have held positions of responsibility in the administration of the college. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal from 1990 onwards has also served as Vice-Principal (1985 – 1990), Mrs. Sushila Felix (1992 – 1995) and Dr. Geetha Swaminathan (1995–1999) as Controllers of Examination, Dr. Rukmani Srinivasan as Dean of Students (1993 – 1995), Dr. Rukmani Srinivasan (2001 – 2003) and Dr. Jesurietta Sathian (2005 – 2007) as Academic Deans.

Batch of 1969



Sr. Juliet Irene was selected as delegate of the Madras Province to the General Chapter in Rome, in 1978. Subsequently, she became one of the six General Councillors of the FMM at Rome, in which capacity she served for 12 years. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip served as the Chairperson of the State Minorities Commission, Government of Tamilnadu, from 2001–2004. She has been the recipient of several awards for her distinguished service in the field of education. To name a few, Best Educationist in the Field of Education by the National Integration Committee in 2007, Best Teacher Award by the Lions Club International in 2007, Lifetime Achievement Award by Alpha Group of Institutions in 2005 and The Centenarian Seva Ratna Award in Education by Centenarian Trust in 2004. Dr. Rukmani Srinivasan was given the Best Teacher Award in 2003 by the Chemical Research Society. Dr. Geetha Swaminathan has won many awards, including Vocational Service Award, by Rotary Club of Madras Down Town in 1994 and Lifetime Health Achievement Award–2006, by Health and Education Development Association, New Delhi. Dr. Shiny John Vairamon received the ‘Facilitator Award’ by AIM INSIGHTS, Mangalore, in 1999.

In October 2006, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip was felicitated for her distinguished service in Higher Education at a public function by the Committee of Hosts in Chennai. The committee included eminent personalities such as The Prince of Arcot Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, Mr. K. V. Mathew, Manager, B.I. Publications, Mr. N. Ram, Editor-in-Chief, ‘The Hindu’, Dr. M. S. Ananth, Director IIT-Madras and Mr. A.X. Alexander IPS, DGP, Tamilnadu. An Endowment was instituted in her name in the college.

The department, with a focus on enhancing the knowledge and skills of the students, has been conducting inter-departmental and inter-collegiate activities, since 1954, through the Science Association, Science Club, Chemistry Club and Chemfest. It has also been actively involved in various outreach programmes for the

uplift of society. Dr. Geetha Swaminathan has devised a Home Kit to Detect Food Adulteration that can be used by the common people. The Kit was widely publicized in the media and was also discussed in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. She, along with other faculty, has been instrumental in popularizing science among school students in different districts, as a part of Department of Science & Technology (DST) sponsored project. She has also ably executed the project on ‘Low Cost Processing and Preservation of Horticultural Produce’ (supported by DST), which has taken science and technology to rural India to empower women and enhance their quality of life.

The department organizes National and International Seminars, to sensitize students to recent trends in the field of chemistry. An International Conference on ‘Information Technology in the Teaching of Science’ was held in collaboration with other science departments in 2000. A National Seminar on ‘Molecular Spectroscopy and Reaction Dynamics’ was held in 2006 and a National Workshop on ‘Nanostructured Materials and Applications’ a joint effort involving science departments was conducted in January 2007.

The faculty have published books and manuals in their field of specialization. A special issue of the department magazine ‘Zircon’ was published in the 40th year of the department and, subsequently, the magazine ‘Radicals’ is being published annually.

Many students have distinguished themselves in various fields including the civil services, as Scientists, Industrialists, Entrepreneurs, etc.

The department strives to inculcate in students a scientific curiosity, enhance technical skills and sensitize them to social and environmental issues and work towards the development, of the nation. Having taken firm roots, the department aims to reach greater heights in the field of innovative research in future.



Ms. Arumugalakshmi (Top) and Dr. Yeshoda Doraiswamy (below)



Top: Sr. Annamma Philip
Below: Winners of the Sr. Juliet Irene Rolling Shield



L to R: Ms. Avila Josephine, Ms. Mary George, Dr. Jesurietta Sathian, Dr. Mary Terry, Dr. Geetha S, Dr. Rukmani S., Dr. Shiny John, Dr. Shyamla S., Ms. Teresita and Dr. Sunaja Devi.



Commerce – Two Fruitful Decades

The Department of Commerce was established in 1985, to meet the demand for commerce-related education, under the able stewardship of the then Principal, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent fmm. Ms. Brindha Arocikaswamy was appointed as full-time faculty of the department, while Sr. M.V. Dominique fmm, taught on a part-time basis. Ms. Rashida Banu joined the department in 1986.

In 1987, Ms. Leema Vanithakumari was appointed Head of the Department and with the assistance of Ms. Rashida Banu, Ms. Zonita Vieyra, Ms. Agnes Rozario and Ms. S. Shanthi, has guided the department in the last two decades. Several other faculty joined the department from time to time as the number of sections increased.

The progress and achievement of the department are outlined below:

FIRST DECADE OF EXISTENCE: 1985 – 1995

In 1987, the department had grown into a full undergraduate department, with all the three years of B.Com classes being managed by five full-time faculty. In 1988, in order to provide a forum for students to broaden their views and perspectives, a Commerce Club was started. It was inaugurated by Mr. N. Ram, Editor-in-Chief of 'The Hindu'.

The first batch of fifty-seven B.Com. students graduated in April 1988, with an overall pass percentage of 81%. In 1989, the commerce department had the privilege of

occupying the newly renovated Bonaventure Block. To enhance the teaching-learning process, a number of guest lectures were invited and the first state level seminar was conducted on 'Women in Management', where eminent women from the world of business were invited, to share their experience and highlight the challenges faced by them.

The faculty participated in a number of seminars, conferences and workshops, conducted by various organizations, such as National Institute of Sales and IFMR, Chennai, AIACHE and Xavier Board of Higher Education, Bangalore, for their professional growth and development.

The department also witnessed the active involvement of its students in academics, sports and other extra-curricular activities. Ms. Rajeswari Venkatesan served as President of the Student Union 1988–89. Ms. Pavithra Rao won the gold medal at the All India Rowing Championship at Calcutta and was also the Runner-up in the Asian Rowing Championship in 1989–90. Ms. Helen Sandra, an active NCC cadet, was selected to attend the International Youth Conference at Panjgani. Ms. Nirupama Subramaniam, Ms. Girija and Ms. Maya Joseph were Office Bearers of the Student Union 1990–91. Ms. Deepa Balasubramaniam was the president of the Students Union (1991 – 92).

In 1993, the first additional section of B.Com., was started with a strength of seventy students and an addition of three new faculty members Ms. Shanthi Selvanayagam, Ms. Jayachithra and Ms. Taureen Fernandez.

Principal, Faculty and students of the Commerce Department





Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan with Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal, Sr. Florine Monis and faculty of the department



Students holding court during Combat 2005

SECOND DECADE: 1995 – 2005 AND THEREAFTER

During the second decade, the department witnessed significant growth and development in terms of student strength and academic progress. Due to the growing demand for commerce education, the second and third additional sections were started in 1997 and 2001, respectively. The postgraduate programme in Commerce was introduced in 2004. The student strength of the department is currently nine hundred and twenty. We have indeed come a long way since 1985, when our first batch had a student strength of sixty-five students. The total faculty strength of the department is twenty one (Sixteen full-time and five part-time).

The changing needs of the industry and business often necessitates that academic programmes be tailored to meet their requirements. Efforts were made by the department to update the knowledge of the faculty and students through workshops, seminars and conferences at State, National and International Levels.

In our pursuit of academic excellence the curriculum has been updated from time to time to include topics of current relevance. We are proud to state that, for the first time in the University of Madras, the syllabi was modified to cater to the varying needs of students, through the introduction of the four groups of specialization – Finance, Marketing, Management and Office Management.

In 2002, four certificate courses were introduced, in collaboration with ICAI Business School, Chennai, they are Investment Banking, Human Resource Management, Customer Relation Management and Advertising and Communication. These courses have added value to the degree programme and are well received by the students.

Ms. Leema Vanithakumari served the college as Academic Dean when the CBCS was introduced in 1997 while Ms. Zonita Mason was Dean of Student Affairs from 2000–2003.

In 2005, in collaboration with Scope International Private

Limited, the department introduced a new certificate course in Retail Banking. A UGC sponsored certificate course 'Service Marketing' was also introduced. The department also inaugurated the Business Line Club, during the academic year 2006–07.

Our students have brought many laurels to our department by winning in several inter-collegiate competitions and presented papers in seminars and conferences. They have also won awards in NCC, NSS, games and other extracurricular activities. Ms. Saba Sait won the National level Swimming championship. Two students – Ms. Sandhya, J. and Ms. Preethi – were selected to attend a summer course at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, USA. Ms. Sandhya also won the first place in the Business English Certificate exam and was awarded a sponsorship for a full course in Business English at the University of Cambridge. COMBAT, an annual inter-collegiate cultural event, is organized by the students of the department every year since 2000. For the first time in the history of SMC we had the rare honour of five of our students being elected to the Executive Student Council in 2003–2004.

The alumnae have done the department proud by securing ranks in the Chartered Accountancy exams and by successfully launching several business ventures. A number of students have or are pursuing higher education in Management both in India and abroad.

Looking back, the Department of Commerce has reached many milestones and received the acclaim and confidence of many generations of students till date.

Computer Science – A Chronicle of Progress

The far-sighted vision of Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Principal, saw many new developments in the college. She encouraged five-faculty members from the department of Mathematics to undertake training in Computer Science at the Guindy Engineering College. This resulted in the college inaugurating its first Computer Centre on 25th August, 1986 under her stewardship. The first course offered by the department was 'Basic Programming and Applications' in September 1986, for a duration of two months, to a batch of thirty-eight students, which extended till May 1987. The department offered 'Numerical Analysis and Computer Programming', as an Allied subject, for the students of Mathematics department, during 1987.

A one year full-time PG Diploma Course in Computer Science Applications was also started for the first batch of eighteen students, in 1987. The various short-term courses offered during 1986–1988 were 'COBOL Programming and System Analysis', 'Office Automation' and 'FORTRAN Programming and Applications'. From June 1988 onwards, other courses like Computer Fundamentals, Word Processing, Spreadsheet and BASIC Programming and Applications were offered to the students of the Department of Mathematics. An elective course, 'Operations Research with Pascal Programming', was offered to Postgraduate students. In 1998 the PGDCA course was renamed as Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science (PGDCS).

Mr. David Thomas was the first Director of the Computer Centre, in 1986, and Ms. K. M. Elizabeth and Ms. Sivakami were full-time co-ordinators. Sr. Leony Mary Dhanaswamy fmm took over the reins as Director in 1987, a post she held until 1996 followed by Sr. Jasintha Quadras fmm from

1996–2000. The department started offering the three-year undergraduate Degree Programme BCA from 1998. Dr. Ms. Rajeswari Thiagarajan was the Head of Department. The first batch of 1998 had a strength of sixty-four (two sections of thirty-two students each) students. In April 2001 the department recorded a pass of 97%.

The department began offering a two-year Postgraduate degree programme, M.Sc. (Information Technology), from 2001 with a sanctioned strength of twenty-six students. The tremendous growth in IT sector saw a greater demand for Computer Science and, hence, the strength of UG and PG classes gradually increased.

Ms. Gigie Verghese took over as Head of Department in 2004 until 2006 and was succeeded by Ms. R. Shanmuga Sundari from 2006 onwards, while Sr. Clementine Kata fmm, was the Director of the Department from 2000–2004.

The college set up two new Computer laboratories in 1998 with state-of-the-art facilities that included sixty-four P-II PCs and audio-visual facilities. These were soon replaced by one hundred P-III systems, and now there are two undergraduate laboratories and one for postgraduates, with over one hundred and forty P-IV systems with TFT flat screen monitors. With two 3.2 GHz Intel Xeon Processors as Server, all the three labs are networked and each lab is equipped with an LCD Projector and printer. The laboratories are provided with Internet facility and are certified Test Centers for the TOEFL examination. The Department has a library that houses over seven hundred and fifty books. The department developed a 'Computer Based Testing' package that is being used by several departments in the college, for conducting continuous assessment and end semester examinations.

A section of enthusiastic audience at an intercollegiate fest



Students during a seminar organized by the department



The Department aims at imparting appropriate, up-to-date theoretical knowledge and practical skills to students, enabling them to take up a suitable careers or pursue higher education. In order to maintain high standards, the department constantly updates the syllabi, so as to cope with changing trends in the field and with the demands of industry. The Faculty of the department regularly undergo training to enrich their knowledge. Guest faculty from the IT industry teach a few technical courses, where students need to have Industrial exposure. Most of the classes are demonstration cum lecture classes with the help of audio-visual aids.

Business English Certificate Course, offered by Cambridge University through the British Council, is an integral part of the curriculum, which gives students an edge when it comes to placement interviews. The course on Personality Development helps students to acquire managerial and interpersonal skills. Postgraduate students are also given an opportunity to learn a foreign language, German, which greatly benefits IT students' placement in MNCs. Workshops on current topics in IT, not covered in the syllabi, are organized during summer vacation.

Informative and effective seminars pertaining to syllabi and about the latest trends in IT industry are offered regularly. UG and PG students undertake project work in industry, which is a requirement for completion of the course. This benefits the students as they gain practical knowledge about the industry and in-depth knowledge of documentation. In addition, industrial visits to reputed companies are organized by the department.

One prominent feature of the department is 'Campus Recruitment' through the CGC where several IT firms offer placements to the final year students. The number of recruitments has been consistently increasing each year. Recruiters include leading IT companies of international repute like HCL Technologies, Wipro, Cognizant Technology Solutions and Tata Consultancy Services.

WIZIT', an Inter-Collegiate annual festival of the department, enables students to showcase their organizing skills. About twenty colleges in the city, Arts and Science and Engineering, usually participate in the competitions.

As a part of the Social Awareness Programme, students of the Computer Science department visit different schools and institutes run for economically weak students. They prepare multimedia presentations for the schools, which help the differently abled children to understand the subject better. Our students also teach basic computer skills and Basic Mathematics in High schools run by Chennai Corporation and in Little Flower Convent, Chennai.

Ms. Margaret Shoba, Ms. Jeya Priya, Ms. Leela Lakshmi, Ms. Naveena, Ms. Padmaja, Ms. Madhumitha, and Ms. Kamala have over the years have generously contributed to the growth and development of the department.



Dr. Ms. Rajeswari Thyagarajan, first Head, department of Computer Science, addressing the students



Students in the first computer lab



Ms. Preethi Britto and Ms Nanditha Krishnamurthy, Alumna of the department of Computer Science



Mr. S. Mahalingam, Chief Financial Officer, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), addressing the students during 'WIZIT 2000'

English – A Historical Perspective

In 1947, when Stella Maris College opened her gates to the first batch of students, English was a requirement at the Intermediate Level as Part I-English. With provisional recognition being granted to the college in 1948, permission was given by the university to offer the B.A. programme with Part I being English. Thus, English has been an integral part of the academic programmes of SMC right from its fledgling years.

In these early years, a team of dedicated faculty, some of them missionaries educated abroad, pioneered the teaching of English Language and Literature in the college. Mother M. Lillian fmm, was Professor of English as well as Principal and Correspondent from 1947 to 1954. She had a degree in Mathematics, French and Philosophy from the University of the State of New York. She was widely travelled, and spoke a number of European languages, and also Chinese. The Department of English began under the inspiring leadership of Mother Lillian, Mother Luise Teresia and Mother Loyola, in 1949-1950.

In 1956, the PUC replaced the Intermediate Course and the following year, Advanced English was introduced in the college, under Part III. In the academic year 1959-1960, a PG programme was introduced with university approval. It was only in 1963 that a full-fledged programme came into being as Branch XII English Literature for undergraduate students.

The 1960s witnessed the establishment of the department on solid foundations under the stewardship of a dynamic and a far-sighted Head, Sr. Sheila O'Neill (Mother M. Joseph Michael), who took over the reins on June 20, 1963. She also served as Vice-Principal of the college, in addition to being Professor and Head of the Department. She rendered valuable service to the university in her capacity as Examiner in English (PG), as Member, Board of Studies, and the Academic Council. She was Principal of SMC from 1966-1968. Sr. Sheila O'Neill, a reputed scholar on the poetry of G.M. Hopkins, was a person of high integrity, who never compromised on academic standards. She had endeared herself to both faculty and students, who still remember her words of encouragement and acts of kindness.

With a fine blend of academic excellence and professionalism, many faculty members have played significant roles in the progress of the department and the welfare of students. Among those who distinguished themselves with their scholarship in the subject and distinctive approaches to pedagogy are Ms. Sowmu Francis (1965), who is remembered for her excellent teaching of Language and Linguistics and Ms. Mary Bhaskaran (1969), who was a dynamic and popular teacher. In the 1970s, Ms. Usha Lakshman compiled and published a text for listening and reading comprehension titled, 'Read To Think'.

Dr. Ms. Seetha Srinivasan, who began her teaching career

Sr. Juliet Irene and Sr. Sheila O' Neill former Principals with faculty and students of the class of 1970



in SMC in 1964 and later went on to become the Head of the Department, played a key role in continuing the department's tradition of creating potential sites for intellectual academic exchange. It was her commitment to intellectual enrichment and scholarship that impelled her to have the department upgraded, by introducing research programmes, beginning with the M.Phil. Sequential Programme, held in the year 1985–86. This was followed by the introduction of a university approved M.Phil. Regular Programme, with a sanctioned strength of six seats, for both part-time and full-time students. The number of seats was gradually increased, and today the programme is in great demand, with ten full-time students doing research and course work. To Dr. Ms. Seetha Srinivasan goes the credit of producing the first Ph.D. scholar in this department in 1996.

The present Head of the department, Dr. Ms. Susan Oommen, has continued the tradition of research. Under her supervision three scholars (two who are currently faculty in the department) have obtained their doctoral degrees.

Dr. Ms. Margaret Clarence, succeeded Dr. Ms. Seetha Srinivasan as Head of Department, from 2000 to 2005. She was patient and generous with her time and resources with any student in need. She is currently Controller of Examinations in the college.

Several faculty members have played key roles in the growth and development of the department. The setting up of the Writing Centre, a facility for students who require assistance in writing assignments and term papers, came up under the direction of Dr. Sr. Flavia Mariapragasam fmm. She was inspired to set up a well-stocked resource centre after her visit to Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA, USA, as a scholar, under the auspices of the UBCHEA. The Alumnae Association of the college owes its rebirth to the unstinting efforts of Dr. Sr. Flavia fmm. The association, today, plays a central role in student placement and career guidance.

Dr. Ms. Padma Seshadri brought in the job-oriented Vocational course into the curriculum. It was due to her persistent efforts that the UGC-sponsored vocational course was launched as part of the B.A. English degree programme. It was also one of the earliest courses to have syllabi framed, in consultation with professionals from the industry. As faculty-in-charge of the vocational course, MoUs were signed with institutions such as Apollo Hospitals and St. Isabel's Hospital. Experts from industry were also invited to give lectures in specialized areas to students of the vocational course.

The department has organized several programmes that have contributed to the enhancement of educational



Sr. Sheila O'Neill, former Principal with the faculty during a recent visit to Stella Maris

initiatives of the college. In the 1970s, the famous poet R. Parthasarathy, who was then editor at Oxford University Press, taught the newly introduced Indian Writing in English course for a period of two years. The visits of several established creative writers and scholars such as C. D. Narasimhaiah, Anniah Gowda and Maria Couto to the department, over the years, have been instrumental in helping the department to evolve culture specific perspectives in Indian Literature in English. At the National Conference on 'Higher Education – Relevance and Challenges' organized by the Arts and Commerce departments to commemorate the Golden Jubilee (1996–1997) of the college, the critic and scholar Meenakshi Mukherjee, in her keynote address underscored the importance of translation and culture studies and appealed for a paradigm shift in the study of English Literature.

In 1992, the department witnessed a fresh approach to the teaching-learning process, with the visit to the department of Dr. Kathleen Feeley, a Fulbright scholar from Notre Dame College, Maryland, USA. In 1998, Dr. Judith Perkins, a visiting faculty from St. Joseph's College, Connecticut, had the following words of praise for the department in a letter she wrote on her return to USA: "I will always be grateful for the very welcoming environment I experienced at the college. Everyone was so wonderful. I cannot speak highly enough of the English Department. Their deep knowledge and dedication to their students was literally awe inspiring". The department also introduced a series of Scholars and Writers-in-Residence programmes (with financial assistance from the UBCHEA) that have made possible knowledge sharing across a wide range of areas related to English Studies, thereby immensely benefiting faculty and students. Some distinguished visiting scholars

include Dr. S. Ramakrishnan, Prof., Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Ranjit Hoskote, a renowned poet and art critic and Kamila Shamsie, an award-winning novelist from Pakistan. In 2002, the well-known writer Shashi Deshpande held interactive sessions with the faculty and students of the department.

The 'Literary Journal' of the department has been published without a break for the last 30 years. Other landmark publications of the department include two workbooks on 'Teaching English at the Foundation Level', and a book on tourism titled 'Tourism: Some Perspectives – A Study of Kovalam, Mamallapuram and Pondicherry' (supported by the UBCHEA). The department has also published research articles on creative writing and classroom teaching. The Proceedings of a workshop on 'Poetry', and the symposium on 'Literatures of West Asia' that was held in 2006 have also been published.

In 2001, 2004 and 2005, the department conducted Refresher Courses, in collaboration with the Academic Staff College, University of Madras. A training course for English teachers, as part of a State Government initiative, was held in 2004. Dr. V. Padma was a Fulbright Visiting Lecturer at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2004.

In a department that has marked several milestones in academics, many more professors and lecturers find prominent place: Ms. Miriam John, who joined the college in 1957 after several stints as lecturer in Sarah Tucker College, Palayamcottah, St. Mary's College, Trichur and H.H. Maharaja's College for Women, Trivandrum, also rendered service as the Head of the Department. She was succeeded by Ms. Helen Dasan as Head, in 1979. Others who find a place in the annals of the department are Sr. Luise fmm, Professor and Head of the Department (joined 1949), Ms. Agnes Joseph (joined 1954), Ms Dolly Chacko (joined 1954), Ms. S.

Vaijyanthi (joined 1966), Ms. Leila Mathew (joined 1969), Ms. Lavanya Rajah (joined 1970), Ms. R. Rama (joined 1970), Ms. Ramiah, Ms. Sharon D'Monte (emigrated to Australia), Dr. Ms. Mridula Jose (UG Head from 2000 until her retirement in 2002), Ms. Agnetta Mendoza (emigrated to USA), Dr. Ms. Padma Malini Sundararaghavan (retired in 2004), Ms. Laurence Durhan (emigrated to Canada), Ms. Jean Fernandez (voluntarily retired in 2001; now teaching in USA), Ms. Therese Gregory (retired in 2005), Ms. Padma Prasad (now in USA) Ms. Meera Balachandran (voluntarily retired in 2003), Ms. Shantakumari Gabriel (now with the British Council Division in Chennai), and Dr. Ms. Rosalind Vijaya (taught at SMC while on deputation).

Many members of the department have held offices of responsibility in the institution. Dr. Sr. Flavia fmm, UG head in the late 1990s, also served as Vice-Principal. Dr. Padma Seshadri, Dr. Agnes Fernando, Dr. Ms. Margaret Clarence and Dr. Sharada Bhanu served as Deans of Student Affairs. Dr. Ms. Susan Oommen held the post of Academic Dean (2002–2004). Dr. Ms. Agnes Fernando is currently the Vice-Principal.

At present, the faculty members are: Ms. Bernadine Mary Joseph, UG Head, Ms. Sheila Mathai, Ms. Mary Swamy, Dr. Prema Jagannathan, Dr. Sharada Bhanu, Dr. Thilagavathi Joseph, Ms. Miruna George, Dr. V. Padma, Ms. Ajie George, Ms. Mallika Surender, Ms. Sujitha S., Ms Tanya C. Lawrence, Ms. Nazneen Marshall, Ms. K. Latha, Ms. Sumathi Shivakumar, Dr. Padma Alistair, Ms. Preetika V. and Dr. Ms. Bibi Christa Xavier. In pursuance of ideals, in the best academic traditions, the Department of English has tried to keep pace with the changing times and is committed to excellence and quality education. With numerous achievements to its credit, the department continues to evolve, constantly reassessing itself and reaffirming its commitment to widening the horizons of academic experience.

Ms. Miriam John, former Head of the Department (in the centre) with the faculty of the department



Economics – A Steady State Growth

As Stella Maris College commemorates its Diamond Jubilee, the staff and students of the Department of Economics can claim with justifiable pride and pleasure that the dawn and growth of their department coincides with that of the college. One of the founding members of the college, Mother Carla Rosa, an austere disciplinarian, was the foundress of the Department of Economics. She was head of the department from 1949 to 1966 and inculcated the spirit of a true Stella Marian in every student and teacher alike. She held a Ph.D. in Political Economy and she taught Political Science, an ancillary subject for students of B.A. Economics.

In the first year of its founding, the college offered an intermediate course in humanities. The very next year, 1948, Bachelor's Degree in Arts, Economics and History was introduced. The introduction of the Pre-University Course in 1955–56 came as the precursor to the three-year degree course in 1957. The department expanded by introducing the postgraduate course in 1959, thereby becoming the first women's college under the aegis of the University of Madras to offer M.A. Degree in Economics. In 1982 the department attained research status and introduced M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes due to the indefatigable zeal of Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent fmm, the then Principal and Head of PG department. The focus of the research department has been on Human Resource Development.

The department wishes to acknowledge, with immense gratitude the valuable services rendered by Rev. Mother Edith du P.S. (Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry), Rev. Mother Sylvester, Mother Jean Louis (Sr. Claude de Sauveboeuf), Ms. Susheela Rhenius, Ms. Ishwariah, and Ms. Chellam Mitran and Sr. Mary Lily Bernard fmm in the formative years of the department, in handling ancillary courses in History, Logic and Political, Science.

The Department of Economics had always adopted an innovative approach to academics. This was reflected in the success of the in-service experiences the students of the 1980–1983 batch gained, in banks and other companies, under the UGCs College Humanities and Social Science Improvement Programme (COHSSIP).

With the introduction of autonomy in 1987, the department ushered in changes in tune with current trends of economics. Apart from traditional papers – Micro and Macro Economics – new courses such as Research Methodology with Computer Applications, Environmental Economics and Industrial Economics have been introduced. Further to equip the students with adequate skills to enhance career opportunities, and also to pursue higher studies both at the national and international levels, courses such as Econometrics, Quantitative Techniques, Human Resource Development, Human Resource Management, Financial Management, Tools of Financial Analysis and Contemporary Issues have been introduced. All these measures have helped the students to cultivate lateral thinking and application to related fields of study. It has also helped many students to venture into wide-ranging directions within the umbrella of the core discipline.

The department offers challenging courses such as 'Gender Economics', 'Women, Work and Economy', and 'Ecofeminism' which enable budding economists to rethink, unlearn and relearn many of the accepted principles and theories of Economics. This has gone a long way in allowing students to fit into the changing market scenario, impacted by globalization and progress in information technology.

Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent and Sr. Teresita Polycarpus sharing a lighter moment



The department had a stalwart like Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent as its head since 1967. She became Principal in 1978, a position she held till her retirement in 1990. Prior to this she was Vice-Principal from 1974–1978. She also held the post of Secretary of the college alongside that of Principal, for the period 1983–1990. An efficient leader and approachable principal, her tenure was a time of immense growth for the department and for the college. It was her vision and foresight that enabled the college to become autonomous. As an academician she guided twelve M.Phil. and two Ph.D. scholars successfully. Her dynamism opened new vistas for international exchange starting with her lecture tour of the US in 1984, resulting in the launching of the ‘Round the World Semester Programme’ for the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA. Her yeoman service in the field of higher education has won her many laurels and awards. She was conferred the Best Teacher award in 1983 by Lions’ Club and The Best Teacher and Best Principal award in 1986 by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The All India Eminent Educationist Award 1993, was presented to her by AIACHE. In 1987 she received the President’s Medal and Citation at St. Mary’s Notre Dame, Indiana, USA. She received the Best Principal Award for 1990 from the Tamil Nadu Government.

The department was steered steadily through the years by the able and gifted leadership of the efficient heads of the department: Sr. Mercy Jacob fmm, (1968 – 1973), Dr. Chellam Mitran (1990 – 1992), Late Sr. Teresita Polycarpus fmm (1979 – 1982) and Ms. Pramila Ethiraj (1992–1993). A special mention must be made of the contributions of Ms. Rukmani, Dr. Susheela Rhenius and late Ms. Ganga Ganesan, to the development of the department. Dr. Susheela Rhenius, completed her doctoral programme successfully under the guidance of her own student Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent in 1982. Dr. Sr. Merlyn D’Sa, was Principal in-charge during the absence of Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent in 1986 – 87. She also held the post of Vice-Principal from 1979 to 1985.

Under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Ramani during 1992-1999, Certificate Courses, Exhibitions and the Current Affairs Club were organized. Dr. Geetha Sridharan was Head of the Department between 1999 and 2005. She held the posts of Academic Dean (2000 – 2002) and Vice-Principal (2004 – 2006). Ms. Raihana Sabir was Academic Dean (2000 – 2001) and is currently Head of PG department (2005 to date). The present UG Head is Ms. Usha Ramani (1999 to date). Ms. Lakshmi Venkatasubramanian whom the students endearingly referred to as ‘The Walking Encyclopaedia’ served the department from 1986 to 2004 and held the position of Student Dean for the period 1998 to 2002.

Today the department has twelve motivated, committed and dedicated faculty members, three of whom hold doctorates in Economics, and five are in the process of completing their doctoral research. They are also actively involved in curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular activities of the college. Ms. Chandunissa assumed the office of Academic Dean in June 2006. She was the co-ordinator for the Co-operative Stores (1980–86) Entrepreneur Development Cell along with Chemistry Department (1982–86), and Functional Literacy Programme (1990–97).

Ms. A. Punitha coordinates the Functional Literacy Programme of the college. Dr. Ms. Millie Nihila was one of the NSS programme officers during the academic year 2006–2007. Dr. Ms. Millie Nihila and Dr. Ms. Crystal David John have been Club Advisers for the Damini Club and the Quiz and Debating and Current Affairs Clubs, respectively. Ms. Pearl Paul, Ms. Regi Manimegala, Ms. Hima Bindu, Ms. Mary Iype and Sr. Stella Mary fmm, are actively involved in various committees in the college.

The members of the faculty have presented papers both at national and international level seminars and symposia and have received fellowships to visit universities abroad as part of the academic pursuit. In coordination with other Humanities Departments of the College, the Economics Department organized the National Seminar on ‘Higher Education in India – Relevance and Challenges’, in 1997, and in collaboration with other arts departments the International Seminar on ‘Women in Asia’, in 2002. In 2006, the department organized a National Seminar on ‘Developmental Divides’.

The department has undertaken the following several minor research projects some of which are

Sponsored by UBCHEA

- ‘Socio-Economic Survey of the Beedi Workers in the Pasalikotai Village, Thirupathur District’ – 1986
- ‘Socio Economic Survey of Nandambakkam Village’ – 1987
- ‘A Study of Technology Diffusion Among Farmers in Veera Keralam and Thondamuthur, in Coimbatore District’ – 1988
- ‘Status of Working Women in Pharmaceutical industry’ – A case study – 1989
- ‘Status of the Girl Child’ – 1990
- ‘A Comparative Study of Two Villages – Muthu Vedu and Vishar in Chengai Anna Dst.’ – 1992
- ‘Impact of Higher Education on Empowerment of

Women' (along with Sociology Department) – 2000,

Sponsored by Malcolm and Elizabeth Adhisheshaiah Trust.

- Empowerment of Women through SHGs–2005
- 'Impact of Development on Tribal Economy – A Case Study of Nilgiris Dst.' – 2006

The Departmental Journal 'Ankur' has been published every year without a break since its inception in 1978–79. Apart from class room teaching students are provided with the opportunity of obtaining first-hand information through annual field visits to places, such as MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS), and Industrial units. Under the aegis of the Community Social Service / Social Awareness Programme / Service Learning, students visited villages, undertook surveys and wrote reports related to rural realities. Some of the programmes were:

- Impact of Industrialization at Ranipet in collaboration with Thirumalai Charities–1998
- An international project on 'Diabetic Retinopathy' in Thiruvanamalai District in collaboration with Sankara Nethralaya – 2005
- Impact of Development on Tribal Economy – A Study of Irula tribe in Thirutani – 2005
- Social Audit of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act at Villupuram – 2007

In honour of our former Principal, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, an Endowment Lecture was instituted in 1991 and eminent economists were invited to deliver the endowment lecture. To mention a few speakers the department has invited Dr. Vasanthi Devi, Former Vice-Chancellor, Mother Teresa University, Dr. C.T. Kurien, Former Director, MIDS, Dr. Ambirajan Professor, Department of Humanities, IIT-

Madras, Dr. Raja Chelliah, Member Finance Commission, Fiscal Economist and Chairman, Madras School of Economics, Dr. Shyamala Raman, Professor, St. Joseph's University USA, Dr. Appleyard, Professor, Davidson College, North Carolina, USA, Dr. Padmini Swaminathan, Director, MIDS, Dr. Kalpana Kochhar, Special Advisor, Asia Pacific Department, IMF and Dr. Sujatha Viswanathan, Social Economist, Asian Development Bank. Apart from this eminent economists like (late) Dr. Brahmananda, Dr. Kaushik Basu were invited to deliver special lectures to the students.

The A. D. Shroff Elocution Competition, sponsored by the Forum of Free Enterprise, is organized annually, on various contemporary economic issues. In addition to this competition, the department also hosts an annual Inter PG Seminar for the students. The students also organize an annual department inter-collegiate festival called Ecocentric.

Our Alumnae have distinguished themselves in various fields including the Civil Services, as Economists, Industrialists, Principals, Artists (film producers), Journalists, and authors of books.

A few of the noteworthy achievements of the students currently in the department – Ms. Tara V. was chosen by the Peace Scholarship Trust to study at the University of Sunshine Coast, Australia, for a semester, February–June 2006. Ms Nischinta Amarnath received the 'Young Achievers Award' from the Duchess Club, Chennai. She also authored a book entitled 'A Voyage to Excellence' in the year, 2005.

The department has its own website Economics_smc@yahoo.com maintained by the students, past and present. In the sixty years that have gone by since its inception, the department has played a significant role in the development of the institution.



Fine Arts – Pioneering Vision

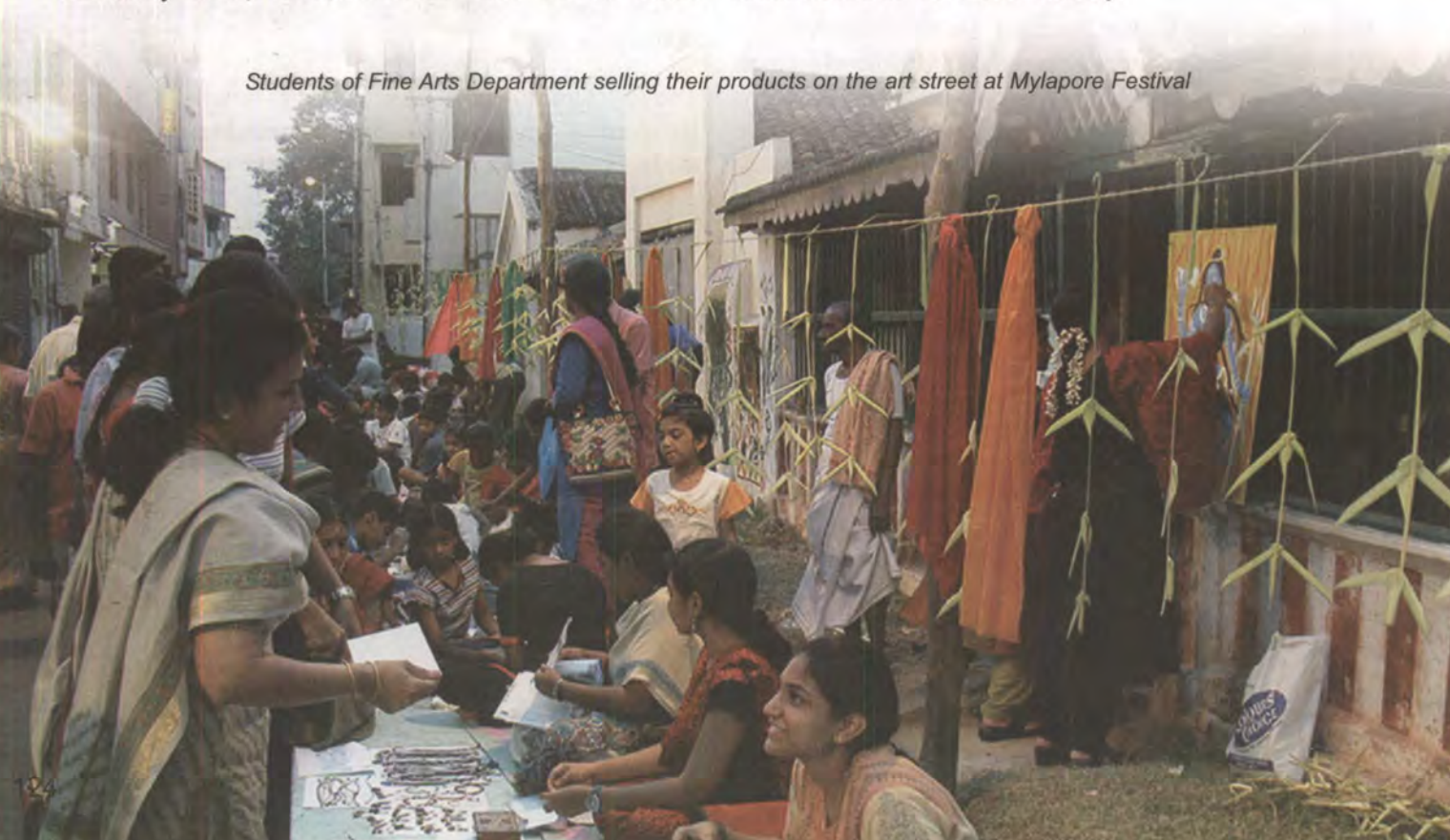
The six-decade history of the Department of Fine Arts is marked by creativity and innovation. Established in 1948 under the supervision of visionaries, Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry fmm, and Sr. Sylvestra fmm, the department has made giant strides and left its mark in the annals of the college. In 1948, Drawing was offered along with Indian History under Part III for the two-year Intermediate course. In 1949, permission was obtained to offer it along with Painting. Thus, from 1951 Drawing and Painting (Group X) was offered as a two-year B.A. Degree Programme until it became a three year B.A. Degree in 1957.

This change involved the introduction of History of Indian and World Art, in addition to Drawing and Painting. Such a programme fulfilled the need for an art education for women, essentially equipping them with skills in arts and crafts. Stella Maris College was the first and only institution, then, to impart art education to women at the University level, in South India. Late Dr. Sr. Edith

(1905–1998), who had a Doctorate in Fine Arts from the University of Budapest, developed the academic content based on the European model. Sr. Edith, while actively involved in developing the curriculum for the Fine Arts course, also served as a Vice-Principal from 1948–1955. She was Professor and Head of the Department from 1951–1962 and later head of the Postgraduate department, when it was established in 1963, until her superannuation in 1970. She was given the status of Professor Emeritus by the University of Madras and was also supervisor for three Doctoral candidates in Fine Arts, of the University of Madras.

Though the college was not yet autonomous, the Department of Fine Arts, being the only one of its kind in the city, structured the course and designed the syllabi from its inception. The department became a research department with the introduction of the Ph.D. programme in 1963 and the M.Phil. programme in 1986, mainly due to the efforts of Sr. Edith Tömöry.

Students of Fine Arts Department selling their products on the art street at Mylapore Festival



The undergraduate programme is unique, with its blend of art history and practice. It has been progressively reworked to meet societal and industrial needs. In 2000, the postgraduate programme witnessed a total changeover, with the introduction of specializations in Graphic Design and Textile Design.

With the college becoming autonomous in 1987, most programmes of study were restructured. The Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS), introduced in 1997, saw yet another strategic revamping of syllabi. The M.Phil. programme has been totally restructured after it became autonomous, in the year 2006.

The programmes train students in professional careers as wide ranging as designers, artists, art historians, art consultants, art therapists, curators and teachers.

From 1963, Dr. Sr. Mary Ann fmm, ably headed the department until her retirement in 1991. She was succeeded by Dr. Sr. Angel Mary fmm, who served as Head of the Department (1991–2001) and Dean of Student Affairs (1997 until her retirement in 2001).

The department places on record the services of faculty, who have contributed immensely to its development and growth. Mother M. Ursula fmm, Professor (1951–1954), Mother Ann- Julius fmm (1954), Ms. Emma Devapriyam, Ms. Arnawaz Driver (Skilled Assistant) (1970–1971), Dr Sr. Maddelena fmm, (1971–1975), Sr. Celine Grace fmm (1973–1992), Sr. Mary Rose Pulikottil fmm (1976–1985), Dr. Jatinder Gurbax Singh (1970–1997), Dr. Ms. Ramaa Narayanan (1978–2005), Ms. Gowri Nayak (1971–1986), Ms. Geetha Koshy (1975–1980), Ms. Rohini (1983–1999) and Dr. Ms. Arputharani Sengupta (1987–1996) have made immense contributions to the department.

The textbook 'Introduction to the History of Fine Art in India and the West', published in 1968 and revised in 1982 under the title 'History of Fine Art in India and the West', authored by Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry, has been prescribed for study in many art institutions in India. Sr. Edith was the recipient of the Director K. Subramanyam and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's 'Stree Ratna' award and also of a special award from the Hungarian Government for her service to the cause of women's higher education. In 2005, the birth centenary of Sr. Edith, the department conducted a national workshop on 'Art Education' and the 'Artist-in-Residence' workshops as a



Dr. Ms. Jatinder Gurbax Singh, Sr. Maddelena, Ms. Gowri



Resource Person, Artist Amitabh Sen Gupta, students and faculty



Sr. Celine Grace and Dr. Sr. Angel Mary with students

Sr. Maddelena during her visit to the department





Alumnae of the class of 1979 with Dr. Sr. Mary Ann



Artist Gopinath at the Artists camp



Students trying their hand at screen printing



Alumnae at the get-together

tribute. Eminent national artists such as C.F. John, Rekha Rao and Amitabh Sengupta were the resource persons. The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia supported these programmes. The department has also instituted the 'Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry Annual Endowment Lecture' in her memory.

The faculty members are actively involved in research and consultancy and maintain ties with art institutions, organizations and the design industry. They have also displayed their paintings at exhibitions in Chennai and other cities.

Originally housed in Bonaventure Block – a building almost two hundred years old with an old world charm and ambience that suited the discipline – the department now functions from the more spacious St. Francis Hall. The addition of a large studio, measuring 1700 sq. feet, in 1998, has enabled the Painting and Drawing Courses to be conducted more effectively.

The departmental library holds a collection of specialized art books and journals. As a reference library open to research scholars and others interested in art, it is equipped with computers, visual aids such as geographical, political and craft maps of India.

Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry's collection of artefacts, originally laid out in the spacious hall of the Bonaventure Block, is now housed in the department in St. Francis Hall. It included plaster casts of the Indus valley civilization, Mathura, Kushana, artworks and icons in bronze and marble from India and the west.

The department strives to update its teaching and testing methodology. While the visual-aided lecture method is the mainstay, demonstrations, group discussions, group presentations, and individual seminar presentations also play a major role in the teaching-learning process. In recent years, the workshop method has resulted in productive interaction between students and professional artists, designers and art historians such as R.B. Bhaskaran, Bhagwan Chawan, A.V. Ilango, Manoharan, V. V. Ramani, Ramsuresh, Ilayaraja, Ranjit, Ravindran, Valson Koorma Kolheri, Jacob Jebaraj and Benitha Perciyal. Visits to art galleries, art exhibitions and museums are undertaken on a regular basis. Postgraduate students also undertake specialization-related tours in India.

The final year undergraduate students hold group shows

of their creative paintings, at a venue outside college. A panel, comprising specialists and the course teacher, conduct periodic critiques, to assess the work of postgraduate students. Student projects, culminating in a show of textile design collection, displayed at a venue outside college, are critiqued and evaluated by specialists.

An Artists' Camp, in which leading Chennai-based artists such as Alphonso Arul Doss, K.V. Haridasan, P. Gopinath, C. Douglas, K. Muralidharan, Asma Menon, Achuthan Kudalur and A.V. Ilango participated, was conducted in 2003. The paintings created by the artists in the camp were gifted to the department, enabling a collection of contemporary art.

In 1993, the department also conducted a national seminar on Art History. It was chaired by the noted art critic Geeta Doctor and saw the participation of leading national artists such as Alphonso Arul Doss, Vasudha Thozhur and Amitabh Sengupta. In November 2004, Dr. Annapurna Garimilla of Art Research and Teaching, Bangalore, conducted an Art Theory workshop for the members of the faculty as part of the Scholar-in-Residence Programme funded by the UBCHEA.

The department signed a MoU with the University of Central England, Birmingham, in 2003, which resulted in the conduct of two workshops on typography by Professor Aftab Gharda, Head, Department of Visual Communication, University of Birmingham, in 2004 and 2005. Ms. Jasbir Kaur, Birmingham Institute of Art and Design also conducted a one-day workshop on 'Textile Art' in July 2005, for students specializing in Textile Design.

The specialization in Textile Design, offered by the department, has gained recognition in Chennai. The department has set up a textile design studio, to execute projects commissioned by the industry. Since 2004, the studio has worked on projects commissioned annually for Co-optex, the apex society for handloom co-operatives in Tamil Nadu. In March 2007, the studio designed a home textile collection for the M. Rm Rm Cultural Foundation, using traditional Chettinad textile designs. In February 2007, the department executed tyre-tread designs for MRF Ltd.

Over the last fifty-nine years, the department has made significant progress and it continues to keep abreast with recent trends in the field.



Dr. Ms. Ramaa Narayanan being wished on her 58th birthday



Mrs Jaya Jaitley and Sr. Mary Ann at the Dr. Sr Edith Tömöry Endowment Lecture – 2006.



Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Mr. B.N. Goswamy, Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni and Sr. Mary Ann



Artist Sultan Ali inaugurating an exhibition as Sr. Edith looks on.

History – Footprints in the Sands of Time

Sixty years in the lifetime of an institution is a time to celebrate, a time to look back with nostalgia, and a time to look ahead with vision. The Department of History which is as old as the college has a history equally inspiring. Under the guidance of able and committed members of the faculty, the department continues to offer students challenging and stimulating courses.

In 1947, students who enrolled into the Arts Stream were required to do courses in History, Logic, and Indian Music. Mathematics, Arts and Western Music were added to the list in 1948. Innovation in the teaching-learning process has



Principal, faculty and students of the History department

always been the hallmark of the academic scene in Stella Maris. As a result, History became an independent department in 1957 and the Founder-Head was the late Sr. Floridus fmm, (Sr. Jeyam Subramaniam). A great storyteller and historian, she was also an active social worker and the backbone of the Social Service League of the College. Sr. Floridus fmm, later went on to become the Principal of Maris Stella College, a sister institution in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

The 1957 batch, the first batch of History major to graduate, was a class of eight. One of them, Sr. Mary John fmm, later became Head of the Department in 1990 and was also the Principal in-charge of the college in 1996.

Ms. Ishwariah, a dynamic and committed teacher succeeded Sr. Floridus fmm, as the Head. She participated in the fourteenth session of the All India History Congress held in Jaipur in December 1948.

Dr. Ms. Stella Jesudoss took over headship from Ms. Ishwariah and served till her retirement in 1990, after twenty-eight years of service. It was under her leadership that the department initiated a plan for a postgraduate programme, which unfortunately did not materialize during her tenure. However, she was instrumental in starting an IAS coaching center in 1990, which was open to all Stella Marians and also to students of other institutions in the city. Many benefited from the coaching, emerging successful in State and Central Service Commission Examinations.

In September 1990, Dr. Sr. Mary John fmm, took over as the Head of the Department. During her tenure as Head, the department prepared an audio-visual package on the career aspects in History. Her love for Indian Philosophy was responsible for a course on the subject being introduced in the programme. A philosopher – educationist, she is dedicated to the cause of 'Inter-Faith Dialogue' and heads 'Ishalaya', an ashram dedicated to Indian system of prayer and worship, in Palmaner near Chittoor.

In 1996, Dr. Kamala Aravind took over as Head of the Department. The college adopted the CBCS during this time and several innovative courses were initiated by the department. The Vocational Stream in Tourism was her brainchild and the ticketing component of the course was conducted by the Institute of Airlines and Travel Agencies, Chennai. Other courses introduced during this

time were, Women's Studies, Performing Arts. The entire syllabus was revamped, based on the IAS syllabus, so as to enable the students to opt for a career in the services.

A national seminar on 'Tourism in India – Challenges' was held from December 11 to 13, 2002, to focus on 'Tourism as an Industry', which was emerging as a career option for history students. During this time, the Humanities Departments jointly organized a National Seminar on 'Women in Asia– Issues and Concerns'. The Postgraduate programme in International Studies was introduced in 2002 with Dr. Kamala Aravind as Head. Dr. Kamala Aravind was deputed for a short visit to the USA as a visiting faculty, funded by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, (UBCHEA). She retired in 2005 after thirty-one years of service. Dr. Patricia Gabriel has headed the department since then. In 1996–97, Dr. Patricia Gabriel was deputed by the college to teach and carry on independent research for a year at William Woods University, Missouri, USA, as a United Board Scholar.

Other lecturers who have made significant contributions are Ms. Myrtle Dorairaj, Ms. Kausalya, Ms. C.R. Kamala and Dr. Ms. Suriya Kumari, who became the Postgraduate Head of the Department of History in Mother Teresa University, Kodaikanal. Ms. Padma, Ms. Indira Parthasarathy, Ms. Latha Ramachandran, Ms. Sudha, Ms. Sally Varghese, Ms. Radhika Lakshman, Ms. Manju Mathew, Ms, Deepa Alexander and Ms. Nishi Jaikumar have all contributed immensely to the growth and development of the department.

The department is proud to state that the students of the Vocational Course in Tourism are finding placement in the

travel industry as a result of an understanding with the Kuoni Academy of Travel, Chennai. The Academy collaborates with the department in teaching and providing a month-long on-the-job training to students in Ticketing.

In 2005, the department introduced a UGC recognized Certificate Course in Travel Management for the students of the college. It is significant that the department's syllabus for the course was approved and adopted by the University of Madras and affiliated colleges in the Madras region. This course is being conducted successfully for the fourth year in succession. It includes theory and practical classes, with a month-long training in the travel industry.

The History Association has been functioning actively for a long time now and the annual inter-collegiate event conducted was called 'Istoria' until recently, when it was renamed 'BC to AD'. The association has been a training ground for students in Public Speaking and Event Management.

The Smt. Indira Gandhi Endowment Lectures were initiated in memory of our Late Prime Minister Srimathi Indira Gandhi in the 1980s. It is a forum for exchange of ideas on current, Indian and World affairs. This forum has been addressed by many eminent speakers such as Mr. T.N. Seshan, Dr. S. Gopal, Dr. Radha Burnier, Dr. Nandita C. Krishna, Dr. Gopalji Malviya, Dr. Radhakrishnan IAS, Mr. Sashikumar, media person, and Mr. Richard Haynes, former US Consul General, Chennai.

The department's growth has been impressive. We are trying to make History an interesting, challenging, meaningful and job-oriented subject. The department plans to introduce a Postgraduate Programme in 'Tourism Management' in the near future.

Dr. Ms. Patricia Gabriel, Ms. Salli Vargis and Dr. Geetha Sridharan during an inter-collegiate fest



Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal, felicitating Dr. Sr. Mary John on her retirement



International Studies – Changing Paradigms in International Relations

The department of International Studies came into existence with the introduction of the postgraduate programme in International Studies, in 2002. It was the brainchild of Dr. Ms. Kamala Aravind, former Head, Department of History. She took the initiative, encouraged by Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal, to frame the curriculum and draw up the syllabi for the programme. The faculty of the Department of History and a team of renowned academicians from outside the college assisted her in this task. Stella Maris is the only women's college, affiliated to the University of Madras, offering this postgraduate programme.

The multidisciplinary nature of the subject offers a broad perspective as well as an understanding of the process and implications of global politics and the nature of international relations. Over the last few years, renowned scholars and practitioners in the field of International Relations, from both within the country and universities

abroad, have visited the department. An annual feature is the Scholar-in-Residence programme, through which distinguished persons in the field are invited to give guest lectures and interact with the students.

National seminars have been another annual feature of the department since its inception. It has conducted seminars on a wide range of themes such as 'The Changing International System', 'Environmental Concerns' and 'Peace Building in the South Asian Region'.

The department is forging long-term partnerships with academic institutions outside India and has entered into an MoU with L'Institut Catholique d'Etudes Supérieures, Nantes, France. Student exchange programme between the two institutions have helped students to interact with their counterparts and glean valuable experiences. The department is in the process of networking with other institutions too. It is also committed to enhancing academic scholarship and developing a professional and well-informed approach to compelling issues of international significance.



At the inauguration of the Department of International Studies

The French Connection

Stella Maris College's 'French Connection' dates back to the inception of the institution. The arrival of the Franciscan Sisters in India not only heralded a new era in women's education but also pioneered the study of French as a foreign language in this all-women's institution in the city of Chennai.

Among the pioneers of the Department of French, Mother M. Chapdelaine fmm, may be specially mentioned. A French national, her commitment and dedication to the teaching of French is remembered with gratitude by her students of the fifties and sixties. When she retired in 1969, her task was continued first by Sr. Magdalene fmm, also Professor in Mathematics, and later by Sr. Bernadette fmm.

During this period, French was taught through the medium of English. Students excelled in the written language but spoken French took a back seat. A fresh flavour was added to the study of French at Stella Maris with the arrival of Sisters from the Franciscan Order in the department during the late seventies: Sr. Anne-Marie Daly fmm, former Principal (also known as Sr. Proincias), Sr. Anne Modrach fmm, and Sr. Evelyn Delicata fmm, from Malta. Sr. Evelyn was the head of the department from 1973 to 1982. She was assisted by Ms. Chandra Ilango from 1979 onwards. Ms. Jacinta Fenelon taught in the department from 1974 to 1977 rejoining the department in 1981. It was during this period that the department, in collaboration with the Alliance Française de Madras, had regular activities such as lectures, skits, film shows and singing groups, to name a few, in order to motivate students and to popularize the study of French.

This renewed interest in the language saw the birth of the French Club, which provided a platform for the students to display their talents. The cultural activities served to sustain the interest of the students in the language. Sr. Evelyn Delicata returned to Rome in 1982 and the

headship of the department was taken over by Ms. Jacinta Fenelon. Ms. Chitra Krishnan joined the department in the same year.

With the granting of autonomy in 1987, a breath of fresh air was infused into the teaching of French as a Foundation Course. The focus of study which, until then, was grammar and literature, shifted to the French language, culture and civilization. The dream of students to speak French fluently came alive as it became the medium of instruction for the course. Assessment of the spoken language motivated students to practice spoken French. In the nineties, the department offered courses such as Business French and Commercial Correspondence to help students meet the requirements of the job market.

Dr. Chitra Krishnan, faculty and Vice-Principal from 2003 to 2004, left the department in 2004 to join the French Department of the University of Madras as Professor and Head. Ms. Chandra Ilango, Head of the Department from 2001 to 2006, opted for voluntary retirement in 2006 and, in the same year, Ms. Geetha Ravi joined the department. Ms. Kausalya Jaganmohan, a part-time faculty, was appointed as Honorary Consul for France at Chennai in October 2002 and was further honoured with the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre National de Mérite in March 2006 by the Government of France. Ms. Jacinta Fenelon is currently the Head of the department.

Ms. Violaine Huysmans, a volunteer from FIDESCO, a French NGO, was a faculty from 2005 to 2007. Her presence in the department was an added impetus to the learning of the language. The department hopes to have more such volunteers from France in future to benefit students.

Soixante ans de la présence Française à Stella Maris

Les liens entre Stella Maris Collège et la France remontent aux débuts de l'établissement en août 1947. L'arrivée des religieuses des Missionnaires Franciscaines de Marie en Inde a non seulement annoncé une nouvelle ère dans le domaine de l'éducation des jeunes filles mais a également été le pionnier de l'étude de la langue française dans cet établissement scolaire composé uniquement de jeunes filles, dans la ville de Chennai.

Parmi les pionniers du Département de Français, il faut mentionner Mère M. Chapdelaine fmm, française, son engagement et son dévouement à l'enseignement du français sont rappelés avec reconnaissance par ses étudiantes des années cinquante et soixante. Quand elle a pris sa retraite en 1969, sa tâche a été continuée d'abord par Sœur Magdalène fmm, également professeur de Maths, et plus tard par Sœur Bernadette fmm.

Pendant cette période, la langue française a été enseignée par l'intermédiaire de l'anglais. Les étudiantes étaient excellentes dans la langue écrite mais le français parlé s'est effacé. Une nouvelle saveur a été ajoutée à l'étude de cette langue avec l'arrivée dans le département des religieuses franciscaines à la fin des années soixante-dix: Sœur Anne-Marie Daly fmm, ancienne Directrice (connue sous le nom de Sœur Proincias), Sœur Anne Modrach fmm, et Sœur Evelyn Delicata fmm, de Malte. Sœur Evelyn était le chef du département de 1973 à 1982. Elle a été aidée par Mme Chandra Ilango dès 1979. Mme Jacinta Fenelon a enseigné dans le département de 1974 à 1977 et encore une fois à partir de 1981. C'était pendant cette période que le département a témoigné, en collaboration avec l'Alliance Française de Madras, des activités régulières telles que des discours, des sketches, des films, et des chansons, pour en nommer quelques-unes, afin de motiver les étudiantes et de généraliser l'étude de la langue française.

Cet intérêt accru dans la langue a vu la naissance du 'French Club' qui a offert une tribune aux étudiantes de faire preuve de leurs talents. Les activités culturelles ont servi à maintenir l'intérêt des étudiantes à la langue.

Sœur Evelyn Delicata fmm est rentrée à Rome en 1982 et à ce moment-là c'était Mme. Jacinta Fenelon qui est devenue le chef du département. Mme. Chitra Krishnan est arrivée comme professeur la même année.

En 1987, l'autonomie accordée au collège était une vraie bouffée de fraîcheur qui a favorisé l'enseignement du français comme cours élémentaire (Foundation Course). Le centre d'intérêt de l'étude qui, jusque-là, était la grammaire et la littérature a glissé vers la langue, la culture et la civilisation françaises. Le rêve des étudiantes de parler couramment le français était réalisé: le français était désormais la langue d'enseignement. Des contrôles de la langue parlée ont motivé les étudiantes à travailler le français parlé. Dans les années quatre-vingt-dix, le département a offert des cours tels 'Le Français des Affaires' (Business French) et 'La Correspondance Commerciale' (Commercial Correspondance) afin d'aider les étudiantes à satisfaire les besoins du marché.

Mme Chitra Krishnan, professeur et Vice-Principal de 2003 à 2004, a quitté le département en 2004 afin de s'intégrer à l'Université de Madras comme professeur et chef du département de français. Mme. Chandra Ilango, chef du département de 2001 à 2006, a décidé de prendre la retraite anticipée en l'an 2006 et, la même année, Mme Geetha Ravi est venue comme professeur. Mme. Kausalya Jaganmohan, professeur à temps partiel, a été nommée Consul honoraire de la France à Chennai en octobre 2002 et a été honorée encore avec le titre de Chevalier de l'Ordre National De Mérite en mars 2006 par le gouvernement de la France. Mme. Jacinta Fenelon est actuellement le chef du département.

Mlle. Violaine Huysmans, membre de FIDESCO, une organisation non gouvernementale, en France, est arrivée en service volontaire pour une durée de deux ans, 2005-2007. Sa présence dans le département constituait un vrai encouragement à l'apprentissage de la langue française. Nous espérons vivement avoir de tels volontaires à l'avenir pour que les étudiantes en profitent.

Mathematics – Mathematical Panorama Down the Lane

Carl Friedrich Gauss, also known as the ‘Prince of Mathematics’, referred to mathematics as ‘the Queen of the Sciences’. The then Principal of Stella Maris College, M. M. Lillian fmm with her experience and an M.A in Mathematics, French and Philosophy from US realised the necessity of offering Mathematics and introduced it in 1948 itself, as an Intermediate Course in Mathematics. Very quickly, in 1951, it grew into an undergraduate department offering a B.A. degree programme in Mathematics.

In 1954– 55, there was a separation of the Humanities and sciences, and since then, Mathematics has been offered as a science subject. In 1956, when the Pre-University Course was introduced, Mathematics was offered with Physical Sciences in Group A. In keeping with the University of Madras regulations, the programme was changed into B.Sc. Mathematics in 1957, with physics and statistics as major ancillary subjects and History, Politics, Economics or History of Fine Arts as minor ancillaries. Mother M. Magdalen fmm, was the first Professor and Head of the

department, from 1952 to 1964 for Undergraduate (pass) course and from 1964 – 1971 for Postgraduate course. Another stalwart of the department was Ms. K. P. Shakuntala who served the department from 1953 – 1966, and made valuable contributions to its growth and development.

The Postgraduate programme was started in 1964. From then on, the department made steady progress under the able stewardship of dedicated teachers such as Sr. Juliana fmm (M. Laetitia) (Head, UG course from 1964 – 1971 and Head, PG course from 1971 – 1977), Sr. Susan fmm (Head, UG course from 1971 – 1977), Dr. Ms. J. Thangamani (Head, PG course from 1977 – 1994), Dr. Ms. Meena N. Swamy (Head, PG programme from 1994 – 1999), Sr. Leony Mary fmm (Head, UG course from 1999 – 2002), Dr. Ms. Evelyn Chandrasekaran (Head, PG programme from 1999 – 2000), Dr. Ms. Nalinakshi Madhavamurthy (Head, PG programme from 2000 – 2003) and Dr. Rukmani Sridharan (Head, UG programme from 2002 – 2007). Dr. Ms. Savithri Sankaran is the Head of the

Sr. Magdalen with students in astronomical discussion - a fantasy into the galaxies!





Batch of 1971 - 1974

postgraduate department from June 2003 to date.

The faculty of the department have contributed to the growth of not only the department, but also of the college, by holding responsible administrative positions.

Dr. Ms. Meena N. Swamy and Dr. Ms. Evelyn Chandrasekaran served as Vice-Principals from June 1997 – June 2000 and June 2000 – April 2003 respectively.

Mrs. Celine Rodrigues was appointed as Associate Controller of Examinations from June 1999 to April 2001, while the following faculty have held the post of Controller of Examinations – Dr. Ms. Bhagavathy Jayaraman (June 1999 – January 2001), Dr. Ms. Savithri Sankaran (January 2001 – July 2003), and Dr. Ms. Nalinakshi Madhavamoorthy (July 2003 – April 2006).

Dr. Ms. Rukmani Sridharan served as Academic Dean (2003 – 2005). Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras fmm, has been Vice-Principal since June 2005 and Ms. Lissie Alex has been Dean of Student Affairs from June 2006.

The department recalls with gratitude the support and services offered by eminent mathematicians like Profs. Sundararajan of the Indian Institute of Engineering and Technology, Ramanathan of Pachaiyappa's College, Abraham and Kibble from MCC, S. Narayanan of

Vivekananda College, K.S. V. S. Narasimhan from New College and K.C. Mathews and Fr. Racine sj from Loyola College during the early years of its growth and development.

Between 1984 and 1986, the department conducted the Sequential M.Phil. degree programme for college teachers. To the department goes the credit of setting up the first Computer Centre in the college in 1986, with Sr. Leony Mary fmm, as the Director of the centre, and with foresight of Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent fmm, the then Principal. The department was the first to use Computer Based Testing (CBT) for most of the courses. Thanks to the introduction of autonomy and the Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS), in the college, the department introduced many new, challenging and relevant courses, at both the undergraduate and the postgraduate levels. An additional section of B.Sc. Mathematics was introduced in the academic year 1993-94, to meet the increasing demand for the subject.

The department became a Research Department in 2003 with the introduction of the M.Phil. Degree programme, which followed the university syllabus. The programme began to function under the autonomous system from 2005.

In addition to studying theoretical approaches, students

are trained in the computer laboratory in programming languages, constantly upgraded, having started with FORTRAN and PASCAL, to C Programming and to the application of computers for their projects—an essential component in their dissertation. They are also trained in research techniques and scientific computing using MathCAD software, and are required to present an e-lesson using multimedia as part of Continuous Assessment. The department has also prepared a question bank, which is upgraded every year to meet the demands of this innovative testing package.

The department established an Endowment Fund in the name of the former Head of the PG Department, Dr. J. Thangamani, who retired in 1994. This is used towards scholarship for two meritorious students of II M.Sc. every year and for an endowment lecture every alternate year. Four merit scholarships have also been instituted by the department.

Prof. Allady Krishnaswamy, University of Florida, USA, Prof. P.K. Subramaniam, Chair, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, California State University, USA, Dr. Roger W. Bernard, Texas Tech University, USA; Prof. Victor Anandam, King Saud University, Riyadh, Prof. Geetha Srinivasa Rao, Ramanujan Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics, University of Madras are some of the eminent mathematicians who have delivered the Dr. J. Thangamani Endowment lectures for the students of the department.

The department also invites visiting professors from abroad to interact and share their knowledge with students and faculty. Prof. Devadoss has been a regular visitor to the department and his contribution to the field of Astronomy is remembered with gratitude. In

this connection the department has organised regular astronomical night observations in the college premises and field trips to Kodaikanal, Muthorai and Kavalur. It also procured a 6" telescope and other instruments required to study the celestial extraganza. The department has close links with the Birla Planetarium, Chennai and the Vainu Bappu Observatory, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Kavalur. Visits to these sites have enhanced theoretical inputs received in the classroom.

The department has been holding an inter-collegiate competition in Mathematics entitled 'Math Zoom', for students of colleges in Chennai, since 2000 – 2001. The competitions go a long way in increasing knowledge and instilling confidence in the students.

Conferences and Seminars have become a part of the department's activities, having organized several of them including a state level conference on 'Challenges in Research and Teaching of Mathematics', as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the department on January 31 and February 1, 2002.

The Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, has sponsored (under the scheme Financial Assistance under FIST Programme for the year 2006) the establishment of a Computer Laboratory and the purchase of books.

The department is proud of its alumnae, many of whom are holding positions of responsibility such as professors, teachers, consultants and software research fellows in India and abroad, in both the government and private sectors. We welcome our alumnae at all times to be part of the ever growing and evolving department and to contribute to its growth and development.

Faculty of the department down the ages!



Psychology

Established in 1987 under the leadership of Dr. Ms. Prema Bhat, the department offered courses such as General Psychology, Social Psychology, Basic Psychology and Organizational Behaviour as allied subjects for students of B.A. Sociology and B.A. Economics. Courses in Human Behaviour, Leadership Effectiveness, Career Planning and Decision Making were also offered as elective subjects.

At present the department offers courses such as Social Psychology (Allied Core), Basic Psychology (Allied Core), Human Growth and Development (Allied Core), General Psychology (General Electives), Human Behaviour and Personal Growth (General Electives), Dynamics of Human Relationships and Basics in Counselling (General Electives), Psychology of Adolescence and Impact of Media (General Electives) and Personality Development (General Electives).

The department conducts orientation programmes on leadership and group effectiveness, communication skills

and team building for the Students' Union and class representatives at the start of the academic year. Personal Growth sessions are also given to first year undergraduate students.

Students Enrichment Services:

Counselling services have been available to students over the years. However, there is a growing need to increase these services on campus. In order to help students cope with stressful situations, to enhance their self-image and to develop their personality, the Student Enrichment Service Cell was inaugurated on July 27, 2006. Trained staff equipped to help students with problems are available everyday from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm. Faculty from various departments trained in basic counselling skills are also available in turns from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

Ms. Sheila Singh, is the Counsellor. Sr. Kochutheresa, fmm, Dean of the Student Affairs and Ms. Mary Shantha Joseph, are the two staff in the department.



Dr. Ms. Prema Bhat



Sr. Kochutheresa Paulose



Ms. Shantha Joseph

Physics – Through the Waves of Evolution

The Department of Physics had its beginning in 1949, offering physics as an ancillary subject for the students of B. A Mathematics, and also under Part III for Intermediate University Courses. Ms. K.N. Shantha, who joined in 1949, was an efficient and systematic lecturer. Kumari Anantalakshmi and Kumari K. Kalpagam assisted her. Later Ms. T. B. Visalakshi, and Ms. Lakshmi Sundaram joined the faculty.

Ms. P. Gnanam, a dynamic and inspiring person joined the department in 1959 followed by Ms. T.B Rajalakshmi in 1962, Ms. Marie Therese in 1970, Ms Gigie Verghese in 1976 and Ms Bharathi Ramanan in 1978. Ms. Marie Therese resigned a few years later while Ms. T. B. Rajalakshmi continued until her retirement in 1996. She also served as Associate Controller of Examinations.

Realizing the requirement for a full-fledged department an undergraduate programme, Bachelor's Degree in Physics, was introduced in 1980 under the headship of Ms. P. Gnanam. The management set up a well-equipped laboratory and provided all the necessary books, etc. required for the department. Mr. Das, Mr. Raghavan and Mr. Augustin served the department tirelessly as lab assistants.

Ms .Gnanam, Sr. Juliet Irene, Ms. K. N. Shanta, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, former Principal, Ms. Gigie Verghese, Sr. Susan and Ms. Bharathi Ramanan



To keep pace with the growth in the field of Information Technology, the Department conducted a Certificate Course in Computer Programming–Fortran IV for five years (1980–1984). The course was conducted by R. T. Narendra, Electronics Commissioner (a series of lectures).

The Department was selected by the UGC for financial assistance under COSIP (College Science Improvement Programme) in 1983–84. Under this scheme, the Department organized a workshop on the 'Servicing of Electrical Home Appliances'. Ms Magdalena was in charge of this programme. A series of lectures was delivered by eminent scientists–Dr. Srinivasan, Deputy Director, IIT-Madras and Dr. Nithyananthan, Assistant Professor, Guindy Engineering College. Various projects in Electronics such as IC Radio receiver, Stereo amplifier, Automatic voltage stabilizer and operational amplifier were taken up along with a series of lectures by eminent scientists. A Photography lab was also set up in the department under COSIP. A live RADIO demonstrator was constructed, to teach students the theory of radio and its working.

In 1987, when Stella Maris became an Autonomous Institution, the department introduced several new

Ms. Neeraja, Ms. Catherine Prema and Prof. Sathian from Madras Christian College judging one of the competitions at an inter-collegiate annual Physics fest



courses—Mathematical Physics, Energy Physics, Quantum Mechanics and an Application Oriented paper in Electronics. Since then the Syllabi have been revised periodically.

In 1997, under the Choice-Based Credit System, the Department introduced innovative courses which reflected the growth in the fields of Bioscience and Electronics. Computer simulated experiments were also introduced.

Faculty of our Department have shared in Administrative work in the college:

Ms. Bharathi Ramanan was Vice-Principal (1998 – 2000), Dean of Student Affairs (1997 – 1998), and Head (in-Charge) (1986 – 87).

Ms. Gigie Verghese is currently the Academic Dean (2007 –), and has also held the position of Head, Department of Computer Science (2003–2006), Vice Principal (1993 – 1995). Ms. Suganthi Lark Josephine was Dean of Student Affairs (2001 – 2003) and Assistant Warden of Our Lady's Hostel (1984 – 1989) while Ms. Neeraja N. was Assistant Warden of St. Joseph's Hostel (1987 – 1991).

Dr. Ms. K. H. Rajini was Academic advisor to the Fulbright Scholar Ms. Jessica A. Cabbot in 2003–2004.

The Department has been organizing various academic activities such as regular field visits to Birla Planetarium, and the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, besides offering the students of physics a chance to realize their potential, through inter-collegiate cultural programmes such as Physics Fest. There has also been a focus on exhibitions, paper presentations and lectures on current topics in physics to keep students aware of the advances in the field of physics. The students of the Physics Department have a good academic record and their participation in various activities at the intercollegiate level has brought laurels to the college. Several alumnae of the department hold good administrative positions. Mrs. Jayanti S., IAS, of 1986 batch, is rendering her valuable services as a member of the Planning Commission of India. Several students of the Department, who excelled in academics, are pursuing their higher studies in India and abroad.

The department conducts several workshops and seminars regularly, to keep pace with the recent development in the subject. Members of the faculty have

attended seminars at National and International levels regularly. Ms. Gigie Verghese and Ms. Bharati Ramanan authored the physics textbook for classes VI, VII and VIII, for the Matriculation Board, published by MacMillan, India, in 2000.

Heads of the Department:

Ms. Suganthi Lark.A	– 2005 –
Dr. K. H. Rajini	– 2001–2005
Ms Gigie Verghese	– 1984–2001
Ms. P. Gnanam	– 1979–1984
Ms K.N. Shantha	– 1949–1979

Faculty who served the Department:

Ms. Shantha . K. N	– 1949–1979
Ms. P. Gnanam	– 1959–1984
Ms. T. B Rajalakshmi	– 1962–1964 and 1966–1996
Ms. Marie Therese	– 1970–1978
Ms. Bharathi Ramanan	– 1978–2005
Ms. Magdalene	– 1982–1985
Ms. Catherine Prema	– 1985–2001

Having celebrated the silver jubilee in 2005, the Department is now heading towards new horizons, with Ms. Suganthi Lark. A as its Head and Ms Gigie Verghese, Dr. K. H. Rajini, Ms. Neeraja N, Ms. Belina Xavier and Sr. Francisco Nirmala. fmm as faculty. The laboratory is well maintained, with the help of Mr. Nathan and Mrs. Victoria.

Students at the demonstration of an experiment



Sociology – Back to the Future

The Beginning

The Department of Sociology, from its inception was a part of the Department of Social Work which was established in 1963. The then professors were Sr. Eanswida, Ms. Mary John, Sr. Colleen North, Dr. C. Masilamani (part-time lecturer) and Nafia Kareeni. It was formed in 1971 as an independent department, under the stewardship of Sr. Pauline Grutzner fmm and Sr. Christine Antony fmm. The foresight of the sisters in the development of the department is indeed remarkable. Stella Maris College led the way in the city of Madras in offering an Undergraduate programme in Sociology.

The department saw faculty come and go, with many of them getting married and others moving on for research. Some of the earliest faculty members in the department of Sociology were: Ms. Srikala Warriar (1973), Ms. Prabha Janakiram, (1972), Dr. Kamala Ganesh (1975), Ms. Vijayanthi (1976), Ms. Shoba Iyer (1977), and Ms. Latha Sukumaran (1977).

Leadership

After Sr. Pauline's departure from Stella Maris College, Sr. Christine steered the department ushering in innovations in the curriculum, teaching methodology, testing styles and extra-curricular activities in tune with the programme's objectives.

Sr. Christine is a multi-faceted personality. A dynamic visionary, for her, the sky is the limit! Under her headship, the department attained an unparalleled status, organising several seminars, workshops, and field visits. Holding the offices of the Dean of Student Affairs and NSS Co-ordinator, her abundant energy was channelized in building the department qualitatively. Setting high moral and professional standards, Sr. Christine was altruistic, caring and compassionate and a person to be emulated.

Within a short span of time after the establishment of the department, seminars of social significance were organized. Some of the areas covered were, Women and Development, International Relations, Tension and Cardio Vascular disease and the Reservation Policy. With Stella Maris College attaining autonomous status in 1987 and with the

introduction of the Social Awareness Programme as part of the curriculum, Sr. Christine seized the opportunity and introduced 'Rural Reality' as the guiding principle of the department. In keeping with this the department has undertaken several visits to rural areas around Chennai and has engaged with issues such as rural health, socio-economic conditions, impact of Governmental programmes on villages, to mention a few.

Sr. Christine also encouraged collaborative interdisciplinary ventures. The seminar 'Police Public Interface in a Changing Socio-Cultural Environment' sponsored by UBCHEA and 'Sociological Aspects of Indian Writings' were carried out. While the former involved collaboration on a multi-disciplinary level, the latter was carried out in collaboration with the Department of English, Stella Maris College.

The pride of the department was an Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) in 1978 at Javadhi Hills, North Arcot District, TN, on request from the Directorate of Harijan and Tribal Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, with fiscal assistance. Sr. Christine and Ms. Prabha Nair, NSS co-ordinator and a few students visited the tribal area for a few days every month to have a live-in experience with the living conditions of the people.

Sr. Christine retired in 1996, the year of the Golden Jubilee of the college and Silver Jubilee of the department. However, she returned to assume the post of Vice-Principal of the Self-

Sr. Christine Antony speaks at a seminar



Financed sections. She was also the Director of the International Project on 'Culture and Drug Abuse in Asian Setting-Research for Action' sponsored by the International Federation of Catholic Universities, France. The conclusions of the research were presented at an International Seminar held at Bangkok.

Sr. Christine's philosophy of Action-Research-Humaneness has indeed put the Department of Sociology on a solid foundation. Her uncompromising stand on the welfare of the students triggered in the faculty a sense of a high academic stand challenging them to continuously keep pace with advances in the discipline in the city, the country and on the global scene.

While she was away at Mumbai for her M.Phil. Programme, Dr. Leela Narayanan, assumed the mantle of leadership. A blend of tradition and modernity, her philosophy rested on bringing a comfortable balance between the domestic and professional roles.

Under her leadership too, the department ventured into organizing seminars and projects. The seminar on 'The Aged and the Changing Indian Society', for one, drew attention to the neurological and familial dimensions with an accent on the attitude of youth towards the elderly. The seminar 'Social Tensions in India' examined tensions between communities and social classes, tensions among women in India, and, as a finale, debated the future of human society.

The seminar on 'Madras City – Its Organizations and Problems' was co-ordinated by Dr. Ms. Neeraja Rao, who was encouraged by Dr. Narayanan's enthusiasm for city life and living, with its varied pains and pleasures.

Dr. Leela Narayanan also encouraged research projects on a small scale. Three such projects, 'Hazards of Living in Madras City', 'Voluntary Women's Associations', and

'Juvenile Delinquency' were co-ordinated by Dr. K. Sundari, Dr. Sujata Ramanathan and Dr. Neeraja Rao, respectively.

She held the leadership position for a brief period, but it was action packed. Enthused with a contagious energy, objectivity and efficient strategies, Dr. Leela Narayanan was probably the only grandmother to have taught her granddaughter in college!

Sr. P.V. Mercy fmm, of the first batch of students, joined the team of faculty in 1984. Calm, relaxed and energized by deep spirituality, Sr. Mercy was in harmony with nature. Her passion for aesthetics contributed to the beauty of Stella Maris with its green splendour.

She was the Director of Shanthi Bhavan, the Social Welfare Centre of Stella Maris College and was Vice-Principal from 2001-2003. During this period she efficiently anchored the International Seminar on Women in Asia, 'WIA 2000'.

In 1996, Dr. Ms. K. Sundari assumed headship of the department. With an academic background in Philosophy, she held positions in college such as Dean of Student Affairs, Dean of Academic Affairs, and Faculty Advisor of the ISTD Cell. Her contributions to the institution are noteworthy. A Fulbright Scholar, she worked in Tampa, Florida. During her stay in USA in 2005, Dr. Sujata Ramanathan took over as Head of the Department, The department journal 'SAMAVESH' was first published during this time.

Dr. Sundari has travelled widely and presented several papers at National and International Conferences. She presented a paper on 'Impact of Service Learning' and served on the National Screening Committee for the Fulbright Doctoral and Professional Research fellowships. She was also the co-ordinator of the UGC sponsored Certificate Course in Health Care Management offered by



the college in collaboration with Apollo Hospitals, Chennai. She has also served as NSS Co-ordinator. During her tenure as Head of department, 'SAMAGAMA', a forum for departmental activities was launched in 2001 and several lectures, discussion on topics such as dowry harassment, organic farming, north-south divide were organized.

Dr. Sujata Ramanathan, an alumna from batch of 1971, took over as head in 2006. She was elected as Staff Club Secretary in 1990. In 1998, Dr. Sujata was invited by the University of Uppsala, Sweden as a guest researcher in the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences (SCASS). She has also presented several papers of sociological relevance on topics such as Gender, Dalit Women and Security and Eco-Feminism, Crime and Media, in National and International Seminars. She has edited a book 'SOCIOLOGY' by David Newman, and the review was published in the Sociological Bulletin. In addition to programmes such as 'Power of Social Media', 'Ethnography of Tamils in TamilNadu and USA' (through videoconferencing), 'Panel Discussion on Domestic Violence', the department is proud to have organized the first Sr. Christine Endowment Lecture by Ms. Scharada Bail, Sociologist and Writer on 'Social Issues', as part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of SMC.

Dr. Neeraja Rao, a student of Osmania University, Hyderabad, received her Ph.D. from Akron, Ohio, USA in 1995. She assumed responsibilities in the department after a seven years' stay in USA. Her area of specialization is Social Research. The Department of Sociology is the only undergraduate department in the college to offer a paper of this nature. Dr. Neeraja Rao has travelled widely and presented several papers nationally and internationally on areas such as 'Criminal Justice in the United Kingdom' and 'Models of Crime'. She was also on the Fulbright Selection Committee for Doctoral scholars. She has co-ordinated several programmes of 'SAMAGAMA'. She was also involved in the Leadership Training Service of the institution. She is currently the Associate Controller of Examinations of Stella Maris College.

Students

The Department of Sociology takes immense pride in the capabilities of its students. One of the objectives of the department is training the students to be empowered. The department is proud that several of the Students Union Presidents have been students of Sociology. Our alumnae are distributed throughout the globe in different capacities in several organizations. The occupational spread ranges from Bureaucrats, Designers, Corporates, NGO, and Hospitality Industries to Teaching and the Armed Forces. The year 2006 was significant in that several state toppers

from all over India opted for the Sociology programme. This caught the attention of the media and the national daily 'The Hindu' published interviews with the toppers in their section of 'Education Plus'.

The department is proud of its student Ms. Athira Krishnan. She was honoured with the prestigious Guinness World Record 2003 for her unique thirty-two hour non-stop violin recital for Global Peace and Harmony. She is also the recipient of the prestigious National Balashree Honour 2001, Limca National Record – 2004, the title of 'The Musical Gem of India' from the former First Lady Smt. Usha Narayanan. In 2007, she became the youngest Indian Musician to be honoured with the prestigious 'Award for Excellence in Music' from the Hon'ble President of India Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and the Infosys-Education World Young Achiever Award – 2007. She also has the rare honour of being invited to give the inaugural concert for the birthday celebrations of the Hon'ble President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, in 2005.

Curriculum

The department can take credit for constantly updating the syllabi and making it relevant to changing social patterns. Faculty members and students also pursue the goal of updating their knowledge through research projects highlighting the relevance of the social sciences in a global era.

The department keeps abreast of the recent developments in the discipline and is in the process of updating the syllabi to ensure social relevance and utility in terms of both research and employability.

Sr. Pauline Grutzner during a recent visit to Stella Maris



Social Work – Decades of Dedication

The Social Work Department is among the earliest Departments established in Stella Maris College. Set up in 1953, it began by offering a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Service (DSS) that was later upgraded to a Postgraduate Degree in Social Work.

1953–1960

With the vision, enthusiasm and dynamic leadership of the founder, the architect of the department, Mother M.



Mother Eanswida, (Sr. Thecla Comacho)

Eanswida fmm, (Sr. Thecla Camacho), the department grew rapidly and today it has a reputation for offering one of the best professional programmes in Social Work in India.

1960–1970

The year 1962 marked a turning point in the history of the department when the one-year Diploma Programme was upgraded to a Postgraduate Degree in Social Work affiliated to the University of Madras. The first batch of ten students specializing in Family and Child Welfare received their degrees in 1964.

The year 1962 saw the establishment of the Stella Maris Social Welfare Centre 'Shanthi Bhavan' by Sr. Thecla as a field placement centre for MSW students,

In 1966, Medical and Psychiatric Social Work, the second specialization was introduced.

1971–1980

The seventies saw the department moving towards working with communities.



Faculty, Dept. of Social Work. From L to R: Sr. Colleen North, Ms. K. G. Rama, Ms. Hilda Raja, Ms. Radha Paul, Ms. Cecilia Thangarajan and Ms. Poppy Kannan

Another significant development in 1972 was the establishment of 'Nava Nirmana Social Service Institute', which offered a two-year Diploma course in Community Development and Child Welfare. It was founded by Sr. Pauline Grutzner fmm, former Faculty, Department of Social Work. This programme was a response to the needs of the rural areas to train development workers at the grass root level for rural development and child welfare programmes.

In the 1970s, the emphasis of the Postgraduate Department of Social Work was on 'work with communities'. In order to make fieldwork more

relevant and meaningful to the developmental needs of the country, Sr. Thecla initiated the 'Adopt a Village Programme', under which Pattipulam village was 'adopted'. Weekly visits and camps were organized in which the students participated enthusiastically.

In 1974 an 'Urban Development Programme' was initiated at the Shivashanmugha Puram slum in Chennai. Community participation and leadership were mobilized.

In 1974 the third specialization 'Community Development' was introduced in the Postgraduate Department of Social Work. Dr. Ms. Hilda Raja, Former Faculty, Department of Social Work was a student of the first batch. Both the rural and urban projects served as field placement agencies for the social work students of the Master's Programme.

In August 1975, the Medical Social Work project at Government Royapettah Hospital was established. The aim was to promote professional Social Work practice in medical setting, an initiative of Sr. Thecla Camacho. A trained Social Worker—Dr. Ms. Poppy Kannan, currently Reader and Head, Department of Social Work, was appointed to achieve this objective. She established the role of a Medical Social Worker in several departments of the hospital. The most important outcome of this project was the sanction of permanent posts for Medical Social Workers in the Cancer, Orthopaedic and TB departments of Government Hospitals. With this the Department of Social Work, Stella Maris College made history in the city of Chennai.

It was in 1975 that Kiran the first departmental magazine was launched. In 2001, it evolved into 'Glimpses' a new version of the department magazine.

At this point mention must be made of Dr. Ms. Elizabeth Fernandez, former Faculty, Department of Social Work for her outstanding contribution in the training of Social Work students. Analytical Recording initiated by her in the 1970s particularly in Field Work recording is still practiced.

Having seen the department grow, Sr. Thecla returned to her motherland, Guam, in June 1977, having accomplished her task as a pioneer in Professional Social Work Education in India.

Dr. Ms. Radha Paul succeeded Sr. Thecla as Head of the Department of Social Work. During her tenure research projects were undertaken, training programmes sponsored by the Government of India were conducted and field projects extended. She is mentioned as an outstanding

woman in the world's 'Who's Who' of Women published by the Cambridge Biographical Centre. She is also the recipient of 'Tamil Nadu State Best Teacher Award'.

1980–1989

The 1980s were marked by the introduction of training programmes. This was also the period in which the Government of India sanctioned several projects to be undertaken by the department.

To commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the department four projects were launched:

- A Medical Social Work Project as initiated at the Department of Plastic Surgery and Hand Injury, Government Stanley Hospital, Chennai.
- A Child Guidance Centre was started in Shanthi Bhavan which offered help to children with adjustment problems through case work, group work and counselling by a Social Worker.
- A rural project was initiated at Numbel Village in Villivakkam Panchayat Union.
- An Urban Project at Kamaraj Colony, Tenements, T. Nagar, Chennai.

In 1982 the department conducted a Base Line Survey at Pachamalai and Kolli Hills sponsored by DANIDA, and worked on an Integrated Tribal Development Project at Veera Pannur in Javadhi Hills, sponsored by the State Social Welfare Board. The credit goes to Sr. Christine Antony fmm, (former Head, Department of Sociology and former faculty, Department of Social Work) and Ms. Prabha Nair, (former faculty Department of Sociology, Alumna, Department of Social Work and NSS co-ordinator of Stella Maris College) for coordinating the Tribal Project. This was a difficult and challenging project that left its mark on the lives of hundreds of students who lived and worked over extended periods of time, for creating awareness among, and for the development of tribal people in the Javadhi Hills.

In July 1988 an Experimental Field Project was launched with the aim of working with girls who were school dropouts. Dr. K.G. Rama former faculty, Department of social work, currently Programme Advisor, UNTRS, coordinated this project.

1990–1999

The 1990s saw many efforts towards restructuring the curriculum. There was a shift (on an experimental basis) from Specializations to the Generic programme of Social Work for one batch of students. The department once again switched back to the specialization pattern.

This decade also saw the foundation being laid for initiating the Choice-Based Credit System.

During this phase, Stella Maris College had undertaken an International Research Project in collaboration with the International Federation of Catholic Universities on 'Culture and Drug Use / Abuse in Asian Settings'. It was a project that involved the departments of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work. The credit for obtaining the project goes to Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal. She continues as its President while Sr. Christine Anthony was the first Director followed by Dr. Ms. Prema Bhat, Faculty Department of Psychology. During the research phase of the project, Dr. Ms. Radha Paul, Dr. Ms. Poppy Kannan and Dr. Ms. Benita Marian of Social Work department were part of the research team.

In the second phase of the project, and as an outcome of the research, IFCU initiated a community based awareness and rehabilitation project 'SANGAMAM' in Kasimedu, a fisher folk colony in Royapuram, which was the area of the research study. As the community-based project evolved Ms. Sandra Stephen of the Postgraduate Department of Social Work took over and continues to be the Director of the Sangamam Project.

In 1995, Dr. Ms. Mary John assumed responsibility as the Head of the Department. Under her leadership the department hosted the UGC Zonal Meet on Social Work Education. She was adjudged the International Woman of the Year in 1997 by the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, England, for her contribution to research. She was also listed in the 'Who's Who' of the 26th Edition of the Dictionary of International Biography, Cambridge, England.

Dr. Sr. Colleen North fmm, took over as Head of the Department in 1998. She launched the Social Work Students' Forum 'Unnathi' which has become a platform for student initiatives in planning and organizing students' programmes within and outside the College. She also initiated the certificate course on 'Human Rights', sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resources, Government of India in 1999. Mrs. Nirmala Alex, Lecturer in the Department continues to conduct this programme. Sr. Colleen North initiated Skills Training Programmes such as Street Theatre and Life Skills, which made fieldwork more relevant, effective and vibrant. These were also years of careful planning for the introduction of the Choice Based Credit System, which was introduced at the postgraduate level in 2000.

The two-year Diploma course in Social Service, affiliated to the Board of Technical Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, continued very

successfully for three decades. Sr. Cecilia Arockiaswamy fmm and Sr. Pauline Swaminathan fmm served as Directors here. They later joined the Department of Social Work and Sr. Monica George became the Director of Nava Nirmana.

This period also saw the evolution of Social Work Theory and the need for acquiring newer skills in the field of Social Work Practice. The Government and NGOs also laid stress on their employees having a basic degree instead of a Diploma in Social Work. This prompted the management to go through a process of discernment after which it was decided to phase out the diploma programme and to begin a Bachelor's degree in Social Work.

The introduction of the undergraduate programme was after a long gestation period. The postgraduate Department of Social Work under the leadership of Sr. Colleen, engaged itself in preparing and planning for the introduction of the Bachelors degree in Social Work which was to replace the two-year Diploma Course offered at the Nava Nirmana Social Institute.

2000-2007

In the new millennium, Dr. Poppy Kannan, Head of the Department and Chairperson of the Board of Studies in Social Work, University of Madras introduced the Bachelor of Social Work programme (BSW) at the Madras University. Stella Maris College was the first to offer the BSW programme in 2004.

The new millennium also saw the introduction of M.Phil. Programme in Social Work. It was during this phase too, that the Sr. Thecla Endowment Lecture was instituted as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the department in 2004. The first, 'Sister Thecla Endowment Lecture' was delivered by Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, former Principal, Stella Maris College and former student of Sr. Thecla.

Dr. Ms. Cecilia Thangarajan was Head of the Department from 2004-2007. Soon after the Tsunami struck Tamil Nadu in December 2004, the department coordinated a programme, for the Tamil Nadu Schools of Social Work, to provide psycho-social counselling and to conduct a 'Damage and Needs Assessment Survey' of the Tamil Nadu Coastal Villages in all districts affected by the Tsunami disaster. Over one thousand, two hundred and twenty one MSW students and over 100 faculty of Social Work participated in data collection, processing and writing the report titled 'Waves of Destruction'. Dr. Cecilia Thangarajan, coordinated this massive task which was funded by Action Aid.

A Project on 'Yuva Shakthi' for Promotion of Child rights, a Capacity Building Programme for Youth in Child Rights on Post-Tsunami Tamil Nadu was organized by the department in collaboration with UNICEF. The co-ordinator for these programmes was Dr. Benita Marian, Faculty of the department.

A Research Project on 'A Study on Educational Situation of Children' in the age group of 10 – 14 years in Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu' was conducted during the post tsunami period. This was sponsored by UNICEF. Sr. Lourdhu Mary fmm and Ms. Priya George were Staff Co-ordinators and Mrs. Josephine A. was the principal Researcher.

Sr. Lourdhu Mary fmm, is also the Director of a Research Programme on 'Displaced Population' sponsored by IFCU.

An UGC Refresher course on 'Child Rights for Social Work and Social Science Education in Post-Tsunami Tamil Nadu' was conducted by the department under the able guidance of Dr. Cecilia Thangarajan in collaboration with UGC - ASC, the University of Madras.

Ms. Sandra Stephen heads the BSW degree programme. The other faculty members are Ms. Mary T. Abraham, Ms. C. Kavitha, Ms. Laura Devaprasanna and Ms. Diana. The BSW programme has, built into its curriculum, knowledge, attitudes and skills required of a professional graduate programme. Field work, both concurrent and block, form an integral part of Social Work training. A number of government organizations and NGOs, Rural and Urban are involved in the field placement of the undergraduate students. Within the first three years, three batches of students have worked in Palaverkadu village in Thiruvalluvar District in

collaboration with the Integrated Rural Community Development and with the Preshitha Social Service Society, Pollachi, Coimbatore District, TN. The first batch of students to complete the programme was placed for block fieldwork, in agencies, all over India. They organized an awareness campaign against poverty in connection with the 'Millennium Development Goals'. They also organized an essay competition for the Stella Maris Students titled 'Stand up Against Poverty'.

On January 31, 2007 the undergraduate Department of Social Work, signed an MoU with Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DELPHE), and the Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, UK, for building sustainable communities, in collaboration with Madras Christian College, Chennai, and Bishop Heber College, Trichy. A group of four students from Liverpool Hope University have completed one semester of Fieldwork training with the supervision of the faculty of the undergraduate department, which has been an enriching experience.

In conclusion, looking back over the years, the seeds of academic excellence together with commitment, sown half a century ago have borne abundant fruit.

Sr. Thecla has left behind a legacy and an indelible mark on the department and in the minds of all her students. "Keep on struggling to promote a highly organized centre of learning in the field of Social Work and highly developed community service which was our vision when we started" – Sr. Thecla.

The department has come a long way through trials and triumphs and it has been the beautiful spirit of teamwork and co-operation that is responsible for its growth and development.

Ms. Kavitha, Dr. John Bates, Liverpool Hope University, Ms. Sandra Stephan, Ms. Laura and Ms. Mary Abraham

From L-R: Sr. Thecla, Ms. Poppy Kannan and Sr. Christine Antony attending seminar



Zoology – A Journey through the Last Fifty Years....

Zoology, the fascinating science of animals has always drawn the interest of students and faculty alike. The Science of Animal Biology was first introduced at Stella Maris College in 1952, as a subject in the Intermediate University Course as part of the Natural Science curriculum. This gave birth to the Department of Natural Science, which was established by Mother Basil fmm, ably assisted by Kumari Grace Mathews. Mother M. Edwin (Sr. Eileen Riordan), Ms. N. E. Rajalakshmi, Kumari Ethel Joseph and Kumari Lily Abraham subsequently joined the department.

With the growing interest in Natural Science among students, the need to start an undergraduate programme in Zoology was felt in 1955. A two-year B.Sc Degree programme was started in 1956 admitting the first batch of thirty-two students. Thus, the Department of Zoology was established in the Mylapore campus under the leadership of Mother M. Proincias fmm, the

Mr. Francis and Ms. Philomena, the current lab attendants.



then Principal of the college. The Founder and first Head of the Department of Zoology, Mother M. Edwin (1956–68), inspired the department with her vision and zeal. She introduced

changes in the teaching learning process, overhauling and systematizing it.

In 1957, under the University's new regulations, the three-year Bachelor's degree programme was introduced as Branch VI–B.Sc. Zoology. The department grew in strength under the leadership of Mother Edwin fmm, the support of Ms. N. E. Rajalakshmi, former Head, Department of Botany and Prof. T.N. Ananthakrishnan, former Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta and Entomology Research Institute, Loyola College, Chennai. The department expanded in 1957, with two new dynamic entrants Ms. Meera Peter (now Meera Paul) and Ms. Rajeswari Adhiseshiah.

In 1960, the department shifted to the new college premises 'The Cloisters' on Cathedral Road. The classrooms, two well-equipped laboratories, a genetics laboratory and the museum are now located in Hermine Block. The effective functioning of the department was ably supported by Ms. Valsa Pillay, Ms. Shantha, Ms. Vimala Vittal, Ms Jessica Cotter (now Gnanadickam), Ms. Grace Bala Singh and Ms. Jilly George (now Jilly Joseph).

In 1969, Ms. Meera Paul took over as Head of the Department from Mother Edwin fmm. Dr. Jilly Joseph, Ms. Jessica Gnanadickam, Ms. Saroja Subramaniam, Dr. Hannah John, Dr. Chitrakleha Ramachandran, Ms. Miriam Mathew, Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni fmm, Ms. Rhevathy Jesudas, Dr. Annie Cherian, Dr. Juliana Joe, Dr. Rita Jeyaraj, Dr. Ms. Miriam Soares and Ms. Arockia Mary Sashi, have contributed to the growth of the department through their commitment and dedication. Dr. Ms. Jilly Joseph succeeded Dr. Ms.



Dr. Ms. Sally Nyquist, Chairperson, Dept. of Biology, Bucknell University, USA, Fulbright Scholar at Stella Maris with Sr. Annamma Philip, and Ms. Meera Paul, former Vice-Principal



Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni., Secretary, examining a specimen under the phase contrast microscope



Dr. Ms. Meera Paul former Head of the department and former Vice-Principal at the farewell of Dr. Jilly Joseph.

The department bids farewell to Ms. Rhevathy Jesudoss



Meera Paul as Head of the Department in 1996 until 2002, followed by Dr. Ms. Chitralkha Ramachandran.

The department was privileged to have the internationally acclaimed geneticist, late Prof. Dr. Dharmarajan, from the Department of Genetics, Veterinary College, Chennai, as a visiting professor. He introduced the concept of Genetic Engineering and Bioethics, ideas that were novel at that time to the students. A Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology was started in 1987. This was one of the first in Chennai and it was initiated by Mr. Raja who has since then been part of our department, generously sharing his expertise for over two decades.

The effective functioning of the department is, in no small measure, credited to the tireless efforts of our lab assistants, the late Mr. Driviam Doss, Mr. K.S. Mani, Mr. Maria Francis, Ms. Philomena, Mr. Arul and Ms Mangalam. Mr. Maria Francis used his special training in taxidermy and museum keeping in the upkeep of the museum specimens.

In the last fifty years, the academic programme has kept pace with recent trends in the field of Biology. With the college becoming autonomous in 1987 and the introduction of the Choice-Based Credit System, the curriculum was revised with the introduction of new courses in Microbiology, Animal Behaviour, Immunology, Industrial Biotechnology, Soil Biology, Medical Parasitology, Aquaculture, Biotechnology, Molecular Biology and Genetic Engineering. This has made the Zoology programme relevant to the needs of industry and society. Students have the opportunity to carry out minor projects in various subjects such as Environmental Biology, Developmental Biology, Animal Behaviour and Genetics.

The CBCS also gave scope to introduce new academic courses, paving the way for an inter-disciplinary approach. It became possible for the department to offer interesting courses such as Human Health and Genetics, Everyday Microbiology, Concepts of Animal Welfare, Immunology and Haematology for the non-biology students. The CBCS also made it possible for the Science departments to come together to offer courses as Allied Optional.

The tremendous progress in technology today, has made it

possible for us to move from dissecting frogs on the dissection board to computer-simulated dissections. Students, using virtual dissection, can study animal anatomy through the point and click scalpels and scissors, without sacrificing animal life. The department takes pride in saying that we are pioneers in introducing simulators as alternative to dissections. This is an effort to promote the cause of biodiversity conservation and, with the use of alternatives, we also impart the most important lesson of valuing and respecting every form of life, making education humane and meaningful.

In 2005, the Golden Jubilee of the department was marked by a change in the name of the B.Sc. programme, from Zoology to Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology.

Over the years, the department has organized a large number of seminars, exhibitions, workshops, and endowment lectures. Visiting scholars from abroad are invited to share their expertise to enhance the teaching-learning process. The annual Inter-collegiate Zoo Fest 'SYNAPSE', excursions and field trips are an integral part of fun-filled learning for the students. The Zoology Club also organizes the highly popular annual dog show on campus. The faculty of the department are constantly keeping pace with recent developments in the field biology by participating in Symposia, Conferences, Workshops and refresher courses.

The department is deeply concerned with environmental issues. Our students are a part of the People for Animals organization, Turtle-walk Network, the Coastal Cleanup Youth Wing, and have also campaigned to educate the community on garbage segregation.

Young graduates of the department have taken up roles as entrepreneurs, environmentalists, wildlife conservationists, radiologists, doctors, research scholars and geneticists. It is very gratifying to learn from our alumnae that their undergraduate education in Zoology at Stella Maris College has given them a strong foundation for life.

In the fifty years since its inception, the Department of Zoology has come a long way. With the changing needs and the progress in the field of biological sciences, we believe that students have a well-defined role to play in the future.



Students at a performance highlighting climatic changes



Dr. Ismail, Prof. New College, engaging students during an environment conservation workshop



Dr. Hannah John delivering a lecture

The late Dr. Dharmarajan, noted geneticist delivering a lecture to the students of the Zoology Department.



The College Office – People Behind the Screen

The administrative and supportive staff of Stella Maris College form an integral part of the college. They have worked with one mind and spirit over the years. The credit of such disciplined work culture goes to the pioneers of this institution. The tradition of meticulous work, inspired by dedication to the college and its mission, was a culture instilled and imbibed at the beginning and was carried on as responsibilities shifted from one generation to another. At the beginning there were only two lay persons – Ms. Myrtle D'Silva and Mr. J. T. Sundararajan in a makeshift office room with a manual typewriter. Later Mr. M. Pakiam joined the team followed by two FMM sisters – Sr. Celine Françoise (French-Canadian) and Sr. Peter Damian (Australian) who were in-charge of the college office. For over two decades they made very valuable contribution to the College.

The beginnings were certainly very tough. The logbook of 1948 records no Central Government Grant, no State Government Grant, no UGC grant. Nevertheless, the college continued to progress in leaps and bounds. The

able administrators, under the direction of experienced Principals, worked diligently. Today, the college receives financial assistance from the UGC and State Government.

Over the years several persons have come and gone leaving a mark on the administration. Sr. Celine Paul fmm, Sr. Rose Abraham fmm, and Sr. Mikel fmm worked faithfully and conscientiously. Mrs. Charlotte Nurse, Ms. Angela Pereira, Ms. Flora Chapman and Ms. Priscilla White gave their youthful years to the college. Special mention must be made of Ms. Nurse whose beautiful handwriting made the office records a pleasure to read. Meanwhile, Mr. Thambiraj, Mr. Karuna Alphonse, Ms. Teresa Manuel, Late Mr. Lourdhswamy, Sr. Florine Monis fmm, Ms Felcy Romeo, Late Mr. Thiagarajan, Ms. Jagadeswari, Ms. Lizy Peter and Ms. Juliet joined the administrative staff as the work increased several fold. When the offices were separated and the Examination Office came into existence, it was supervised by Sr.Mikel, Mr. Karuna Alphonse and the team. Subsequently Sr. Rosario fmm, Sr. Veronica fmm, Sr.

Administrative Staff (2006-2007) with the Principal, Secretary, Office Manager and Bursar



Emilda fmm, Sr. Betsy fmm, Late Sr. Zena fmm, Sr. Rose Daphne fmm, Sr. Stella Stanislas fmm, and Sr. Lourdes Joseph fmm joined at different times and served for short durations. Mr. Karuppiah, a retired officer from the government department contributed much in sorting out several problems and audit objections with his experience and expertise.

As the College launched into autonomy more members joined the administration. Typewriters were replaced with computers. The cyclostyling machines were replaced with copy printers and photo copying machines. Thanks to Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal, who took keen interest in all office matters and provided the type of support that was needed to handle the present day demands and challenges. Different sections were created and personnel were inducted. While the Pay and Accounts Office and Examination office are the two major offices, other Offices function for the Principal, Bursar, Vice-Principal's, Academic Dean's, Dean of Student Affairs and Alumnae Association. Dr. Sr. Florine Monis fmm, continues to be the Chief Administrative Officer while Mrs. Felcy Romeo is the Superintendent. Ms. Alphonsa, Mr. Prabhu, Mr. Bellarmine, Sr. Arul, Ms. Ragini, Mr. Irudayaraj, Mr. Tojo, Ms. Mary Bose, Mrs. Janet Selvakanni, Mr. Patrick Burnas, Ms. Selvi, Ms. Jessy, Mr. Mohan, Mr. Murali, Sr. Veera Barboza fmm, Ms. S. Premi, Ms. Sheila Singh, Ms. Suffiya, Ms. Vatsala, Ms. Nazeem, Ms. Mahalakshmi, and many others are added to the roll call of the office over the years.

What shall we say about the supportive staff who have spent the best years of their life in the service of the college. Most of them were from the neighbourhood and some from Pallavaram. They took great pride in working with the sisters and a good rapport existed at all levels. They were ever ready and willing to render their service

and helped the college maintain a clean environment. The college has reached out financially to many of them and their families with the hope of improving their status in society.

With the help of the supportive staff under the able guidance of a sister the college and the campus have been maintained aesthetically and cleanly. Sr. Elizabeth Devassy, Late Sr. Annamma Luka fmm, Sr. Mary Celine fmm, Sr. Medona Leon fmm, and now Sr. Hilda Pais fmm, have given their best in animating the team of supportive staff and taking care of their material and spiritual needs.

Some of the supportive staff who we remember with gratitude are Late Mr. Masilamani, Mr. Chelliah, Late Mr. Selvaraj (Hitler), Late Mr. Michael, Late Mr. M. Savari, Late Mr. Shanmugham, Late Mr. Reuben, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Rajan, Mr. Arul Raj, Mr. Alexander Steeves, Mr. Francis, Mr. Das, Mr. Mani, Mr. Maria Francis, Mr. Maran, Mr. Nim Bahadur, Mr. Selvaraj, Late Ms. Deivamani, Mr. Arckiaswamy, Mr. Anthony, and many others. They have generously given of their time and energy to this institution.

Ms. Ponnamma, Late Ms. Rakamma, Late Ms. Nagamma, and Late Mr. Ponnuswamy deserve special mention for their tremendous hard work and dedication. In fact, Mr. Ponnuswamy began his work in the college in 1957 when this campus was being developed for the college. He continued to care for the plants in the garden even after his retirement, till his death.

The College remembers all those who have worked sincerely and toiled tirelessly. It also recalls with gratitude the immense contribution and dedicated services of the foundresses.

M.M.Celine Franchoise and M.M.Peter Damian



Ms. Sheela Singh



Ms. S. Premi



Sr. Gertrude fmm



Mr. Tojo Varad



Hindi – Saat Saalon Ka Safarnama

The Department of Hindi started functioning in August 1947. Initially, Ms. Rajeshwari conducted classes for the few students who opted for Hindi as second language. Ms. Darley Pannakkal (now Varghese) joined the department in the 1950s when enrollment increased and the need for an additional teacher was felt.

Activities such as inter-class competitions on music, oratory and debate were conducted for the students.

In 1979, Dr. Madhu Dhawan joined the department. She started the first Hindi magazine 'Khilti Kaliyan' during the academic year 1979-80 with students on the editorial board. The purpose was to create a platform for students to explore their creative talents. She also started conducting inter-departmental and inter-collegiate competitions in Hindi for the first time in the city.

During 1988-89, the department instituted a rolling cup to encourage creative writing among students. Students of many colleges participate in this, which is regarded as one of the most prestigious competition in the city.

When the college became autonomous in 1987, the Department of Hindi was the first to introduce a Vocational Course in Functional Hindi. Listed below are

some important milestones in the history of the department:

- The department was the first to introduce job-oriented Vocational courses such as Advertising and Journalism.
- The department was given a grant by the UGC to conduct courses in Functional Hindi. Dr. Madhu Dhawan's books on Functional Hindi served as course material.
- Spoken Hindi was introduced as a General Elective Course for non-Hindi speaking students. A video-cassette titled 'Sampreshan' was compiled for these students.
- Campus networking amongst the city colleges was introduced. Students from Avinashilingam Deemed University attended her Functional Hindi classes. Dr. Darley Verghese retired from the department and Ms. Kamala Vishwanathan was appointed in her place.
- Courses in Public Speaking, News Reading and News Framing were introduced.

From L-R: Dr. Ms. kamala Vishwanathan and Dr. Ms. Madhu Dhawan at a seminar



தமிழ்ப் பணியில் ஆண்டுகள் அறுபது ஸ்டெல்லா மார்ஸ் கல்லூரி



தமிழ் மொழிக்கும், கல்விக்கும் தொடர்ந்து தொய்வின்றி, நீண்ட நாட்களாகப் பணிபுரிந்து வரும் ஸ்டெல்லா மார்ஸ் கல்லூரியில், தமிழ்த்துறைக்கு என்று தனிச்சிறப்பிடம் ஒன்று உண்டு. வெள்ளிவிழா, பொன்விழா, வைரவிழா என்று பல விழாக்களைக் கண்ட இக்கல்லூரி கல்வி வளத்துக்காக மேன்மேலும் பாடுபட்டு வருகின்றது.

1947 ஆம் ஆண்டு ஆகஸ்டுத் திங்கள் 15ஆம் நாள் இக்கல்லூரி தொடங்கப்பட்டது. தொடக்க காலத்தில், தமிழ், இயயோலாக் கல்லூரியிலிருந்து தமிழ்ப் பண்டிதர் திரு. சிவப்பிரகாசம் அவர்களால் 1948-1949 வரை கற்றுக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. பின், 1950 இல், தமிழ்த்துறைத் தலைவராகப் பேராசிரியர், திருமதி. சந்திரா பார்த்தசாரதி அமர்த்தப்பட்டார்கள். பேராசிரியர் திருமதி, சந்திரா பார்த்தசாரதி அவர்கள் ஸ்டெல்லா மார்ஸ் கல்லூரியின் தமிழ்த்துறையில் செய்த பணி வரலாற்றுப்புகழ் பெற்றது. மாணவர்கள் தமிழ்கற்க தன் உழைப்பை விதையாக விதைத்த இந்த விதை விருட்சமாகி இன்று உயர்ந்து நிற்கிறது. தமிழகத்தில் உள்ள மாணவர் மன்றத்திற்குப் பெரும் தொண்டாற்றிய இப் பேராசிரியர், 'பிற நாட்டு நல்அறிஞர் சாத்திரங்கள் தமிழ் மொழியில் பெயர்த்தல் வேண்டும்' என்ற பாரதியின் வைரவரிகளுக்குப் பல ஆங்கில மொழிப்பெயர்ப்புகளை தன் ஆங்கில மொழிப் புலமையால் செய்தவர்.

1951ஆம் ஆண்டில் பேராசிரியர் திருமதி. ஜயலட்சுமி அவர்கள் தமிழ்த்துறையில் சேர்ந்தார். இவர் பல நூல்கள் எழுதியதோடு, மொழிபெயர்ப்பு நூல்கள் பல செய்து, பலரின் பாராட்டுதல்களைப் பெற்றவர். 1951 - 1989 வரை 38 ஆண்டுகள் தமிழ்த்துறையில் பணியாற்றி மாணவர்களை நல்நெறிப்படுத்தினார். 1987-92 வரை தன்னாட்சி கல்லூரியின் முதல் தேர்வு ஆணையராக நியமிக்கப்பட்டு இந்த கடமையை மிக கவனத்தோடு நிறைவேற்றி அனைவரின் பாராட்டுதல்களைப் பெற்றவர்.

1961ஆம் ஆண்டில் பேராசிரியர், கமலாட்சி அவர்கள் தமிழ்த்துறையில் சேர்ந்தார்கள். ஆங்கிலத்தில் உள்ள கல்லூரிப் பாடலைத் தமிழாக்கம் செய்த பெருமை இவரையே சாரும். இவர், 1961 - 1989 வரை 28 ஆண்டுகள் கல்லூரியில் தமிழ்ப்பணியாற்றி மாணவர்களை நல்வழிப்படுத்தினார்.

இம்மூவரும் தமிழ்த்துறையில் பணியாற்றிய கால கட்டத்தில், "கதவு", "மதுரநாயகி", போன்ற நாடகங்களை பொதுமக்கள் அறியும் வகையில் நடத்தி, முத்தமிழ்க்கும் பெருமை சேர்த்துப் பலரின் பாராட்டைப் பெற்றனர்.

பேராசிரியர் முனைவர் திருமதி. விஜயா ஆசிரி அவர்களின் முயற்சியால், மற்ற பேராசிரியர்களின் துணையோடு, "கொட்டு முரசு" என்ற இதழ் வெளியிடப்பட்டது. இதில், பேராசிரியர்களின் படைப்புகளும், மாணவியர்களின் படைப்புகளும் இடம் பெற்றன. 1996 இல் பொன்விழாக் கருத்தரங்கம் கண்டது தமிழ்த்துறை.

பாரதம் போற்றும் பாரதியாரின் பெயரில் "பாரதி மன்றம்" என்ற தமிழ் மன்றம் தொடங்கப்பட்டது. இம்மன்றம், இன்றும் பீடுநடைபோட்டு, இலக்கியச் சிந்தனைகளை மாணவர்களுக்கு வழங்கி வருகின்றது.

2001 இல் இத்தமிழ்த்துறை, "மலர்களிலே அவள் மல்லிகை" என்ற நாடகத்தை நடத்தி, இக்கல்லூரிக்குப் பெருமை சேர்த்தது.

2003 இல் விடியல் என்ற பெயரில் "கனவு மெய்ப்படல் வேண்டும்" என்ற தலைப்பில், அனைத்துத் துறை மாணவர்களும் பங்கு கொண்ட, பல்சுவை நிகழ்ச்சியைச் சிறப்பாக நடத்தியது.

2005 இல் "குலோத்துங்கன் கவிதைகள் ஒரு பார்வை" என்ற பொருளில், அனைத்துக் கல்லூரி மாணவர்களுக்கும், ஒரு கருத்தரங்கம் நடத்தியது. இக்கருத்தரங்கை நடத்திய ஊக்கமும் உழைப்பும் பேராசிரியர் முனைவர் உலகநாயகியைச் சாரும்.

பாரதி மன்றத்தின் மூலம் ஆண்டுதோறும் "பொங்கல் திருவிழா" பல கலைநிகழ்ச்சிகளைக் கொண்டு மிகச் சிறப்பாக இன்றும் தமிழ்த்துறை நடத்தி வருகிறது.

இத்துறையில் சிறந்த சிந்தனையாளர்களும், பேச்சாளர்களும், எழுத்தாளர்களும் தமிழுக்குத் தொண்டாற்றி வருகின்றனர்.

தமிழ்த்துறைப் பேராசிரியர்கள்:

- முனைவர். விஜயா ஆசிரி
- முனைவர். உலகநாயகி பழனி
- முனைவர். ஸ்டெல்லா ஸ்டானி
- முனைவர். ஆலிஸ் ஜோசப்
- முனைவர். விஜய்லட்சுமி இராமசாமி

Public Relations – Past and Present

The Department of Public Relations – Stella Maris' 12th Postgraduate Department began on August 7, 2007, with the vision of empowering young women to equip themselves with the latest skills and learning needed to pursue their dreams.

This fledgling department however, is no stranger to Stella Maris. The seeds of this department were sown as early as 1975, when the University of Madras, Nandanam Arts College and Stella Maris College started an undergraduate programme in Public Relations. Under the guidance of and with the collaboration of Mr. Gyan Haksar – Founder-Director of the Institute of Public Relations and Management (IPRM), Mr. M. Gopalakrishnan and Mr. R. K. Bharathan, the department was able to step beyond the college to involve business organizations, service industries, governmental departments and even entire communities!

The department, for all its multifaceted accomplishments was driven by a simple philosophy: students needed to have solid foundations in a variety of interlinked subjects such as history, sociology, economics and psychology and also acquire fluency and proficiency in English and

other languages. This comprehensive programme imparted holistic education, even adding the finishing touches – to shape a fully qualified and capable PR professional.

Even at the undergraduate level, the PR students were encouraged to extend the frontiers of knowledge in different disciplines and across different countries. Mr. Gyan Haksar, through the Institute of Public Relations (IPRM) arranged several lectures, seminars and workshops on a variety of subjects from environment and population to changing business and economic trends. From Ashish Bose to Prof. Chandrasekaran to Sam Black and Peter Drucker students had the opportunity to listen and interact with thinkers and leaders in different spheres of specialization.

The classroom moved out into the community through the NSS, which was compulsory at that time to all undergraduate students. Adopting voluntary blood donation as their cause, the students used interpersonal persuasive skills to campaign door-to-door in different parts of Madras. Each year they collected three hundred bottles of blood. In recognition of their services in this

Inauguration of the Department of Public Relations by His Excellency, Shri K.K. Shah, Governor of Tamil Nadu. The function was presided over by Shri K.V. Raghunatha Reddy

From L to R: Dr. N.C. Sundaravivelu, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, Sr. Juliet Irene, Principal, Shri K.V. Raghunatha Reddy, Minister for Labour, Government of India, His Excellency Shri K.K. Shah, Governor of Tamil Nadu





Award for the PR department from Ms. Saraswathi, Minister for Social Welfare for Voluntary Blood Donation drive at MVBB Annual Day at the Music Academy, 1977, received by Ms. K. Sundari



Convocation of the first batch of PR students in 1978

worthy endeavour, the Department of PR was given an award by Ms. Saraswathi, the then Minister for Social Welfare at the annual day of MVBB in March 1977.

At the dawn of the new millennium the clarion calls were heard worldwide for a new generation of trained professionals with new skills and capabilities in the field of PR. Stella Maris spotted the opportunity at once and revived the vision of 1975 – to educate young women to fulfill key roles in business and society. Thus the PR Department was reborn on August 7, 2006.

Courses have been introduced to develop and enhance students' skill sets – Communication Skills – ranging from interpersonal to organizational capabilities and mass communication. All the courses are complemented by a suitable schedule of guest lectures by experts in the field, workshops and seminars. Internships are offered in non-governmental, corporate, service and government organizations in all the four semesters, for which written reports and *viva-voce* examinations form the evaluation process.

In today's world, from advertising to genetic engineering, from Corporate Communications to Bioinformatics, all the burgeoning fields of study today have awakened to a realization of their highly specialized natures and the contribution they can make as a distinctly new discipline. Although many of these fields have their roots in a

multidisciplinary ethos, they have evolved to assume an individual and autonomous status as subjects of study and fields of research. In this scenario Public Relations has emerged as a field with tremendous potential for study and research, as well as application and skills training. The department today stands poised to lead the students and thereafter their Alma Mater to newer realms and newer frontiers.

Sr. Juliet Irene, Principal, addressing the gathering at the inaugural function



Sanskrit – Traversing the Past for Building the Future

The department of Sanskrit was started in 1950 under the headship of Ms. Sadasivan. In 1951, Ms Ammini Ammal took over the headship and assisted by Ms. Thulasi they made a winsome pair.

Dr. Ms. Mythili Raman who handled regular classes for Pre-University and Under Graduate students succeeded Ms. Ammini Ammal as head in 1966. Sloka recitation competitions were very popular during this period and she taught Sanskrit with a passion. After her retirement in 1995, Mrs. Saroja Krishnamurty, who was assisting her from 1976 onwards continued to tread the same path. During her tenure, in 2002, Spoken conducted held under the sponsorship of the UGC and sixty students were awarded proficiency certificates.

Sensing the need of the hour, the department introduced Heritage-Cultural courses. 'Abhinaya Darpanam' – a unique course that helps students appreciate 'Theatre art' was introduced as a general elective subject for all students of the undergraduate

programme. The other courses offered under General Electives were 'Upanishads', 'Women's Rights and Dharmasastras' and the 'Bhagavatgita', with the aim of instilling cultural values in students. These courses are still very popular among the students and have many takers even today.

Mrs. Saroja Krishnamurty rendered valuable service as Head of the department till her retirement in 2006. Currently Ms.V.Yamuna Devi teaches Sanskrit to the undergraduate students.

Prozes for proficiency in Sanskrit such as Koyippillil Ammini Ammal Silver Medal and the Dr. Mythili Raman Scholarship are awarded to meritorious students every year.

The department hopes that more students will take to learning Sanskrit, the oldest of Indian languages, while continuing to appreciate its worth.

Seated (Front row) from L to R: Ms. Agnes Rozario, Dr. Madhu Dhawan, Sr. Helen Vincent, Principal, Ms. Mythili Raman (HOD, Sanskrit), Sr. Annamma Philip, Vice-Principal, Ms. Geetha Stridharan and Ms. Poppy Kannan



THE DIAMOND

DECADE ...

During the decade 1997– 2007, the college responded to the demands of the new world order by launching several educational initiatives to prepare young women to live and work in a global environment. These educational innovations addressed the need to place students in the context of international standards of quality, talent and potential, guided by the mission of the college to empower young women to be builders of a just and humane society. The college reaffirmed its mission towards building a knowledge society with universal participation transforming the scale and social function of higher education.

Academic Programme

Recognising the need to give students an interdisciplinary approach to learning, the college launched the Choice - Based Credit System in 1997 to provide broad based flexible education offering students horizontal and vertical mobility.

The college also introduced several new academic programmes at the UG, PG and Research levels in the following years.

Research Programmes

M.Phil. Programmes

Mathematics 2002

Social Work 2004

Post Graduate Programmes

Master of Arts

International Studies 2002

Public Relations 2006

Master of Science

Information Technology 2001

Bioinformatics 2002

Chemistry 2004

Biotechnology 2006

Master of Commerce 2004

Under Graduate Level

B.C.A. 1998

B.S.W. 2004

Research /Consultancy/Projects

In a world of expanding knowledge frontiers, the major strength of an educational institution is its research competence. During the last decade forty-six members of the faculty from several departments acquired doctoral degrees thereby strengthening the research foundation of the college. In this connection the college is grateful to

the UGC for rendering financial support to twenty-seven faculty members for Faculty Improvement Programme (FIP) under the IX and X Five year plans.

The Departments of English, Economics, Fine Arts, Mathematics and Social Work are recognised for research. Eight students have successfully completed research and obtained the Doctoral degrees in English while three are currently registered for Ph.D. In the Department of Fine Arts, five candidates are pursuing Ph.D. Several scholars have completed MPhil Degree programmes while thirty-one scholars are currently pursuing their research.

During the span of last ten years Faculty co-ordinated twenty minor and major projects supported by UGC, DST, UBCHEA, IFCU, and the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust. The faculty have also published over thirty books and Monographs.

Refresher Courses organized

The college conducted refresher courses on behalf of the Academic Staff College, University of Madras.

–‘Contemporary World Literatures in English: Curriculum Development’, organised by the Department of English in February 2001

–‘IT as Tool for Teaching’, a need based refresher course, organised by the college in November – December, 2001

–‘Post Colonial Studies’ was organised by the Department of English in November – December, 2004

–The Department of English conducted an intense one-week refresher course on ‘English Studies’ for faculty of Government colleges in January 2005.

–A refresher course on ‘Curriculum Design’ was organised by the Department of English in November 2005

Infrastructure

Keeping in tune with the ever-growing demand for better infrastructure and facilities, a few more buildings, laboratories and other facilities were added.

Buildings

New Canteen block August 1997

St. Clare Centre January 1998

Helene de Chappotin Centre March 2004

(Funded by the People and the Government of Japan)

LABORATORIES

Computer Labs

Computer Science department (UG)	June 1998
(Redesigned and upgraded – UG Lab)	June 2005
Postgraduate lab	June 2006
UG and PG Laboratory	June 2001

(Twenty-five computers were donated by Pentasoft)

Bioinformatics Laboratory	June 2002
Redesigned and shifted to room A1-3	June 2006
Department of Mathematics PG Lab	June 2007

(Financially supported by DST– FIST)

Science Laboratories

Tissue Culture Lab (Botany)	March 1997
Instrumentation Room (Chemistry)	June 2004
Language Lab	
Multimedia Language Lab	July 2006
Browsing Centre	June 2001
Redesigned and shifted to C Block	June 2005

Library Services

Internet facility (ISDN Line) was introduced in 1999.

Library was partially automated in 2001.

The library offers a one-year Certificate course in 'Documentation and Information Science', funded by UGC, since June 2004.

Further automation has been progressively undertaken.

International Conferences / Seminars

– Conference on 'Information Technology in the Teaching of Science' organised by the Departments of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Computer Science in August 2000

– Seminar on 'Women in Asia: Issues and Concerns' organised by the Departments of History, Sociology, Economics, English, Fine Arts and Commerce in Dec 2002

– Conference on 'Computational Mathematics and Statistical Methods' by the Department of Mathematics in collaboration with IIT-Madras and Forum for Interdisciplinary Mathematics. Co-sponsored by INSA, CSIR and TNSCST in January 2007

National Conferences

Departments have organised seminars and conferences on topics of current interest. In the past decade, 26 National Conferences / Seminars / Workshops have been organised by various departments of the college.

GRANTS

1998 – 1999

– Stella Maris received the special UGC grant for completion of Fifty years as a Women's College.

2003 – 2004

– DST sanctioned a grant for the project on 'Low Cost Processing and Preservation of Horticultural Produce' to Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan, Department of Chemistry.

2004 – 2005

– Department of Bioinformatics was selected to receive Financial assistance for the period 2005-2010 under the UGC's Scheme of 'Innovative Programmes for Teaching and Research in New and Emerging Areas'

2006 – 2007

– Entrepreneurship Development Cell was established with the support of NSTEDB, DST, Government of India

AWARDS/RECOGNITION RECEIVED BY THE COLLEGE

1997– 1998

– Ranked among the Top Ten Colleges in the country by 'India Today' Magazine

– Release of Special Cover and Cancellation brought out by the Postal Department on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the college

– Received 'The Excellence Award' by Lion's Club of Madras City

1999 – 2000

– NAAC accredited Stella Maris College at the Five Star Level among Autonomous Colleges in April 2000.

2006 – 2007

– Stella Maris College was awarded the 'Sciat Ut Serviat Award 2006' by the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) for rehabilitation work among the tsunami affected communities in 2004 – 2005. The award was presented at the General Assembly of IFCU held at Bangkok in August 2006.

AWARDS RECEIVED BY PRINCIPAL

2001 – 2002

–Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip received 'Distinguished Leadership Award for Outstanding Contributions To Contemporary Society' given by Tamil Nadu Women Writers Charitable Association, Chennai

2003 – 2004

–'Mother Theresa Award' given by Perunthalaivar

Kamaraj Centenary Celebrations 2003, organised by National Integration Committee, Chennai Tamil Sangam

– ‘The Seva Ratna Award’ by The Centenarian Trust

2004-2005

– ‘Life Time Achievement Award’ by Alpha Group of Institutions, Chennai

2005 – 2006

– ‘Asha Nivas Award of Excellence for Outstanding Contribution towards the cause of Education of Women for the year 2005’ by Asha Nivas Social Service Centre, Centre

2006 – 2007

– ‘Best Educationist in the Field of Education’ by The National Integration Committee in 2007

AWARDS RECEIVED BY FACULTY

1997 – 1998

– Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry, Foundress of the Department of Fine Arts, for her outstanding contribution in Art Education was honoured with the ‘Stree Ratna Award’ by the Director K. Subramanyam Memorial Trust, Chennai

– Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan, Department of Chemistry, received the ‘Environmental Safety Award’ from Ramya Cultural Academy, Chennai

2000 – 2001

– Dr. Ms. Madhu Dhawan received the ‘Millennium Award’ in the Hindi Literary field.

She is also listed in the WHO’s WHO directory of Asia Pacific and Sahitya Akademi

2001– 2002

– Dr. Ms. Madhu Dhawan was given an award by the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan Prayag for her contribution to Hindi literature

– Mr. Arokiasamy, Supportive Staff, Examination Office, won the ‘Best Gestetner Copy Printer’ Award

– Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan was listed in the International WHO’s WHO of Professional and Business Women – 2001 by American Biographical Institute

2002 – 2003

– Dr. Ms. Madhu Dhawan received the ‘Bharat Excellence Award’ for her contribution to Hindi Literature

– Dr. Ms. Rukmani Srinivasan received the ‘Best Chemistry Teacher’ award given by the Chemical Research Society, Chennai

– Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan was honoured with the ‘Chevalier Sivaji Award’ by Social and Cultural Academy, Chennai

2003 – 2004

– Lt. Dolly Thomas was awarded Commandant's Silver Medal for the Best All Round Lady Cadet in the Pre-Commission Training programme at the NCC Officers Training Academy, Gwalior, MP

– Dr. Ms. Ulaganayaki Palani was recognised by the All India Writers’ Association with the ‘Bharathi Pani Selvar Award’

2005 – 2006

– Dr. Ms. Ulaganayaki Palani was presented the ‘Thirukkural Ayyu Selvar Award’ by World Thirukkural Research Centre.

– Dr. Ms. Madhu Dhawan received ‘Urdu Academy Award’ for literary achievements

– Dr. Ms. Madhu Dhawan was listed in Asian Biography ‘WHO’s WHO’ 2005 – 2006

2006 – 2007

– Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm, was the recipient of Rooney International Visiting Professor Fellowship at Robert Morris University, Pennsylvania, summer 2006.

– Dr. Ms. Annie Cherian, Department of Zoology, was awarded the Dr. V. A. Murthy Endowment Gold Medal for the Best Ph.D. Thesis in the field of Zoology by the University of Madras for 2005 – 2006

– Dr. Ms. Madhu Dhawan, won a Special Award of The Surabhi Sahitya and Sanskriti Akademi, Khandwa

– Dr. Ms. Ulaganayaki Palani awarded ‘Kavimamani’ by All India Tamil Poetess Association

– Lt. Dolly Thomas was the recipient of the Director General’s NCC Contingent Medal in 2006 – 2007.

OTHER AWARDS RECEIVED

– Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, Former Principal was honoured with ‘The Best Principal Award’ by The Government of Tamil Nadu for the year 1989 – 1990.

– Dr. Mrs. Radha Paul, Department of Social Work, received ‘The Best Teacher Award’ from the Government of Tamil Nadu, 1989 – 1990

Student Achievements/Awards

The academic and extra-curricular accomplishments of our students have been phenomenal and are too numerous to narrate in this limited space.

Fellowships

–Ms. Chitra Krishnan was awarded a fellowship for doctoral research at the University of Quebec, Montreal, Canada by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, 1998 – 1999.

– Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza attended a Professional Educational Programme on ‘Principles and Applications of Bioinformatics; at MIT, Boston, USA, Summer 2001.

– Fourteen Faculty members have participated in the Visiting Scholar Programme, funded by UBCHEA

– Dr. Mrs. Sundari Krishnamurthy received Fulbright Scholarship to Tampa, Florida USA, 2000 – 2001

– Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm received a fellowship from the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics to attend two courses in Proteomics and Separation Sciences and Mass Spectrometry at the University Hospital, Geneva, Switzerland, Oct.–Nov. 2004.

– Dr. Ms. V. Padma received the Fulbright Visiting Lectureship Award to University of California, USA, 2004 – 2005

– Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm- fellowship from the Indian Academy of Sciences to attend a two month Summer Programme at the Molecular Biophysics Unit of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, 2005 – 2006

International Collaborations

– United Board For Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA)

– Visiting Scholar Programme

– Minor Research Projects

– Scholar-in-Residence

– The International Partnership for Service Learning (IPSL)

– IFCU – ‘Sangamam’ Extension Project of Stella Maris College

– Sinclair Community College, USA – Faculty Exchange Programme

Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)

2000-2001

– With Pentasoft Pvt. Ltd. for jointly offering computer education in the college

2003-2004

– Dept. of Fine Arts and Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, University of Central England

2005-2006

– Deakin University, Melbourne, Murdoch University, Perth, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, The Australian National University, Canberra, University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia, Student Exchange Programme –Global Peace Scholarship

– ICES – Institute Catholique d' Etudes Supérieures- Student exchange programme

– Institut Catholique de Paris (ICP) - Student Exchange Programme

– St. Joseph’s College, Philadelphia, USA for faculty and student exchange

– UG Social Work signed Development partnerships in Higher Education (DELPHE) along with the Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, UK

– The Departments of Bioinformatics and Computer science have also entered into agreement with Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool

Extension Projects and Activities

–Environmental Awareness Programme– ‘Neighbourhood Improvement Programme’, an ongoing project involving students since 1990 aims at educating the public on environmental issues such as water conservation, garbage segregation, energy conservation and the like through door to door campaign in collaboration with the Chennai Corporation and CMWSSB

– Functional Literacy Programme - Started in 1992, this programme has been successfully functioning in the villages of Kuthambakkam, Nemam, Bana Veedu Thottam, Karambakkam, Athanan Cherry and Padapai. Through this venture the students and the faculty-in-charge of the programme conduct skill development training programmes along with providing literary skills towards building of the human resources. They also helped the villagers set up Self -Help Groups.

–UNICEF funded Project on ‘Child Rights Training of Social Work Educators and Practitioners in Post Tsunami Tamil Nadu’, co-ordinated by Dr. Cecilia Thangarajan, Head, PG Department of Social Work.

–Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access (FAEA), funded by Ford foundation sanctioned assistance and scholarships as part of Pathways Programme for Higher Education.

– Sangamam – the extension programme of the college has continued to work in the Kasimode area of Royapuram, Chennai since 1992 coordinating several developmental projects.

In collaboration with the Women's Development Corporation, Government of Tamil Nadu this project has initiated many self help groups generating self employment potential through entrepreneurial training for one thousand and two hundred women.

The transit schools project that gives alternative education is run in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board to address the problem of child labour 159

and school dropouts in the area. This service has been recognised through 'Best Transit school' award from UNICEF for two years in succession: 2000 – 2001 and 2001 – 2002.

The Participatory Child Development project with Caritas India has initiated the Children's Forum in community development.

The tsunami rehabilitation project supported by Action-Aid international is working at regaining lost livelihoods and identifying newer avenues of income generation for women.

– Insights into the Displaced Population: 2006 –2009.

This project is a collaborative venture between Stella Maris College and IFCU (Centre for Coordination of Research). The objective is to gain a better understanding of the situational reality of displaced populations in Chennai.

The project is a scientific study of the present situation and precise needs of the displaced population. It aims at gaining insights into the gender aspects of displacement in terms of physical, social, economic and psychological impoverishment.

- Tamil Nadu Schools of Social Work Tsunami Rehabilitation Project

A Post Tsunami Needs Assessment and Psychosocial Care Project was undertaken by the Department of Social Work in 2006. Dr. Ms. Cecilia Thangarajan co-ordinated this pioneering work of bringing together twenty-nine Schools of Social Work in Tamilnadu and TISS, Mumbai.

They worked in all the coastal villages of Tamilnadu, in collaboration with Action Aid, Tata Institute of Social Sciences and NIMHANS, Bangalore. The report of the study was released and given to the Government of Tamilnadu.

– Low Cost Processing and Preservation of Horticultural Produce

A Project sponsored by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India for the period Nov. 2003 – 2005.

Dr. Geetha Swaminathan coordinates this project, which aims at imparting scientific knowledge and training to rural women and helping them to scientifically process and manufacture food products in an economically viable manner. A workshed has been constructed at the nodal centre at Padappai, a village forty kms from Chennai as per the FPO (Fruit Products Order) specifications.

The project serves as a model for motivating women to take up entrepreneurship and skill development

programmes.

– Entrepreneurship Development Cell

A Project sponsored by the NSTEDB - Department of Science and Technology, Government of India for the period 2005 – 2010.

The objective is to motivate and train the students to become successful entrepreneurs. This programme is extended to the women of Thirupachur village; Thiruvallore Dst. Awareness Camps and Skill Development training are conducted periodically.

Training Programmes Undertaken by the college

Some of the training programmes undertaken by the college include

– Work shop on Creative Writing for College Teachers by the Department of English. Resource Persons: Dr. Glifford Hill and Ms. Cathleen Hill, Columbia University, USA (2000 – 2001)

– A three-day Southern Regional Training Programme for Resource Persons on 'Detection and Prevention of Food Adulteration', conducted by Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan, Department of Chemistry, sponsored by DST, Government of India. Nov 30 – Dec 2, 2000

– Central Regional training Programme for Resource Persons on 'Detection and Prevention of Food Adulteration' organised by sponsored by the DST, Government of India from Jan 17 – 19, 2002

2004 – 2005

– Training of Trainers – Workshop for volunteers in Psychosocial care for survivors of Tsunami in collaboration with Action Aid January 11 – 27, 2005

– Training for students – Workshop for volunteers in Psychosocial care for survivors of Tsunami in collaboration with Action Aid January 8 – 9, 2005

College conducts training programmes on a regular basis for the Faculty, Administrative and supportive staff as part of human resource development on topics such as Total Quality management, Stress Management, Strategic Planning, etc.

One decade ends to mark the beginning of yet another as Stella Maris marches along the path laid by her foundresses to serve the society as an agent of social change.

Dr. Ms. Geetha Sridharan, Department of Economics

Ms. Agnes Rozario, Department of Commerce.

Dr. Marian Benita Maria, Department of Social Work.

THE DIAMOND DECADE



Sr. Cecilia Joachim, Provincial, Consul of Japan, Chennai, and His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Arul Das James, with members of the management at the inauguration of the Helene de Chappotin Centre - March 2004



Mr. Nalli Kuppuswamy, Industrialist and a well-wisher of the college interacting with visitors from various Community Colleges, CCID, USA



Mr. Bob Keener and team of faculty from Sinclair Community College with the Faculty of Stella Maris who were involved in faculty exchange programme.



Sr. Mary Rose, Provincial inaugurates the DTP Centre



Sr. Annamma Philip, with Dr. Peggy Garrison, Mr. Bob Keener, Project Co-ordinator, and Dr. Jean Cook, Project Director of the Collaborative Project between Stella Maris College and Sinclair Community College, USA



Students Union members (2000-2001) with Sr. Angel Mary, Dean of Student Affairs and Sr. Hilda Pais

THE DIAMOND



Sr. Mary Ann , Sr.Flavia, Sr. Annamma Philip, Her Excellency Fathima Beevi Governor of Tamil Nadu and Sr. Mary Rose, Provincial-Golden Jubilee College Day celebrations -March 1997



Mr. Robert Philip Kaku Consul General of Japan at the inauguration of the Computer Science Laboratory at the St. Clare Centre in 1998



Chief Guest Rev. Dr. Ignacimuthu.SJ, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras with the resource persons at the International Conference-Women in Asia, Dec. 2002



Resource persons: Mr. Elangovan, Ms Bishaka Dutta and Ms Kalpana Sharma at the International Conference - Women in Asia - Dec. 2002



Cultural programme at the College Day - 2005



Dr. Ruth Manorama recipient of the Right Livelihood Award was felicitated by the Social Work Department of Stella Maris College.

DECADE



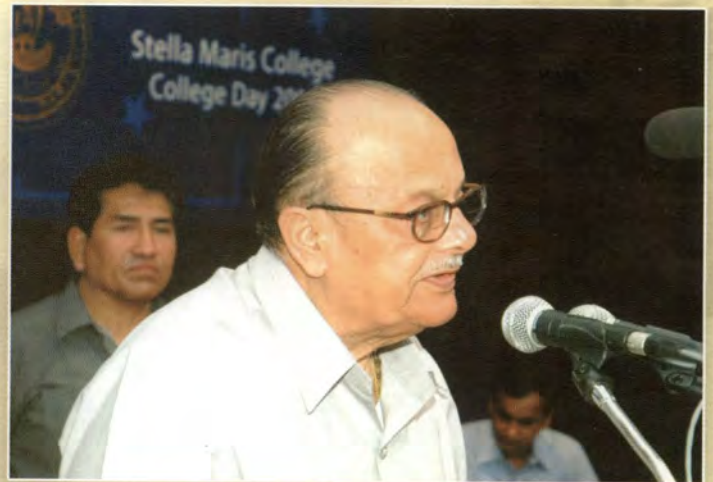
College Day 2003: Celebrating the beatification of Blessed Mary of the Passion



Mr. N. Vittal, IAS, Chief Guest addressing the gathering - Convocation 2004



Shri Arjun Singh, Hon'ble Minister, HRD, giving away the Best Out Going Student award to Kavya Krishnakumar (Dept. of Chemistry)-College Day 2005



Shri Arjun Singh, Hon'ble Minister, HRD addressing the gathering at the College Day 2005



Dr. Betty Abregana, South Asia Project Director, UBCHEA at the workshop on Pedagogy of Service Learning - September 2005



Stella Maris College felicitates Dr. Shantha, Director of Cancer Research Institute, Chennai and recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Chennai

FACULTY 2007



Faculty: Departments of Tamil, Hindi, Public Relations, Psychology, French, Social Work, Physical Education along with Sr. Florine Monis, Sr. Annamma Philip, Sr. Rita Marneni and Sr. Colleen North.



Faculty: Departments of English, Sociology, International Studies, History and the Librarian

FACULTY 2007



Faculty, Departments of Economics, Fine Arts and Computer Science



Faculty: Departments of Bioinformatics, Botany, Chemistry, Physics and Zoology

FACULTY 2007



Faculty: Departments of Mathematics and Commerce



FMM sisters currently working in the College

STAFF 2007



Administrative staff – 2007



The Supportive staff along with Principal, Secretary, Vice - Principals, Deans of Student Affairs and Sr. Hilda Pais



St. Clare Centre -Golden Jubilee
Commemorative Building



Helene de Chappotin Centre

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME



The academic year began with an orientation programme on the National Service Scheme (NSS) for all the first year students. A total of three hundred and nineteen volunteers enrolled in the NSS for the academic year 2006 – 2007. To commemorate the Diamond Jubilee year of Stella Maris College, the National Service Scheme (NSS) planned to involve the volunteers in sixty service opportunities.

The Annual Blood Donation Camp has brought laurels to the NSS unit. A rolling shield instituted by Wheecon Pvt Ltd., for mobilizing the maximum number of Blood donors among eight Women's Colleges, was awarded to our unit. A prize instituted by the Tamil Nadu Aids Prevention and Control Society (TANSAC) for the highest

number of women donors in a single blood donation camp was also awarded to our unit. Dr. Ms. Poppy Kannan received this award from His Excellency, Shri S. S. Barnala, Governor of Tamil Nadu. An award was also given by the Madras Voluntary Blood Bank for mobilizing more than one hundred donors.

A novel scheme for collaboration between NSS units of Autonomous Colleges and Government Schools was made possible. A one-day workshop was arranged for the Dr. Ambedkar Government Higher Secondary School on 'Enhancing Personal Skills'. At the triple 'A' competition – 'Accept, Act, Achieve' – organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries in view of World AIDS Day for youth, our





volunteers won the third place for their performance on 'Good health for preserving the future of youth'. Three hundred NSS volunteers were placed in twenty welfare agencies in the city of Chennai for their field placement.

Rose Day was observed through a blood donation camp, where one hundred and thirty six units of blood was donated to the Government Stanley Hospital, Chennai.

Members of the Chennai Association of Palliative Care spoke to the NSS volunteers on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day. This was followed by a rally, organised in order to create awareness.

As part of the Road Safety Week, one hundred and fifty volunteers, along with the NCC unit of the college, organised a rally on the 'Hazards of Drunken Driving', in association with the office of the Traffic Commissioner of Police.

The annual ten-day NSS special camp was conducted, from November 11- 21, 2006, at Salamangalam, Sirumathur and Mel Padappai villages. Nearly one hundred campers, accompanied by the NSS Programme Officers, Dr. Ms. Poppy Kannan, Dr. Ms. Millie Nihila and Ms. Josephine, organised several activities on the theme 'Healthy Youth of Healthy India'. The activities included topics like health and hygiene, environment, occupation, nutrition and emotional health, interpersonal skill building, governmental health schemes, working women and health, art and health and capacity building for youth. The resource persons were the NSS Programme Officers and Dr. V. Padma of the English Department.

The NSS organized an intercollegiate seminar for NSS volunteers titled 'Fostering Entrepreneurship: The Role of Higher Education', on January 19, 2007.

The 'Community Paediatrics Project', Chennai, in collaboration with The Confederation of Indian Organizations for Service and Advocacy, proposed a special project. In order to provide health checkups for all the children of our welfare agencies, twenty-two paediatricians, one for each of the agencies, visited them once a month for free consultation. The NSS volunteers placed in these agencies assisted in conducting health camps. The objective of this programme was to ensure that no child would be deprived of health care because of financial constraints.



NATIONAL CADET CORPS

The greatest asset of any nation is the spirit of its people, the will to win, strength to overcome adversity and the courage to work. It was with this vision that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, former Prime Minister of India, launched the National Cadet Corps (NCC), a youth organization that would train young men and women in leadership qualities and inculcate in them the spirit of service, nationalism and patriotism.

The year 2006 – 2007 was an action-packed one with the college organizing the first intercollegiate NCC competitions, CADOSTAR, as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Apart from this mega event, the cadets of the college participated in various exciting camps throughout the year, some of which were:

- All India Trekking Camp at Ootacamund, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.
- All India Malvankar Firing Competition
- All India Vayu Sainik Camp at Bangalore
- Medical Attachment Camp at

Officers' Training Academy
■ National Integration Camps in Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh

Several second year cadets of the college participated in the Combined Annual Training Camp, held in the first week of June, where they won the first place for contingent drill. Cdt. Nitya Lakshmi (Zoology department) won the best TSC award and Cdt. Sagaya Lincy (Physics department) won the second prize. The cadets also won several prizes for the cultural events and were adjudged the overall best contingent.

The training camps for the Thal Sainik Cadets commenced and seven Cadets of the college were selected for the IGC -TSC held in Pollachi, in July 2006. They are Cdt. Nityalakshmi and Cdt. Ramya (Zoology Department), Cdt. Selvi and Cdt. Sagaya Lincy (Physics Department), Cdt. Vaishvavi (Chemistry Department), Cdt. Surya (Maths department) and Cdt. Venecia Cooper (English Department). The cadets excelled in all competitions and contributed towards Madras Group 'A' winning

the overall banner. Cdt. Nitya Lakshmi won the gold medal for snap shooting as well as the gold medal for advanced firing. Cdt. Surya won the gold medal for communications as well as the gold medal for medicals. Six cadets were selected for the Thal Sainik training camp. Cdt. Nitya Lakshmi, Cdt. Vaishnavi, Cdt. Selvi, Cdt. Venecia, Cdt. Sagaya Lincy and Cdt. Surya represented the state at the Thal Sainik camp held in New Delhi, in September 2006. Cdt. Nitya Lakshmi won the All India silver medal for firing.

Cadets also attended seven training camps prior to the Inter-Group Republic Day Competition (IGC-RDC) held at Trichy in September 2006. Seven Cadets were selected and, by their brilliant performance, contributed towards Madras Group 'A' winning the banner.

The Combined Annual Training Camp for the Naval cadets was held in June. PO Jeevita attended the National Integration Camp in Madhya Pradesh.

The Combined Annual Training Camp for the Air Wing cadets also





began in June. Flt Cdt. Gwendolene (English Department), Cdt. Flora (Commerce Department) and Cdt. Roopa (Physics Department) began training for the Vayu Sainik Camp. Flt Cdt. Gwendolene was selected for flying and Flt. Cdt. Roopa was selected for skeet shooting.

Air Wing Cadets from Stella Maris participated in the NIC held in Tamil Nadu (Ootacamund), Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Three cadets of our college were selected for the Republic Day Camp at New Delhi. Flt Cdt. Mareli was selected to march on the Rajpath and has been short listed for the Youth Exchange Programme. Cdt. Sangeetha Mary and Cdt. JCS Jennifer were selected for the Prime Minister's rally.

SMC cadets also participated in the Republic Day Parade held in Chennai. Lt. Dolly Thomas was selected to lead the girls' contingent. She also received the Director General's NCC Commendation medal in November 2006.

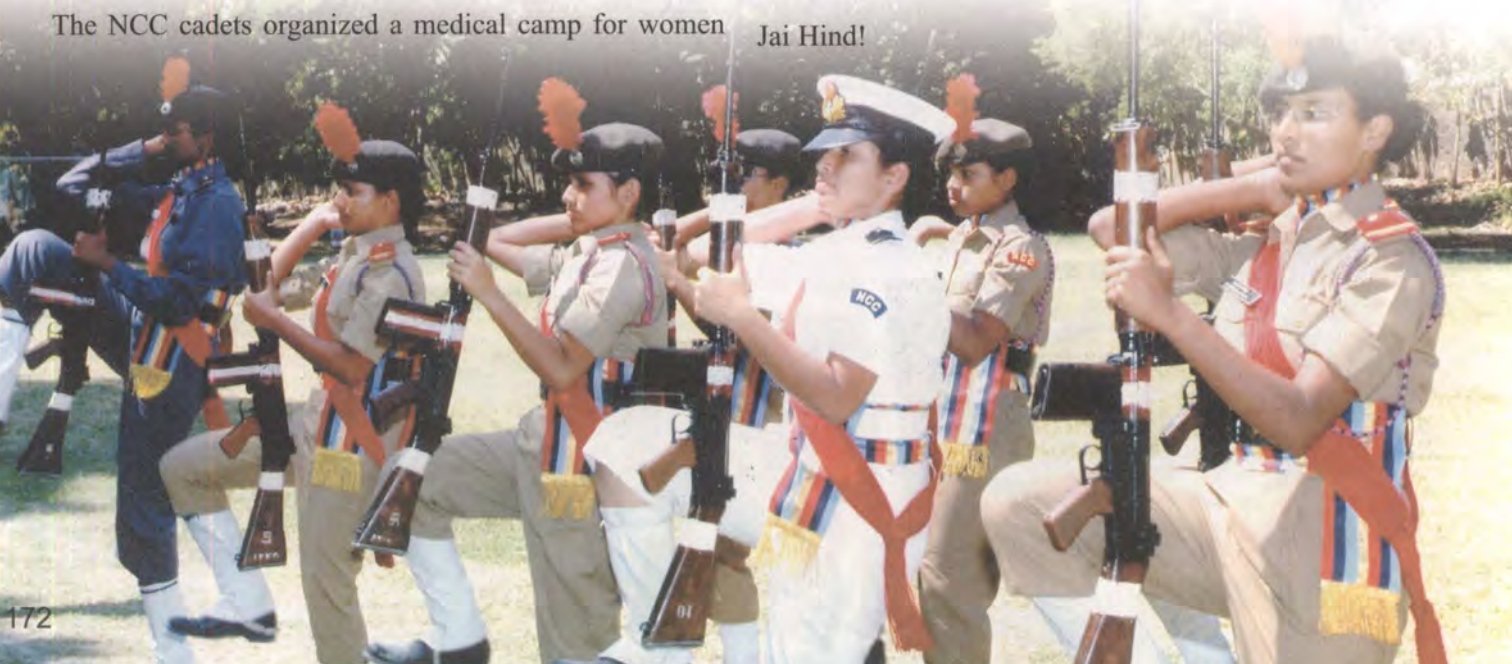
The NCC cadets organized a medical camp for women

and child health along with Vijaya Hospital, Chennai. They also participated in a rally on Palliative care along with the NSS students of the college. As part of Road Safety Awareness Week, a rally was organized along with NSS volunteers and the cadets performed a street play on road safety in the Nochi Kuppam area. A quiz on Road Safety was conducted for the little angels at Shanthi Bhavan (the day crèche on campus). Cadets also joined in the Pulse Polio drive organized by the government by putting up a street play on the subject in various slum areas of the city. Cadets also participated in a Cancer Awareness rally.

In the inter-company competitions, Alpha and Delta companies of the college unit were the joint winners of the best company banner 2006 – 07.

NCC day celebrations were held as a grand finale to the NCC activities of the year. The Chief Guest on the occasion was DIG Patasahani, Chief of the Coast Guard. The highlights of the day were the Guard of Honour, ceremonial drill, pyramids display and a special presentation on the life and achievements of Subash Chandra Bose.

Jai Hind!





SPORTS AND GAMES

The academic year 2006 – 2007 saw the resurgence in sports and games for Stella Maris, with many of our students making a mark, at both state and national level competitions. Thirty-three players from the college were selected to represent the Madras University B Zone, nine to represent the Madras University, nine to represent Tamil Nadu, and two to represent the country.

Stella Maris College won international recognition when Ms. J. Swarna of III B.Sc. Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology was selected for the table tennis coaching camp held at Zhengading, China, in February 2006. She has represented the country more than once in tournaments and won four gold medals in the South Asian Junior Table Tennis Championships, besides a number of gold, silver and bronze medals.

Ms. Sana Saleem of III B.A. Fine Arts also gained International recognition when she

represented the country in Bowling, at the Asian Games held at Doha, in December 2006.

The college came up with an impressive performance at the Madras University and All India Inter-University levels. The college secured first place in Chess, Tennis and Table Tennis in the Inter-Collegiate tournaments organized by Madras University 'B' Zone and second places in Hockey, Volley Ball and Basket Ball. In the Inter-Zone matches, we were runners-up in Chess, Hockey, Lawn Tennis and table tennis. Ninety students from the college represented Madras University at the All India Inter-University Tournaments. The Madras University Tennis team, with Ms. Antony Mary Stefina, I B.Com. and Ms. J. Swarna of III B.Sc. Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, won the first place in the All India Inter-University Table Tennis Tournament.





At the IIT-Madras Sports fest, the college won gold and silver medals in Table Tennis and Runner-Up in Basket Ball and third place in Shuttle Badminton.

At the National Level Inter-Collegiate Tournament at VIT, Vellore, the college secured third position in Tennis and Table Tennis. The Chess team won the sixth position among the 25 colleges that participated. The college also secured the third position in the National Level Basket Ball Inter-Collegiate competition at IIT-Madras.

In athletics, too, the college recorded its notable presence. Ms. Tanya of III B.A. Sociology secured the first place in triple jump and second place in long jump, at the Madras University 'B' Zone Athletics

meet. Ms. J. Jenifa Ruby of II B.S.W. secured second place in 1500 mts and third place in 10,000 mts races, in the Zonal Athletics meet. In the same tournament, Ms. Jagadeswari of I B.Com. secured third place in the 10,000 mts race. In swimming, Ms. Mridula Rajiv of I B.A. Economics secured first place in 500 mts free style and first place in 100 mts free style, at the Madras University Inter-Collegiate Meet.

The management and the faculty have been supportive of all the activities of the students, especially the international and national players, by extending to them all available resources to enable them to complete their academic programme on time. We hope that in the coming years our students will do better and let the colours of Stella Maris fly high.





SANGAMAM

(Extension Project of Stella Maris College)

Sangamam: the extension project of Stella Maris College, was formed in partnership with the fishing communities of coastal areas located at Kasimode in Royapuram, North Chennai. 'Sangamam' meaning confluence, is a symbolic merging of the community and the college, both moving towards a common goal. The mission of 'Sangamam' is: 'To be with, feel with and work with the community for better quality of life'.

The success of this project is the 'oneness' that Stella Maris has been able to establish with this particular community over the years. Often, its endeavours have been challenging, but it continues its quest of searching for solutions beyond the confines of classroom learning. This collaborative effort has always been a learning experience that generates knowledge and contributes towards community development.

The project employs participatory methods of intervention whereby decisions to bring about change in the community are seen as concerted decisions of the members themselves. People's involvement is seen as an on-going process and an end in itself. The participation and determination of the people at Kasimode is the hallmark of the project with women emerging as potential leaders in the community.

Historical Background

A Research conducted by Stella Maris College in 1992, to locate the prevalence of drug abuse in Chennai, concluded that the incidence of drug abuse was the highest in Kasimode. The partnership has

since then strengthened in vital areas of research, action, organization and development of the community. With a firm commitment to go beyond the structures of academic learning, a core group of faculty members were appointed to spearhead this project. Thus, emerged Sangamam, the Extension Project of Stella Maris College, in 1994.

After an evaluation in 1999, Sangamam envisioned a continued partnership with the people of Kasimode and, therefore, carried forward the development work. Full-time, professionally trained staff members were employed to co-ordinate the activities at the field level. A project titled 'University and Community Development, Education and Training for Community Organization', funded by IFCU, was based on the philosophy, principles, skills, methods and models of professional social work. Being a community-based project, the community organization and community development method was adopted. The project focused on 'change' through scientific intervention strategies based on relevant theories in urban processes.

Achievements of Sangamam

For its commendable work on providing relief and rehabilitation to tsunami affected fishing communities of Coastal Tamil Nadu and particularly at Kasimode, Stella Maris College was received the first ever *SCIAT UT SERVIAT* award conferred by the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) at Assumption University Bangkok, Thailand, in July 2006. The project brought about tremendous change and advancement in the area of

community development. Sangamam has been the site for numerous exploratory studies for the sole reason of commendable work at the grassroots level.

Activities

Sangamam's activities in the community primarily focus on women and children. The other beneficiaries of our programmes are the physically challenged, HIV / AIDS victims, community leaders and adolescent girls. Sangamam is funded by ACTION AID INDIA for Tsunami Rehabilitation project. The Tsunami rehabilitation project focuses on psychosocial intervention, regaining of livelihood, building and strengthening the community and advocacy programmes.

The 'Child Labour Elimination Project', funded by CARITAS India, gives high priority to child development and gender issues. The focus of the project is on elimination of child labour in Kasimode.

The research project on Drug use/Abuse in Asian settings, funded by the International Federation of Catholic Universities, is an international research project in partnership with five Asian countries: Thailand, Lebanon, Indonesia, Philippines and India. The aim of the research is to produce knowledge that would enhance awareness of the implications of drug use / abuse in the society, thereby influencing development planners and thinkers to foster a sense of commitment to the structured and social change processes that can mitigate the problem.

The project has been able to network with the local bodies that promote development in the area such as the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Corporation of Chennai, Women Development Corporation, People's Action Movement, partner NGOs, the local

Panchayat and other community-based organizations. A documentation centre located on the college campus dovetails the activities of administration, donor agencies and the field. Identifying external resources and linking resources with the community is one of its major activities.

In December 2004 when the Tsunami struck the Tamil Nadu coast, Sangamam immediately swung into rescue and relief work. The Royal Danish Embassy, ACTION AID INDIA, the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Faculty members, Student volunteers and other local philanthropists stood by the staff of Sangamam to effectively restore normalcy to the community.

On the eve of the third anniversary of the Tsunami disaster a national conference on 'Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights in disaster interventions – lessons from Tsunami for future directions', was organized by Sangamam and Action Aid India, on the 10th and 11th of December 2007. Being the only academic institution that partnered with Action Aid, Stella Maris College was in a unique position to bring together eminent practitioners, educationalists and the people themselves to participate in this event. The conference was a forum to discuss outcomes of interventions in response to the Tsunami disaster. There was much to be learnt from the extensive experiences of organisations and individuals who were involved in the efforts to rehabilitate the victims of this great disaster. It brought to the surface the present situation of the communities and disseminated knowledge and views on the importance of emerging interventions.

Through the efforts of Sangamam, Stella Maris College has made possible a confluence of ideas and empowerment of the Kasimode fishing community in North Chennai.



CAREER GUIDANCE CELL

The Career Guidance Cell (CGC) at Stella Maris College comprises an inspired and motivated team of eight alumnae, who work under the guidance of Dr. Sr. Colleen North.

The activities of the CGC include programmes on various aspects of training and development of students' communication and skills, as well as organising placements for students in various companies.

Training programmes for careers and life skills for the final year students were conducted during the end-semester holidays. Professional trainers imparted their specialised skills on a wide variety of topics - language and communication, motivation and confidence building, interpersonal relationships, time and stress management, creative thinking, etiquette training and personal grooming, presentation skills, preparation of Curriculum Vitae, facing interviews and group discussion.

Other training programmes such as 'Creating My Future' and 'Employability Skills' were organized from June 4 – 8, 2007 and November 12 – 16, 2007 respectively.

A 'Training the Trainer' programme was organised for faculty members on September 29, 2007 and October 1, 2007.

The performance and calibre of the students after the training was very encouraging and prospective employers visited the campus for recruitment. The CGC is proud that over 33 corporate firms recruited over 400 students through campus recruitment.

Placement officers represented the college at the Placement Officers' Meet at Cognizant Technologies Solutions, Wipro, Goldman Sachs, First Source and University of Madras.

The students consider these programmes as being of immense practical value, poised as they are at a turning point in their lives.



FOUNDATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ACCESS (FAEA)

Stella Maris College has been an associate college of FAEA, an organization funded by the Ford Foundation, from August 2005. Since then, workshops and training programmes have been conducted throughout the year for students from underprivileged sections of society to avail of additional training to enhance their skills.

The educational and skill development programmes that were organized were in keeping with the mission of FAEA, namely, 'emphasizing equality of opportunity',

and the mission of Stella Maris College to extend a helping hand to those from less-privileged backgrounds. Dr. Thilagavathi G. Joseph, Faculty, Department of English, co-ordinates the activities of FAEA.

Training in Life Skills and Effective Communication:

During the semester holidays (November 13 – 17, 2006), two programmes were conducted – a Life Skills Training Programme for the first year undergraduate students, titled 'Self Discovery', attended by fifty-five students, and

a workshop on 'Effective Communication' for the second year undergraduate students, attended by sixty-five students. The objective of the 'Self Discovery' programme was to help students break free of their diffidence and shyness, to realize their hidden potential and to understand their self-worth. The workshop on 'Effective Communication' was conducted in the multimedia language laboratory, set up with financial assistance from FAEA, with thirty computers for students and one computer for the teacher, to facilitate student-teacher interaction. The language lab is a great boon as a language learning aid, as it has programmes for language practice modules, like Tense Buster and Study Skills Success.

Dr. Ms. Mohini Giri, member of the Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access and former chairperson of the National Commission for Women, who was the chief guest at the Valedictory function, encouraged the students to reflect on the meaning of empowerment.

Winter Programme: Training in Basic Computer Skills

Training in basic computer skills, with the objective of helping students obtain an introductory exposure to computers, was conducted from December 26 to 30, 2006. Thirty-nine students had the benefit of gaining basic knowledge in computer science.

Weekend Programmes: Training in Soft skills

Every month, one Saturday is set aside for the above programme, during which one hundred and ten enthusiastic students are trained in soft skills, in five batches. The objective of this programme is to provide continued support to the students, in order to enhance their skills and bring out their potential.

Summer Programmes: Training in Computer Skills by NIIT

FAEA sponsored a computer course offered by NIIT, to 90 students, during the summer vacation, from April 23 to May 4, 2007.

FAEA Scholarships

Three students of the first year: Ms. Vincy Amala (Mathematics), Ms. Arokia Mary Reena (B.Com.) and Ms. Kavitha Santhana Jothi (Zoology) have been chosen for the scholarship award.

The three students selected the previous year, Ms. Renjini Jose (History), Ms. M. Thilagam (Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology) and Ms. Sagaya Selva Jothi (Mathematics) continue to receive financial assistance from FAEA.

Special Assistance

Besides helping the students in their overall development, FAEA financial assistance has been helpful in awarding fee concessions to seventy-one economically underprivileged students.

The JAWS and the Open Book Software, installed with the help of financial assistance from FAEA, continues to be a learning aid for the visually challenged students of the college.

Furthermore, to help students get easy access to textbooks and reference books, financial assistance was extended to a few departments.

The college hopes to continue its collaboration with FAEA in its mission to reach out to the less privileged. The support and encouragement received from FAEA has enabled the programme to achieve its objectives and has worked towards the enhanced personal and professional growth of deserving students.



Entrepreneurship Development Cell



The college has set up an Entrepreneurship Development Cell with the support of National Science and Technology

Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.

The EDC aims at imparting entrepreneurship education to students to develop entrepreneurial initiative in them and motivate them to become successful entrepreneurs.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To make learning interesting and challenging to the students by bringing in new dimensions with an interdisciplinary approach to various projects
- To conduct Entrepreneurship Awareness Camps (EAC) and Skill Development Training Programmes in different fields.

The Project Advisor is Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan and the Project Leader Ms. V. Mary Teresita.

Activities conducted by EDC in 2006 – 07:

- a) Entrepreneurship Awareness Camps
Number: Seven
Period: July 2006 to January 2007
Total number of participants 600: students
- b) Three Skill Development Training Programmes:
 - (i) Paper Conversion Products in collaboration with KVIC, Govt. of India
Period: Nov.7 – 11, 2006
No. of Participants: 40 (35 students and 5 women from SHGs)
 - (ii) Fruits and vegetables processing and preservation
Period: Feb.7 – 10, 2007.
No. of participants: 40 students
 - (iii) Fruits and vegetables processing and preservation, with the support of NABARD, conducted at Thirupassur village
Period: March 7 – 13, 2007
No. of participants: 25 rural women
- c) Prepared syllabi for the introduction of two Elective Courses on Entrepreneurship
- d) The EDC has been involved in consultancy work in the field of food processing and helping the Entrepreneurs in setting up their units.



DST PROJECT: LOW COST PROCESSING AND PRESERVATION OF HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE

A State Level Training Programme for 'Resource Persons on Detection and Prevention of Food Adulteration', supported by National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, was held from August 24 to 26, 2006. The participants numbering forty-five included faculty from colleges, school teachers and active members of NGOs. During the inaugural function, a Compact Disc titled 'Simple Tests to Detect Food Adulteration', developed by

Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai, supported by NCSTC, DST, Govt. of India, New Delhi, was released. The CD is user-friendly and is aimed at sensitizing the public about Food Quality Control, Food Laws and Acts and simple tests to detect the food adulterants with a basic understanding of the scientific background of the tests.

The Project Cost amounted to Rs.1,66,500 and was coordinated by Dr. Geetha Swaminathan, ably assisted by Ms. Mary George (Assistant Co-ordinator).

Creating Virtual Realities

Towards A More Connected World: Piloting an Innovative Indo-US Professional Exchange

Towards A More Connected World: Piloting an Innovative Indo-US Professional Exchange: is a collaborative project between Stella Maris College and the Eastern Iowa Community College District (EICCD), USA.

The project, which began in Nov. 2005, has continued with further developments like virtual classroom interactions and visit of the EICCD team. As part of the project, a course titled 'Contemporary Issues' that focused on issues and concerns between USA and India was drawn up by the departments of Economics, Social Work and Sociology. It aimed at professional exchange between educators and community leaders in India and Iowa.

The specially designed syllabus had a unique methodology with components of classroom teaching, direct and professional exchanges,

virtual classroom based exchanges and readily available internet-based communication technology. The project has successfully completed its second year of implementation.

The technology-based communication between Stella Maris and EICCD began in August 2007 and preparation for the interactive sessions on 'Globalization' commenced in September. The students of Stella Maris and EICCD researched and shared their views on the blog. This culminated in an interactive videoconference between the faculty and students in both countries with both teams presenting their viewpoints on globalization. The students from Iowa were surprised to find Stella Marians dressed in western casual clothes and speaking Queen's English! The completion of three interactive sessions marked the pioneering, successful, innovative attempt at

bridging distances through the virtual classroom and establishing real time connection between students who might otherwise never have connected.

The success of the course prepared the ground for the meeting between the team from Iowa and the team from Stella Maris when they visited the college from Nov. 20 – 25, 2007. The team from Iowa comprised Dr. Jeff Armstrong, Dean, Muscatine Community College and International Education Director, EICCD, Dr. Lanell Mogab, Coordinator, Department of Communication, Clinton Community College and Professor Eric Carr, Department of Political Science, Scott Community College.

The visit of the EICCD team concluded with a visit to a village in the development of which Stella Maris has been involved.

Dr. Ms. Benita Marian

Co-ordinator- SMC -EICCD Project



A HOUSE FULL OF BOOKS

The Stella Maris College Library is well-stocked and up-to-date with the latest. A new feature introduced in the library is a collection of Autographed Books of authors who visited the Library. As part of the Diamond Jubilee year celebrations two movies were screened for the retired faculty: 'Pride and Prejudice' and 'Water'.

An online tutorial known as the 'Information Resource' was prepared for students to make them more information literate. A talk on 'Internet as an Information Resource' by Ms. Wendy Zaman, Information Resource Officer, American Embassy, New



Delhi, was organised at Stella Maris College on January 24, 2007.

The existing conference room was remodelled into an audiovisual room for the smooth functioning of the certificate course in documentation and information science and also for the screening of CDs from the library collection.

More computer terminals have been provided for Online Public Access Catalogue Search (OPAC) as well as for students to view their attendance. The list of periodicals available in the library was brought out as a booklet.

ISTD STUDENTS' CELL



The Students' Cell of the Indian Society for Training and Development (ISTD) at Stella Maris College has the unique distinction of being the first ever students' cell to be established in India. The ISTD is a national organization, affiliated to the International Federation of Training and Development Organizations, Geneva. Professional Managers in the fields of Personnel Management, Human Relations Management, Training and Development etc., are members of ISTD.

The activities of the Students' cell of ISTD at Stella Maris College focus on three main areas: Development of Self, Development of Group Skills and Team Work and Development of Professional Skills. The activities for the year commenced on July 28, 2006.

In September 2006, the ISTD held a workshop on 'Transformation and Confidence Building' conducted by the members of People First, a trust promoted by

Development Alternatives working in the field of appropriate technology, environmental system and institutional development.

The ISTD Students' Cell also hosted the Annual convention of ISTD Students' Cell of Chennai Chapter, on February 26, 2007. Its theme was 'Emerging Trends in HR - A Global Perspective'. Mr. P. K. Mohapatra, President and Chief Executive, IT and Telecom Business and member of the Management Board of RPG Enterprises, was the guest of honour.

The students enrolled in the ISTD have gained immensely from the exposure and the training imparted. The faculty members in charge of the ISTD, Dr. Mrs. Sundari Krishnamurthy, Head, Department of Public Relations and Mrs. Rashida, Head, UG department of Commerce, guided the students in all their endeavours.

Student Enrichment Cell

Stella Maris College Student Enrichment Cell was inaugurated on July 27, 2006 with the objective of providing counseling services to students who require psychological assistance and guidance. Two trained staff members are available on campus for the same.

Sessions on Personal growth and development are regularly conducted for Undergraduate and Postgraduate students.

Dr. Emma Gonsalves gave a lecture on counselling to a group of fourteen faculty members of the college in July 2006.

A one-day training in TA 101– Basic course in Transactional Analysis – was also conducted for a group of faculty from various departments on October 3 and 4, 2006. The Resource person was Dr. Susan George, Co-chair, Training Standards Committee, International Transactional Analysis Association.

The staff in charge of the Counseling Cell attended a week's session on 'Effective Counselling' sponsored by the United Board for Christian Higher Education (UBCHEA), at Scripture Union, Chennai, in February 2007.

PREPARATORY BRIDGE COURSE



The college offers a one year preparatory Bridge-Course designed primarily for students who have completed school and who need preparation before they can join college. The course offers intensive training in English Language and Life Skills. It also allows

students to attend classes in the disciplines they may want to choose in the following year.

Sr. Clamma Joseph fmm is the co-ordinator of the programme and a full time faculty. She invites faculty from other departments of the

college to contribute to the programme. While Faculty, Postgraduate and M.Phil. students from the Department of English. take classes several guest faculty are also invited. She is ably assisted by Ms. Prema and Ms. Chandy.

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

BIOINFORMATICS

A new academic year always brings with it the joy of meeting colleagues, students and friends, new faces on the faculty team, new ventures and freshness in every step. The newly painted buildings, clean classrooms and laboratories are a welcoming sign. It was so for the Department of Bioinformatics, which looked forward to a new computer laboratory. Thanks to the generosity of the management and financial assistance from the UGC under its Scheme for Innovative Programmes, the department was able to procure twenty-one new workstations (IBM) and peripherals for the new laboratory. Students work on Linux and of the department has opted for Free and Open Source Software.

In this connection, the Department conducted a workshop for students on Free Open Source Software (FOSS), in collaboration with NRC FOSS, AU-KBC, Chennai. Dr. S. Srinivasan, project scientist, was the resource person along with Mr. Raman from Southern Railway Hospital and other eminent persons working in the field of FOSS.

The following guest lectures were organized by the department for the students:

- Mr. Kenneth Gonsalves, Associate, NRC-FOSS, AU-KBC, Chennai, on Python
- Dr. C. N. Ramchand, Director, Research and

Development, Kemin Nutritional Technologies (India) Ltd., on Molecular Modelling for Drug Designing

- Sr. Francisco Nirmala, fmm, Department of Physics, Stella Maris College, on Molecular Dynamics
- Dr. V. Narmadha, Faculty, Women's Christian College, Chennai, delivered a lecture on Dynamic Programming

The academic year concluded with the department offering a one-day workshop, on April 24, 2007, on Linux, for the faculty of the college. Dr. S. Srinivasan from NRC- FOSS, Ms. Leela Lakshmi (Faculty, Department of Computer Science, Stella Maris College), Ms. Akilandeswari and Mr. Senthil Kumar from NRC FOSS were the resource persons.

The faculty of the department also provided and guided the students of Loyola College in their project work.

Dr. Ordetta Mendoza fsm was invited by the Xavier Board of Higher Education in India, (XBHEI) to attend its Triennial Conference at Christ College, Bangalore, in May 2007.

BOTANY

The Department of Botany organized a series of lectures and workshops to provide students with the required academic exposure.

Lectures Organized:

- Dr. John P. Tharakan, Professor of Chemical Engineering, Howard University, Washington DC, USA, and a visiting US Fulbright scholar at New College, Chennai, delivered a lecture on 'Biological Treatment of Hazardous Wastes Using Microbes and Earthworms', on July 24, 2006. This lecture interested faculty and students alike.
- Dr. Sampath Kumar, Professor, Venkatramana Ayurveda College, Chennai, delivered a lecture on 'Basic Principles and Concepts in Ayurveda', on July 24, 2006.





Dr. John P. Tharakan, Professor of Chemical Engineering, Howard University, Washington DC, with some faculty members from the Botany and Zoology departments

■ Mr. Rajan Balakrishnan, Managing Director, Sankunnis Ayurvedic Research Foundation Pvt. Ltd, Chennai, delivered a lecture on 'Adulteration and Standardization of Drugs', on August 17, 2006.

■ Dr. T.S. Lokeswari, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology, Sri Ramachandra College and Research Institute (Deemed University), delivered a lecture on 'Cloning and Detection of Banana Bunchy Top Virus', on February 12, 2007.

Students attended a three-day workshop on Entrepreneurship Development in collaboration with the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board, from October 5 to 7, 2006. The students also visited Visible Difference – Beauty Clinic and Institute of Cosmetology, where Ms. Vasundra, Cosmetological Aesthetician, demonstrated facial and hair care using herbal products.

CHEMISTRY

The Department of Chemistry initiated a 'Research Academia Linkage' with IGCAR, Kalpakkam, involving Departments of Physics, Botany, Zoology, Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, Mathematics and Computer Science.

The department co-ordinated an inter-collegiate lecture at CLRI, on July 18, 2006, by Dr. Ramamurthy, Michigan State University, Michigan, USA, who delivered an interesting lecture on 'Dancing Biomolecules with special reference to NMR'.

Dr. Miklos Nyerges, Research fellow with the Hungary Academy of Sciences, Department of Organic Chemical Technology, Technical University of Budapest, Hungary, delivered an inspiring lecture at Stella Maris College on

'1, 3 dipolar cyclo addition reaction of azomethine ylides', on February 28, 2007.

COMMERCE

Programme in Retail Banking

The Department of Commerce launched the Certificate Course 'Programme in Retail Banking', in collaboration with Scope International Pvt. Ltd., of Standard Chartered Bank. At the inaugural function, Mr. P.K. Raman, Senior Vice President, Consumer Banking Operations, Standard Chartered - Scope International, addressed the students on the growing influence of Retail Banking and the career prospects available in International Banking. Ms. Vinodhini, the course co-ordinator, impressed upon the students the need for professional competence and skill development in Bank Management and encouraged them to take up the certificate programme.

Seminar on New Age Advertising:

The Department of Commerce also conducted a one day seminar on 'New-Age Advertising' as part of the celebrations and in keeping with the growing influence of media and communication technology. Mr. Chandrasekar, CEO, Ideo Praxist Communications, delivered the keynote address on 'Brand or Perish' and engaged the second and third year Commerce students in an interactive session on 'The Making of a TV Commercial', which was greatly appreciated by all.

Mr. Subramaniam, Branch Head, FCB - Ulka Advertising Agency, laid emphasis on Brand-Image Building in the launch of an Ad Campaign, by outlining a real life version of 'The Story of a Brand' and highlighted the creative elements in the making of an Ad Campaign. The seminar concluded with an interesting talk on 'Creativity in Advertising' by Mr. Narayanan G. Vincent, Branch Head and Creative Director, TCG Communications Pvt. Ltd., who delivered a very interesting narration of the Ethics in Advertising as well.

The Department of Commerce, in collaboration with 'The Hindu', inaugurated a Student Chapter of the Business Line Club. It was inaugurated by Mr. V.A. George, President, India Cements on September 20, 2006. This enabled students to interact with stalwarts from the industry and gave them the required awareness of the many facets and challenges faced by Indian business and industry.

Project studies were initiated to gear students towards facing real-world business situations. The second year

students were introduced to the challenges of retailing through a study on the retail stores in Chennai. The final year students undertook a study on the working of an export-oriented unit, with particular focus on International Marketing. A study on 'Impact of Globalization on HR Practices' for the final year students of management stream, gave them an opportunity to interact with CEOs and top Managerial Personnel: Mr. P. K. Mahopatra, Managing Director, RPG Enterprises; Mr. C. Mahalingam, Vice President, IBM, Bangalore; Mr. Shekhar Ghose, Director-HRD, Indian Airlines Ltd., New Delhi; Mr. Pandia Rajan, Managing Director, MaFoi Management Consultants Ltd., Chennai; Mr. C. Venkat, Vice President, Dragoco India Ltd., Chennai; and Mr. G.D. Sharma, Vice-President – HR, Larsen and Toubro, Ltd., Chennai.

The department has on record an all time 80% in student placement in companies such as HP, HCL, HDFC, ICCI and Scope International Ltd.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Department of Computer Science organized WIZIT 2007, an Inter-Collegiate festival, to promote the talents of students. Twenty-five colleges located in Chennai, participated in the event.

During the academic year 2006 – 2007, about 45 students of III B.C.A. attended various campus recruitment programmes, of which 40 were placed in leading companies.

Lectures organized

- 'Emerging need for Networking Engineers', by IIHT
- 'Technical Writing', guest lecture by Ms. Christina Surrao of Syncfusion
- 'Higher Education Avenues', by Times, Chennai
- 'XML and .Net Projects' for postgraduate students, by Ms. Kanchan from Scintel
- 'Emerging trends in Multimedia', by Arena Multimedia.

ECONOMICS

The Scholar-in-Residence Programme of the Department of Economics was hosted from September 12 – 14, 2006. Dr. C.P. Chandrashekar of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, and Dr. Manabai Majumdar of the Center for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, were the scholars-in-residence. Dr. C.P. Chandrashekar addressed areas in economics, ranging from understanding the causes of global macro-economic imbalances to approaching the Keynesian general theory in the Indian agrarian scenario.

He also discussed the different shades of the ongoing IT boom in India, by looking at issues such as product heterogeneity, barriers to entry, SMEs, dominance of corporate players and WTO obligations.

Dr. Manabi Majumdar, highlighted the delicate parameters surrounding the much debated efficiency criteria in the environmental context. Citing examples of land acquisitions and SEZs, she spoke about the growing need for an inter-disciplinary approach, by re-examining the process of development through green politics. She also reviewed primary education in India since Independence, specifically trading at the West Bengal experience.

Lectures Organized:

- Dr. Ms. Kalpana Kochar of IMF delivered a lecture on 'India's Development Pattern and Global Oil Prices', in July 2006.
- Dr. Ravi Chellam of UNDP discussed 'Wild life Conservation in India'.
- Dr. Kaushik Basu (Professor of Economics and Director of the programme on comparative economic development at Cornell University, USA) spoke on the topic 'Game Theory and Traveler's Dilemma', in February 2007.

Facilitating the growing importance of environmental economics, the department played host to Dr. David Martin, Professor of Economics, Davidson College, North Carolina, USA, who presented the pre-analytical vision of environmental economics from the new classical perspective, in October 2006. Prof. Padmini Swaminathan delivered the Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent endowment lecture on 'Industrialization Value Chain Analysis with Special Reference to the Cashew Industry', in October 2006. Dr. Venkatesh Athreya, MSSRF, Chennai, discussed the Union Budget in March 2007, which helped the students realize that the focus of any budget should be the common people.

ENGLISH

The Department of English brought out the annual Literary Journal, featuring scholarly articles by faculty and students. To enhance the knowledge of students and provide them with the required exposure on the recent developments in the field of Literature, the department organized various seminars and lectures with academicians of rank and writers as speakers.

The department ventured on an innovative language teaching exercise for the tribals of Perumalmalai, Kodaikanal. Ten students specializing in English Language Teaching from I M.A. availed of the

opportunity to validate their academic inputs, by offering a course in Communicative English to 48 school-going adolescents, for a month.

A team of faculty, Ms. Jasleen Brinda, Ms. K. Latha, Ms. Tanya C. Lawrence, Ms. Nazneen Marshall, Ms. E. Sharon, Dr. Sumathi Shivakumar and Ms. Elizabeth Simpson, produced a Workbook, financially supported by the UGC, to be used as resource in Language Teaching by both learners and teachers.

FINE ARTS

The Department of Fine Arts explored the various possibilities offered by the broad spectrum of the discipline through workshops, projects, exhibitions, seminars artists' camps, and publications.

Ms. Jaya Jaitley, former MP, delivered the 'Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry Endowment Lecture' on 'Indian Crafts Journey', in August 2006.

The department, in association with the Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre, jointly presented a philatelic exhibition – stamps, first day covers and post cards from Hungary were on display. Thematic collections and stamps on various personalities, such as Mother Theresa and Mahatma Gandhi, caught the eye of the viewer. This was to commemorate the birth centenary of Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry and her contribution to the field of art pedagogy. Dr. Imre Lazar, Director of the Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre, New Delhi, inaugurated the exhibition held in August 2006 in the college premises.

Projects undertaken by the department offer hands-on experience to the students of textile design and other design-related industries. The projects commissioned to the department and co-ordinated by faculty members include Co-optex, a government agency that commissioned the designs for silk saris, cotton saris and salwar kameezes. The project was titled according to the designs as Kala (silk sarees), Kalpana (cotton saris) and Kanya (salwar kameez) and was co-ordinated by Ms.

Alamelu N. and Ms. Mallika Madhavan. An NGO - M.Rm.Rm. Foundation, a non-profit organization involved in reviving the Chettinad sarees and designs, approached the department to develop designs for a set of coordinated home furnishings and accessories. The project involved first-year postgraduate students specializing in Textile Design and was co-ordinated by Ms. Sumithra Dawson. A project of a different nature was the Tyre Surface Designs, offered by MRF, which falls under the category of Industrial Designs and was co-ordinated by Dr. Ms. Ashrafi Bhagat and Ms. Swapna Sathish. The innovative and creative efforts of the undergraduate students were well appreciated by the agency.

Ms. Margaret Thomas was selected to be the UBCHEA visiting scholar at Wellesley College, Boston, USA. Dr. Razia Tony was nominated to the Encyclopaedia Publications Committee, Department of Culture, Government of Kerala. She was invited by Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, to participate in a National Artists Camp and exhibitions in Kashmir and Kerala, in November-December 2006.

Exhibitions help the students to use the basic skills they have learnt to express their creative ideas. The corpus of work evolved and developed by the students was displayed in Lalit Kala Galleries, in March 2007, inviting critical response from the public. Eminent artist, Ms. Premlatha Seshadhri, inaugurated the annual exhibition.

Professionals from the fields of painting, terracotta, art therapy, advertising and fashion technology conducted workshops to create a better understanding of the subject.

Workshops Organized:

- Dr. Jayashree Iyer conducted a two-day workshop on Art Therapy for the III B.A. students and for the faculty, in July, 2006.
- Ms. Margaret Buch conducted a four-day terracotta workshop with the I B.A. students, in August, 2006.
- Ms. Meera Zachariah, Executive Director of Rubecon, conducted a workshop with II P.G. Graphic





Design students on Advertising and copy writing, in September 2006.

- Ms. Anitha Manohar, Associate Professor of NIFT, Chennai, and Ms. Prithi Prabhakaran of Articulations Bangalore, made presentations for the students of the department on Fashion Design and Graphic Design, respectively, in January, 2007.

HISTORY

The college has been conducting the UGC Certificate Course in Travel and Tourism, for the third year in succession, for the entire college. The third batch of 24 students has completed the course. The students are trained in computer reservation and ticketing at the Institute of Airlines and Travel Management, Parson Complex, Chennai, and are given one month's industry internship.

The department organized a Travel Mart, in July 2006, to facilitate the arrangement of educational tours for the various departments of the college. They also conducted their annual fest from BC to AD. Prof. Mani, the Director of Collegiate education, was the chief guest.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The department has endeavoured to provide a platform for exchange between the students and academia and experts in the field, at both national and international levels, thus creating an invigorating learning and knowledge-sharing environment. As part of this process, seminars, scholar-in-residence programmes, panel discussions and public lectures were regularly conducted.

In collaboration with the Centre for Security Analysis, the department organized a national seminar on 'Conflict Transformation and Peace Building in South Asia' on

August 18, 2006. The seminar focused on academic and policy perspectives of conflict and peace building in South Asia, analysis of the matrices of conflicts and State intervention in South Asia. It also examined the issues and challenges of the South Asian state actors in Conflict Transformation and the role of international intervention.

Dr. A.K. Ramakrishnan, Director, School of International Relations, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, Dr. E. Sridharan, Academic Director, University of Pennsylvania, Institute for the Advanced Study of India, New Delhi, Dr. W. Lawrence Prabhakar, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Madras Christian College, Chennai, Dr. Arvind Kumar Associate Fellow, International Strategic and Security Studies Programme, NIAS, Bangalore, Dr. R. Madhanagopal, Professor, Department of Political Science, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Dr. R. Sridhar, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Madras Christian College, Chennai, and Mr. Gladston Xavier, Department of Social Work, Loyola College, Chennai, were the resource persons.

Lectures Organized:

- On October 3, 2006, the Ambassador of Venezuela to India - Her Excellency Ms. Milena Santana Ramirez, visited the department and Dr. Carlos Ramirez-Faria, eminent author and historian from Venezuela, delivered a lecture on 'The Independence of Latin America and Bolivar'.

- Mr. Tenzin Tsundu, General Secretary, Tibetan Youth Congress and poet, spoke on 'Free Tibet Movement', on January 6, 2007.

- On January 9, 2007, His Excellency Mr. Ajit Singh, Consul General of the Republic of Singapore, spoke on 'India - Singapore Relations'.

- The lecture series on 'India's Evolving Contemporary International Relations' was held on February 14, 15 and 21, 2007. Dr. Suba Chandran, Asst. Director, IPCS, New Delhi, and Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Regional and Strategic Studies, Jammu University, Jammu, was the resource person.

- On March 1, 2007, Mr. Gladston Xavier, Department of Social Work, Loyola College, delivered a lecture on the plight of the refugees and the human right issues confronting them. A panel of Sri Lankan refugees from the Organization of Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation, Chennai, also participated in the interactive lecture session.

- A Public Lecture on 'India - US Relations and the Post-Nuclear Deal: Perspectives and Developments'

was delivered by Prof. Stephen Philip Cohen, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies Program, The Brookings Institution, Washington DC, USA, on September 8, 2006.

The three-day Scholar-in-Residence Programme, held from December 3 – 5, 2007, and the ensuing panel discussion provided scope for discussion and dialogue on the future prospects for research and career opportunities. The programme was a scrupulous academic and capacity building exercise and drew overwhelming student participation. Dr. K.P. Vijayalakshmi, Associate Professor, Center for American, Latin American and West European Studies at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, was the Scholar for the year 2006. The theme for the Programme was 'India – United States Strategic Relations: Policy, Strategic and Technological Issues in Debate'. The programme provided a holistic understanding of the major milestones in the chequered canvas of Indo – US relations. Dr. K.P. Vijayalakshmi spoke on the major milestones in the Indo-US relations with the legacies of the cold war. This was followed by a panel discussion on 'India – US Strategic Relations: Issues and Perspectives in Debate Statement'. Dr. Arvind Kumar from NIAS, Bangalore, Dr. K.P. Vijayalakshmi, and Dr. Lawrence Prabhakar, Prof. Madras Christian College, Chennai, were the resource persons.

MATHEMATICS

The department of Mathematics conducted a national workshop on 'A Compact Course in Mathematical Modeling and Computing' (CCMMC '06 - '07), on December 13, 20, 28, 2006 and January 10, 2007, in collaboration with IIT-Madras. Prof. S. Sundar, IIT-Madras, Profs Axel Klar, Thomas Goetz and M. Nicole from Technische Universität, Kaiserslautern, Germany, and Profs Iliev Oleg, Joerg Kuhnert, Helmut Neunzert, Dr. Marion Schulz-Reese and Dr. Britta Buhlmann from Fraunhofer-ITWM, Germany, were the resource persons.

The department received financial assistance under the Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Higher Educational Institutions (FIST), from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. The funds were for the development of a computer laboratory. It has also sanctioned a grant for the purchase of books, with the aim of introducing a scientific computing environment based on mathematical approaches, to cater to the needs of teaching, learning, research and industrial applications.

PHYSICS

The Department of Physics organized several lectures and workshops with the objective of keeping students and faculty abreast of the times, in terms of recent developments in the field.

In August 2006, the first and second year students were taken to the Birla Planetarium on an educational field trip. The lecture on 'The Evolution of the Universe' by Dr. Sournaperumal, Director, Science City, Birla Planetarium, kindled interest in Astrophysics.

On December 18, 2006, a guest lecture and demonstration on the basic concepts of Physics was delivered by Dr. M.T. Natarajan, Department of Physics, IIT Madras.

At the inter-collegiate Physics fest, 'Electra 07', Dr. V. Balakrishnan, Professor Emeritus, IIT Madras, spoke on 'The Future of Physics' and launched the journal 'Phyisk'.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Undergraduate Department

The Department of Social Work trains students in the field of development practice through workshops, camps and campaigns, which form the core of the Social Work Degree Programme.

The department, in collaboration with Liverpool Hope University, UK, signed an MoU with DELPHE (Development Partnerships in Higher Education), Madras Christian College, Chennai, and Bishop Heber College, Trichy, with the objective of building sustainable communities.

Mr. John Bates, course leader (BSW), Liverpool Hope University, visited the college on November 24, 2006, to initiate a student-exchange programme. During his visit he gave a lecture on 'Globalization and Social Work: Recapturing the Soul of Social Work'.

Dr. Ms. Sandra Joseph attended the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) Directors' meet held at Paris, France, as the director of the project on Drug Use/Abuse in Asian settings.

Postgraduate Department

The department conducted two research studies: The first, sponsored by UNICEF, pertained to the educational situation of children in Nagapattinam, in the age group of 10-14 years. The study, with a budget outlay of 3 lakhs, was carried out in October– November 2006. The second was a case study of Tsunami survivors of coastal Tamil

Nadu, in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, and Action Aid Research. The investigators were 12 students and 4 social work professionals and the study was conducted in November 2006.

The department also held two training programmes. 'Yuva Shakti for Promotion of Child Rights: Capacity Building Programme for Youth in Child Rights in post-Tsunami Tamil Nadu' was organized in collaboration with UNICEF, Nehru Yuva Kendra, TISS and NYKS, from September 6 to October 12, 2006. Participants were youth from Tsunami affected districts of Kancheepuram and Cuddalore. A Twenty-day programme on Child Rights for two groups of seventy-four youth from tsunami-affected districts of Kancheepuram, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam, was organized between October and December 2006.

The department also won the overall shield for 'The Best Participation' at the International Conference on 'Human Rights and Education' held in October 2006, at Madras Christian College, Chennai.

A three-day residential workshop, 'Youth in Self-development and Community Welfare', was held for twenty-five youth, in collaboration with the Slum Clearance Board, Government of Tamil Nadu, in March 2007.

The Sr. Thecla Endowment Lecture was delivered by Dr. Frank Tesorerio on 'Social Work and Human Rights: A Way Forward in an era of Globalization'.

Dr. Ruth Manorama, Director of Women's Voice, Karnataka, and President, NWFED, an alumna of the college, was the recipient of the Right Livelihood Award (Alternate Nobel Prize). She was felicitated by the department, on February 16, 2007.

SOCIOLOGY

The Department of Sociology, with its objective of training students in organizational management, conducted a series of events, with an accent on uniqueness and social relevance. Mr. Karthik Kannan, Channel Manager, Interactive Services, Sulekha.com, spoke on 'New Media', on July 24, 2006.

On August 11, 2006, Mr. Eric Miller, Ph.D. scholar, delivered a lecture introducing the concept of folklore. He focused on what he called 'process-centered perform-centered' situations. The advantage of technology in cultural confluence was highlighted by the videoconference between the Tamils in Tamil Nadu and the Tamils in the USA.

'Deliberating Dialogue on the Domestic Violence Act', a panel discussion was held on December 5, 2006. The resource persons, Ms. U. Vasuki, Social Activist, AIDWA, Inspector Ms. Saraswathi, All Women's Police Station, Chennai, and Ms. Sudha Ramalingam, Advocate, accentuated the need for gender sensitization. A few victims of domestic violence shared their experiences. For the first time, students of co-educational schools were invited to the programme, along with students of colleges in the city.

ZOOLOGY

The year 2006 – 2007 marked the Golden Jubilee of the Department of Zoology.

The yearlong celebrations which began in November 2006, was inaugurated by Prof. T.N. Ananthkrishnan, Former Director, ZSI and Entomology Research Institute, Loyola College, followed by a presentation on the 50-year record of accomplishments of the department and a session, where the alumnae, Ms. Kamala Parasuram from Kappa Electricals, Ms. Shiranee Pereira from ICARE and Ms. Vidya Swaminathan shared their experiences.

In a pioneering effort to reduce use of animal dissections done in Zoology practical classes, the Department of Zoology organized a one-day workshop on 'Use of Simulators as Alternative to Dissections'. The Chief Guests were Dr. Muthukumaran, Member Secretary–Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education and Prof. M.A. Akbarshah, Department of Biological Sciences, Bharathidasan University. The workshop explored the effectiveness of the use of simulators in teaching animal anatomy and highlighted the need to protect animals. Students and faculty from different colleges in Chennai participated in the workshop.

Dr. John Tharakan, Professor of Chemical Engineering, Howard University, Washington DC, USA, delivered a lecture on 'Biological Treatment of Hazardous wastes using Microbes and Earthworm'. A popular lecture on 'Fertility and Infertility' was delivered by Prof. Arun M. Dharmarajan, School of Anatomy and Human Biology, University of Western Australia, for the students of the department. Students of other colleges were also invited to the lecture.

A two-day workshop on *Drosophila* (fruit fly) culture was conducted by Dr. Srinivasan of Vel Tech Institute. The department organized an awareness and screening camp for diabetes. An awareness campaign on cervical cancer was organized and a short documentary was screened for the students and the faculty, followed by a lecture by Dr. Jagdeesh Chandrabose, Surgical Oncologist,



Government Hospital, Royapettah, Chennai.

Dr. Ms. Anita Balachandran, Senior Scientist, Shasun Chemicals, delivered the valedictory address of the Golden Jubilee celebrations. She spoke on 'Recombinant Proteins: Cloning and Expression'.

The visit of Dr. Jane Goodall, the world renowned primatologist and the United Nations messenger of peace, sculpted a glorious moment in the history of the department when she addressed the entire student body at the OAT. The call of the chimpanzee floated across the OAT and Dr. Goodall's appeal to nurture and preserve our environment, left a lasting impression.

The Department also organized a one-day exhibition and a 'Dog Show' in collaboration with the Paw Pals Club. Dr. R .Balasubramanian, Secretary, Animal Welfare Board, was the judge of the competition. The main thrust of the show was to inculcate the value of love and respect for animals. Consequently, the Blue Cross was invited to bring pups for adoption. Every pup found a loving home at the end of the show. As part of the Dog Show there was a demonstration by the dogs of the Police Department.

The Dr. Meera Paul and Dr. Hannah John Endowment Lecture was delivered by Mr. Shekar Dattatri, a renowned wild life filmmaker. His inspiring lecture on wild life conservation in India was followed by the screening of his short documentary on the degradation of Kudremukh forest.

LANGUAGES

The Department of French was honoured by visitors from France. Reporters of FIDESCO from France visited the department and interacted with the French students. A short film was made on their volunteer Ms. Violaine Huysmans, who had taught French in the department for two years. Ms. Violaine Huysmans lent her voice to the CD accompanying the forthcoming French text, to be published jointly by the Universities of Madras and

Pondicherry. Her activities on the campus were covered on the site www.imageinnations.org.

The Department of Hindi conducted a national workshop on 'Effective Class Room Teaching Methodology' on January 7, 2007, in which 200 teachers participated.

Dr. Ms. Vijayalakhmi Ramaswamy formulated the Tamil Syllabus for Singapore University, based on folklore of Tamil Nadu.

Awards conferred on the faculty:

- Tamil Nadu Hindi Academy, Chennai, awarded Dr. Ms. Madhu Dhawan the distinguished Academician Award, on March 17, 2007.
- Tamil Nadu Hindi Academy, Chennai, awarded Dr. Ms. Srabani Bhattacharya the Academy Award, on March 11, 2007, for her work in the field of translation.
- Dakshin Bharath Hindi Prachar Sabha, Chennai, awarded Dr. Ms. Madhu Dhawan distinguished Literate Award.
- Dr. Ms. Vijayalakhmi Ramaswamy was awarded first prize by the World Writers Association for her book 'Naatu Pura Kalaigal'.
- Dr. Ms. Ulaganayaki Palani was awarded the Kavi Mamani Award by the Tamil Poets Association on January 1, 2007.

PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology offers training in leadership, group effectiveness, communication skills and team building to members of the Students' Union Council. It also conducts personal growth sessions for the undergraduate students.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Postgraduate Department of Public Relations, begun as the 12th department in the Diamond Jubilee year has the vision of empowering young women to equip themselves with the latest skills and learning needed to pursue their big dreams in a multi-sectoral society. Since its inception on August 7, 2006, the department has applied no brakes on its pace or its quest for newer venues to explore.

Starting with its first semester focus area of Community Relations, the department undertook a visit in September 2006 to a village near Madurai to study the workings of a Community Based Organization (CBO). During their visit students studied the company's varied activities and the extent to which their efforts had permeated to all members of the community. The visit was organized with

funding from United States Education Foundation in India, granted to Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy, a Fulbright scholar.

After the return of students, the following months saw the staff and students come together for a different kind of activity—‘The Stand-up for Poverty Campaign’, organized in association with United Nations’ Development Programmes (UNDP). Initiated by the Guinness Book of World Records, this was a global effort where people stood up to raise their voices and show their solidarity against poverty. Food was sold and the proceeds given to Shanthi Bhavan.

The department also worked with the Confederation of Indian Organisations for Service and Advocacy (CIOSA) and Mr. O.B. Ramasubramanian and Ms. Priya Nagesh of Samanvaya, a consulting firm, to release a report on ‘Where the Gray Head is Held High – A Study of the Old Age Homes’. This report which surveyed the various kinds of old age homes in Chennai, was inaugurated on the college premises, in an event that had Mrs. Savithri Vaithi, of Vishranthi, as its chief guest and released towards the celebration of World Elderly Day, on October 1, 2006.

This was followed by a series of guest lectures delivered by distinguished visiting faculty from all areas of Community Relations – including Corporate houses – Ashok Leyland and EID Parry, Service organizations such as Insurance, Banks, Hospitals, and the Police Department; NGOs, Lions and Rotary Clubs, and UNDP. The students followed up this period with internships in the Development Sector, across eight NGOs: Ability Foundation, Alpha to Omega Learning Centre, Association for Non-traditional Occupation for Women (ANOW), Breakthrough – working with HIV AIDs affected children, New Delhi, Jeevan Blood Bank, Jeeva Jyothi for street children, Madras Dyslexia Association and RASA.

The students of the department, in collaboration with USEFI, organized ‘Environment and Community: A Student’s Conference’ for students of colleges in Chennai, with resource people from National University, Singapore, NGOs – Herb Society, Puduchery, Mahanathi, Nagapattinam and Society for the Integrated Development of the Himalayas, Himachal Pradesh. PRAKASA (PR Association for Knowledge, Attitude, Skill and Achievement), organized competitions in debate, essay writing, poster making, slogan writing and skit.

The department also organised guest lectures on the specialization for the second semester, ‘Customer

Relations’, by professionals from Indian Oil Corporation, Indian Overseas Bank, Apollo Hospitals, Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), The Taj Coromandel, Jet Airways, Consumer Action Group, Mr. Kamalanathan, PR professional from Malaysia, The New India Assurance Company and Tourism Malaysia. The students also had a full day visit to Larsen and Toubro – ECC Division, to interact with Managers of the Corporate Communication Department.

Supplementing the communication and photography workshops held till then, was the communication workshop conducted by Ms. Sarah M. Belousov of TechBridge World, Carnegie Mellon University, on the use of notice boards, wiki and blogs in computers for more effective Internet usage.

The first and highly eventful year of the department ended with Women’s Day celebrations in March 2007, with Chief Guest Mrs. Indira Dutt, President, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneur Council (SCWEC), the first Indian to occupy the post. She released 4 CDs documenting the work done during the Madurai village visits for the Social Awareness Program: learning from the community and specialization in semester I. The CDs are titled: ‘Learning from the Community’, ‘Women and Environment’, ‘Children and Environment’ and ‘Environment and Community’.

The semester ended with the students completing their internship in the corporate sector – in organizations such as Ashok Leyland, Chennai, AFL-Dascher Private Limited, Hinduja Group–Corporate Office, Mumbai, Indian Oil Corporation–Corporate Office, New Delhi and Regional Office, Chennai, Larsen and Toubro, (ECC at Manapakkam, Chennai), NTPC Limited–Corporate Office, New Delhi, Reliance – Anil Ambani Group, Chennai and TTK HealthCare, Chennai.

Thus with a multiple focus through these activities, guest lectures, workshops and field visits, the department aims to give students a firm foundation and hands-on-experience. This helps them to understand the way formal and informal organizations work, and also cultivates in them a sense of responsibility towards the community, which helps achieve the original objectives of the department, and those of Stella Maris College as well.

Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy was a resource person in an International Conference on ‘Cognitive Science: Model Based Reasoning in Science and Medicine’, organized by Sun Yat - Sen University, China, and University of Pavia, Italy, at Guangzhou, and made a presentation on ‘An examination of Model-Based Reasoning in Indian Philosophy and its Impact on Indian Science and Medicine.’

Stella Maris College

Golden Jubilee

Scholarships

During the Golden Jubilee year the following Scholarships were instituted, each with a principal of Rs.30,000/-. The interest on these are awarded to deserving students every year on a merit cum means basis. The College management is immensely grateful to the donors of these scholarships for their generous support in the cause of education

S.No	Name of the Scholarship	Instituted by
1.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sri. V.S. Tyagaraja Mudaliar Scholarship (1)	Mr. V.T. Somasundaram (In memory of Founder Chairman & Managing Director, Trichy Distilleries & Chemicals Ltd.)
2.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sri. V.S. Tyagaraja Mudaliar Scholarship (2)	Mr. V.T. Somasundaram (In memory of Founder Chairman & Managing Director, Trichy Distilleries & Chemicals Ltd.)
3.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sri. V.S. Tyagaraja Mudaliar Scholarship (3)	Mr. V.T. Somasundaram (In memory of Founder Chairman & Managing Director, Trichy Distilleries & Chemicals Ltd.)
4.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Malavika Scholarship.	Mr. M. Lankalingam Link Enterprises, Chennai
5.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan Scholarship	Dr. Ms. S. Prathiba, Chennai.
6.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Lankall S. Murugesu Scholarship	Mr. S. Murugesu Karanodai, Chennai
7.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Archdiocese of Madras - Mylapore Scholarship.	Most Rev. Dr. Arul Das James, Archbishop, Madras-Mylapore
8.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Anthony Pushpam Motha Scholarship	Dr. Mrs. Cynthia Alexander, Chennai
9.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Shreedhar Rajan Scholarship	Mr. Shreedhar Rajan, Chennai

10.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Shalini Scholarship	Rev. Fr. Joseph Sundaraj, Germany
11.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Smt. Nalli Kannammal Scholarship.	Dr. Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetti, Chennai.
12.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Dr. T.S.A. Padmanabhan Scholarship.	Dr. Mrs. Soundaram Ramaswami, Chennai.
13.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Thiru G.K. Moopnar Scholarship	Thiru. G. K. Moopnar, MP Chennai
14.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mrs. Saroja Srinivasan Scholarship	Mrs. P. Hema Chennai.
15.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Hydraulics Limited Scholarship	Hydraulics Ltd., Chennai
16.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mayor Radhakrishnan Scholarship	Dr. M. Gopalakrishnan Chennai
17.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Kailath George Scholarship	Mr. K.C.D. George Chennai
18.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sr. Celine Paul Scholarship	Franciscan Missionaries of Mary – Madras Province
19.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sr. Rose Abraham fmm Scholarship	Franciscan Missionaries of Mary – Madras Province
20.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Students Union 1995 – 96 & 1996 – 97 Scholarship	Students of 1995 – 96 & 1996 – 97, SMC, Chennai.
21.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sunny K. Peter Scholarship	Mr. Sunny K. Peter, Kochi, Kerala.
22.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Biny M. Cherian Scholarship	Mrs. & Mr. Thomas Cherian, Jamshedpur
23.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mother Klemens fmm Scholarship	Franciscan Missionaries of Mary Stella Maris Convent, Chennai
24.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Shri P Chandrasekara Kurup & Smt. Suraja C. Kurup Scholarship	Ms. Radhika Madhavan Ms. Chitra Krishnan, Faculty, Dept. of French, SMC. Chennai
25.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Alumnae Association Scholarship	Alumnae Association of Stella Maris College, Chennai
26.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mr. & Mrs. Bhavanarayana Scholarship	Mrs. Mangalam Kumaraswamy, Chennai
27.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mr. M.V. Subramaniam Scholarship	Mrs. Alamelu Subramaniam, Chennai
28.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Anil Pabanasa Nadar Seethalakshmi Ammal Scholarship	Mr. P. Krishnamoorthy Sivakasi, TN.
29.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Prof. K. Ramanujachariar Memorial Scholarship	Dr. Mrs. Padma Seshadri, Faculty, Dept. of English, SMC.

30.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Alumnae – Delhi Chapter Scholarship	Alumnae Association of SMC, New Delhi.
31.	The SMC Golden Jubilee T.K. Viswanath Scholarship	Mr. T. K. Viswanath Chennai
32.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mother Teresa Scholarship.	Mr. S. Mendoza and Family Chennai
33.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Lygia D’Souza Scholarship	Mrs. Christine D’Souza Chennai
34.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mrs. Indira Dutt Scholarship	Mrs. V.L. Indira Dutt Chennai
35.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mrs. Indira Dutt Scholarship	Mrs. V. L Indira Dutt Chennai
36.	The SMC Golden Jubilee M. Devarajulu Scholarship	Mr. M.D. Balaji, Chennai
37.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Padmavathi Sarma Scholarship	Mr. V. V. S. Sarma Chennai.
38.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Padmavathi Sarma Scholarship	Mr. V.P. Sarma, Chennai
39.	The SMC Golden Jubilee K.R. Ganesh-Thapa Reddiar Memorial Scholarship	Ms. K.R. Vatsala, Stella Maris College, Chennai
40.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Elizabeth Joseph Scholarship	Dr. Joseph C. Kuriacose Prof. IIT, Madras.
41.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Syama M. Reddy Scholarship	Mrs. Deepa Reddy Chennai
42.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Tmt. Gayathri & Thiru J. Shanmugam Scholarship	Er. S. Sambandan Chennai
43.	The SMC Golden Jubilee P. Haridas and Sudha Haridas Scholarship	Mr. P. Haridas Chennai
44..	The SMC Golden Jubilee N. Palanisamy Scholarship	Mr. N. Palanisamy Chennai
45.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Aban Scholarship	Mr. M. A. Abraham and Family ABAN, Chennai
46.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Lalitha Ramakrishnan Scholarship	Mrs. Padmamalini Sundararaghavan, Faculty, Dept. of English, SMC.Chennai
47.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mrs. Irene M .Hauserman Scholarship	Dr. Ms. Jean Cook, Sinclair Community College, Ohio, USA
48.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Dekalb College Scholarship	Asian Council University System of Georgia, USA
49.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Students Union 1997 – 98 Scholarship	Students Union, SMC, 1997 – 1998

50.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Aline Dominique Scholarship	Mrs. Aline Dominique, Pondicherry
51.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sr. Terasita Polycarpus Scholarship	Ms. Mercy Polycarpus, Kochi, Kerala
52.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mr. R.S. Jhaver Scholarship	Shri. R.K. Jhaver, Tablets (India) Ltd., Chennai.
53.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mr. L.P. Periakaruppan Chettiyar Scholarship	Mrs. L.P.S. Solatchi Achi Sree Raja Rajeswari Builders, Chennai.
54.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Missio International Kath Scholarship – 1999	Ms. Birgit Willimeck, Germany
55.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Ms. K.V. Chitra Scholarship.	Mrs. Sowmiya Anbumani, Chennai.
56.	The SMC Golden Jubilee In memory of (late) Ms. Angela Walter Scholarship.	Ms. Audrey Samuel USA
57.	The SMC Golden Jubilee PRO INFANTE Scholarship	Mrs. Carla Wiedeking PRO INFANTE, Germany
58.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Peejay Ford Scholarship	Mr. P.J. Varghese Peejay Ford, Kochi.
59.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Scholarship	Dept. of Economics. SMC, Chennai
60.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mrs. Shanthi Thomas Scholarship	Mr. Ajit Thomas Chennai
61.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Nishreen Talib Dhanaliwala Scholarship	Mr. Talib Dhanaliwala Chennai
62.	The SMC Golden Jubilee C Ramachandran Scholarship	Mr. C. Ramachandran Chennai
63.	The SMC Golden Jubilee A. Ravindran Scholarship	Mr. A. Ravindran Chennai
64.	The SMC Golden Jubilee T K Rajagoplan Scholarship	Mr. T. K. Rajagoplan Chennai
65.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Shrimathi Godavari Madhavan Scholarship	Ms. Vasudha Narayanan Chennai
66.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sr. Christine Antony Scholarship	FMM – Madras Province
67.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Saraswathy Ramayya Scholarship	Mrs. Shyamala Raman Chennai
68.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mission International Kath Scholarship – 2000	Birgit Willimeck, Germany.
69.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Dr. Mrs. Mary John Scholarship	Dr. Mrs. Mary John Chennai

70.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Dr. Sr. Flavia Scholarship	Mrs. A. Mariapragasam Chennai
71.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Students' Union Scholarship	Stella Maris College Students' Union 1999 – 2000
72.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sr. Leony Mary Scholarship	FMM – Madras Province
73.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sr. Rita Marneni Scholarship	FMM – Madras Province
74.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sr. Angel Mary Scholarship	FMM – Madras Province
75.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Arogyamma Scholarship	Dr. Arogyamma, Bangalore
76.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Smt. Meenatchiammal Memorial Scholarship	Ms. Kalpana Kandasamy UK
77.	The SMC Golden Jubilee VPSA Paramasivam Nadar Family Scholarship	Mr. A. P. Raghunathan Karaikal, TN
78.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Students Union 2001 –2002 Scholarship	Stella Maris College Students Union 2001-2002
79.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sr. Colleen North Scholarship	FMM – Madras Province
80.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Valsamma George Scholarship	Dr. Abraham & Annie Philip, New York
81.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mrs. & Mr. P.V. George Scholarship	Mr. George Kuruvilla UAE
82.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mrs. Philomena Sekar Scholarship	Mr. J. Antony Gnana Sekar, Chennai
83.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Thirumathi Rageswari Kathirvel Scholarship	Mrs. Srithini Patrick Germany
84.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mr. K. V. Ramanujam Scholarship	Mrs. K. R. Vatsala Chennai
85.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Cheranghat Narayanan Nair Scholarship	Mr. Arvind Nair Noida, New Delhi
86.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mrs. Meenakshi Sethu Scholarship	Dr. A. Meenakshi Apollo Hospitals, Chennai
87.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mrs. Valsamma George Scholarship	Drs. Abraham & Annie Philip New York
88.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Dr. Margaret Clarence Scholarship	Dr. Margaret Clarence Chennai
89.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Students Union 2002 – 2003 Scholarship	Stella Maris College Students Union 2002 – 2003

Stella Maris Millennium Scholarships

During the Millennium Year 2000 the following Scholarships were instituted, each with a principal of Rs.50,000/-. The interest on these are awarded to deserving students every year on a merit cum means basis. The College management is immensely grateful to the donors of these scholarships for their generous support in the cause of education.

S.No.	Name of the Scholarship	Instituted by
1.	The SMC Millennium Akbar Shah Scholarship	Mr. Akbar Shah LKS Gold House, Chennai
2.	The SMC Millennium S. Perumal Mudaliar Scholarship	Mr. P. Kanakarajan Chennai
3.	The SMC Millennium Scholarship	Mr. Alex John Kuwait
4.	The SMC Millennium Mission International Kath Scholarship	Ms. Birgit Willimeck Germany
5.	The SMC Millennium Ganesan Alamelu Scholarship	Mrs. G. Kaveri Chennai
6.	The SMC Millennium Students Union Scholarship	Stella Maris College Students Union, 2000-2001
7.	The SMC Millennium K. J. Jesudas Scholarship	Mr. K. J. Jesudas Chennai
8.	The SMC Millennium Fatema Talib Dhanaliwala Scholarship	Mr. Talib Dhanaliwala Chennai
9.	The SMC Millennium Mariamma Chacko Scholarship	Mr. Rajan V. Chacko Chennai
10.	The SMC Millennium Dr. Adhi Jayaraman Scholarship	Dr. Mrs. Adhi Jayaraman Nashville, TN, USA
11.	The SMC Millennium V. Kalpagam Scholarship	Mrs. Padmaja Ramachandran Chennai
12.	The SMC Millennium Suneela Thomas Salgar Endowment	Mrs. & Mr. Joseph Thomas Chennai
13.	The SMC Millennium Dr. Lalitha Kameswaran Scholarship	Dr. Chitra Sankaran née Kameswaran Singapore
14.	The SMC Millennium Mrs. Annamma Mathew Scholarship	Mr. V. M. Thomas Chennai

Stella Maris College

Diamond Jubilee

Scholarships

During the Diamond Jubilee Year 2007 the following Scholarships have been instituted, each with a principal of Rs.60,000/-. The interest on these will be awarded to deserving students every year on a merit cum means basis. The College management is immensely grateful to the donors of these scholarships for their generous support.

S.No.	Name of the Scholarship	Instituted by
1.	The SMC C. Vedachalam Diamond Jubilee Scholarship	CVM Charities Chennai
2.	The SMC Jayshree Venkatraman Diamond Jubilee Scholarship	Mrs. Jayshree Venkatraman, TAFE, Chennai
3.	The SMC P.M.Antony Diamond Jubilee Scholarship	Mr. Paul Antony Vacha Press, Chennai
4.	The SMC T.M.M.R. Thomas Diamond Jubilee Scholarship	Mr. T. Uvaraj Virudhunagar, TN.
5.	The SMC Diamond Jubilee Students Union 2006 – 07 Scholarship	Stella Maris College Students Union 2006 – 2007
6.	The SMC Diamond Jubilee Sr. Silvana Scholarship	Provincialate of Italy Franciscan Missionaries of Mary ROMA
7.	The SMC Mr. A. X. Alexander Diamond Jubilee Scholarship	Dr. Mrs. Cynthia Alexander Chennai
8.	The SMC Mrs. Rajalakshmi Swaminathan Diamond Jubilee Scholarship	Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan Dept. of Chemistry, SMC
9.	The SMC Mr. Dhandhu Swaminathan Diamond Jubilee Scholarship	Mrs. Mallika Ravi Chennai
10.	The SMC Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip Diamond Jubilee Scholarship	Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan & Ms. Mary George, Dept. of Chemistry, SMC
11.	The SMC Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip Diamond Jubilee Scholarship	Dept. of Computer Science, SMC

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI - 600 086

LIST OF OVERALL PERCENTAGE OF PASSES

BATCH : U.G. 2004 - 05

P.G. 2005 - 06

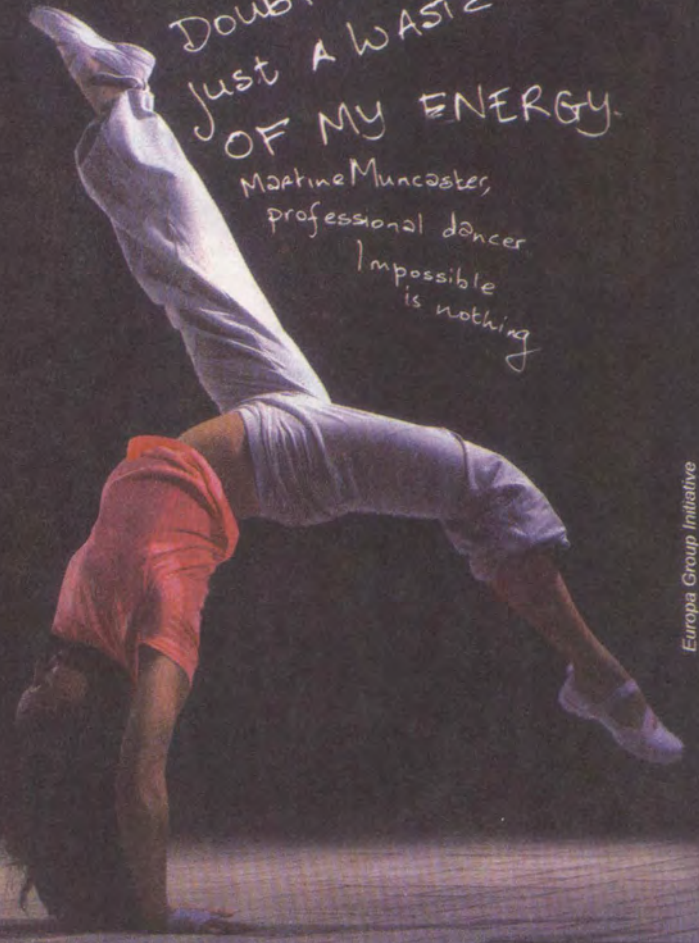
April - 2007

CLASS	APPEARED	PASSED	% OF PASS
B.A. History	40	29	72.50
Sociology	58	46	79.31
Economics	59	43	72.88
Fine Arts	42	39	92.86
English	59	47	79.66
B.Com. Section - A	69	66	95.65
Section - B	182	162	89.01
B.Sc. Mathematics			
Section - A	65	62	95.38
Section - B	51	46	90.20
Physics	45	40	88.89
Chemistry	42	42	100
Plant Biology & Plant Biotechnology	45	42	93.33
Zoology	38	32	84.21
B.C.A.	84	77	91.67
B.S.W.	33	28	84.85
M.A. International Studies	18	17	94.44
Economics	13	11	84.62
Fine Arts	12	11	91.67
English	26	23	88.46
M.S.W. Social Work	25	24	96.00
M.Com.	24	23	95.83
M.Sc. Mathematics	33	32	96.97
Information Technology	21	20	95.24
Bioinformatics	21	21	100
Chemistry	22	22	100
P.G.D.C.S.	4	4	100

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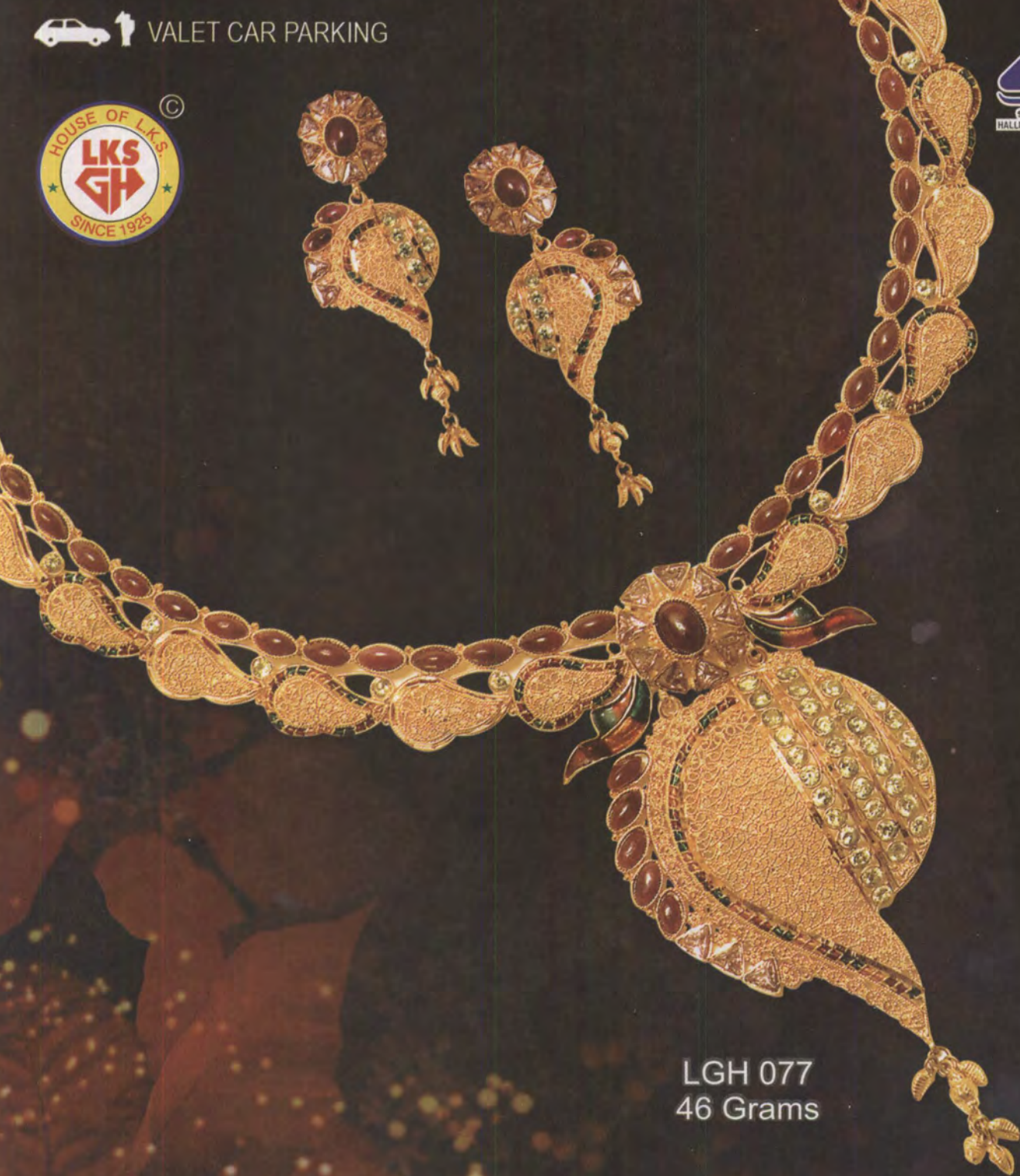


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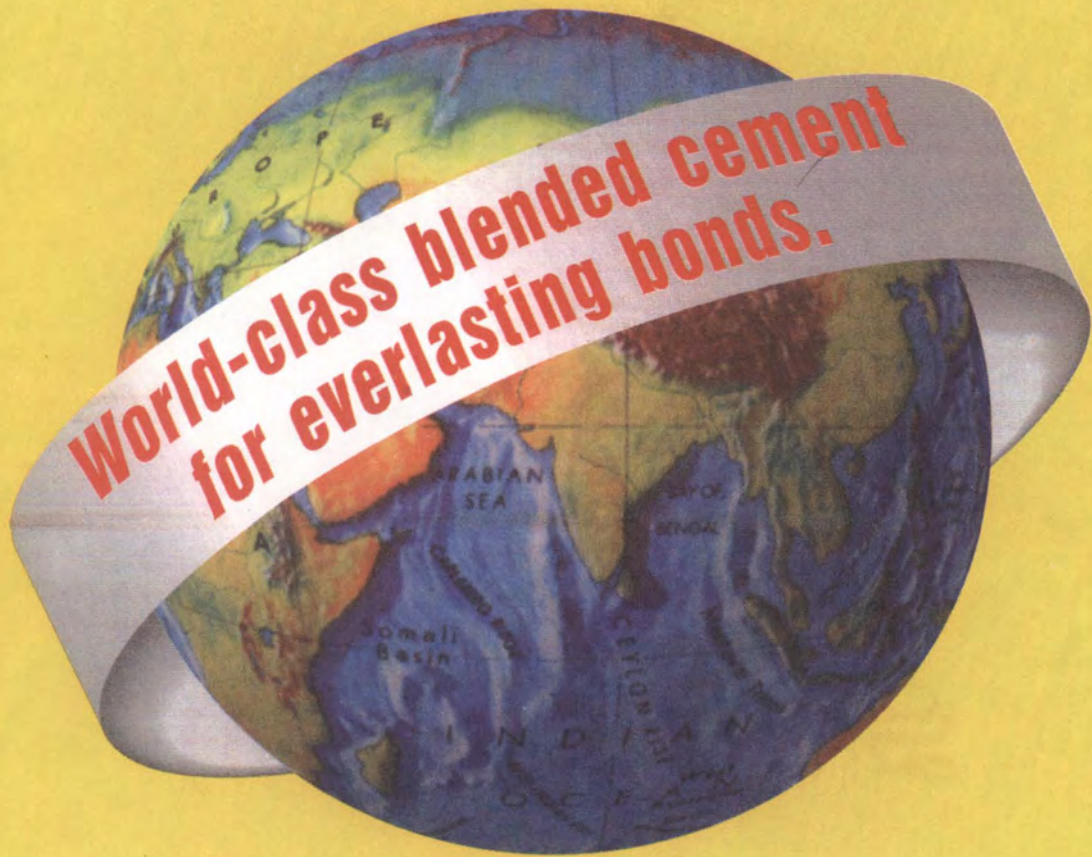


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