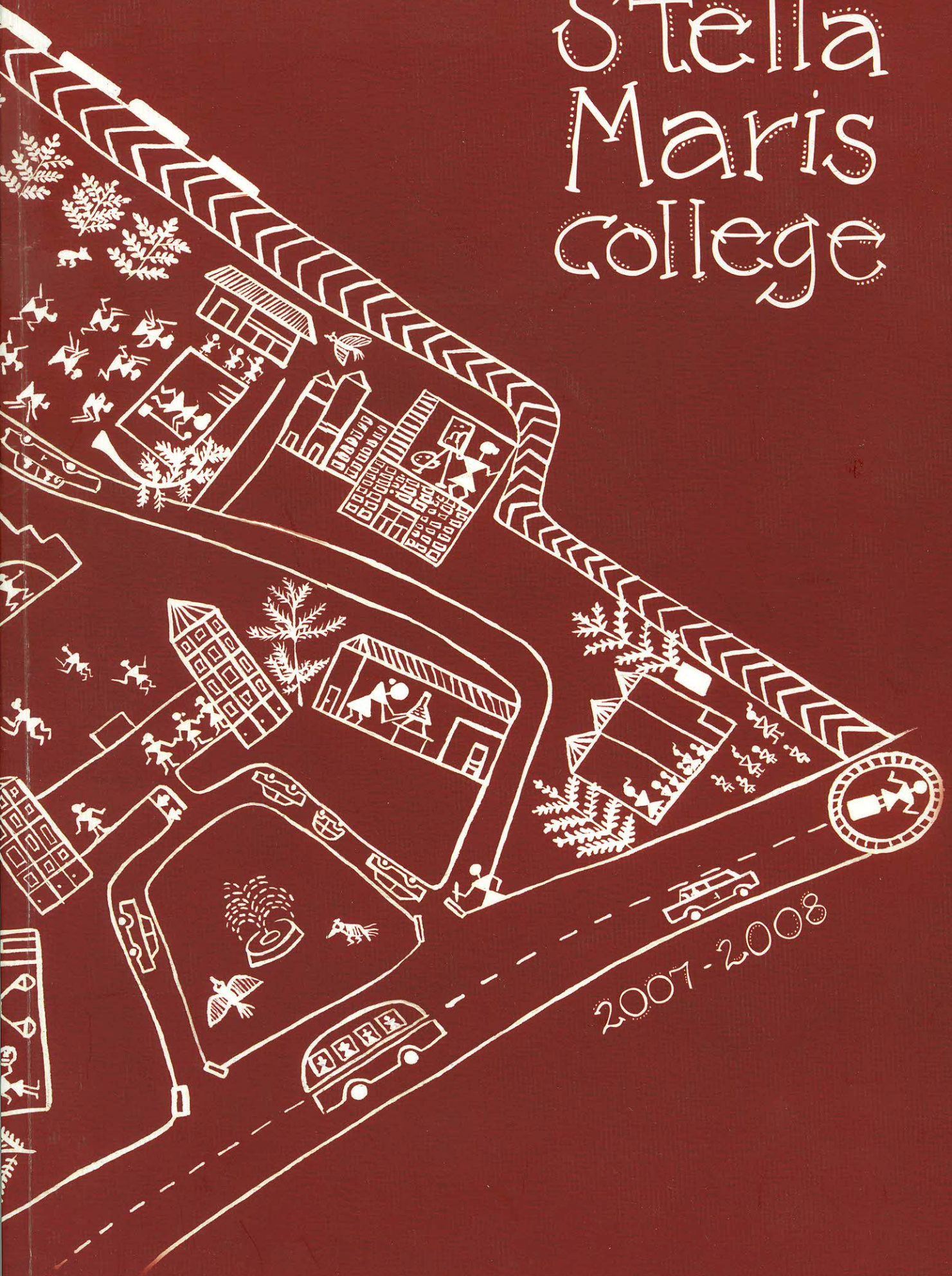


# Stella Maris College



2007-2008



Warli is the name of a tribe from Maharashtra. Warli paintings are folk paintings painted on wall surfaces using only white colour and decorated with patterns in red and yellow. This languishing craft was art was eventually revived in the early seventies and became popular due to its unique simplicity and fervour for life.

The Warli tradition with its unique figures and motifs has been used to represent the different activities and departments in the college. The cover design integrates the Warli folk tradition with the college map in which each building is symbolized by the activity performed by the department(s) housed in that building. The theme of unity, harmony and togetherness continues in the interleaf with the representation of the Warli circle of life with the use of figures holding hands, which represents the fact that irrespective of the differences in departments and individual personalities, they all come together harmoniously.

# STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

(AUTONOMOUS)

17, Cathedral Road,  
Chennai - 600086



ACADEMIC YEAR  
2007 - 2008



**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**  
**PATRON, FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF MARY**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

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;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

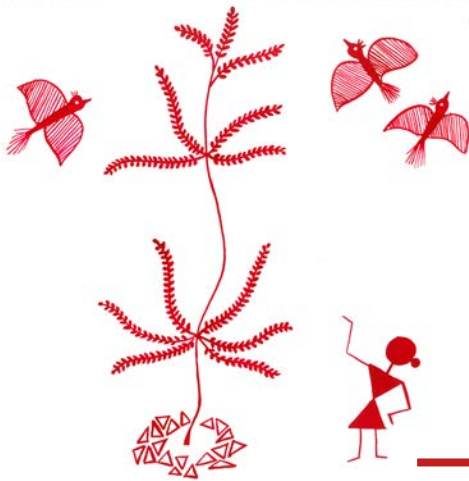


---

**BLESSED MARY OF THE PASSION**  
**1839 - 1904**

FOUNDRESS, FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF MARY

---



## The College

---

**S**tella Maris College, a Catholic institution of higher education for women is under the direction of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. Beginning in a small one-storey building on August 15 1947, with an enrolment of 32 students, the college has at present over 3600 students on the beautiful campus of “The Cloisters”, on Cathedral Road, Chennai.

The college became autonomous in 1987 and has 13 undergraduate and 12 postgraduate programmes. Research programmes such as M.Phil and Ph.D, as well as postgraduate diploma courses are part of the academic programmes.

The college motto is *Truth and Charity*. Blue and gold are the colours on the Stella Maris standard: blue symbolizes truth, loyalty and fidelity and gold symbolizes love, zeal and charity. “Stella Maris” in Latin means “Star of the Sea” and the college emblem represents a ship sailing on stormy waters, led on by a star.

The Vision of the college is to build a vibrant and inclusive learning community in a culture of excellence sustained by a sound value system that promotes responsible citizenship and affects social change.

The Mission of the college is to empower young women to face the challenges of life with courage and commitment, to be builders of a humane and just society and to promote a learning community in which all, especially those from less-privileged backgrounds, feel part of the collaborative high quality educational process which is value based and leads to holistic growth.

In the year of the millenium the college was accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council and awarded Five Star status.

*“Stella Maris, shine on our lives forever and draw us ever upwards”*



## Contents

Editorial.....	1
A Tribute: Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip fmm.....	
College Day, 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2008: Annual Report.....	
Felicitations : Dr. Savithri Sankaran..... Dr. Sundari Krishnamoorthy.....	
NSS Report.....	
NCC Report.....	
Sports Report.....	
Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access.....	
Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme.....	
Department Reports.....	
Faculty Ph.D Degrees 2007-08.....	
Library Report.....	
Students Union Report 2007-08.....	
Club Reports.....	
Dragon: In all his Glory.....	
The Making of Dragon - From the Wings.....	
Ushas : Art Exhibition 2008.....	
Bio- Ethics.....	
A New Country, A New Campus.....	
Kabir – A Weaver of Love.....	
Stepping out of ‘Comfort Zones’.....	
The Mulberry Tree.....	
Jusqu’ ou aller?.....	
Tamil section.....	
Hindi section.....	



### By way of ushering in the new...

*"To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield"*

Alfred Tennyson

Stella Maris College is sixty years 'young', energetic, efficient and continually seeking wider horizons. This becomes obvious at this moment of taking stock of the activities of the college in the past year.

In retrospect, the activities of the Departments, Clubs, Co Curricular and Extra Curricular activities of the College leave one with a sense of both joy and misgiving : one always feels there is so much more to be done. The seminars and workshops conducted have thrown open newer vistas in the respective fields and opened up plentiful avenues for fruitful sharing and collaboration. The laurels won have made us more accountable to sustain the lofty standards achieved thus far. Therefore this becomes a chance to introspect and take stock before the next step is taken.

This edition of the College Magazine also contains a compilation of poems and articles which are the response of an active and concerned civic community to the growing turbulence of the present times. Some of the thematic concerns include a Tamil poem on natural disasters like tsunami, a short story on the reconciliation of a family, an article on bio- ethics, the personal journey of a teacher in coping with ever-growing areas of study and an article on Kabir as a weaver of love - all of which are a reminder of the need to live with each other in peace and amity.

Stella Maris College bid farewell to Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip fmm who had tirelessly served the institution as its Principal for eighteen years always striving towards greater excellence. The college looks forward to fresh challenges and greater heights to conquer. Stella Maris has inherited a dream, an ambition and the will to excel in everything it undertakes. The most important task, however, is to 'humanise' humanity looking forward to a 'heaven of freedom' whose 'walls are not broken into narrow domestic walls.'

### Editorial Committe:

Ms. Aarti S, Department of International Studies  
Ms. Durga Gopalan, Department of Fine Arts  
Dr. Millie Nihila, Department of Economics  
Dr. V.Padma, Department of English  
Dr. S.Sujitha, Department of English

### Design & layout:

Ms. Durga Gopalan, Faculty, Dept. of Fine Arts  
Ms. Samyukta Baliga, II M.A. Fine Arts  
Ms. Sandhya Krishna, I M.A. Fine Arts  
Ms. A.B. Sree Vaijyanthi, I M.A. Fine Arts  
Ms. P. Madhumita, I M.A. Fine Arts



## A Tribute

Dr. Sr. Annamma Phillip

### She led the College through its Gold and Diamond Jubilees

“To be a woman in the [twenty-first] century is to be a creature caught in a time of change. And change is an opportunity for women to define themselves.”



*Dr. Sr. Annamma Phillip fmm*

Dr. Sr. Annamma Phillip fmm, Principal of Stella Maris College from 1990 to 2008 has been the woman behind the tremendous growth and progress of an Institution that prides itself in shaping and creating women of character, sensitivity and awareness, committed to social transformation and change. She began her teaching career in the Department of Chemistry in the year 1976 and served as the Vice-Principal for five years and became the Head of this prestigious Institution in 1990.

As the seventh Principal of the college, she nurtured the educational goals set by the founding mothers of the Institution, guided and inspired by the vision of Mother Mary of the Passion, the foundress of the Institute of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. Responding to the challenges of globalisation, she initiated several degree programmes: at the UG level, Computer Science and Social Work

and at the PG level, International Studies, Bio-Informatics, Chemistry, Public Relations and Biotechnology –thus maintaining a balance between the Science and Humanities Departments. She introduced the Choice-Based Credit System in 1997 to facilitate flexible and broad based education.

Add-on certificate courses were introduced to enhance the academic input of the students and to give them the competitive edge needed for the job-market. Several MOUs were signed with Universities abroad and the industry-institution bond was strengthened especially during the last decade. With support and encouragement from Sr. Annamma, the Career Guidance Cell has been successful in finding placements for our students through campus recruitment.

In addition to introducing several new academic programmes and setting up state-of-the-art facilities and laboratories to meet the emerging needs and requirements of a rapidly changing world, Dr. Sr. Annamma took the initiative to introduce socially relevant programmes such as Functional Literacy, Social Awareness, and Environmental Education. Apart from sensitising students to social realities and fostering in them a passion to serve society, these programmes have also contributed to the upliftment of socially disadvantaged women. She has also played a key role in the establishment of the Madras Community College, a novel concept in the field of education in India. True to the spirit of the founders of the college, Sr. Annamma placed special emphasis on soft skill training programmes for first generation learners and students from regional language medium. With a missionary zeal, she has built up the scholarship fund to increase access to quality education for students from the under-privileged sections.

In recognition of her contribution in the field of higher education, the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi appointed her as a member of three national committees on autonomous colleges, vocational education and identification of colleges of excellence. In her capacity as mem-



ber of the Peer Team for Accreditation by NAAC, she has contributed significantly to uphold quality standards in higher education. She is also the University of Madras nominee on the Governing Body of several colleges in the city and is a member of the Senate and the Academic Council of the University of Madras.

Sr. Annamma has held several positions of honour such as that of Vice-President of The International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), France (1994-97), UGC depute under The International Visitors Programme to study Community Colleges in USA (1995) and Member of the Syndicate, University of Madras for two consecutive terms (1992-98). As a distinguished citizen of Chennai, she was the Chairperson of the State Minorities Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu (2001-2004).

She has travelled widely to many countries and the college has benefited from this rich and varied experiential learning. Her 36 years of dedicated and committed service to the cause of higher education has won her many awards in recognition of her contribution to the cause of women's higher education in India, testifying to her eminence as an educationist and administrator. In 1994, she was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey, USA. In 1995, she received the Mahatma Gandhi Award for Service in the Field of Education from the National Integration Committee.

In 2003, she received the Mother Teresa Award for Higher Education from the National Integration Committee. The Centenarian Trust, Chennai, presented her with the Seva Ratna Award for being "an educationist par excellence."

Stella Maris believes in preparing young women to be builders of a just and humane society. Apart from the Social Awareness programmes and Extension Projects like Sangamam, Sr. Annamma was instrumental in involving the college in issues of social concern as and when the need arose. She led the college in playing a multi-faceted role in Tsunami relief and rehabilitation and this won international acclaim for the college.

"A born leader, an inspiring role model, you have dedicated your life to providing generations of deserving students an opportunity and access to higher education" quotes the Citation presented to her by a committee of Hosts in a public function.

To quote Sr. Annamma, "Eighteen years of heading the college has taught a lot about the mystery of human nature, relating with people and working with them...."

"God has blessed us with talents and opportunities, not in tiny fractions, but always in abundance, overflowing with generosity...."

"Science is advance, it goes on.... There is so much to be discovered and put to use. It only requires our generosity to invest time and share our noble thoughts to help each other in the process of growth."



*Felicitation to Sr. Annamma Philip fmm by the Department of Chemistry*



## College Day Report 2008

---

Respected Guest of Honour Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan, Vice-Chairman, Cognizant and Chairman, NASSCOM, Sr. Cecilia Joachim, Provincial Superior, Chennai Province, Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, Secretary and Superior, Dr. Sr. Florine Monis, Superior, Stella Maris, 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 proudly present...*

It is my privilege to report on the programmes and activities of the college for the academic year 2007- 2008 for the last time, since I will be laying down office as Principal at the end of this academic year, having completed eighteen years of service in this capacity. In this context, I wish to place on record my deep gratitude to Almighty God, for being magnanimous with His bountiful blessings, which enabled me to shoulder my responsibility to

the best of my ability. I wish to thank Dr Sr. Merlyn D'Sa, the then Provincial Superior of the Chennai Province, for having reposed her faith in me when she appointed me to lead this great Institution. Stella Maris had just sent out its first batch of students under the autonomous mode and it was a challenge to lead the Institution through changing times into the new millennium. I owe a great debt of gratitude to the Management, faculty and staff both retired and present, students, alumnae, parents, well-wishers, benefactors and friends for all the support and encouragement which have been the fibre, the weft and the warp of the fabric that we wove together.

I would like to place on record the services of two of our dedicated faculty members and one of our administrative staff who are retiring this year. **Dr. Savithri Sankaran**, Head, Post-Graduate Department of Mathematics, is retiring after thirty-four years of dedicated service. In her capacity as Professor, Head and Controller of Examinations, she carried out her duties with diligence and dedication. **Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy**, Head, Post Graduate Department of Public Relations, is retiring after thirty two years of untiring and dedicated service. She has served as Professor, Dean of Student Affairs, Academic Dean, and Head, Department of Sociology. Her indomitable spirit, creativity and unstinting efforts have been an asset to this Institution. **Mr. J. Antonyswami**, administrative staff, is retiring after twenty five years of valuable service. He carried out his duties with a deep sense of responsibility and meticulous care. Their retirement will leave a void, difficult to fill. We wish them a serene and happy retired life.

Stella Maris is committed to excellence and innovation in undergraduate and post-graduate teaching, research and other scholarly activities as well as service to society. As part of its commitment, the college is dedicated to a student-centred learning environment, valuing its faculty, staff, students and the diversity of their backgrounds, ideas, contributions and achievements.

Excellence and high quality of the teaching - learning process is the bastion of this Institution. Students are guided through a meticulously designed curriculum that specifically caters to their aspirations and develops their innate potential. Conferences, seminars, workshops and guest lectures have been organised to strengthen the knowledge of the students, to give them the flavour of the vast resources before them and to kindle in them a further interest in the subject.

The International Conference on *Developments in Biotechnology*, an endeavour of the newly formed Department of Biotechnology was hosted in January this year. It gave students and other participants an opportunity to interact with scientists and researchers from the east and west.



Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan, Chairman - NASSCOM

*Recent Trends in Medicinal Chemistry*, a National Conference organised by the Department of Chemistry in collaboration with Sri Ramachandra University in January 2008 was dedicated to Sr. Annamma Philip for her service as Principal of the college and Head, Department of Chemistry. The faculty of the department, past and present, also instituted an Endowment in her name. The conference was co-ordinated by Dr. Jesurietta Sathian of the department.

The Department of Social Work of our college collaborated with the Department of Social Work of Purdue University, Indiana, USA and offered them a week-long programme at Stella Maris in July 2007 on *The Indian Family and Social Work Intervention*.

A National Conference on *Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights in Disaster Interventions: Lessons from Tsunami for Future Directions* was organised

by Sangamam, an extension programme of the college in collaboration with Action Aid in December 2007.

The Department of Hindi conducted a National Seminar in January 2008 on *Cultural Unity through Hindi Literature and Official Language*. Dr. Madhu Dhawan released one of her books during the seminar.

The Departments of History, Mathematics and Economics benefited from the financial assistance given by the UBCHEA for the Scholar-in-Residence programme. Dr. Vijaya Ramaswamy, Professor, School of Social Sciences, JNU, the Scholar-in-Residence in the Department of History spoke on *Subaltern Issues in Medieval Indian History*. In the Department of Mathematics, the Scholar-in-Residence programme was conducted throughout the year with workshops on *Number Theory, Optimization Techniques, Graph Theory* and a series of guest lectures on numerical methods and statistics. Another programme sponsored by UBCHEA was the Faculty Advancement Programme of the Department of Economics. Visits and interactions with leading Economists at the Delhi School of Economics, Institute of Economic Growth, Asian Development Bank, JNU and other reputed Institutions proved to be an enriching and interesting experience for the faculty. Thanks to the generosity of the UBCHEA, the college has over the years benefited immensely, and we are grateful for their support and encouragement.

The Department of International Studies organised a National Seminar on the *Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Children* in February 2008 in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Regional Delegation, New Delhi. The Scholar-in-Residence was Jessica Wallack, Assistant Professor of Political Economy, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, University of California, San Diego, who spoke on International Development Policy.

The Department of Fine Arts invited three Art Therapists from the US, Dr. Gaylene Bodonoro, Dr. Judith Rubin and Mrs. Sangeetha Prasad to conduct a workshop in July 2007. The workshop introduced the students to art therapy. The Department also conducted workshops in Calligraphy, Painting and Paper-Making.

Our faculty continued to contribute to the academic wealth of the nation and several of them have been recognized for their contributions. Dr.

Sr. Annamma Philip was a recipient of the Best Educationist Award given by the National Integration Committee, Tamil Nadu and the Best Teacher Award for 2007 – '08 given by the Lion's Club International District 324 A-1.

Dr. Geetha Swaminathan received the Lifetime Health Achievement Award 2006, given by the Health and Education Development Association, New Delhi, in recognition of sterling merit, excellent performance and outstanding contribution for the progress of the nation.

Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy and Dr. Ordetta Mendoza were awarded Best Teacher Awards for 2007- '08, by Lion's Club International District 324 A-1.

Dr. Madhu Dhawan was given a special award for her extraordinary service to Hindi literature at the Third International Hindi Bhasha Khumb at Bangalore in March 2008. Dr. Ulaganayaki Palani was adjudged the Best Poetess in All India Poetess Speech Event organised by the Government of Mauritius in July 2007.

Congratulations to nine of our faculty on receiving their doctoral degrees: Dr. Bernadine Joseph, Dr. Sheila Mathai, Dr. Sharada Bhanu and Dr. Sujitha Solomon from the Department of English, Dr. Sandra Joseph, Department of Social Work, Dr. Maha Sampath Gowri, Department of Chemistry, Dr. Jayasheela, Department of Sociology, Dr. Preeti Mehta, Department of Biotechnology and Dr. Arockia Mary Sashi, Department of Zoology. They have done us proud by their achievement!



*Music performance*

Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy was nominated to the SCWEC's SAARC Chamber Council as Advisory Committee Member in May 2007. In this capac-

ity she organised and conducted a workshop on Communication Skills: Verbal and Visual for Women Entrepreneurs in association with the WEAB (Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh) at Dacca, Bangladesh. She also produced a CD on Capacity Building for Rural Empowerment. Dr. Sandra Joseph, Department of Social Work, was invited as keynote speaker at the International Conference on *Innovations and New Directions in Reducing Re-offending in the Community* organised by Liverpool Hope University, UK.

Dr. V. Padma, faculty of the Department of English presented a paper at the II Annual Tamil Studies Conference in Toronto and at the Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Toronto, Canada. Dr. Madhu Dhawan attended the VIII International Hindi Conference at New York in July 2007 and released three of her books at that seminar. Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza, Ms. Gayathri Selvaraj and Ms. Ramya Kumari, Department of Bioinformatics developed a database entitled PRIK, the Prion Knowledge Base. They received a fellowship to present their work at the Swiss Proteomics Society Congress 2007 *Pushing the Limits* held at Luzerne, Switzerland in December 2007.

Our capability in the teaching-learning arena extends beyond the confines of Stella Maris. The Department of Social Work organised a Refresher Course in collaboration with the Academic Staff College, University of Madras and sponsored by UNICEF, Chennai in June - July 2007 on *Child Rights for Social Work and Social Work Educators in Post- Tsunami Tamil Nadu*.

The History Department conducted an Orientation Programme in collaboration with the Academic Staff College, University of Madras for the Teachers' Recruitment Board for newly recruited History lecturers of Government Colleges.

In the ongoing collaboration with Liverpool Hope University, UK, the Under-Graduate Department of Social Work gave four students from UK, the opportunity of doing their field work training among the Todas, Badagas and Irula tribes, an experience which left them a lasting impression on them.

The Career Guidance Cell, an initiative of the Alumnae Association, has been a source of support to the college. It conducted training programmes on *Creating my Future* and on employability skills for a group of 180 students in June and November 2007 respectively. To date, 350 students out of the 450 registered with the CGC have been placed

in different companies such as Cognizant, Infosys, TCS, Wipro, Satyam, ITC Infotech etc. The placement officers have been catalysts in the college signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Cognizant and HCL Technologies.

Stella Maris College is into its third year of membership with the Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access funded by the Ford Foundation. Its mission is to empower students from disadvantaged sections of society. Thus training workshops in Life Skills, Soft Skills, Computer Application and Employability Skills are conducted by professional trainers throughout the year. A five day state level workshop on *Creating my Future* was also conducted for 43 FAEA scholars from Arts and Science and Professional Colleges of Tamil Nadu. About 300 students of the college have benefited from these workshops. The FAEA programme is coordinated by Dr. Thilagavathy Joseph, along with a team of faculty from other departments and the CGC. The first batch of FAEA students, who are presently in their third year, attended a workshop in pre-recruitment training. Of the 58 students who participated in the Campus Recruitment, 42 have received job offers from companies such as CTS, Infosys, TCS and HP. It is a matter of great happiness for us that many first generation learners have blossomed into confident young women with the support extended by the Stella Maris-FAEA collaboration.



*Rooting Ourselves...*

The Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry Endowment Lecture was delivered by Ms. Sujata Kesavan of Ray and Kesavan, Bangalore, titled *Connecting the Dots* in December 2007. The Dr. Meera Paul and Dr. Hannah John Endowment Lecture on *Mangrove and Climate Change* was delivered by Dr. Purvaja Ramachandran, Senior Scientist, Institute for Ocean Management, Anna University in February 2008. The Sr. Theckla Endowment Lecture on

*International Social Work* was delivered in September 2007 by Ms. Bhargavi Devendra, Former Honorary Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu Chapter and former student of the department. The Sr. Christine Endowment Lecture, *Social Development and Social Policy: The Interconnections*, was delivered in March 2008 by Dr. T. K. Oommen, Sociologist and recipient of the Padma Bhushan award. The Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture was delivered by Dr. Sujata Vishwanathan, Social Economist, India Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank, in January 2008. *When is a Knot the un-knot?* was the title of the Dr. J. Thangamani Endowment Lecture delivered by Dr. V. S. Sunder from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai.

The college also ensures that there is commitment to the growth and development of the Institution which includes infrastructure and other physical facilities. The Computer Laboratory in the Department of Mathematics set up with financial assistance from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India with financial assistance under the FIST Programme for 2006 was inaugurated in July 2007. The Stella Maris College Information and Technology Centre, with over 130 PCs was inaugurated on August 15, 2007. It was set up with partial assistance from the Indian Overseas Bank and houses a teaching lab, a browsing centre and a multi-media language lab. The I.T. resources in the college library including hardware and software are currently being upgraded. These will help students to have easier access to the online journals and other web-based resources.

Stella Maris is committed to developing the skills and enhancing the leadership qualities of the students through participation in co-curricular and extra curricular activities. The students of various departments showcase their organisational and management skills when they conduct their departmental inter-collegiate competitions. Cynosure of the Botany Department, Combat of the Commerce Department, Aurora of the Physics Department, Math Zoom of the Mathematics Department, Reactions of the Chemistry Department, Ecofest of the Economics Department, Flambeau of the Social Work Department, WIZIT of the Computer Science Department, and Synapse of the Zoology Department were attended by students of other colleges in the city. The healthy spirit of rivalry and camaraderie allow our students to interact with their counterparts in other Institutions. The Zoology Department also held an exhibition

on different facets of Zoology. The Department of History celebrated Chennai Week in August 2007 and World Tourism Day. In this connection, a quiz competition on the antiquity of Chennai, a poster design competition and an exhibition were organised.



*Colours - a thematic dance presentation*

Throughout the year, the members of the Students Union worked hard to maintain a high level of involvement of the student body in college activities with the guidance of the Deans of Student Affairs Sr. Kochutheresa Paulose, Dr. Christina Rajkumar and Ms. Lissie Alex. They organized several events to enable students to showcase their talents and interact with their peers. Mitra, the annual Inter-Years Competition saw the Third years as the overall winners while at the Inter Collegiate Cultural Fest Aquilae which had student participants from over 20 colleges of the State, Loyola College emerged as the overall winners. The Students Union also organized Yuvakriti 2008, a youth convention on the theme Social Responsibility. Ragapriya, an orchestra of visually challenged musicians led by Mr. Komagan of the movie Autograph fame performed Raagangal, the annual fund-raiser. The college play The Dragon staged at Sivagami Pethachi Auditorium in February 2008 won acclaim from the public.

The training by our NCC unit gives cadets the inspiration to put service before self and respond to every challenge with courage and conviction. This year too our cadets have worked hard and won laurels. The cadets attended several camps - All India Trekking Expedition to the Nilgiris, the SSP Training Camp in Gwalior, Vayu Sainik Camp at Bangalore, the Army Attachment Camp at Secunderabad, the National Integration Camps at Delhi and Nagaland, the Mountaineering Training Camp at Uttara Kashi and the Tal Sainik Camp and the

Republic Day Camp at New Delhi. The crowning glory of this year's activities came when Cadet Divya Ajit was adjudged the All India Best Cadet and the All India Best Parade Commander winning gold medals for both. She had the honour of leading the NCC contingent as its commander for the Rajpat at the Republic Day parade in January 2008.

Building on its accomplishments and recognizing its role in education in Tamil Nadu, the college reaches out regionally, nationally and internationally. Stella Maris is dedicated to working with people in rural areas furthering their educational aspirations. Ten Canadian students who began the International Children's Aids Health Programme made their first visit to India. As part of its networking, Stella Maris was their first stop in June 2007. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy. The Entrepreneurship Development Cell of the college, under the direction of Dr. Geetha Swaminathan and Ms. Teresita of the Chemistry Department conducted several entrepreneurship awareness camps. A Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme aimed at empowering women supported by DST, Government of India was held in the college from January 28 to February 27, 2008. This event with 24 participants focused on training women to be successful entrepreneurs. Dr. Geetha Swaminathan and Ms. Teresita also coordinated the Entrepreneurship Week Programme of the college as part of the nationwide week-long celebrations of the National Entrepreneurship Network. The college through its efforts and achievements during this E-Week India 2008 has earned a place in the prestigious E-Week Honour Roll 2008.

The college aware of its commitment to society and the environment ensures that programmes are organized to inculcate in students a deeper realization of their responsibilities towards both these aspects. A student's forum, Unnathi organized several programmes. The theme chosen for this year's activities was *Save the Environment* in line with the declaration of the International Year of Planet Earth at the United Nations General Assembly. Dr. Poppy Kannan ably assisted by Ms. Josephine Edward and Ms. Mary Abraham has been the mainstay of the Stella Maris NSS unit. The 319 NSS volunteers have been engaged in activities that have made a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. The Universal Peace Federation of India recognised four of our NSS volunteers, Arokia Felina and Jayaragini III B. Com, Jennifer III B. Com, and Nandini Ramesh I B.Sc

Physics as Youth Ambassadors for Peace based on their excellent service record 2006-'07. The NSS Unit represented by Poonkodi, III B.Sc Maths and Suriya, II B.A Sociology were invited by the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth and Development representing Indian Youth groups to interact with Chinese Youth delegates on NSS activities at Hyderabad. The annual Special Camp was conducted in November- December 2007 at Tiruppur village, Thiruvalluvar District. Nearly 100 campers accompanied by the NSS programme officers organized several activities on the theme Healthy Youth for Healthy India for the rural women and children. Our volunteers have also participated in other programmes including the National Youth Festival 2008 organised by the Ministry of Youth, Government of India and the Inter-State Youth Red Cross Training cum Study Camp at Bhuvaneswar, Orissa. The culmination of the year's activities was the NSS Day celebrations in February 2008. Smt. Nalini Ravindran, Director of Collegiate Education, Tamil Nadu was the chief guest.

Service Learning gives students an opportunity to extend the classroom teaching to the field. In this connection the III Year Zoology students and Dr. Annie Cherian participated in a campaign to create awareness about nutrition, health and hygiene among the women and children at Little Drops, an home for the destitute and orphans.

In the arena of sports and games, the college has a rich tradition of winning prizes and has carved a niche for itself at all levels - international, national and state. Ms. J. Swarna represented India at the XVII Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship at Jaipur and secured the V place in the Women's Doubles. She won the Gold Medal in the team and Doubles event at the All India Public Sector Table Tennis Tournament at Baroda in December 2007 and a Gold Medal in the Women's Team event at the South Zone Inter-University Table Tennis Tournament held at VIT, Vellore. Ms. Swarna and Ms. A. Satyabama bagged the Silver Medal at the All India Inter-University Table Tennis Championship at Kurukshetra in January 2008. They represented Tamil Nadu in the 69<sup>th</sup> All India Junior and Youth National Table Tennis Championship at Indore in December 2007 and bagged the Gold Medal in the Youth Girls' Doubles. Satyabama bagged the Gold Medal in the team event in the National Women and Youth Festival held at Thane, Maharashtra. in November 2007 and was selected to represent Tamil Nadu for the 69<sup>th</sup> Senior National Table Tennis Championship at Siliguri, West Bengal. Ms.

Swarna is ranked No 1 and Ms. A. Satyabama No.3 in Tamil Nadu. The college takes pride in acknowledging the outstanding sportsmanship of both these young women.

The college team represented by Antony Mary Stephina, Ashwitha Srinivas and J. Swarna won the Gold Medal in the VIT National Level Inter-Collegiate Championship held at VIT, Vellore and the second place in the National Level Inter-Collegiate Championship held at CMC, Vellore. Ms. Gayathri Krishnan was selected to represent the Madras University Tennis team for the South Zone Inter-University Tournament in Lawn Tennis held at Mangalore in January 2008. In the National Level Tennis Inter-Collegiate Championship held at CMC, Vellore our college team secured the second place. In the National Level Inter-Collegiate Swimming Tournament conducted by VIT, Vellore in February 2008 Mridula Rajiv secured the second place in 50 and 100 metre Free Style.

Under the able guidance of Dr. Sr. Colleen North, Value Education and Campus Ministry programmes have richly contributed to the growth and holistic formation of our students. Eminent speakers were invited to conduct sessions for them on various topics relating to ethics. To strengthen the faith formation of Catholic students, retreats were organised for them.



*Colours - a thematic dance presentation*

As I conclude this report, we thank the Almighty for His infinite wisdom that has guided us and for the gift of persons who have enriched our lives. Thanks to all the benefactors who have instituted scholarships to help the deserving students, several public and private sector organisations, the branch of the Indian Overseas Bank at Stella Maris College and Government Departments for supporting our mission of educating the youth. A

special word of thanks to you, dear parents for entrusting us with the formation of your daughters, and to you dear students, who with your youthful exuberance add to the vibrancy of campus life. To Sr. Cecilia Joachim, Provincial Superior, Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, Dr. Sr. Florine Monis, Superiors, Dr. Sr. Colleen North, Dr. Agnes Fernando and Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras, Vice Principals, Dr. Ms. Margaret Clarence, Controller of Examinations, Ms. Gigie Varghese and Ms. Chandunissa, Academic Deans, Sr. Kochutheresa, Ms. Lissy Alex, and Dr. Christina Rajkumar, Deans of Student Affairs and to all our Faculty for their commitment to

the teaching-learning process. To Sr. Ann Mathew, Bursar, Ms. Alphonsa, and the administrative staff, Sr. Hilda and the supportive staff, we extend our immense gratitude. As yet another year successfully enters the annals of Stella Maris College, I would like to leave you with this thought. In the present challenging times, we need to overcome discord, and establish universal harmony. This is a task for the coming decades and my earnest desire is that we become instruments in creating a new world order in which all people can live in peace and harmony. May the Star of the Sea continue to guide us. Thank you and God Bless!



## Convocation 2008







## Felicitations

### Gentle + Soft spoken + Straight forward = Dr. Savithri Sankaran



*Dr. Savithri*

Dr Savithri Sankaran, Reader and Head P.G. Department of Mathematics retired after 34 years of service in this college, which was also her alma mater. Having completed her B.Sc and M.Sc Mathematics in Stella Maris College, she later went on to do her M.Phil in Presidency College in 1985. She has consistently maintained a brilliant academic record from B.Sc to Ph.D. Her Ph.D. was from the Ramanujan Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics, University of Madras. Her doctoral dissertation was titled, "Structure and Representations of G-Brauer Algebras."

Dr Savithri began her teaching career in 1974 in Stella Maris College and has been teaching Mathematics for over 3 decades at both the UG and PG level and from 2002, at the M.Phil level as well.

Eager to update her knowledge and refine her teaching skills, Dr Savithri has attended several Conferences and Symposia both in Stella Maris and outside on subjects related to Mathematics and on Total Quality Management, Networking of Autonomous Colleges and Information Technology in Teaching of Sciences, besides several Faculty Development Programmes. She has published papers in both International and National journals.

Dr Savithri was the Controller of Examinations for 3 years and discharged her duties with sincerity and dedication. She served as a member of the Board of Studies and helped prepare syllabi both in Stella Maris College when it became autonomous and at the University of Madras. Dr Savithri was a subject expert on the selection panel for the recruitment of teachers in Mathematics by the Madras University for several colleges in the city. She was Vice-Principal in-charge of Stella Maris College for a short period in the year 2004. She is also currently a member of the Governing Body of the college.

During Dr Savithri's tenure as PG Head, the Department of Mathematics organized an International Conference in 'Computational, Mathematical and Statistical Methods' and two National workshops on 'Fundamentals of Fuzzy Set Theory' and 'Mathematical Modeling and Computing.' She was instrumental in setting up the FIST Computer Lab for the post-graduate Mathematics students sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology. The department also organised a Scholar in Residence Programme this year sponsored by the UBCHEA.



Gentle, soft-spoken, open and straight forward, Dr Savithri Sankaran endears herself to everyone around her. She is efficient, totally committed to her vocation as a teacher and much appreciated by her students.

## Always on the move and towards a goal -Dr. Sundari Krishnamoorthy

Sundari joined Stella Maris as a pre-university student in 1965 and graduated in Chemistry in 1969. Dr. Sundari joined the Department of Social Sciences, as it was called then, as a Lecturer in 1975. She is retiring after 32 years of unstinted service in Stella Maris as the Head, department of Public Relations.



*Dr. Sundari*

She has served the college in several capacities: as Head, department of Sociology from 1996 – 2006, Dean of Academic Affairs from 2005 – 2007, Dean of Student Affairs from 2002 – 2004 and NSS Programme Officer, 1995- 1998. She was also the Staff advisor of SPIC MACAY and the ISTD Student's cell.

Her multi-faceted personality is revealed in the many subjects she studied: Post Graduation in Philosophy, an inter- disciplinary M. Phil in Psychology and Philosophy and her Doctoral programme in Organisational Communication. She won a Fulbright Scholarship and continued her scholarly visits abroad. Needless to say, she has pursued her research interests and has presented and published several highly acclaimed papers. She has to her credit over 20 papers at the International level and 35 papers at the National and

regional levels.

Her role as a teacher extended beyond Stella Maris College. She has designed and conducted courses on Public Relations, Communication and Philosophy for Police personnel, Nurses, Management Staff, Women Entrepreneurs and Secretarial Staff. Her name is in the list of ISTD Directory of Trainers and Training Institutions.

She has a natural flair for networking. She has worked with cooperatives, NGOs, service sectors like health, transportation, banking and tele-communication for student training. She displays the highest degree of creativity in all that she undertakes. Her scripts on health have been part of the repertoire of Health Education programmes in rural and urban communities.



Both former students of Sociology and the current batch of students of the Public Relations department have a great regard for Sundari as a teacher. Her classes extend beyond the four walls. She insisted on equipping students with knowledge of current trends. Lion's Club International awarded her the Best Teacher Award 2007- 2008. She is listed in Asia's Who's Who of Men and Women of Achievement.

With her versatility and eye for detail, Dr. Sundari Krishnamoorthy is unique indeed!





## NSS Report

Two new officers, Mrs. Josephine Edwards, and Mrs. Mary Abraham were inducted to the NSS office during the academic year 2007-2008. The total enrollment of volunteers in NSS is 318.

The following are the major achievements of NSS:

The Universal Peace Federation of India recognized four NSS volunteers as Youth Ambassadors for Peace. They are Arokiya Heleena, III B.Com., Jayarakinni, P, III B.Com., D. Jennifer, II B.Com., Nandini Ramesh I B.Sc. Physics. The recognition was based on their excellent service record during the year 2006-2007.



*At the camp...*

Our NSS Unit was invited by the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development to represent Indian Youth Groups and to interact with the Chinese Youth delegates on NSS activities at Hyderabad. Poonkodi, III B.Sc.Maths and Surya, II B.A. Sociology formed a team led by Prof. Raja Husain, NSS Coordinator, University of Madras.

Joan Faustina, II B.Com was one of the four representing the Madras University in the Pre-Republic Day Parade Camp.

Stella Maris was one of the two colleges selected from Tamil Nadu to attend a five-day Inter-State

Youth Red Cross training cum study camp at Bhuvaneshwar, Orissa. Charmiene Joseph, II B.Com., Vinoliya and S. Santhya, II B.A Sociology along with Ms. Josephine, NSS Program Officer, attended the camp at Orissa. In the overall championship at the National Level they stood third.

The NSS Unit of our college conducted a blood donation camp. The Madras Voluntary Blood Bank appreciated the NSS unit for mobilizing more than hundred donors during the year. At the blood donation camp held on February 7, 2008, 159 units of blood were donated to Government Royapettah Hospital, and Government General Hospital.

The Faculty guiding the NSS activities also won laurels. The Senior Citizen Bureau recognized the services of the three Program Officers – Dr. Mrs. Poppy Kannan, Mrs. Josephine Edward, and Mrs. Mary Abraham for creating awareness among the youth on the problems faced by the elderly. They received the award from the Honourable Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ms. Subulakshmi Jagadesan.

Our NSS Unit organized several programs for NSS volunteers in the city of Chennai.

In collaboration with the Madras Christian Council of Social Service, a one-day inter-collegiate workshop on Prevention of Trafficking in women and children was organized. Mrs. Latika Saran, IPS, currently DIG Crime Branch, and Mr. Paul Hineshaw, Vice-Consul of the US Embassy were the guest speakers. The number of volunteers who attended the workshop was 220.

To celebrate International Youth Day, the NSS Unit organized a gender sensitization workshop in collaboration with the "Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth." This workshop benefited 210 volunteers.

In observance of "Elderly Abuse Awareness Day," the NSS Unit in collaboration with the Senior Citizens Bureau organized inter-collegiate competi-

tions for NSS volunteers on poster-making and slogan-writing. About 250 volunteers from more than 30 colleges participated. The theme for poster-making was "Roots and Shoots" and the topic for slogan-writing was "Elders are a blessing to society."



*Dr. Poppy Kannan NSS Coordinator with the Chief Guest Ms. Letika Saran IPS*

As a special project, the NSS Unit conducted a pilot survey on "Quality of life of elders in Chennai." There were 102 volunteers involved in the data collection. Senior citizens residing in 64 localities in Chennai city were interviewed. Dr. Mrs. Poppy Kannan analyzed the report with recommendations and presented it to the Honorable Minister for Social Welfare.

The NSS Unit and the Department of Social Work in collaboration with women movements in Tamil Nadu organized a half day workshop on the role of youth to fight the problems of alcoholism in society. Swami Agnivesh was the main speaker for the day.

As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of Harijan Sevak Sangh, an organization founded by Sri Mahatma Gandhi, the NSS along with the NCC unit of our college welcomed Ms. Nirmala Deshpande, a freedom fighter who was conferred India's second highest civilian award - the Padma Vibhushan award. She spoke on universal brotherhood, peace, and harmony in our country. "Treat every human being with dignity. Do not discriminate them on any basis," was the octogenarian's message.

To commemorate the 58th anniversary of the Geneva Convention, a celebration was organized by the Youth Red Cross. Our college hosted the essay-writing competition on the theme "Together for Humanity." Volunteers from 33 colleges par-

ticipated. Nandini, I B.Sc Maths won the consolation prize for depicting "Child Labour" and Nandini Ramesh of I B.Sc Physics won the third place in the essay-competition.

Our volunteers served as scribes during exams for the visually challenged children at Little Flower School for the Blind, Goodwill Foundation, Lotus Blind Welfare Trust of India and Ramakrishna Mission High School.

Hundred volunteers assisted the All India Federation of the Blind in the conduct of their annual General Body Elections attended by thousands of visually challenged people.

All the volunteers of Shift II & III were engaged in a special project of rendering services through regulating the crowd and guiding the patients in the out-patient departments of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Egmore and the Government Stanley Hospital. Their services were highly commended by the respective hospital authorities.

At the 16th Handi Park sports meet for the physically challenged children organized by the Leo Club of Park Town, 130 volunteers helped in the conduct of the sports for 1500 children at the YMCA grounds.

As part of a drive against drunken driving, 30 volunteers helped in the distribution of pamphlets. They requested two-wheeler riders to wear helmets. Their work was observed by the Commissioner of Police while he was on his rounds, and he commended the work of our volunteers at the traffic signals in front of our college.

The annual Special Camp was conducted from November 30, 2007 to December 9, 2007 at Thiruppachur village, Thiruvallur district. Nearly one hundred campers accompanied by the NSS program officers, Mrs. Josephine Edward, and Mrs. Mary Abraham organized several activities on the theme "Healthy Youth for Healthy India." The camp activities included:

- Sports activities for Irula Community children
- Peer education training programme
- A medical camp in collaboration with the District Rural Health Services, Government of Tamil Nadu
- A veterinary camp in collaboration with the District Veterinary Department, Thiruvallur.
- Student training programs including yoga, judo, karate, and folk art.

The NSS unit of our college observed significant days:

To commemorate the birthday of our former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the Renewable Energy Day rally was organized by Madras University. 60 volunteers participated in the rally and 30 volunteers attended a seminar on "Role of Youth in Developing Society," organized by RGNIYD as part of the celebrations.



*Thirupachur village Camp*

The University of Madras organized a rally on Kamaraj Salai to commemorate Teacher's Day and 25 volunteers participated in the rally.

Rose Day was observed in September. Mr. Ananda Kumar, Founder, President of Worldwide Educational and Social Welfare Trust addressed the volunteers on the prevention of cancer. As part of Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations, our students participated in a cycle rally from Gandhi statue on the Marina to Gandhi Mandapam at Guindy. Our vol-

unteers participated in several workshops, seminars, inter-college fests and competitions.

Forty-three volunteers expressed their solidarity on the importance of clean and green environment. They participated in a rally organized by the Indian Coast Guard.

In the National Youth Festival 2008 organized by the Ministry of Youth, Government of India, 250 volunteers participated in the fest. The program officers, helped in documentation work, Ms. Hema Priyadarshini, III B.Sc Physics represented Tamil Nadu and shared her experiences as a NSS volunteer.

Our volunteers participated in the NSS intercollegiate fest organized by Loyola College, M. O. P. Vaishnav college, M. G. R. Janaki college, D. G. Vaishnav college, and won prizes in individual events.

Mrs. Josephine Edward, the Program officer, was the resource person at seminars organized by D. G. Vaishnav college, and Chellammal college, Chennai. She also attended a program on "Innovations in NSS Volunteerism." Exploration and sharing of ideas organized by Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department, Chennai.

All the first year students attended a workshop on "Volunteerism" conducted by Dr. Poppy Kannan, motivating and initiating them into a spirit of service.

This year has been marked with extremely fruitful achievements in all fields in which the volunteers were actively engaged.





## NCC Report

The NCC with its visionary aim of empowering the youth of the nation has, since its inception, inspired the cadets of this college to put service before self and respond to every challenge with courage and conviction. This year too has been no different and our cadets have worked hard all year and have won laurels for this great Institution.

Every summer, cadets are provided with a splendid way of spending the vacation. The first camp of the year being the All India Trekking Expedition to the Nilgiris, which began in the first week of May. Several third year cadets of the college were selected for it. This was followed by the Advanced Leadership Camp in Mumbai also in the month of May. The following cadets were selected for this special training camp. SUO Nithya Lakshmi III B.Sc Zoology, CUO JCS Jenniffer III B.Sc Chemistry, Sgt N.Rajeshwari III B.Sc Maths and L/CPL Kalai Selvi III B.Sc Physics. The SSB training Capsule in Gwalior also took place in the month of May and CUO Janani Sampath III B.C.A was selected for it.

The first year cadets were enrolled in the month of June and were initiated into NCC life at the Annual Inaugural Camp at Beasant Scouting camp. The competitions at the camp were judged by Lt.Col. M Bhaskaran, former commanding Officer of the first TN girls battalion.

Every year the II year cadets of the college compete in the State and National level competitions leading to Thal Sainik Camp (TSC) at New Delhi, the Vayu Sainik Camp (VSC) at Bangalore and the Republic Day camp at New Delhi. The TSC training camp began in May, and was followed by 2 more camps leading to the state level IGC TSC held at Pondicherry in July 2007. At this competition, Sgt.N.Rajeshwari III B.Sc Maths won two gold medals for firing. The cadets contributed to Madras Group 'A' winning the banner.

The Inter-Group Competitions-IGC RDC training camps commenced in the month of July with the Annual Training Camp (ATC) at Avadi. At this camp cadet Divya Ajith II B.Com won the 1st place

in the individual drill competition and cadet Arunima II BCA won the silver medal in the Best cadet competitions. At the ATC held at Triveni Academy in August cadet Divya Ajith II B.Com won the gold medal in the Best Cadet competition. The state level IGC RDC camp was held at Udumalpet, Coimbatore in October 2007. At this competition cadet Arunima won the Gold medal in the Best cadet competitions and cadet Divya Ajith won the silver medal in the BC competitions and the gold medal as Cherry Blossom.

The Air wing cadets had their CA TC in July. Flc Roopa won the gold medal in the BC competitions. The state level IGC - VSC was held at the Tambaram Air Force Station. At this competition. Flc Supriya II B.Sc Chemistry won the gold medal in the micro light flying competition and she was subsequently chosen as the directorate representative for flying at the VSC held at Bangalore in October 2007.



*Marching ahead...*

National Integration Camps which aim at fostering closer ties amongst the youth of the nation are the fun-filled camps and the cadets of the college participated in the NIC camp held at Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar and Nagaland. Flc Gwendolyn - English was selected for the Mountaineering Training Camp at Uttarkashi. CUO Madhumathi II B.Sc Physics was selected for the Army attachment camp at Secunderabad. Sgt.Rajeshwari II B.Sc Maths was selected for the SSB Training capsule at Gwalior in Jan 2008.

Over the past few years there has been a steady stream of cadets joining the armed forces and in 2007 ex SUO Marian Antony who passed out from the department of the Sociology joined the OTA and will be commissioned as an army officer in March 2008.

The cadets of the college organized a Blood donation camp in July 2007 and participated at several rallies and awareness programs conducted by the State Govt. At the A. L. Mudaliar Annual sports meet, the Stella Maris NCC contingent won the second place in the march past competition.

December is the month for the Inter-Company competitions during which the four companies Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta earnestly began to compete for the Best Company of the year banner. Bravo company won the banner for the year 2007-08.



*Chief Guest Commodore U.N. Chitnavis on NCC day*

At the state level competition, CADO UTSAV organized by Loyola college, the cadets won the following prizes: First place for the Achilles trophy, first for Cherry Blossom, third for Contingent drill, Best parade commander, the Best Senior Wing contingent trophy and the Overall Runners-up trophy. At CADOFEST 2008 organized by DG

Vaishnav College F/C Meghna Mukesh I B.Sc Chemistry won the first prize in the Best Cadet Competitions. Cadets also won prizes for the Flag Area and Cultural competitions.



*Fine balance...*

The Republic Day training camp commenced in November and Cadet Divya Ajith and Cadet Arunima II B.C.A were selected for it. At the Republic day camp 2007-08 Cadet Divya Ajith II B.Com won the Gold medal as All India Best Cadet and the Gold medal as the All India Best Parade commander. She was selected as the Contingent commander for the Rajpath on the Republic day parade in Jan 2008.

The second year cadets of the college appeared for the B certificate examination in February 2008 and the third year cadets appeared for the C certificate examination in March 2008.

NCC Day, the grand finale of all the years activities, was celebrated on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2008. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Commodore U.N. Chitnavis NM, Deputy Director General, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andamans Directorate. The events on the day were the Guard of Honour, the ceremonial Drill, a special event on Women in the Armed Forces, an Aeromodelling display and a spectacular Pyramids Display.





## Sports Report

Our college has a rich tradition of winning prizes in sports and games activities, thanks to the active support and encouragement of the Management and their assistance to the students to hone their skills in sports and games.

The Table Tennis players of the college won International recognition when J. Swarna of I MSc Bio-Technology was selected to represent India in the 17<sup>th</sup> Common Wealth Table Tennis Championship held at Jaipur from 30 May to 5 June 2007. She secured the fifth position in the women's doubles. She is the I rank holder in Tamilnadu State. She has won the gold medal in youth girls doubles in the 69<sup>th</sup> All India Junior and Youth Championship.



*J. Swarna with laurels*

A. Sathyabhama, I B.Com was selected as the Rank No.3 in the state, showcasing our dominance in the game. She won the gold medal in the team event in the National Women and Youth Festival held at Thane, Maharashtra from 23 to 26 November 2007. She was also selected to represent Tamilnadu for the 69<sup>th</sup> senior national Table Tennis Championship at Siliguri, West Bengal.

Our college team won the gold medal in the VIT National Level Inter-Collegiate held at Vellore from 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008 to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008. The following players have made us proud by improving our position from last year's third place to the first place of this year: Antony Mary Steffina, II B.Com,

Aswitha Srinivas, II B.C.A and J. Swarna, I M. Sc Bio-Technology.

In the Inter-Collegiate Table Tennis Tournament held at Madras University on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2007, our College won the first place. In the Madras University Inter-Zone tournament, our College secured the second place.

J. Swarna and N. Sathyabhama were selected to represent Madras University for the South Zone and All India Inter-University Tournaments. In the South Zone Inter-University tournament, their team won the first place and in the All India Inter-University, they won the second place.

In the National Level Inter-Collegiate Tournament held at CMC Vellore, our college team secured the second place.

In the IIT Sports Fest 2007, N. Sathybhama won the gold medal, Antony Mary Steffina won the silver medal and Aswitha Srinivasan won the bronze medal, thus winning all the three positions.

In the State Level Table Tennis Inter-Collegiate Tournament organized by St. Joseph's Engineering College from 22 to 24 February, 2008, our college secured the Runners- Up position.



*College! March!*

Our dominance in the game of Hockey too was demonstrated this year. In the Inter-collegiate



Hockey tournament held at Madras University on 15 October 2007, our college team won the first place after 20 years. In the Madras University Inter-Zone tournament, our college secured the second place. J. Jenifa Ruby III B.S.W, V. Abinaya II B.Com, Jagadeswari II B.Com, V. Shanthi I B.Com and M. Menaka, I .B.Com were selected to represent the Madras University. Jagadeswari and V. Abinyaya were selected to represent Tamilnadu.

M. Menaka, V. Shanthi, R. Nishanthi, V. Abinaya and M. Jagadeswari were selected to represent Tamilnadu for the South Zone Junior Championship held at Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh and their team secured the third place. Jenifa Ruby, V. Abinaya and M. Menaka were selected to represent Tamilnadu for the Senior South Zone Tournament held at Chennai.

In the Amma Sports Club Inter- Collegiate Hockey Tournament held at YMCA College on 28 February 2008, our college secured the Runners Up position.

In Lawn Tennis, Gayathri Krishnan of I B.A. Economics was selected to represent the Madras University Tennis Team for the South Zone Inter-University Tournament held at Mangalore from 5 to 13 January 2008.



*Torch bearers*

In the SRMC State Level Inter Collegiate Tournament held at Sri Ramachandra Medical College from 22 to 25 Jan 2008, our college team secured the first place. Tabussum Fathima, I B.C.S, J. Rithika I B.Com and Gayathi Krishnan, I. B.A. Economics participated in the Tournament.

In the Madras University B. Zone Inter-Collegiate, our College secured the first place and in the Inter-zone match, our College secured the second place.

In the State Level Inter-Collegiate Tennis Tourna-

ment organized by St. Joseph's Engineering College from 22 to 24 February 2008, our college secured the Runners Up position.



*Dr.Sr.Annamma Philip, Letika Saran I.P.S,  
Dr.Sr.Rita Marneni*

In the National Level Inter-Collegiate Tennis Tournament held at CMC Vellore, our College Team secured the second place.

In the Madras University Inter-Collegiate Basket Ball Tournament organized by Stella Maris on 16 August 2007, our college secured the third place. P. Vidhya, I M.S.W, U. Dhanalakshmi, I M.Com, S.V. Ananya I B.Com, V. Deepika, I. B.Com and T. Aiswarya I B.A. Sociology were selected to represent the Madras University B. Zone. V. Deepika was selected to represent the Madras University for the All India Inter- University Basket Ball Tournament.

In the IIT Sports Fest 2007 held at IIT from 27 to 30 September 2007, our college basket ball team secured the Runners-Up position. V. Vidhya of I M.S.W was given the 'best play maker' award.

In the Inter-Collegiate Volley Ball Tournament held at Stella Maris College, our college team secured the Runners-Up position. Our students J. Krishna Priya III B.C.A, K. Mythili II B.A. Fine Arts, J. Rithika I B.Com and T. Preethi I B.Com were selected to represent the Madras University B Zone.

In the Madras University B Zone Inter-Collegiate Chess Tournament, our college team comprising of C. Delphine II M.A. English Literature, Deepa Raja, III B.Com, K. Pavithra II. B.Com, Rajakumari Dona II B. A. Sociology secured the first place. In the Inter-Zone tournament, our college team secured the second place. In the state level Inter-Collegiate Chess Tournament conducted by D.G. Vaishnav College from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2007, our

college secured the Runners-Up position. C. Delphine II M.A. Literature was given 'the best board player' award in this tournament.

In Cricket, our College team comprising of Nicola Decosta, II B.A. Economics, T. Preethi, I B.Com, and Rajakumari Dona, II B.A. Sociology participated in the Madras University Inter-Collegiate to represent the Madras University B.Zone.



*Earthy and colourful...*

In the A.L. Mudaliyar Athletic meet organized by Madras University, our college relay team secured the third place in 4x100 meters relay and 4x400 m relay. Tanya Merlin Mc Farlane of I M.A. International Studies, Rosy Merlin, I B.Sc Maths, Tabussum Fathima of I B.C.S and C. Shruthy of I B.C.S constituted the College team.

In the Madras University B. Zone Athletics meet held at Madras University Union, Tanya secured the second place in Triple Jump and second place in Long Jump. In the 200 m race, Tabussum Fathima secured the third place and Rosy Merlin secured second place in the 400 m race.

In swimming, Mridula Rajiv of II B.A. Economics secured the second place in 100 m free style, second place in 50 m free style and third place in 50 m back stroke in the National Level Inter-Collegiate Tournament conducted by VIT Vellore from 30 January to 2 February 2008.

In the Tamilnadu State Open Karate Championship held at Avadi conducted by Hindustan Shinto Ryu Karate school from 21 and 22 July 2007, R. Neena Swathika II B.Sc. Botany secured the first place (Katas), V. Swathi II B.Sc Zoology and S.

Sandhya III B.A. Economics secured the second place. Lakshmi Narayanan III B.Sc Botany secured the second place in Katas and second place in Sparring.

In the Tamilnadu State Karate Tournament held at ICF on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2007, N. Lakshmi III B.Sc. Botany secured first place in Sparring and third place in individual Karate performance.

In the Tamilnadu State Shooting Championship conducted by TamilNadu Shooting Association from 5 to 7 October 2007, R. Radha Niranjini II B.A. English secured the second place in Trap Junior women, Double Trap Junior Women and Trap women, and third place in Double Trap Women.

In the Golf Tournament conducted by the Cosmopolitan Club, Narayani Samyuktha, I B.Com secured the second place and the R.K. Raman Cup. Our College also organized the Madras University Inter-Collegiate and Inter Zone matches in Basket Ball, Inter-Collegiate Tournament in Tennis and Inter-Collegiate Tournament in Volley Ball.

In a nutshell, our achievements in Sports and Games were quite remarkable this year. We significantly improved our positions in many games and secured more medals and awards in various events. We hope to scale new heights in the forthcoming years. We propose to set up more teams for new events in order to attract new talent.



*Design in the open...*

Kudos to all the students who participated in Sports and Games displaying the true spirit of sportsmanship and sustaining high standards in the sports arena.



## Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access

Stella Maris College has been an associate college of FAEA, from August 2005. Since then with the mission of FAEA emphasizing "equality of opportunity," and the mission of Stella Maris College being to extend a helping hand to those from less privileged backgrounds, workshops and training programmes have been conducted throughout the year, for students from the disadvantaged sections of society to avail of additional training which would enhance their skills.

### FAEA Scholarships:

The following students continue to receive FAEA scholarships which has given the impetus to progress in their social and academic life, without having to worry about financial constraints.

Renjini Jose - III B.A. History  
M. Thilagam - III B.Sc. Plant Biology & Plant Biotechnology  
Sagaya Selva Jothi - III B.Sc. Mathematics  
Vincy Amala - II B.Sc. Maths  
Arokia Mary Reena - II B.Com.  
Kavitha Santhana Jothi - II B.Sc. Zoology

Besides helping the students in their overall development, the FAEA financial assistance has also been helpful in awarding fee concessions to 25 Pathways students. The JAWS and the Open Book Software installed with the help of FAEA continues to be a learning aid for the visually challenged students of the college.

Campus recruitment proved to be a success story for Pathways students. Of the 65 students who attended the training offered by the career guidance cell, 45 have been placed in high level companies like InfoSys, Cognizant Technology Solutions, Tata Consultancy Services, Hewlett Packard, Indian Institute of Logistics, First Source, ITC Infotech, Standard Chartered and HCL.

Quite a few Pathways students have been through difficult circumstances but they are in the process of realising their goals because of their high level

of motivation and sincere effort, with FAEA assisting them in acquiring skills.

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 objective and has worked towards the enhanced personal and professional growth of the deserving students.

The pathways programmes for the year 2007–2008 began during the summer vacation.

Summer Programmes included Training in Computer Skills by NIIT (April 23 to May 4, 2007) in which 90 students from I UG took part in two batches and FAEA Scholars State Level Workshop.



*Light spreads...*

The State level workshop was held from 4th June to 8th June, 2007. The participants consisted of 43 FAEA scholars of Tamil Nadu from both Arts and Science Colleges (UG – 25 / PG – 7) and Professional Colleges (Engineering – 8 / Medical – 3). The overall theme of the workshop was "Creating My Future" which offered various modules such as yoga, self awareness, social awareness, language skills and cultural awareness. For five days, from 6. 00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m., sessions on a variety of subjects were conducted, with the vi-

sion to empower them socially and economically in future. The content of the workshop had as its goal the overall development of the personal and social skills of the students, with emphasis on their need to play a role in creating a humane and just society.

The Valedictory function of the workshop was held on June 8, 2007 between 2.00 to 3.30 pm, with Dr. Mohini Giri, Member of the FAEA Governing Body, as the chief guest.

Career Guidance for Final Year Pathway Students was offered in two phases. Phase I was held from 4 to 9 June, 2007 with 65 participants. SWOT, goal setting, motivation, decision-making, soft skills were the modules offered as part of their training. Phase II was conducted between 12 November and 16 November 2007 to prepare the students for campus recruitment. Intensive training in Interview techniques pertaining to the field chosen by the student, group discussion and mock interview formed the contents of this phase.

In the first batch of FAEA Pathways programme, about 65 students, attended the training offered by the Career Guidance Cell. The resource persons were professional trainers from the corporate sector.

Life skills training programme for I UG students

was organized from 6th Nov. to 10th Nov. 2007 during the semester holidays. A total of 97 students participated in the programme in four batches.

The trainers were from a training centre called Talentia and the faculty of the Department of Social Work of our college. Training in spoken English was offered by a team of II M.A. English students who have specialized in English Language Teaching.

Training in Language and Presentation Skills for II UG students was organized from 6th to 10th Nov. 2007 as semester holidays programme. This programme was offered to 72 students.

The Valedictory function of these two programmes was held on 10 Nov. 2007, with Dr. Padmanabhan and Dr. Nagabushanam as Guests of Honour. The students demonstrated the skills learnt during the training. Six students shared their views on the benefits gained through the sessions.

Training in basic computer skills was provided from 27 to 29 December 2007. Weekend programmes on self management, time management, team work, story telling and communication games were offered on one Saturday of each month.

**Dr. Thilagavathi G. Joseph**  
**FAEA Coordinator.**

---

### **Automation**

The spring tightens as the key twists again  
the gears click, pistons pump, the hammer strikes  
Glass eyes gaze – clear, empty, and crystalline.  
The brazen cymbals slam open and close  
with a loud and crashing monotony.  
The painted mouth moves, tired of singing  
the same words churned out again and again -  
Mechanically harping, spinning down  
the roundabout, back through the beginning.  
The doors snap. The spring unwinds. The song fades.

**Chitralkha, D.R.**

**I B.A English**



## Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme

The Entrepreneurship Development Cell, Stella Maris College, supported by NSTEDB, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, conducted a Four Week Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WEDP), from January 28 2008, to February 27, 2008 at Stella Maris College campus, Chennai. The programme which was attended by 24 women from different walks of life focused on exposing the trainees to different dimensions of Entrepreneurship and to impart theoretical and practical knowledge on becoming confident entrepreneurs. The women were also given Skill Development Training on preparation of herbal products and fruits/vegetables processing and preservation with a scientific focus.

An overview of the programme was published as a news item in the local leading newspapers, The Hindu, Chennai Plus. Details of the programme were also communicated to leading organizations like Khadi and Village Industries Commission, and educational institutions. Twenty-four women were chosen based on their interest and commitment. The participants were drawn from different parts of the state. Most of the participants were housewives who wanted to start a business, while some were running a small time business and wanted to know the technicalities.

During the Inauguration on January 28, 2008, Dr.Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal of the college welcomed the gathering and motivated the participants to take up entrepreneurship in future as a career option which would help in empowerment of women. She thanked the DST for supporting this venture and for working towards the development of women entrepreneurship.

Dr.Geetha Swaminathan, Project Advisor, EDC of Stella Maris College and Coordinator of this programme presented an overview of the month long training programme. Mr.Jawahar, State Director, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, inaugurating the Training programme, motivated the women to take up entrepreneurship as empowering women will go a long way in steering the economic activities of the society and the nation as a whole. Ms.Mary Teresita, Chief Project Leader,

EDC of Stella Maris College proposed the vote of thanks

The Four week programme was conducted daily from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with four sessions everyday followed by discussion and interaction. The sessions were interspaced with group discussion, games and lectures. The resource persons included officials from Industries, Banks, SISI and Institutes, who shared their expertise and knowledge and helped the trainees to formulate the financial aspects and assisted them in identifying the various schemes available for Women Entrepreneurs to start a Micro Enterprise.



*Women at work...*

The trainees were given intense training in both the theoretical and practical aspects of setting up an enterprise. The programme included imparting 'Hands on Skill Development Training' on Preparation of herbal products such as herbal shampoo, pain balm, fairness cream, face wash and face powder. The importance of science and technology in the preparation of herbal products was discussed in detail. The trainees were given a clear understanding about the importance of herbal products and the various ingredients that constitute the products.

The participants were also given Skill Development Training in scientifically processing and packaging fruits/vegetables in an efficient manner. They were taught the preparation of Jam, Pickles,

Sauce, Juice and Squashes. Each one of them was trained personally in processing and packaging the products. The participants were also trained in Jewellery designing, especially necklaces, bracelets, anklets and ear drops. The trainees were also trained in Food and Water analysis. This training would help them in setting up their own enterprise.

The participants were taken for a Field visit to M/s. Shri Mayuram Industries, an industry run by Mrs.Parvati, making and supplying nuts and bolts to Hyundai company and to M/s MBI Kits International, run by Mrs.Shanthalakshmi which does iodine analysis in salt samples. These visits and interactions motivated the participants to start micro enterprises. The participants submitted and presented their Business Project Proposal in a lucid and clear manner. The best projects were presented with awards.



*Entrepreneurship Development Cell programme*

The Valedictory function was held on 27 February 2008. Dr.Sr.Colleen North, Vice Principal of Stella Maris College welcomed the gathering and appreciated the participants for imbibing entrepreneurial qualities and being motivated to start a business venture. As pointed out by Dr.Geetha, it was heartening to note that ten of the women participants have already started preparing and selling products such as jewellery, juice, jam, pickles, herbal balm and axe oil to their friends and neighbours.

Dr.Geetha promised the women that she and the college would act as mentors and assist them in their future endeavours when they start business.

Mr.Kamalakaran, Zonal General Manager, National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., delivering the Valedictory address motivated the participants and explained the various schemes that are available for women entrepreneurs



*The women entrepreneurs...*

The participants shared their experience, during the Feedback session and said that this training had instilled confidence in them and motivated them to them to start business. All of them uniformly agreed that this programme had shown them a new path in their life and had empowered them. Many of them have already started business in a small way, selling to their neighbours and friends. To name a few, Ms.Sasikala has started preparing Lions Pain Balm, Ms.Bharathi has started preparing Nandu's Food products, Sunitha has started S.S.Pickles. The participants said that the programme was well structured and the resource persons were of excellent quality.

The college is extremely thankful to NSTEDB, DST, Govt. of India, for supporting this programme. The success of this programme has motivated the Women Entrepreneurship Development Cell to conduct similar programmes in future.





Instruction ends in the classroom, but education ends only with life.

- Frederick.W.Robertson



The whole of science is nothing more than a refinement of everyday thinking.

- Albert Einstein



Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.

- Will Durant







## Department of Biotechnology

The Biotechnology Lab was inaugurated on 9 July, 2007.

The Staff and students I and II PG of the Department visited the SAIF center, (Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Facility) IIT Madras on 3 September 2007. The I MSc. students were taken for a Institutional visit to the M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation on 12 October 2007. The IInd M.Sc. students were taken on a study tour to Bangalore and Mysore from 2 to 6 October 2007. They were taken to CFTRI in Mysore and IISc, Metahelix and AstraZeneca in Bangalore .

Dr.B.R.Lakshmi, Scientist, Biotechnology department, Sundaram Medical Foundation, Chennai, gave a guest lecture on Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy on 26 September 2007. Dr.Swarna Kailash, Executive Director, Research Informatics, Amgen Inc., USA delivered a lecture on "Drug Development" on 17 December 2007.

The department of Biotechnology conducted an International Conference on "Developments in Biotechnology" at Stella Maris College from 8 -10 January, 2008. The Conference had presentations by eminent speakers such as Prof.M.S.Swaminathan – Chairman, MSSRF, Dr.Prakash Kumar, NUS, Singapore, Dr.Sheila Annie Peters, AstraZeneca, Sweden and Dr.Collen Masimirembwa, Founder, African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology, Zimbabwe.

Students and faculty went to TANUVAS, Vepery to visit the Animal Biotechnology Lab as part of a study trip. Dr Parthiban demonstrated Animal cell culture on 12 February 2008 .They also visited Biosafety cabinet Class II. On 13 February, 2008, they visited the Animal Biotechnology unit of TANUVAS at Madhavaram where Dr. Satish gave

them a lecture on in vitro fertilization.



*International conference on Developments in Biotechnology*

In the Ethiraj College culturals MICROFEST held on 25 January, Aarathi S., Vanathi R. and Maria Stella T. secured I place in Poster presentation on the topic Probiotics. Aswina, Reema and Charlotte secured I place in Pictionary and Shwetha, Shanmugapriya and Swarna Rekha secured II place in Pictionary. Indumathi, Ashwina, Reema, Charlotte, Shwetha, Shanmugapriya, Swarna Rekha, Sreenidhi, Latha and Padmapriya secured II place in ADZAP.

In the KRMM College culturals, Maria Stella T. and Suprasanna R. secured I place in Biocartooning on the subject of SDS-PAGE. Aarathi S. and Vanathi R. secured III place in Poster presentation.

Suprasanna R. won a Summer Research Fellowship awarded by the Indian Academy of Science to do a project with Dr.T.Subramaniam at NIOT, Chennai on reproductive endocrinology of crustaceans with a stipend of Rs.5000/- per month.



## Department of Botany

---

The department of Botany organized a “Tree Planting” event to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee celebration on 15 August 2007.

The department organized a lecture by Dr. Yogheswaran, Managing Director, SYMED Technology on “Evolution Of Botanical Medicine And Usefulness Of Herbal Medicine.”

Dr. Beulah Vijayakumar and Dr. Priscilla Jebakumar participated in the Academia-IGCAR meet and presented a project proposal on Soil Microbiology on 12 October 2007.

The students of the Department visited the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, Rain Tree Hotel for Environmental Studies, training at Community Food and Nutrition Extension Unit, Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany (Instrumentation) and Adyar Poonga.

The Service Learning Programme for the third year students “Plant and People” was taken up to sensitise the community of Domestic Workers on the benefit of the Neutraceutical and Pharmaceutical values of plants. Twenty medicinal plants were

cultivated.

The students attended a certificate course on Practical Training Programme in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Techniques at Biotech, L.D.G. road, Chennai from 1 to 7 November 2007.



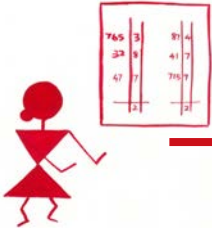
*“Plant and People”*

The students of the Department organized an intercollegiate Fest “Cynosure” on 1 February 2008. Nine Colleges participated in the various events that were organized and Madras Christian College bagged the overall shield.

---

### Indian agriculture: Quick facts

- People who are farmers: almost 550 million
- Number of agricultural labourers: about 200 million (many with daily wages below 10 Rs per day)
- Cultivation which is rain-dependent: nearly 60 percent
- Area in which pesticides are used: 1980: 6 million hectare-1990: 125 million hectare



## Department of Commerce

The academic year 2007-2008 saw an array of activities lined up and effectively executed by the staff and students of the Department of Commerce with zeal and vigour.

The academic year began with a talk by Mr. Balasubramaniam, Director, TIME in the first week of July 2007 on "How To Crack CAT-2008." It proved very useful for the aspirants of MBA and competitive exams. The II B.Com students were provided tips on attempting quantitative papers in competitive exams by Mr. Rangaramanujam of CAREER LAUNCHER from 16 July to 18 July 2007. It was enthusiastically received by the students. Prof. Kannan from Madurai Institute of Social Sciences gave a lecture on "Research Methodology" to the II M.Com students on 17 July, 2007.

The certificate course in Retail Banking, conducted by SCOPE International, was inaugurated on 3 September 2007, by Mr. P.K. Raman, Senior Vice-President, Consumer Banking Operations. He spoke about "The Upcoming Retail Banking Sector." Mr. Anthony Rajasekhar, Prof. of Advertising in Ad-Club was invited on 5 September 2007 to address the issues on "Different Facets Of A Brand" as part of the Marketing course.



*Inauguration of Retail Banking Certificate course by Mr. P.K. Raman, Senior Vice-President, SCOPE International.*

As part of the continuous endeavour of the Department to work in close collaboration with experts

from industry and to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge & practical experience, Mr. Dhasekaran, Southern Head, India Insurance Risk Management Services Ltd., delivered a lecture on 1 February 2008 on the "Principles of Insurance."

The department also conducted a one day seminar on 3 September 2007 titled "New Age Advertising." Mr. Chandrasekhar, MD, Ideo Praxis Ad Agency held an interactive session on "The Making of a T.V. Commercial," Mr. Subramaniam, Branch Head, Ulka Ad Agency, outlined a real life version of "The Story Of A Brand" and Mr. Vincent Narayanan, Branch Head, TCG Communications concluded with an interesting talk on "Creativity in Advertising."

A workshop, titled "Communication Skills and Personality Development" was conducted by Mr. Patbhiraman on 2 February 2008. A one day seminar on the "Emerging Role of Financial Services sector in the Indian Economy – Trends and Issues" was held on 29 February 2008 in collaboration with CII, Chennai.



*COMBAT- Commerce cultural*

Fresh and rejuvenated after the semester break in November 2007, the Commerce Department organised COMBAT – the Annual Commerce Fest. The event was held on 12 December, and had participants from several reputed colleges across the city like Loyola, M.O.P Vaishnav, Ethiraj to name a few, competing with one another in vari-

ous events like Ad-designing, JAM, Mock Court, Stress Interview, Product launch, Quiz, Challenger, Dumb Charades and so on

Ms. Sandhya Jayakumar and Ms. Preeti Sarah Kurvilla III B.Com won a fully funded scholarship programme offered by St. Joseph's University, to

attend two summer courses offered by the Haub School of Business, Philadelphia. Negotiation Skills and International Management were the two courses opted for by these students. They were exposed to various forms of learning such as role play, case analysis, debate, project and presentation.



## Department of English literature

---

The activities of the department began with the UBCHEA sponsored programme titled "The Campus Dialogues" with Mahesh Dattani, a leading English playwright, as the Writer in Residence. Students of all disciplines participated enthusiastically in the theatre workshop conducted by him for two days, on September 10 and 11, 2007. Dr Sheila Mathai, Dr Sharada Bhanu, Dr Bernadine Joseph and Dr Sujitha.S received their Doctoral degrees in the course of the academic year.

A training session for the staff of the department was organized on "Soft Skills" with Ms Vijayanthi as the resource person on 4 October 2007. Poet, academician and linguist Ms Rukmini Bhaya Nair visited the department and gave a guest lecture to the students and the staff. On 27 November 2007 Ms Martha Dvorok, professor of English at Sorbonne University, addressed the postgraduate and research students on the topic of "Post-coloniality in Michael Ondaatje's "The English Patient." She included issues related to identity and dislocation in a postwar global context.

On November 26 as part of the Campus Dialogue programme, the play "Kaala Kanavu- A Dream of

Time" was performed by the theatre group Marapaacchi. The play enlightened the audience about the origin of the Women's Movement in the Indian context, particularly the South. On the 3 and 4 February 2008, Dr. Catherine Delmas, Professor in English at the University of Stendhal, Grenoble visited the department. On 13 and 14 February 2008 Pranab Mukherjee, a well-known director and performance consultant of Alternate Theatre and Theatre for Conflict Resolution and Human Rights issues addressed the students on the topic "Shakespeare Today." On 4 February 2008 Hasmukh Ashok gave a guest lecture on the topic "Jung: The Journey of Life through Archetypes."

The academic year also saw the translation of Bama's "Annachi" into Malayalam by V. Kalyani. The staff of the department and the research scholars had the opportunity to listen to Dr Berthold Schoene, who is the Director of Manchester University's English Research Institute, affiliated to the Manchester University. He shared his experience of heading a research project in bringing about what he terms "The Cosmopolitan Novel." With that the activities came to a close and the serious business of exams followed.



## Department of Computer Science

---

The department of Computer Science in its effort to keep abreast with the latest developments in the field of Information Technology organized several lectures by renowned speakers and specialists in the field thus aiming at a close academic-industry interface.

Mr. Suresh Warriar, Technical Writer, Ramco Systems conducted a seminar on Technical Writing 'Technical Communications in Reality' for the final year UG students on 13 August 2007. In order to keep in tune with the evolving trends in animation the department organised a lecture on 3D animation by Mr.Karthik, Trainer of Trainees, Autodesk on 10 September 2007. The growing need for soft skills and effective team work was the highlight of the talk on 'Team Building and Relationships' given by Ms. Nazeem, Future Soft for the final year UG students on 19 September 2007.

The faculty of the department participated in several workshops and training programmes conducted by IGCAR at Kalpakkam, Cognizant Technology Solutions at Sholinganallur as a part of the MoU and the IBM Faculty Development Program organized jointly by IBM & Sri Venkateshwara Engineering College.

The department conducted a training program on computer basics offered to Lecturers from Tibet in August 2007. This was followed by a programme in December 2007 on Computer Basics and Internet organised for a group of seventy five students. This was supported by the FORD foundation and formed part of the ongoing FAEA training programme held at college. Another training programme on "Computer Basics" was conducted in

January 2008 for Lecturers of the History Department recruited by the TRB.



*WIZIT - Computer Science Fest*

A week long workshop of Net training programme was held from April 23rd to April 30th 2008 in collaboration with CMC Ltd.

WIZIT 2008, an Inter Collegiate festival was organized on February 1, 2008 to provide a platform for the IT skills of the students of this discipline. Mr. Ratna Kumar, Director, KAAR Technologies was the chief guest. Mr. Jason Peter, Head, Cognizant Academy, Chennai Centre was the keynote speaker. Dr. Sr. Colleen North, Vice-Principal, Evening College welcomed the gathering.

The Fest drew strong participation from about twenty Arts & Science and Engineering Colleges in and around Chennai. There was enthusiastic participation in the various events by all the contestants and M.O.P Vaishnav College emerged as the overall winners of WIZIT 2008



## Department of Economics

The department of Economics organized a Faculty Advancement Programme Sponsored by the United Board For Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA). The faculty visited various reputed Educational and Research Institutions specializing in Economics at New Delhi from 30 October to 7 November 2007. The team visited the Delhi School of Economics, St. Stephen's College, the Institute of Economic Growth, the Asian Development Bank, CWDS, NIPFP, the V.V.Giri National Labour Institute, NCAER, the Institute of Human Development, ISID and JNU. The faculty members had the exciting opportunity to meet the Honourable Minister Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Minister of Panchayati Raj and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region. It was an enriching and interesting experience as it gave an opportunity for the teachers to interact with various leading economists of the country and also discuss ideas on curriculum revision.



*Meeting Hon'ble Mani Shankar Aiyar*

Five faculty from the department and the PG students participated in the Government of India Project on NREGS - Social Audit under the guidance of Dr. Jean Dreze, Faculty, Delhi School of Economics. The team from the college was involved in the collection of primary data in Villupuram District from 27 July – 31 July 2008. The findings of this survey conducted by the students of the Economics department were widely reported in the press.

The annual feature of the department, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture was held on 4 January 2008. The speaker was Dr. Sujatha Vishwanathan, Social Economist, India Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank. The endowment lecture discussed the challenge of poverty reduction from the perspective of the poor and was based on first hand participatory studies carried out in 78 districts spread across the country. The problems faced by poor communities and their strategies for coping with them were highlighted in the program. The lecture provided an overview of the development strategies, policy initiatives, and interventions that have aimed at reducing poverty and bringing an improvement in the living conditions of the poor.

The other regular academic and co-curricular programmes of the department included the A.D. Shroff Elocution Competition held on 11 December 2007 and 'Ecocentric' the Economics Fest held on the 8 February 2008. The inaugural address was delivered by Ms. Divya Ramachandran, Vice President, Helios & Mathesan. She is an alumnus of the college who also received the 'Best Young Manager' award by the MMA, in Feb 2007. 'Ankur' the annual publication of the department continues to be published and is well received.

The department organized Guest Lectures on various issues and themes by experts in the field. Ms Reeba Devraj, TNS, Chennai, spoke on 'Research Methodology' on 6 July 2007. Mr. Vivek and Mr. H. Vinoth, ABN Amro delivered two lectures on 'Portfolio Management by Banks' on 12 July and 22 August 2007. Mr. Anand, Director Ernst & Young elaborated on 'Corporate Governance Research' on 18 February 2008. The Fiscal 'Budget 2008' was the theme of the lecture delivered by Mr. Ranganathan, Director, Ernst & Young who also spoke on 'Mergers and Amalgamations' on 13 March 2008.

The faculty of the department have been actively engaged in consultancy activities in their capacity as subject experts.

as subject experts.

The department is proud to announce that its student Ms.S. Kalyani won the first prize for the best performance in reciting a German poem "LOVE-LEI" This was a world wide competition in which more than 25 countries participated. The poem had to be recited in German and a native language.

Another student achiever, Ms.Nalini Giri was selected to represent Indian Youth at the 20th World Energy Congress in Rome from November 11 – 15, 2007. She has also been selected to attend

the 19th World Petroleum Congress to be held in Spain (Madrid) in June 2008. Her paper was selected by the International Association of Energy Economics to be presented in Germany.

The department is proud to acknowledge the achievements of its Alumni Ms.Bindu Ananth who won the Raymond Vernon Award 2007 for her outstanding commitment to International Development. She was chosen from a class of 60 odd students of International Development (Economics and Public Policy wing of the Kennedy School at Harvard).



## Department of Sociology

---



*Sr. Christine endowment lecture*

The department organised a Workshop on "Social Entrepreneurship: Role of NGOs" On 7 Aug. 2007 which was conducted by Ms. Latha Suresh, Co-ordinator, Centre for Social Initiative and Management, Chennai. The highlight of the workshop was the personal experiences of Mr.Govindarajan a visually impaired social entrepreneur and the

Founder of Nethrodaya.

On 30 January, 2008 Dr. V.V Krishna, Professor in Science Policy, JNU, New Delhi, delivered a talk on "Globalization and the Changing Social Contract between Science and Society". The talk spanned various linkages that are to be made between science and society.

On 15 February, 2008 Mr. Maithreya, Human Resource Management Consultant, Chennai delivered a talk on "Motivational Intervention in an Organization".

The department and the college were proud to host Padma Bhushan Dr. T.K Oommen a renowned Sociologist and expert in Social policy who delivered the Sister Christine Endowment Lecture on the theme "Social Development and Social Policy: The Interconnections" on 6 March 2008. The lecture proved to be a reaffirmation of faith and consolidation of efforts on all fronts.



## Department of Fine arts

The year 2007-08 was an event-filled one with a range of stimulating activities and workshops.

The Department invited art therapists, Dr. Gaylene Bordonaro, Dr. Judith Rubin and Ms. Sangeeta Prasad from United States of America to conduct an International Workshop in July 2007. The goal of the workshop on Art therapy was to enable students to become aware of a powerful aspect of art and its potential for healing. Dr. Rubin demonstrated the historic role of 'art' as 'therapy' through a film screening explaining individual artists' abilities in enhancing their own well-being, and in dealing with crises through creative work. Through case studies, Dr. Bordonaro elucidated aspects of psychotherapy in art therapy while Ms. Prasad demonstrated the use of art as a diagnostic tool.



*International Art therapy workshop*

The annual Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry Endowment Lecture titled "Connecting the Dots" was delivered by Ms. Sujata Kesavan of Ray and Kesavan Bangalore, in December 2007. She highlighted the importance of branding and packaging in the design industry through her work. Internationally acclaimed contemporary artist Ravikumar Kashi conducted a workshop on paper making and its creative use in February 2008.

Regular classroom teaching was enlivened by workshops conducted by professionals from various art related fields like Typography and Design,

Terracotta, Drawing and Painting. Theory courses were augmented by guest lectures delivered by specialists in relevant fields.



*Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry Endowment Lecture*

Members of the faculty published articles in various print and web-related art journals and magazines, and were also invited to deliver guest lectures by galleries and academic institutions within the state and beyond. They served as resource persons in various academic institutions in Chennai. Some of them prepared course content for an online Advanced Placement Art History Programme – USA.



*Papermaking Workshop*

The Department successfully completed a tyre-tread and side-wall branding design project for MRF Ltd Chennai. The year came to a close with



a milestone in the annals of the history of the department. The restructured four-year Bachelor of Visual Art (BVA) programme with two streams of specialization in design and painting (for com-

mencement from the academic year 2008-09) proposed by the Department, was approved by the University of Madras. The restructured curriculum is scheduled to come in to effect from June 2008.



*Rajasthan study tour - September 2007*



*Achyut Palav - Calligraphy Workshop*



## Department of History

The department of History which offers a specialization in Tourism and Travel management organized a Travel Mart on July 9 2007 to enable the departments of the College to plan their educational tours. The travel mart elicited a good response from the travel agents and the tour operators. The department went on to celebrate the Chennai Week from August 20 – 24 2007. A Quiz competition on The Antiquity of Chennai was conducted on August 24 2007 by Ms. S. Aarti, Faculty of the department of International Studies and an exhibition on Chennai was also organized on this occasion.

The department of History in collaboration with the Department of Tamil Nadu Tourism celebrated World Tourism Day. Tmt. R. Jaya I.A.S., District Collector, Chennai District, presided over the function. Tmt. K. Tamilarasi, Tourism officer, Chennai, addressed the gathering on September 22, 2007. A Quiz and a Poster Design Competition were a part of the Tourism Day celebrations. The UGC Certificate course in Travel and Tourism for the students of the college was successfully completed for the fourth year in succession.

The department of History, Stella Maris College conducted the Teacher's Recruitment Board Orientation Programme (Intensive) for History Lecturers organized by Tamil Nadu Government and Academic Staff College, University of Madras from 26 December 2007 - 24 January 2008 (24 days). This orientation programme was Coordinated by Dr. Patricia Gabriel, Head of the department assisted by Ms. Sheila Immaculate.

The department was proud to host Dr. Champakalakshmi, Prof. of History, (Retd), School of Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, who delivered the annual Smt. Indira Gan-

dhi Endowment Lecture on "Making Of A Religious Tradition – Pre – Colonial South India" on 21 January 2008. Dr. Champakalakshmi in her Lecture was able to substantiate her argument that the notion of 'Hinduism' as we know of it in recent history was a relatively later "invention".

The department had the opportunity to host a lecture by Dr. Arun Bandhopadhyaya, Prof. of History, University of Calcutta, on 22 January 2008 on "Environmental Issues and Impact on Society" for the students of History and Fine Arts.



*Scholar - in residence*

The department of History organized a Scholar – in – Residence Programme sponsored by UBCHEA on "Subaltern Issues in Medieval Indian History" delivered by Dr. Vijaya Ramaswamy, Professor, School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi from February 25 – 27, 2008.

On February 22, 2008 the faculty and the students of the department in collaboration with the American Consulate General, Chennai organized the screening of a film and a panel discussion on the Civil Rights Movement to commemorate the Black Rights month of February and the Women's Rights month of March.



## Department of International Studies

The department of International Studies in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Regional Delegation, New Delhi organized a National Seminar on the “Impact of Armed Conflicts on Women and Children” on 28-29 February, 2008. The seminar aimed at studying the changing nature of armed conflict and its growing impact on civilian population as well as the role of the State and the issues of responsibility and accountability. This conference provided the opportunity to examine the key programming strategies being implemented by governments and although purely academic in nature it helped to integrate micro level studies into a broader perspective by interrogating theoretical issues such as gendered nature of nationalism and peace making process. The seminar was attended by Resource persons from New Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Trivandrum.



*Mr. Vincent Nicod inaugurates the national seminar*

As a part of its efforts to provide the students and faculty with a broader perspective the department organized several interactions and lectures with external resource persons and experts in the field of International Relations. The department of International Studies and the Chennai Center for China Studies organized an interaction on “Emerging India China Myanmar Relation” on 19 July 2007. A talk on “International Relations and Prospects” by Dr. Linda Racioppi, Professor, Comparative Politics, James Madison College, Michigan State University, USA on 27 July, 2007 provided clarity

on future prospects for IR students.

The next interaction was an enlightening talk on “Japan’s Foreign Policy in the Context of Asia Pacific” by Dr. K. V. Kesavan, Professor, Center for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 17 September, 2007. He provided a frame of reference on the Far East especially Japan and was particularly useful for the course on Asia Pacific in the International Order.

The lectures on “Pakistan: Impression from inside” by Ms. Ragini Gupta, Vice Consul, USA on 9 October, 2007 and on “Middle East: A View from Israel” by Prof. Emmanuel Sivan, Professor of Islamic History at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem on 12 October, 2007 were intellectually stimulating to the audience.

The talk on “The Ethical Questions in Genetic Issues” by Dr. Swarna Kailash, Executive Director, Research Informatics, Amgen Inc., California, USA, on 13 December, 2007 kindled several arguments on the ethics of cloning and such experiments.



*War and women in rangoli*

The concluding lecture was on “The Emerging International Order in the Asia Pacific” by Dr. Muthiah Alagappa, Director, East West Center, Washington, on February 14, 2008. He summed up eloquently the essence of the regions’ growth

and prospects politically and strategically. The department of International Studies held its annual Scholar in Residence Programme from 3-5 December 2007. Dr. Jessica Wallack, Assistant Professor of Political Economy University Of California, San Diego, Graduate School Of International Relations & Pacific Studies spoke on “Inter-

national Developmental Policy” and her innovative approach in teaching was the major highlight of the programme. She also conducted simulations and group discussions on micro and macro level developmental policies. In all, this young department has laid the grounds for a mature development in the field of International Relations.



## Department of Public Relations

---

The department of Public Relations has retained the same zeal and zest since its inception in August 2006. The academic year 2007-08 was abuzz with a number of activities ensuring that the department was continually exploring newer avenues for the holistic development of the students in order to equip them with the right knowledge, attitude and skills.

The academic year opened with the department hosting a half day training workshop ‘Realising a Vision-India 2007’- a youth program by a team of ten students from Canada who started the ‘International Children’s AIDS Health Program’ (CAID-SHP) . From then on the pace never slowed and the momentum picked up even more. A host of lectures and orientation were the highlights of this academic year.

The department and the class of 2007 undertook a visit to Marakkanam, in the month of October, to focus on the area of community relations. The students as groups visited and asked questions to villagers across 4 communities: Salt pans, Sand Dunes, Fisheries, and agriculture. By conducting the survey the students were able to understand better, the issues and difficulties faced by these communities. Each group submitted a detailed report and shared their thoughts on the plight of the villagers.

The following months saw the students getting practical training by way of workshops in visual communication and photography to enhance creativity and attention to design and detail. Workshops in Public Speaking and Street Theater were held to train students and to improve confidence.

As a part of the curriculum the department organised a media visit to the Indian Express to learn

about newspaper production and a visit to the L.V.Prasad Academy where the students interacted with experts on topics like scripting, direction, editing and TV production. The department also organised guest lectures on ‘Public Relations for and in the Service Sector’, by distinguished professionals ranging from the CEO to PR and Communication Department Managers from the Taj Group of Hotels, Reliance ADA Group of Companies, TTDC, The Accord Metro Hotel and the Indeco Group of Hotels.

Apart from the above, the department organised guest lectures delivered by distinguished visiting faculty on the field of specialization of the first semester ‘Community Relations’ by Non Governmental Organisations like NNOS, TANKER Foundation as well as a session on ‘Community Policing’ by Ms Letika Saran I.P.S.

This learning was followed up by practical experience where students completed internships in the development sector across 14 NGOs: Anveshi-Calicut, Aikya Charitable Trust, Alpha to Omega Learning Centre, CANSTOP, Development Education Services- Mangalore, HOPE Foundation, Jeevan Blood Bank, MNOS, Shraddha School for Mentally Challenged-Cochin, Suraksha Centre for Family Health - Nagercoil, TANKER Foundation, Vidyasagar, Vishranthi, and Working Women’s Forum. It was through this that the students got hands on experience in the development sector.

Every activity in the department of PR is seen as an opportunity to learn and add to the reserve of knowledge. A ten-day study trip to Rajasthan was organized for the class of 2007 to enable them to go beyond the textbooks and understand the marketing concepts in historical, cultural, commercial and eco tourism.

The department in collaboration with the PRSI Chennai chapter organized Best Practices in PR: Memorial lecture in honour of Gyan Haksar and Mr.M.Gopalakrishnan, which was delivered by Ms. Rakhi Lalwani, Director PR ,South India, The Taj group of Hotels, Palaces &Resorts.



*Release of the SAP study report*

In April 2008 the department organized the Savharyam Memorial program to remember Sr. Juliet.M.Irene, Principal 1968-78.

Since the department tagline is 'Making a difference where it matters', the department saw this as an opportunity to help the villagers of Marakanam.

TTDC and L&T ECC division agreed to join hands with the department and help improvise the position of the Marakanam villagers by promoting rural tourism and providing training in carpentry, plumbing and construction skills to the rural youth. On this occasion SAP study report of the class 2007 was released and two diamond jubilee scholarships were handed over to the principal by the department of Public Relations.

The class of 2006 conducted a Media campaign on demystifying epilepsy for which they had orientation programmes and launched Prajna- Hit the Fit in March 2008. They conducted awareness programmes in schools and for bus conductors, drivers and auto drivers. The students also organ-

ized a rally for awareness of epilepsy along marina beach on April 12 2008. The campaign was well covered by the media and well received by the target audience.

No learning experience is complete without practical training and for this reason internship in the corporate sector for the class of 2007 was organized at AMCO batteries, Ashok Leyland, Cavin kare, Ford India Pvt.Ltd, IOC, L&T ECC, the Murugappa group, MRPL and Reliance Communication Ltd.

In the same manner the class of 2006 was placed across different Departments in the Government of India such as the Department of Atomic Energy, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Press Information Bureau, Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity and Department of Information and Public Relations, Culture and Tamil Development.



*Ms. Rakhi Lalwani at the Memorial Lecture*

Dr.Sundari Krishnamoorthy, the Head of the Department was nominated to SCWEC in May 2007 as Advisory Committee Member and was a member of the SCWEC delegation to Bangladesh where she conducted a workshop on communication skills for women entrepreneurs. She received the Best Teacher award of the Lions Club International district 2007-2008. She is the recipient of the Best Faculty certificate and gold medal from-CTS 2008.

$$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$$



## Department of Mathematics

The department of Mathematics was privileged to receive the support of the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, which sponsored (Financial Assistance under FIST Program for the year 2006) the establishment of a State-of-the-Art Computer Lab. Apart from this computer lab facility, it also sanctioned a grant for the purchase of books with the aim of introducing a scientific computing environment based on thematic approaches to cater to the needs of teaching, research and industrial applications. The FIST lab was inaugurated on 4 July, 2007.



*Workshop on Graph Theory*

As part of the year long Scholar-In-Residence Programme that was sponsored by the United Board for Christian Higher Education (UBCHEA) the department organized Workshops on Number theory, Optimization techniques, Graph theory and a series of guest lectures on Numerical methods and Statistics.

The Scholar-In-Residence programme was inaugurated on 4 October, 2007 with the Keynote Address being delivered by Prof. Balasubramanian, Director, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Taramani, Chennai.

The department organized a Workshop On Number Theory and Prof. Srinivasa Rao, DST – Ramanujan Distinguished Chair, Professor, Srinivasa Ramanujan Center, Sastra University, Kumbakonam,

Tamil Nadu delivered a lecture on “*Gauss, Ramanujan, Hyper geometric Series*” on 5 October, 2007 which was followed by a lecture on “*Applications of Cryptography*” by Prof. C. K. Chandra Sekhar, Professor in IT and Systems in ICFAI (Institute of chartered and Financial Analysts of India) Business School, Chennai on 8 October, 2007

The department went on to conduct a short term course on Optimization Theory and Practice which was launched by the keynote address delivered by Prof. P.K. Subramanian, Chair, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, California State University, Los Angeles, USA. This was followed by a series of lectures by renowned mathematicians on various aspects of Optimization Theory and Practice. On 27 and 28 December 2007, there were practical sessions on Optimization, at the FIST Lab, Stella Maris College by Prof. S. Sundar from I.I.T., Madras.



*CMASM 2007*

The next in series was A Workshop on Graph Theory where the department hosted Dr. Paul Manuel, Associate Professor, Department of Information Science, Kuwait University, Kuwait who delivered the keynote address on “*Time Complexity and NP-Complete Problems In Interconnection Networks*” on 18 December, 2007. Prof. Choudham S.A. from I.I.T, Madras delivered a lecture on “*Parallel Computing and Embedding*” which was followed by

lectures on “*Path Partition In Graphs*” and “*Graph Drawing*” delivered by Dr. Indra Rajasingh and Dr. Bharathi from Loyola College on 19 December, 2007 .

The seventh *Dr. J. Thangamani Endowment Lecture* on the intriguing theme “*When Is A Knot Not The Unknot?*” was delivered by Dr. V.S. Sunder, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai.

An Intercollegiate Mathematics cultural event

*MATHZOOM 2007* organized by the Mathematics Department on 22 Feb 2007, for college students in and around Chennai, witnessed a wide range of cultural and mathematical talents and skills being showcased.

The Department faculty were actively engaged in the conduct of a wide range of innovative and thematic workshops and lectures and were also resource persons at several seminars, orientation and refresher courses.



## Department of Physics

---

The department of Physics organized a workshop on Microcontrollers – GSM and RFID (Radio frequency Identification) conducted by Mr. Janarthanan and Mr. John Sathyan on 20 February, 2008. Through a comprehensive lecture and demonstration they explained to the students the way in which a cell phone could be used as a remote control for home appliances using microcontrollers. The workshop turned out to be an interactive and informative one.

Dr. S. Srinivasan, Project Scientist, NRC Foss, Anna University delivered an inspiring lecture on “Phoenix - Hardware/Software framework” on 20 February, 2008. His presentation enabled the students to comprehend the importance of the upcoming field and roused their interest in the same.

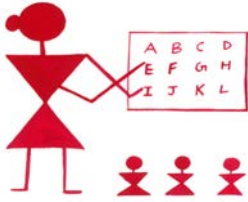


*AURORA - Physics fest*

The department of Physics hosted Dr. T.S. Natrajan, department of Physics, IIT Chennai, who delivered a lecture on ‘Simple Phenomenon In Physics’ on 25 February 2008. Various experiments were demonstrated by the speaker to explain the simple phenomena in our day to day life. This innovative and enlightening lecture was well appreciated by the students and aroused their interest in the subject.

“Aurora ‘08”, the annual physics fest for the academic year 2007 – 08 took place on 25 January 2008. The event was inaugurated by Sr. Colleen North f.m.m, Vice Principal, Stella Maris College and presided over by Dr. T.S. Natrajan, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai

Various events such as paper presentation, quiz, adzap, pot pourri, collage and cross word that took place during the day were informative, thought provoking and entertaining. Among the students of six different colleges who took part in the programmes, the students of Loyola College emerged as the overall winners. On the whole, the day turned out to be a day of creativity and novelty. The chief guest launched the annual physics journal “Physik”, the fruit of the combined effort of Faculty and students of the department. The entire journal transmitted the knowledge, wit and creativity of the physics department.



### Undergraduate

From 25 August 2007 to 10 August 2007 – Four I BSW students from Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, UK, were assigned to the department for their field work training. They had a week long orientation on India, its culture, heritage, tradition, social problems etc. They were placed in Shanthi Bhavan and Sangamam for their urban community experience. They visited Preshitha Social Service Society in Pollachi, for a rural exposure and also visited the Toda, Kurumba and Badaga tribes in Ooty and the Irula tribes in Thiruvallur District. Dr. Sandra Joseph coordinated the programme and Ms. Mary Abraham and Ms. Lora Deva Prasanna were the field work supervisors.

On 10 July 2007, Ms. Mary from SACS a UK based NGO working with abused children conducted a workshop on child sexual abuse. Students of II and III BSW attended the workshop. From 21 July 2007 to 26 July 2007, a Workshop on Street Theatre was organised for III BSW students. The resource persons were Prof. Amaithiarasu and Prof. Stanley from Visual Communication Department, Loyola College and Ms. Mary Abraham was in charge of the workshop. From 23 July 2007 to 29 July 2007, thirty four students of II BSW went for their rural camp with Ms. Lora Deva Prasanna and Ms. Sylvia Daisy to Preshitha Social Service Society, Pollachi, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu.

On 7 August 2007, the entire BSW faculty attended a workshop on Family therapy conducted by the MSW department in collaboration with Purdue University, USA. On 10 August 2007, II and III year students of BSW presented a programme in Doordharshan in the form of a street play. The topic was on "Pengal Nattin Kangal". The following students participated: Amutha, Arasi, Immaculate (II year), Agnes, Beulah, Celine, Dorothy, Ezhil, Kasper and Sheela (III year). This programme was mainly to create awareness in rural people in order to enlighten them on the following themes: to avoid consanguinous marriage, to abolish female foeticide and to improve sanitation. The programme was aired on 21 August 2007. On 11 Au-

gust 2007, ICWO along with the School of Social Work celebrated International Youth day and organised a competition to create awareness about HIV/AIDS among the youth. The III year BSW students presented street theatre and the group won the second place and it was highlighted in the print and electronic media. The following members were the participants: Agnes, Beulah, Celine, Dorothy, Divya, Ezhil, Grace, Juli, Kasper, Malini, Sathiyavani, Stella, Sheila and Subha.

From 21 August 2007 to 22 August 2007, Ms. Lora Deva Prasanna along with ten III year students attended a seminar on Changing Power Equation: A Gender Perspective, organised by the Department of Christian Studies, University of Madras.

On 23 August 2007 twenty-nine students and two faculty members of Rajagiri College of Social Sciences visited the BSW department. Their visit to the department enabled both the departments to have an exposure of the institution and courses offered; get acquainted to the structure, functioning, activities and programmes of the institution; and to look for higher studies and future placement in the institution.

On 29 August 2007 the following students, Sheela, Malini, Subha, Raji, Stella, Tanya, Ruby, C. Kasper, Celine, Hepsibha, Sathiyavani, Dhivya and Dorothy presented a street play on the ill effects of alcoholism and drugs in a seminar organised by the MSW department of SMC. The students portrayed visuals of drug addicts and alcoholics, the ill treatment of women and children; effects of alcoholism and drugs; women's participation and action needed towards this issue.

On 5 September 2007 Sr. Arasi and Hilda, students of II BSW participated in "Ethirum Puthirum" a programme on Tamil riddles/proverbs organised by the Tamil Department, SMC. The programme was screened by Doordharshan and each student got Rs. 700/- for participating.

On 10 September 2007, Nisha (III year), Hilda (II year) and Malar (I year) visited Adyar Poonga and



attended a lecture on “Genesis of the Poonga”. The students were told about the proposed government project and master plan on the restoration of the Adyar River. A documentary film and other exhibits were shown, following which a feedback was sought in written form from the students.

In collaboration with Dignity Foundation an NGO working with senior citizens, the students of III BSW participated in creating awareness about the role of youth in taking care of the elderly and also took an oath that they would take care of them with dignity. The students contacted different schools in the city and sold “Suraksha Bandhan” bands to the extent of Rs. 15,000/-. The fund raised was handed over to Dignity Foundation.

On 20 November 2007, 24 students of III BSW attended a seminar on Mental Health conducted by the Social Work Department, Loyola College, Chennai.

From 30 November 2007 to 1st December, 2007 Social Skills training for III BSW students was organised. Mr. Stephen was the resource person for the two-day workshop. Ms. C.Kavitha coordinated the workshop.

On 4 and 5 December, 2007 Ms. Asha George (II year) and Ms. Nisha (III Year) participated in a National Conference on Human Rights and Development, held at Rajagiri Institute of Social Science – Social Work.

On 10 and 11 December, 2007 a National Conference on “Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights in Disaster Interventions: Lessons from Tsunami for Future Directions” was organised. Ms. Diana Singh presented a paper on her experiences of working during the Tsunami.

From 3 January, 2008 to 2 February, 2008 the III BSW students went for their block placement training in field work in different NGOs in the country. On 30 and 31 January, 2008 Ms. Mary T. Abraham attended a workshop on Transformational Teaching conducted by *mPower Solutions*.

On 1 February 2008 Gloria Mary, I year and Malar, II year, Blessy, Asha, Steffi and Arasi, participated in the MCC intercollegiate BSW fest “Udhayam 2008” and won second place in a Mime Show, titled “Injustice against women”.

On 13 February 2008 Dr. Sandra Joseph delivered a lecture on “Innovations and New Directions

in Reducing and Re-offending” at an International Conference organised by Liverpool Hope University, UK.

## Post Graduate

The Post Graduate department of Social Work was privileged to usher in the academic year with newly renovated cubicles for the staff. These cubicles meet UGC standards for Social Work Education and are suitably designed to interact with students on a one to one basis.



*Refresher Course on Child Rights*

The department organised a Refresher Course on Child Rights for Social Work & Social Work Educators in Post Tsunami Tamil Nadu. This course was organised in collaboration with the Academic Staff College and UNICEF, Chennai. Twenty six participants attended and benefited from this program. Dr. Ms. Benita Marian coordinated the programme.

The department of Social Work collaborated with the Department of Social Work, Purdue University, USA for a ‘Study Abroad Program’. The weeklong program in the month of July focussed on the ‘Indian Family and Social Work Intervention’. The sessions were enriched by inputs from resource persons who included former staff and students of the department. The program included sessions on ‘Status of Women in India’, ‘Transition of the Indian Family’, ‘Intervention Programme with Commercial Sex Workers’, ‘Child Victims of Abuse’, ‘Children Living with HIV/AIDS’ and the existing services available. Several visits were organised to agencies working for women and children making the learning more meaningful. This programme was coordinated by Dr. Poppy Kannan.

The department in collaboration with women’s organisations in Tamil Nadu organised a meet on ‘Movement Against Alcoholism’. Swami Agnivesh addressed the gathering on the occasion.

The Sr. Thecla Endowment Lecture on 'International Social Work' was delivered by Ms. Bhargavi Devendra, Former Hon. Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, TN chapter and former student of the department

Students of the department have excelled in all fields. Several programmes were organised to enhance their skills. The II MSW students underwent a weeklong skill-training programme on Street Theatre by artists from the Murasu Cultural Community, Nagercoil.

Students underwent training in Folk Art, which enabled students to be part of the troupe and perform in the Chennai Sangamam, held in the city of Chennai during the Pongal festival.



*Flambeau - Unnathi culturals*

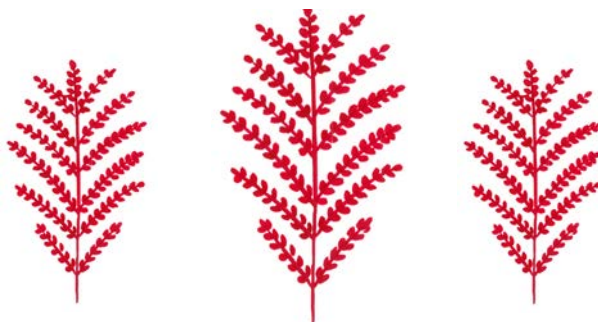
The I MSW students accompanied by Ms Nirmala Alex and Ms Asha Vinay attended a week long rural camp at Tirupachur village, Tiruvallur district where they worked with the dalit community focussing on education, awareness raising and

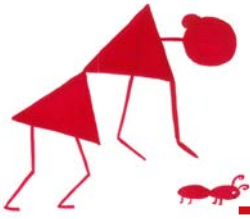
health promotion. The theme for the camp was 'Vidiyalai Thedi'. The Valedictory Function at the camp was graced by Mr. Ranvir Prasad Yadav, IAS, Collector, Tiruvallur district. Sr. Lourthu Mary fmm accompanied the II MSW students on a study tour to Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The Students' Forum UNNATHI, organised several programmes. The theme chosen for this year's activities was 'Save the Environment' in line with the United Nation's General Assembly Declaration – International Year of Planet Earth 2007-2008. The award-winning movie on the related topic 'An Inconvenient Truth' was screened in collaboration with USIS, Chennai.

Through the year talks were organised on issues of social relevance. An Intercollegiate Fest FLAMBEAU '08 was organised and was attended by students from Schools of Social Work. The students also participated in several seminars, workshops and intercollegiate programs organised by other Schools of Social Work. They made the department proud by winning several laurels by participating in these programs.

The Faculty of the department has extensively contributed and served as Consultants to various service organisations and programme. Dr. Poppy Kannan is a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Tuberculosis Research at the Indian Council for Medical Research. Dr. Sandra Joseph, Faculty, Department of Social Work was awarded the Doctoral degree for her thesis 'Empowerment of Women through Self Help Groups'. Dr. Marian Benita Maria attended a Consultation on Adoption, Mumbai. Members of the Faculty have presented papers at National and International levels.





## Department of Zoology

The academic year June 2007 to May 2008 was filled with a multitude of diverse activities that enabled our aspiring biologists to update their knowledge and foster fellowship. The year began with a workshop on *Drosophila* Culture by Dr. Kavitha, Senior Research Fellow, Madras Veterinary College held on 5 July, 2007. This was followed by the much awaited 'Educational Tour' (23 – 25 August 2007) to Hyderabad. The III year students were accompanied by Dr. Juliana and Dr. Sashi. The trip included a visit to the Centre for Cell and Molecular Biology where the students were taken on a tour to the state-of-the-art instructional and research laboratories. The lectures organized at CCMB gave them an insight into the recent trends in the field of Cell and Molecular Biology. The visit to Dr. Reddy's Laboratories also helped reinforce the research prospects in Zoology and enlightened students on how they can prepare for a professional career in the life and health sciences

The highlight of the department came in the form of a number of Visiting Scholars from renowned universities. On 21 August 2007, Dr. R. Geetha, Associate Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolution, Stony Bridge State University of New York delivered a lecture on 'Phylogenetic Biology- Building and Using Trees' – a vital lesson in taxonomy. It was a privilege to have with us the great grand nephew of the eminent Biologist August Weismann, Dr. Gunther Spahn, Zurich University who delivered a lecture on 'Stress, Nutrition and Exercise on Gene Network' on 14 September, 2007. The importance of 'Genetic Counselling' was highlighted by Dr. Kalpana Gowrisankar, Genetic Consultant, Child Trust Hospital on 17 September, 2007. To keep abreast with current methods in hospital waste disposal, a lecture on 'Biomedical Waste Management' was delivered by Dr. Gandeewari, Department of Biomedical Instrumentation, Loyola College on 4 October, 2007. Dr. Arun M. Dharmarajan, Associate Dean, University of Western Australia & Faculty Life Sciences, delivered a lecture on 'Reproductive Cancers' on 23, November 2007

which highlighted the current trends in Cancer Biology.

A series of lectures were organized as part of the Service Learning Programme during October 2007 for the III years. Dr. Sheila John, WCC, Nutrition Department delivered a lecture on 'Nutrition & Health' and Ms. Priya George, Department of Social Work, Stella Maris College talked about 'Geriatric Care'. This programme concluded with an awareness campaign organized by Ms. Annie Cherian on 'Nutrition, Health and Hygiene' among the women and children of Little Drops – Home for Destitute and Orphans. It was an enriching experience for our students.



*Synapse Inter-Collegiate Zoofest*

The fun-filled one day Inter-collegiate Zoofest 'Synapse' was conducted on 13 December, 2007. Dr. Mullainadhan, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Madras, delivered the Inaugural address on "Career Prospects for Zoology students". The program concluded with a valedictory address delivered by Dr. Radha Venkatesan, Senior Scientist, Mohan's Diabetes Research Centre. Students from different colleges competed in the various events of the FEST and Loyola College emerged as the overall winners. EXZOOBITION an annual feature of the Department was organized on various facets of zoology by the I, II and III year students. This was held on 12 January, 2008 and was inaugurated by Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni.



*Dr. Meera Paul endowment lecture*

This event not only enhances the learning process in students but also kindles their creative spirit.

The annual Dr. Meera Paul and Dr. Hannah John Endowment Lecture on 'Mangroves and Climate Change' was delivered by Dr. Purvaja Ramachandran, Senior Scientist, Institute of Ocean Management, Anna University on 20 February, 2008. The lecture brought out the impact of global warming on the Mangrove ecosystem.

Field trips were organized to the Nandanam Poultry Farm to learn about recent trends in Poultry

Science on 10 December, 2007 and to CLRI to learn the processing techniques in the leather industry on 27 February, 2008.

During the year the students won many awards. At the Zoology Department Cultural Festival at WCC, the final year zoology students won I place in Quiz ( Felicia and Krithika), I place in Crossword (Zumanna and Divya), III place in Crossword ( Amanda), I place in Dumb Charades (Zumanna, Divya and Amanda) and III place in Treasure Hunt (Zumanna, Divya and Amanda).

Natasha Sriram did the Zoology Department proud by winning the I place in the A.D. Shroff Memorial Oratorical Competition conducted by the Indian Bank Forum. She represented the college in the All India Inaugural – Saarang Debate at IIT and won the I place in Debate and Quiz at the MCC Culturals. Krithika S. Rao was the recipient of the Prestigious Summer Research Fellowship by the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research.

The faculty of the department has constantly been upgrading their knowledge by attending a number of Seminars, Conferences, Training Programmes and Orientation / Refresher Courses.

---

## Haiku

A perched red bird  
ruffled, soaking, cold  
a sad way to wake up.

A tunnel of trees  
bark and gravel beckon  
glinting sunlight in the gaps.

**Aparna**  
**II B.A. English**



## Department of Chemistry

2007-2008 was an academic year packed with activities in the department. The focus was largely on honouring Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip fmm, for completing 18 years of service as Principal and as the Post graduate Head of the department of chemistry.

A National Conference on 'Recent Advances In Medicinal Chemistry' was organized in collaboration with Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Porur, sponsored by UGC, ICMR, TNGST on 23 - 25 January, 2008. The Conference was dedicated to Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip fmm, in honour of her 18 years of service as Principal and as the head of the department of chemistry. An endowment of Rs. 60,000 for guest lectures was instituted by the Faculty, Dept of Chemistry. It is important to record that the Department had a hat trick (third year in succession) in organizing National Conferences.



*"CHEMFEST"*

Chemfest, the annual intercollegiate chemistry festival, "Reactions 2007-2008" was held on 12 December 2008. The annual Chemistry magazine 'Radicals 2007-2008' was released by Dr. Bhuvanewari of Sanmar Chemicals, carrying a special two page Photofeature titled "Times Freeze-Kaleidoscope Of A Great Journey" on Dr. Sr Annamma Philip apart from other articles and puzzles, poems etc. The magazine was edited by Ms. Mary Teresita, Ms. Avila Josephine and Dr. Sunaja Devi along with a team of students. This is the fifth year in succession that the department

publication "Radicals" is being released.



*National seminar*

A unique initiative by the department, to create a faculty - scientist meet was the visit of a team of eight scientists from IGCAR to Stella Maris College for an interactive presentation of projects by the Science Faculty from the departments of Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Botany, Zoology, Biotechnology and Computer Science of Stella Maris College and the scientists of IGCAR, on 19 June 2007, towards possible collaborative research projects. As a follow up, a team of faculty also visited IGCAR to discuss research collaboration with scientists at IGCAR, Kalpakkam. It was a mutually beneficial and professionally rewarding interaction with the scientists during the 'Academia - IGCAR Meet' organized on 12 October 2007 at Kalpakkam.



*Mobile lab*

Dr. Geetha Swaminathan received the Lifetime Health Achievement Award- 2006 from the Health and Education Development Association, New Delhi in recognition of Sterling Merit, Excellent Performance and Outstanding Contribution to the progress of the Nation, awarded on 20 August 2007 at New Delhi.

The Department is proud of its Industry linkages. Students of II M.Sc Chemistry have done their project work in IIT, Madras, CLRI, Biophotonics division, IGCAR, CECRI, Thirumalai Chemicals, Amruthanjan Labs, Cavin Care, IFF and RRL, Kerala. Students of I M.Sc attended a four week summer internship at Retort labs, Sai Meera Chemicals, Fisher Chemicals, Malladi drugs and Pharmaceu-

ticals, Parryware, SRF Ltd, Nerolac, Medofarm, SIDCO and IIT Madras.

Several Guest Lectures have been organized in the Department like Dr. K. Vishwanathan, Senior Scientist - IGCAR lecture on "An Introduction to Quantum Mechanics" and Dr. Ramamurthy, Michigan State University USA lecture on "Advanced NMR" to name a few.

A Farewell to Dr. Sr Annamma Philip, fmm, was organized on 2 April 2008 and was attended by alumnae, retired faculty and present students. A 'Dr. Sr Annamma Philip Research fund' amounting to Rs. 3.5 lacs was instituted with contributions from well-wishers, students and alumnae.



## Faculty - Ph.D. Degrees 2007 -2008

---

Dr. Agnes Rozario – Commerce, "Relationship Marketing in Banking Sector"

Dr. Arokia Mary Sashi – Zoology, "Impact of Transient Gestational Hypothyroidism on Post-Natal Testicular Differentiation and Development in Wister Rats – An Endocrine and Histomorphometric Study"

Dr. Bernadine Joseph – English, "Hybrid Identities: A Study of the Fiction of Two Writers of Indian Diaspora – Meera Syal and Chitra Banerjee Divakarunni"

Dr. Preethi Mehta – Biotechnology, "Identification of Abiotic Stress Induced Genes from *Avicennia Marina* (Forsk.) Vierh. and Overexpression in the Transgenic System"

Dr. Sujitha S - English "A Kaleidoscopic View of the Mystical and Theological Overtones in the Selected Works of Flannery O'Connor"

Dr. Alamelu N – Fine Arts, "Narration in Nayaka Art Based on Select Temples"

Dr. Sandra Joseph – Social Work, "Effectiveness of 'Mahalir Thittam' in Empowering Rural Women at Erode District, Tamil Nadu, South India"

Dr. Sheila Mathai – English, "Representation of Resistance and Autonomy in Select Works of Mahasweta Devi, Deshpande and Kamala Das"

Dr. Sharada Bhanu – English, "Not Two: An Indian Perspective on Western Fantasy Fiction for Children"

Dr. Maha Sampath Gowri – Chemistry, "Synthesis of Heterocyclic Spiro Compounds Through 1,2 – Dipolar Cycloaddition Methodology"

Dr. Jayasheela – Sociology, "Women in Administration with special reference to Women in All India Services"



## Library Report

Improvements to keep pace with the changing educational scenario were carried out in the various departments of the college. The library was also upgraded. Additions were made in the furniture and equipments. There was also introduction of an electronic database.

Continuing with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the library brought out a periodical list of publications on 15 August 2007 known as the Diamond Jubilee Issue of Periodical List 2007.

In keeping with the increasing number of post graduate departments, the library has purchased new books and journals meant for study and research. There was a strong need felt for a research database like EBSCO to facilitate research for the post graduate students, staff and research scholars. As one other city college, the Women's Christian College had also subscribed to the same, the subscription was subsidised from 2 lakhs to 1.2 lakhs. As the Principal readily agreed to this proposal the library has now proudly added this extensive database to its existing collection.



*In the world of books*

The students of the college in their pursuit for knowledge, continually subject the books to reference and reading resulting in wear and tear of books and reference material. Maintenance

and preservation of books for future use is an enormous responsibility of the library and librarian. Novel and innovative methods are employed to maintain the books in good condition.

The librarian attended various seminars during the year starting with an international seminar on "REINVENTING PARADIGMS IN LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION" organized by Women's Christian College Chennai on 10 – 11 August 2007. On 30 August and 1 September, 2007 a workshop on "FORMALISING A CONSORTIUM OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES" was organized by the Union Christian College, Aluva. Both the workshops were sponsored by UBCHEA. As a continuation to this seminar the college librarian organized a seminar on 18 September 2007 for the Chennai Arts & Science college librarians, called "FORMATION OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES CONSORTIUM IN CHENNAI". This consortium proved to be successful.

The librarian was the resource person for a training programme for teachers on Powerpoint presentation on 30 November 2007 organised by the Academic Staff College, University of Madras. The librarian was also a resource person for an orientation organised by the History Department for the newly recruited history lecturers of Government colleges on the topic 'Internet And Web Resources for the Teaching of History'.

The librarian regularly attends the World Book Fair in New Delhi with a faculty member. This year Dr Patricia Gabriel, Head of the History Department accompanied her from 2 - 5 February 2008. They bought books worth four lakhs for the various departments, updated government publications and also CDs of Gulzar and Subramaniam Bharati, to name just a few. Two periodicals, "Cooking And More" and "The Indian Economic Journal" were also purchased at the exhibition.

The Documentation and Information Science course was conducted this year with twenty five students. The library introduced Adobe illustrator and Indesign software in keeping with contemporary trends in the industry.

The library notice board was a source of constant information and carried daily news updates along with a variety of special interest snippets. Books of topical interest or select themes like the Annual Budget, Christmas, Political Personalities and AIDS were displayed regularly.

The ISDN line was changed, and a new leased line was provided for the library in March 2008, and the number of terminals in the post graduate library was increased. The library developed an access repository using Dspace software where the question papers, syllabus, seminars, e-books were saved for the benefit of the staff and the students. This software enabled the users to search for question papers easily and more users can have simultaneous access to the same material.

There was a complete change in the circulation wing of the UG and PG sections to accommodate the automated system of functioning and the needs of the library staff and users. The old research cubicles in the PG library were dismantled and new modular furniture was set up and networking connection to twenty four computers was introduced. New storage facilities for students were provided.

Just before the year ended, we received an invitation from INFLIBNET to become a member in the network. The library is in the process of acquiring this membership.



*Digital learning*

The library had numerous visitors through out the year. Books written by eminent persons in the various fields like Mahesh Dattani, Arputha Rani Sengupta and Rukmini Bhaya Nair were autographed.

Online databases are being introduced in the library to serve the user better and faster in keeping with the development of Information Technology. The development of an individual depends on the capacity to seek knowledge and the the college library facilitates this quest for knowledge.

---

### Haiku

Pitter! Pitter! Pitter!  
Overpowers the din  
Of man's concrete jungle.

**Cuckoo Alex**  
**II B.A. English**

Early morning oven aroma  
Walnut, Caramel, Cinnamon  
picnic perfect pumpkin pie.

**Aparna**  
**II B.A English**





## Students Union Report 2007-2008

Office bearers:

President	- G. Krishna Priya
Vice- president	- Roshini Pochont
Cultural Secretary	- Bhargavi Narayanan
	- Harini Vaidhyanath
General secretary	- Ishwariah Thiyagarajan
Treasurer	- Nahla Fathima



*Students union 2007- 08*

With their motto "Reach In to Reach out", the students' union 2007- 08 began its activities with a hospitable welcome to the freshers on 20 June 2007. Fresher's Day was celebrated on 13 July and Club office bearers were elected on 16 July. With this the union was all set to march ahead.

The tradition of celebrating special occasions continued and each was a moment of joy and sharing. Ethnic day, Friendship day, Teachers' day, Workers' day, MTC day, Administrative Staff day and Union day were celebrated with great enthusiasm. They were days for special lectures, sharing gifts and re-asserting solidarity. The fund raising event organized by the union was Raagangal, presented by Ragapriya, a visually

challenged orchestra.

On 26 October, a guest lecture on Disaster Management Awareness Initiative was organized and Dr.Radhakrishnan was the keynote speaker. On the following day, a Parliamentary Debate was held on Disaster Management.

On 26 and 27 January, Yuvakrithi 08, a youth convention on the theme of social responsibility was organized. It was a bilingual seminar which included eminent speakers like Dr.Preethika Chary, from Apollo hospitals, Bharati Bhaskar, Dr. Sudhakar from the cyber crime cell of Chennai police and K. Sumathi, advocate.



*Christmas cheer*

In keeping with the tradition of Stella Maris, the students won laurels in various competitions in and around the city. They also participated in programmes related to social concerns. The club reports bear evidence to the passionate involvement of the students of Stella Maris.



## Club Reports

---

### English Dramatics Club

The aim of the club is to hone the skills and talents of all the members and in doing so, to learn to appreciate each other. The Dramatics Club convened several meetings during the year and the first two meetings involved the registration and fee collection of the club members.

A dance and theatre workshop conducted during the third meeting was beneficial and was attended by 35 students. The resource persons for the workshop were Mr Freddy Koikaran and Mr. Denver .

The club's major event for the year was the Stella Maris annual college play, 'Dragon', directed by Mr. V.Balakrishnan from Theatre Nisha. The event was entirely managed by the students, from properties, sets, lighting, music, publicity, promotional design to music composition and lyric writing.



*Theatre Workshop*

The club encouraged their members to be a part of this immensely enriching experience and at every step there were new lessons to be learnt on the use of props, the staging of sets and the use of various other theatre elements.

In preparation for the play, the club had two voice

workshops, one with their director and one with a well known theatre professional in the city, Ms. Kallairani. They also had several workshops on team work, intention and censorship and perspectives in theatre.

The play contained original music and lyrics composed by the students, and the original logo for the play, which featured in all the brochures, tickets, T-shirts, certificates etc was designed by the students of the Department of Fine Arts. Non-members were also encouraged to help with the marketing and in-venue team. The costume and make up team were major contributors to the success of the play. They added an indigenous element to the play and made it visually realistic. The marketing team took care of publicity and managed to get a substantial sponsorship which covered the costs of the production. The club also conducted a press meet which gave the production more coverage and publicity.

The play "Dragon" was successfully staged from 4 to 8 February, 2008. The club got some great reviews from theatre professionals and the media. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal felicitated the participants on behalf of the management.

Given below are the comments of the Dramatics Club office bearers.

"It has been an interesting year for all of us and I have enjoyed being part of this exciting journey. I hope Stella continues to have an even more active and energetic club in the following year."- Rini

"It has been a valuable experience and I look forward to another year of hard work and good fun in the dramatics club." - Tharini

"I have learnt so much in just one year in the Dramatics Club; it has really helped me understand and love theatre even more than ever. I look forward to playing a much bigger role in the activities of the next year." - Yugandhara.

## Western Dance Club

The aim of the club is to promote different styles and facets of western dance on campus and to train and prepare the college team for various inter-collegiate competitions. Contemporary workshop, Hip-hop workshop, and Flamenco (Spanish style) workshop were some of the major activities of the club. The club also won many prizes in Inter-Collegiate competitions.

## Western Music Club

The Western Music Club was one of the most active clubs in this academic year. The year started off with auditions and elections for the office bearers. Post-auditions, we found ourselves an extremely talented group of singers who would make Stella Maris proud. Once the inter-collegiate culturals kicked off, the club emerged victorious at almost every competition, winning either first or second. We proudly bagged the first place for Western Music at the prestigious, legendary MCC culturals – “Deepwoods”.

Apart from culturals, the team took part in Christmas performances at the Anna Nagar Methodists Church and the British Council. The Western Music Club was present at every college event, giving memorable host performances. Be it on College Day, Aquilae or the Convocation, the team was there to add colour to the celebrations.



*Western Music Club - Host show at Aquilae*

The club was awarded the “Best Performing Club of the Year”. It was definitely a year filled with a lot of fun and love - not to forget, great music.

## Paw Pals Club

The Paw Pals Club was involved in numerous activities during the academic year. In July 2007 the members held a protest in Mayajal in association with People for Animals (PFA) against the brutal slaughter of dogs in the cinema complex.

In September the members rescued a sick dog opposite our college and admitted her in Blue Cross. The dog recovered from tumor treatment and was relocated again. The members were also taken on an orientation visit to Blue Cross and a second visit to Blue Cross with more members was undertaken again. Several pet adoptions took place over the semester.

## Quiz, Debate and Current Affairs Club

2008 has been an extremely eventful year for the Quiz, Debate and Current Affairs Club of Stella Maris College. This can be seen from the simple fact that the active membership went up from 5 in 2007 to over 30 in 2008, an increase of over 600% which is a tremendous achievement.

As a part of the innovation initiated this year, fortnightly group discussions were started where club members and the other interested students of the college conducted learning circles where they discussed issues of topical interest, such as the nuclear deal, the Nandigram issue and other relevant topics.

The club also organized a Parliamentary Debate in connection with Disaster Management Week and introduced the club members to the parliamentary form of debating. The club also helped organized the Eco fest debate and quiz in the college.

Participation in events within the city has also been another strong point this year. Our team comprising of Janani and Dhanshree of I BA Economics and Literature respectively was placed first at the city level in the National Level debate organized by the Center for Security Analysis and the Loyola Society of Debaters in January 2008, and also qualified for the quarter-finals held in Loyola College. Jolin and Sneha of III and II Economics and History departments respectively also participated in the National Level CSA and LAD debate.

Upasika of III Sociology and Natasha of III Zoology participated in the IIT Saarang Inaugural Debate in January 2008. Upasika and Lakshmi of III

Economics were placed first in Mitrang 2007 English Debate and Lakshmi was also adjudged the best speaker. Chhavi of III Sociology won the first place in the Hindi Debate at the same event. Upasika and Poornima of I BA Sociology won the first place in the Parliamentary Debate held in Stella Maris College.

Jolin and Natasha also won the first place at the Deep Woods English Debate conducted by MCC in December 2007. Jolin was adjudged the best speaker. Lakshmi and Lavanya of III Economics were placed third in the same event.

Janani and Sophie of I MA Fine Arts participated in the WCC English Debate, and Janani and Amishi of I BA Sociology attended the JBAS English Debate in November 2007. Janani also won the A.D.Shroff Oratorical Competition conducted in Stella Maris College.

It was a year of accolades and achievements, and it is hoped that this will be sustained in the years to come. The increase in the club's participation in all the major city – level events is particularly praiseworthy. Certificates were given to all active members; this is a new initiative by the club to increase the participation of students.

For the first time our club was recognized at the national level, and received numerous invitations to several notable events like, the IIT Delhi Students' Hindi Debate in February 2008, St. Stephen's 60th Mukarji Memorial Debate in February, 2008, St. Stephen's National Model UN in February, 2008, LIBA 'Equizite' in February, 2008, CSA LSD Debate in January, 2008, The Vinod Diskhit Hindi Debate conducted by St. Stephen's in February, 2008 and the IIT Madras National English Debate in January, 2008.

Though it was not possible to attend some of these events, the fact remains that the Club was recognized nationally. The members are also active members of the Quiz Federation of India, and other debating forums.

## **Enviro Club**

The main objective of the Enviro-Club is to sensitise the students about the problems faced in the environment, to create general awareness and to fuel action. This year, the club consisted of 29 active members who worked diligently towards this goal. Badges were distributed. Certificates and

reading material for various events were handed-out.

The academic year 2008-2009 saw a number of enlightening lectures, documentaries, meetings and presentations about issues like the Ganga river crisis and e-waste by Mr. Jagan of Greenpeace India Society, Environmental Laws by C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, the concept behind Eco Park - Adyar, and Nizhal – an N.G.O. which works towards promoting tree culture in urban areas. Ms. Chitra Viswanathan of Nizhal started the members on the Land Survey of the college in an interactive session. The Land Audit Reports will be given to the college to better understand and facilitate improvements in our college environment. Documentaries and movies screened were on-topics like: The Pollution Around The Taj Mahal, Abuse of Pets and Global Warming – 'The Inconvenient Truth'- by Al Gore. The field activities included the planting of 60 saplings with the help of the Botany Department.

Awareness activities like putting up posters during Inter-Years, were organised. General cleanliness was maintained during major student-run events like cultural fests. The students also organized participation in inter-collegiate events like the 'Colour Me Green' Drawing and Painting Competition organized by Loyola College. The introduction of 'Clean Campus Week' saw members scouting the canteen area and N.C.C. grounds during breaks and requesting students to properly dispose of the waste and garbage.

## **Dhamini Club**

The aim of the Dhamini club is to create more understanding and awareness about Gender issues through workshops, discussions and movie screenings. Although the club consisted of only 13 members including the office bearers, response at meetings was intense and focused.

The activities for the year included a Workshop on 'Awareness of the Body' by Ms. Ponni, Alternate Law Forum, Bengaluru on 20 August. The event was attended by 20 undergraduate students. In Collaboration with members from Youth for Social Change, a short film called "Killing us Softly" was screened on 31 August followed by a vibrant, interactive discussion on gender representation in the media.

The club feels that more interest should be evinced by students to discuss the gender dimensions of almost all aspects of life.

## **Cercle de Francophiles**

The year began in September with a screening of the Oscar nominated French film called "Les Choristes" for the regular and evening college.

On 29 February a special break-time presentation was organized where six french language students entertained the college with French songs. French patisseries from Baker's Cottage were sold on the same day and were very much appreciated by the students. On 3 March, the French inter-year competition was held. The events organized were Pictionary, Quiz, Collage, Singing, Debate and Ad-zap. In this event the II years were declared the overall winners and all participants were given participation prizes and certificates.

## **Bharathi Mandram**

Theresa Mary of II Zoology, Surya of II Sociology and Kavita Rose of II Botany were the Office bearers of this Club which is named after the great Tamil Poet Bharathi.

The major events held under the auspicious of this Manram were Bharathi Day, Inter- Years cultural and Pongal celebrations.

The highlight was Bharathi Day in which Thiru Subbu Arumugam, a master of Villu pattu performed "Bharathi Vandhar," a show that discussed with pungent humour our present day with Bharathi as a nucleus on 11 December, 2007. Thiru. Ramalingam, a renowned Lawyer, well versed in Tamil literature and a popular speaker addressed the students at the Pongal Day celebrations on 8 January, 2008.

An Inter- Year competition on various literary and cultural events was held on 17 December, 2008. Fr. Joe Mix, Biblical Centre, Poonamallee gave the Valedictory address on 19th March, 2008.

## **Unnathi- Social Work Student's Forum**

UNNATHI, the Social Work Students' Forum had its inception in the year 1998. The forum seeks to create awareness about professional Social Work and strives to initiate among students a growth oriented perspective towards social issues. The forum aims at enhancing the skills of students and provides opportunities for participation and lead-

ership. Interaction with students from different departments of the college and with students from the other schools of Social Work is also made possible through the activities organised by the forum.

The forum also collaborates with other Governmental, Non Governmental organisations, hospitals and other institutions to organise programmes of concern with those which influence individuals, families and society at large. UNNATHI comprises of eight elected representatives from the BSW and MSW PROGRAM.

On 20 September, 2007, International Peace Day, Mr. Sylendra Babu, ADP-TNPL, Pugallur delivered a talk on 'Peace, Tolerance and Communal Harmony' to the student community at the college. In line with the United Nations General Assembly Declaration of 2007-2009 as International Year of Planet Earth, the award winning movie, 'An Inconvenient Truth', was screened in collaboration with the USIS, Chennai on 30 November, 2007.

On 12 December, 2007 Human Rights Day was observed. An open air assembly was organised to sensitise the college community on Human Rights with emphasis on 'Child Rights'. The speakers on the occasion were Ms. Virgil D'Sami, Executive Director, Arunodaya - Centre for Street and Working Children, also a former student of the department and Dr. Ms. Benita Marian, Lecturer, Department of Social Work. A beneficiary from Arunodaya also spoke on the occasion and shared his experiences on the subject.

On 13 February, 2008, an intercollegiate fest FLAMBEAU '08 was organised. The fest was inaugurated by Ms. Tamilachi Thangapandian. Students from the Schools of Social Work in Chennai participated.

Through the year guest lectures were organised on issues of social relevance. The students have made the department proud by winning several laurels and contributing immensely to the communities they serve.

The students participated in several seminars, workshops, competitions and inter-collegiate programs organised by other colleges and other Schools of Social Work. Students also presented papers at the National UN Conference on Women, Violence and Human Rights, organised by The Department of Social Work, Madras Christian College, Tambaram.



Only daring speculation can lead us further and not accumulation of facts.

- Albert Einstein



Books are the windows through which the soul looks out.

- Henry Ward Beecher



What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul.

- Joseph Addison



Nothing great is ever achieved without passion.

- Immanuel Kant





A B C D

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



1 2 3 4 5





## Dragon: In All His Glory

Four magical evenings when Stella Maris witnessed the culmination of several months of planning, rehearsing, coordinating and simply looking forward to the annual play! DRAGON was staged from 4 - 7, February 2008 at Sivagami Pethachi Auditorium to very attentive and appreciative audiences.



“Dragon”, was directed by V.Balakrishnan, who collaborated with our students to deliver an appealing mix of comedy, wit and satire, served with a generous dose of music. He gave the students creative freedom and the entire experience worked to the advantage of many first timers in theatre.

Beyond the wings and behind the stage was a vibrant and dedicated crew, working quietly but quite brilliantly and in many ways outshining the performers on stage. Stage and Set, Costumes and Make-up, Lights, Creative Design, Publicity and Sponsorship; more than 40 girls worked in these committees to achieve the impossible: right from creating carpets that fly, dealing with costume disasters to turning around the financial fortunes of the production! A special mention must be made of the talented team of girls who penned the brilliant lyrics, composed the music and background score

and even trained some not-so-melodious actors to render their songs live!

The annual play is a tradition that throws up wonderful opportunities for discovering talent, friendship and a love for theatre. But ask the coordinators and they will tell you that planning for the production begins months in advance, as early as July. Its a wonderful opportunity for students to come together and also make new friends. The play is all about getting involved and working together, it teaches one great lessons in team skills and management.

So start hunting for that perfect script right away, because the next play's going to be here in no time!

**Rini Mukkath**

**III BA English**

## The Making of Dragon – From the Wings

So how do you make a magic carpet fly on stage? Or for that matter how do you make two severed heads and one complete human body miraculously fall down onto the stage?

Not to mention old scrolls, bazookas, daggers, swords, worst of all a ledge of a brick wall and a six foot portrait of a military dragon? This is how I spent two months of my second semester; constantly with some kind of wood, glow in the dark tape or paint and turpentine ruining my favourite pair of jeans!

This is when the questions started. It started with who do we invite to direct the play this year? Some popular names of the city's renowned directors were thrown around, of which V.Balakrishnan was one. Then it went on to... how much can we afford to spend on the production? When will we have to meet Sister Principal? When will we be able to stage the play? I was one of the lucky few who saw the whole process unfurl in front of my eyes. V. Balakrishnan who soon became Bala to all of us is a graduate from National School of Drama,



Delhi. He owns his own theatre group in Chennai called Theatre Nisha.



*Bala with his 'Dragons'*

Then the unimaginably long process of hunting for a script started. I used to think it was easy to find a script and all you had to do was interpret it in your own way and just direct it. It wasn't anything like that. It was a tedious process. It had to be secular, adapt itself to a Indian scenario, adhere to an all girl cast, and be a serious play with minimal sets. The plays we read included - "The House of Bernada Alba," "Unborn in Lahore" and "Top Girls." When none of these worked, Rini and her friend Vaishnavi, acting on Bala's feedback started looking for a particular Russian script called "Dragon." It was a search to end all our searches. Thanks to extremely fast internet connection, the full translated version of the script was found online. 'We could have wept with relief', said the two script hunters who were almost at their wits end when they chanced upon the script.

The first two weeks were spent in workshops. Various exercises in voice, body, movement and of course script readings, over and over again. This was also the time when Bala made the whole team participate in exercises which were meant for better bonding. This made the team bond together as a cohesive unit where everyone could place trust in each other. As the days progressed the play had to be brought into an Indian setting, the lengthy script had to be shortened and have a drastically different ending.

The first thing I remember working on is the portrait of the dragon. A military style dragon perched on a rock. It was roughly six foot by four foot poly vinyl sheet, on which we were using enamel paints. It took us a complete week to finish it. One whole week! First we had to finish the actual painting of it, then running out of the colours which we ourselves had to mix; which meant that every time we mixed colours we got different shades, of

course funds had to run out just when we thought it was going to be completed soon! The worst came when we had finished the whole painting and called for our director to approve of it; and what does he say? 'Don't you think the blue sky kills the effect somehow... try an orange background.' Strictly speaking, yes the orange sky worked brilliantly in the end, but for the few of us who had been working all day on it, in very uncomfortable positions, especially with bad backaches every evening it was an unbearable thought. However, it got done and to say we were proud of it is a complete understatement. I remember beaming for two continuous days.



*In rehearsal ...*

Meanwhile, business as usual was going on with rehearsals and the all other teams. I remember seeing the costumes team sitting together and having a very serious meeting on where to outsource clothes from. The music team could also be spotted every time you climbed the stairs, sitting in one corner and singing softly. The props team spent hours together making guns and bazookas out of PVC pipes, trying to stitch a round carpet out of a traditional rectangular *jamakalam*. They also had to find a dagger which looked sharp but would not hurt anyone when the heroine passionately threw it during a scene. The funniest incident was when the scroll prop got ready and actors on stage had the shock of their life seeing the names of Hollywood actors instead of the supposed list of the heroine's relatives. Sporadically and suddenly we would hear Nrithya playing the piano or someone singing. We would stop whatever we were doing to listen to either,

'Sonny Boy', 'Elsa's song', or 'All Hail the Dragon'. It was a matter of pride to us to listen to songs which were both written (Sophie) and composed (Nrithya) by our team. Amidst all this chaos, our design team would pop in to make the various masks for the Dragon. It was quite a sight to see Marie-Anne lying down with p.o.p all over her face trying not to move or talk. When it was done, there wasn't a single girl who wasn't awed by it. They also made two severed heads for us; painted red and gold, and green to go with Dragon's colours. These were the ones which later magically dropped into the stage on performance days.

I am not going to sideline the cast in this piece just because I was in another team. They did their share sincerely, be it exercises or rehearsing lines or practicing their scenes. They were so devoted that somehow they lost their given names to their character names for those entire 6 weeks. They started a blog online for the complete team. The show days had their own glitches as well, with lighting going for a toss on the second day, the heads not falling at all on the first, one actor being injured on the last and the choreographer (Swathi) always in much anxiety. Needless to say our prayers were answered and our hard work paid off, when all four shows went off smoothly.



Showtime

We had a felicitation ceremony a few weeks later and Sister Principal joined us to congratulate the team and our director V.Balakrishnan. It was my first year at college and the whole experience of organising a professional level theatre performance taught me so many things which I could not have otherwise learned. All of us are really looking forward to next year's annual production.

**Yugandhara Muthukrishnan**  
I B.A. Fine Arts

## Ushas – Exhibition 2008

'Ushas', a Sanskrit term describing the moment at which rays of sunlight flood the morning sky, seemed an appropriate name for this show, that exhibited the art works of twelve students from the Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College. A mandatory event undertaken by the final year students of the department, we had a lot to look forward to, and even more to expect out of it. The last few days before the inauguration on 28 March 2008 were filled with a flurry of activity.



Inauguration

The officials at the Russian Cultural Centre, specifically Mrs. Janaki Krishnan, were equally eager to help us, and provided us with the use of their premises to hold our art show, and to further prove their support in our venture, collaborated with us, involving our show with the 'Indo-Russian Friendship Year'. There was an overwhelming response from the public on all four days and people from various walks of life appreciated the paintings that we displayed at the Centre. Well known personalities from the field of arts and crafts, politically eminent people and even some from the film industry visited the show and showered us with words of praise and encouragement.

Pressurised for time to organise the printing and posting of invites and catalogues for the exhibition, hectic activity remained our focus in the last few days before the inaugural. Yet we managed to remain energetic which reflected on our faces as we welcomed the visitors to the show with warm and genial smiles.

We can never thank enough the Staff and Faculty of Department of Fine Arts, for being such pillars of strength and for being a constant source of encouragement for this maiden endeavour of

ours. Our principal Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, and the other departments of the college, also helped in the development of our creativity into something as immediately tangible as this.

The overall encouragement given to the twelve of us now stands as a moral booster for the years to come and for all our future projects. We thank one and all, especially the media and press for their exclusive coverage.

As for personal gains, I think each of us benefited from the experience of working as a group, which also served as a unique bonding experience. It was a lesson to demonstrate our convictions, to stand up for each other and effectively help each other grow into our artist shoes... and we realized how all our hard work paid off, when we sat back after those four full days. Between the twelve of us- Anisha, Mariam, Venetia, Priyanka, Ramya, Mihika, Sumitra, Nishika, Genevieve, Oh Sung-Jei, Pavithra and Subhiksha, we understood the importance of delegation and the concept of taking charge. We must mention Sumitra specially, for among us, she was the one who lost most sleep over this exhibition.



*Visitors at the exhibition*

On the whole this was a beautiful and enriching experience that brought us together as young artists from the department of Fine Arts.

**Subhiksha Rangarajan  
III B.A. Fine Arts**

## **Bio-Ethics**

Ethics are the rules or standards that govern the way people behave and their decisions on the 'right thing' to do. Gradually the term 'bioethics' came to refer to the broad terrain of the moral problems

of the life science, ordinarily taken to encompass medicine, biology, and some important aspects of the environmental, population and social sciences. Biotechnology is a broad term generally used to describe the use of biology in brewing and drug development.

The common feature of ethics is that different people with different values often disagree on the "right thing" for individuals and society. One reason for this disagreement is that a thing that benefits one is seen as a disaster by others. An example is embryonic stem cell research which some people see as having great potential to develop cures for diseases, while others object to it because it involves the destruction of human embryos that have the potential to become human beings. There is no clear right or wrong position in ethics as a person's individual experience and view of the world often guides the way they make ethical choices.

Uncertainty and risks associated with the process of engineering are also reflected in the resulting genetically modified organism. As a result of altered regulatory functions, Genetically Modified Organisms may exhibit increased allergenic tendencies, toxicity, or altered nutritional value. They may also exhibit mutations, which are errors that can occur in the sequence or reading of the DNA within a cell. Altering regulatory functions may create new components or alter levels of existing components of an organism.

Physicians have an ethical obligation to consider the harms and benefits of new medical procedures and technologies. In weighing the harms and benefits, physician should consider the possible implications of human cloning. Potential physical harms, adverse effects on familial relations and changes to the gene pool are all legitimate issues compared to other technologies that might be used to address reproductive limitations and organ and tissue shortages, these potential harms of human cloning appear to outweigh the potential benefits at this time.

India is often being considered as a possible destination for 'DRUG TRIALS' because of various factors such as large patient population, data bank of healthy volunteers, trained English speaking medical personnel, state of the art lab support and well equipped trial centres and hospitals. So more importance must be given to developing countries like India and China in Bioethics.

**Dr.Preeti Mehta  
Faculty, Department of Biotechnology**

## A New Country, A New Campus

I tried to prepare myself weeks before arriving in Chennai: "You are going to complete your education in India, in a girls' college, of 3000! Scary? Challenging?"

After a few hours at Stella Maris College, where I received a very warm welcome, from the pedagogic team as well as from the students, the answer to my question was: enjoyable.

As a 22 year old French guy, going to India to complete his final year, you should be ready for some change in the educational environment.

First of all, being one of the first European guys studying among 3000 long-dark-tressed Indian girls has been not only a privilege, but also a kind of challenge... an excellent one. It goes from shy girls who avoid looking you in the eyes, girls who do not really care, to girls who seem happy to see some changes in the court yard of the College and are open for talks.

Going to India and taking this Master Degree in International Relations was a great opportunity to be exposed to issues such as the current relation between India and Pakistan, issues that are not deeply discussed in similar courses in France. I really appreciated subjects like "Ethnicity," "Human Rights" and "Conflict and Cooperation in South Asia" among others.

Also, I really appreciated the fact that most of the classes were interactive, where exchanges, inputs of the students are encouraged and make the classes more like an open discussion than a magisterial lecture.

On the other side, we have been introduced to some "practices", which at the beginning could be seen as drawbacks: classes which got cancelled, moved, or added. But, at the end, this reflected, at its level, my daily life in India, where nothing can really be planned and where everything can be expected.

I enjoyed the daily life in the College, punctuated with all kinds of celebrations. I remember the first event that I saw was "Pongal": a lot of dancing; singing and this sweet rice delicacy at the end... This is when I realised that I was definitely not in a French College where such performances don't exist!



*Exchange students on campus*

From my year in India I keep a mix of smells, colours, noises, flavours, which made up my daily life; an incredible year with an introduction to such a fascinating and diverse country, where I am sure I will travel or work again very soon.

Today, even though I am not working in the field of International Relations, I am convinced that my year at Stella Maris has been, and will be a great asset for my career, which I hope will be within the Humanitarian field.

Almost one year later, I have absolutely no regrets, and if you ask me the question "Would you do it again?" My head would shake the Indian way from side to side saying YES!

**Sylvain Le fort**  
**Exchange Programme Student of International Relations (2007-08)**  
**ICES(InstitutCatholiqueD'etudesSuperieures),**  
**Nantes, France**

## Kabir - A Weaver of Love

Lord, I weave the cloth  
Of Thy Name  
The fruitless toil  
Of weaving for the world  
Has come to an end  
I have attained  
The dazzling state of bliss  
Free from fear,  
Free from pain  
I am a weaver, O Lord,  
Of Thy name  
I weave and reap the profit  
Of inner rapport with thee  
I am a weaver of the  
Lord's name

Adored by devotees, decried by the orthodox, Kabir is one of the most popular and well known saints of medieval India.

He was born in 1398 A. D., and reared by a Muslim weaver Niru and his wife Nima, who lived on the outskirts of the holy city of Benares.

Kabir showed signs of religious inclination from an early age. Though deprived of formal instruction on account of his poverty and low caste, Kabir has, as is evident from his compositions, a keen intellect, a discerning mind and a capacity for understanding and analysis, far beyond the ordinary.

It is generally accepted that Ramanand was Kabir's Guru. From Kabir's poems it appears that he has visited a number of holy places and met many holy men, presumably in his search for the true path to God. From his own observations he has realised the hollowness of rituals and modes of worship of both the Hindus and Muslims prevailing at that time. His quest is for something higher and more real.

Kabir later taught a path based on the practice of Shabd, which aimed at God realisation while living – a path not of outward pursuits but of going within.

Hailed as a great devotee and a saint, Kabir, in the context of 20th century thinking, is regarded as a powerful social reformer. Kabir wrote poetry when religious hostility between Hindus and Muslims reached its flashpoint. But Kabir was not a reformer either by volition or by

inclination. His mission was essentially spiritual. Kabir's role was not that of a reformer giving a new social order in the place of the old, it was rather that of a transformer. He tried to transform hatred into love, recrimination into tolerance, doubt into faith born of experience, and the outward search for God into inner union with him. Having attained the highest form of spiritual experience, God Realisation – he was fully competent to guide others on the path, a perfect master for whom spirituality was not an exposition of the intricate spiritual truths, but a way of life.

### ***His belief***

Kabir has often described himself as the 'Bride of God' the wife of Ram. In his poems of longing, he pines for the Lord, identifying himself with the bride parted from her husband. In songs of union, he declares that Ram, the long awaited bridegroom, has come to wed the bride Kabir and take her to His divine abode.

*Dulhani gavahoo mangalachar,  
Tan rati kari, main man rati  
Karihoon  
Panchtat barati  
Ramdev mohe pahune aaye  
Main jovan madmati  
Sharir sarovar bedi karihoon,  
Brahma Ved upchar  
Ramdev sang bhanvri  
laihoon, dhani dhani  
bhag hamar  
Sur taitisu kotig aaye,  
Nuniyar sahas aathasee  
Kahe Kabir hum vayehee  
Chale hain, purush ek  
Avinashi*

Here dulhan is Jivatma the soul and Ram is Paramatma the god. These types of 'rupaks' make Kabir one of the best saint poets of 'Bhaktikala'.

He addresses the Lord with numerous names, that are prevalent even today: Ram, Krishna, Govind, Madhav, Keshav, taken from Hindu tradition and Allah, Khudah, Rabb, Rahim, Rehman, Karim from Muslims. He uses these appellations for the one Almighty God, the Supreme Being – his beloved - his husband.

Kabir declares in clear terms that the object of his love and devotion is not any of the various incarnations, gods and deities. He believed in

'Nirgun Brahma' i.e., God is present everywhere and that God has no form.

"Attach yourself to that Lord whose devotion will end all pains; who will redeem you from your state of orphan hood."

The Ram of Kabir is immutable, permanent and perfect. He says - 'That which is permanent and changeless is true; what is born, dies and is false'. Guru Nanak also echoed the same thoughts, when he said that 'originally only God was; He was at the beginning of creation; He is and He shall ever be'.

### ***The gateway of liberation***

Many religious texts accept that the Lord resides within the human body, but very few indicate how and where one can find Him in the body. Kabir adopts the imagery of a fort and explains that one can conquer this formidable fort of the body only through the master's grace and divine love. This fort is equipped with strong walls, an intractable gate and stubborn defenders of sense and desires and it is ruled by the redoubtable overlord, the mind.

### ***He who holds the key***

The key to the inner door is only with the spiritual adept, the perfect master or Sadguru, who has himself travelled through the inner regions and become one with the Absolute.

To become one with the Absolute, one has to open the granite gate. This gate is very hard to open. But a seeker, initiated by a perfect master learns to withdraw his attention or consciousness to the eye centre through spiritual practice and open the granite gate. Kabir - says 'I sacrifice my entire being at the feet of my true master, who has applied the key and opened the lock within'.

My master has given me  
The key to the unyielding lock;  
whenever I like, I open the  
door; dressed in the  
costume of love;  
I enter the town,  
whenever I please  
and I dance and dance  
in ecstasy says Kabir,  
Listen friends, I'll not come  
To this city again

### ***Importance of family life***

A pure life and moral conduct are of prime importance on the path of sainthood. But mystics do not ask their disciples to adopt celibacy or to leave family and children. The devotee must do his duty towards his family, look after his children and earn his living by honest means. His involvement in worldly relationships should, however, be limited to the fulfillment of his duties and obligations and not be carried so far as to become an obsession.

As against the ascetic, who achieves only an outer renunciation, the true disciple of a perfect master stays in his family, fulfills his obligations and attends to spiritual exercises - thus attaining a state of inner renunciation while living in the world. He gradually succeeds in controlling his mind and attaining his goal. Says Kabir -

Gradually and easily  
All left my mind  
Son and wealth  
wife and lust;  
And Kabir the slave  
And his beloved lord  
fused into one

### ***Love***

The prime object of all spiritual practice is to develop love for the Lord, because, as the saints say, God is love and Love is God. Kabir says that the devotee should have pointed attention towards God, the object of love. Hence he says -

*Ja ghat prem Na sanchare,  
So ghat jaan masan,  
Jaise khal lohar ki,  
saans leet binu pran*

Hence, he preached love life towards fellow human beings and love of God. He compared his soul to a bride who is unable to see her husband because of the curtain of duality. Kabir says -

My beloved resides in the  
chamber of every heart,  
No couch is empty of Him;  
All praise to that heart  
Into which he has  
Become manifest

The husband will not be pleased if the wife is not entirely absorbed in the thought of him. She cannot be called a faithful wife, if her fickle mind runs into all directions. How can

such a wife win her husbands love?

Kabir says that in the eyes of the beloved, physical beauty and ornaments are no merit.

Even if the faithful wife  
Be ugly and ungainly  
Before her inner beauty  
and grace  
A million beauty of the  
world will fade

Union is the reward of true longing. There is no failure or frustration in divine love. Despite all obstacles, it inevitably carries the lover into the Beloved's embrace.

*Lali mere lal ki  
Jit dekhon tit lal  
Lali dekhan main gaye  
Main bhi ho gaye lal*

When the realized soul, the mystic, is with the Lord within, the joy is boundless. He as the cherished bride of the Supreme bridegroom.

The devotee who attains this state of union deserves all praise.

Kabir's poems, woven with soft silken threads, radiate the glow of deep emotions. The love of Kabir is universal. That is why he criticized the narrow mindset of both the Hindu and the Muslim religions.

*Hare dowoon ne raah na  
Paaye; Hindwan ki hinduaini  
dekhi, Turkan ki turkaini*

(Both Hindu and Muslim could not find the real path. I have seen the Hinduism of Hindus and Turkai of Turks).

Hence, in conclusion, it can be said that though Kabir's expression of thought may not be equivalent to other bhakti Kaal's Hindi poets like Surdas and Tulsidas, his contribution to Hindi poetry is so great that by virtue of his honesty to his works, we can easily call him, one of the best poets of bhaktikala and undoubtedly a great saint of north India.

**Ms. Srabani Bhattacharya  
Faculty, Department of Hindi**

---

### **My Grandfathers funeral**

My father tried to reduce my pain, my grief.  
'Its okay' he said. 'you can cry'  
But the only thing I felt then was discomfort.  
No memories. No tears. No nothing.  
Just discomfort.  
I was asked to go in, see, pray  
for the very last time.  
I stopped at the door.  
My eyes swept over the stillness of the room,

resting on the gaunt face for less than a minute.  
'I have seen' I said  
and moved away.  
I was back again where I started.  
I didn't know what to do,  
so I reached out and gave him a hug.  
'Its okay' he said as I struggled to cry. For  
it was he who needed the comfort.  
It was he who was crying.

**Tharini Viswanath  
II B.A. English**

## **Stepping Out Of 'Comfort Zones': A teacher's journey into an unfamiliar territory**

A few months after I had joined the Faculty of English, I suddenly heard the question popped at me, "How open are you to teaching the South Asian Writing paper next semester?" Several thoughts raced through my mind: "South Asian Writing? Never heard of that being taught before – have heard of Departments of South Asian Studies in a few universities abroad, but South Asian Writing? In India? What does one make of it? Should I step out of the 'comfort zones' of British Literature, American Literature, Indian Writing and so on to venture into unknown territory? What was I going to do in the absence of helpful secondary material available by the reams in the case of the subjects listed above?" However, I heard myself replying, "I don't mind giving it a try," though I had no clue what I was letting myself in for.

Now that I had committed myself to teaching it, I told myself, "Let me begin by taking a look at the syllabus." And, to my dismay I find some vaguely familiar and some unfamiliar names staring at me! Even the text representing India failed to reassure me, since I had read only a solitary poem by Rukmini Bhaya Nair and here was the whole of the slightly daunting Ayodhya Cantos prescribed for study.

At first, I began looking for material on the writers prescribed for study. This search ended in the discovery that very little material was to be found, and that too chiefly on the net. Books and articles on these authors could be counted on one's fingers. It was then that I realized perhaps I was looking for the wrong kind of material. The course was not so much about these authors as it was about the context in which these writers were writing – the political, cultural and social milieu in which these writings were being produced. There had to be a radical shift in my understanding of the reading of literature; I had to re-formulate my frames of reference. This also brought home the fact that studying South Asia from within the sub-continent is very different from studying it in an American university. A completely different perspective emerges when the subject you are studying is also a part of your lived reality.

Once I realised this, I suddenly began finding useful material in all kinds of sources: an article, in a literary journal, by Harish Trivedi on the nomenclature, another by a Nepali journalist in

a popular magazine on how the Nepali people perceive India, the audio tapes with recordings of readings by and question-answer sessions with the Pakistani writer Kamila Shamsie, Op-ed pages of popular newspapers and many more.

However, reading up all this material was one thing, while actually using these diverse – often unconventional material – in class was quite another issue. I wasn't sure how this course would go down with the students. When classes began the following semester, it was with some trepidation that I began teaching the paper. The classes often did not sound like literature classes at all. Anyone happening to overhear the discussions would have concluded that a class in History or Political Science was in progress. Here we were trying to reconstruct the experience of living in the subcontinent and also trying to understand our own country – which we thought we knew very well – in relation with other countries of the subcontinent.

On the whole, the response of students to the course has been encouraging. The student presentations on the countries represented in the syllabus have often brought out several interesting, at times startling, facts. While talking these through, we suddenly found ourselves making interesting connections between these countries, especially as they were reflected in literature. The texts prescribed for study came alive in classroom discussions. I remember, in particular, a class in the second year I taught the course, when the Sri Lankan poet Jean Arasanayagam's poem spoke to me as it had never before. There was a palpable intensity and a certain tension in class as we grappled with the images of violence and memory the poet evokes in her response to the situation in Sri Lanka. The student-responses varied from gushing enthusiasm through uncertainty and bewilderment to disturbed and despondent queries on the complex process of identity formation.

Having taught the course for three years now I have understood the necessity to rethink our approaches to teaching and learning literature, while at the same time not sacrificing the pleasures of reading and analyzing a well-written work. More than anything else, it has taught me the value of stepping out of comfort zones where you feel very self-assured and confident and exploring new areas. This is sure to throw you off balance initially. But it's definitely worth a try!

**Ms. K. Latha  
Faculty, Department of English**



## The Mulberry Tree

“Madam, you are not from here, no?” asks the auto driver.

I had ceased being surprised by this show of insight by the locals. It was probably the nth time I was asked this question - the first time by the coolie who loaded my bags into the waiting taxi. I soon came to realize that in a small Indian village, an outsider sticks out like a sore thumb - even if she speaks the same language and has skin the same color.

“Madam, you are not from here, no?” he repeats, jolting me out of my thoughts. I give the expected answer.

“Alla, how did you know?”

“Aa, you were not there for the karthika utsavam, no? Everybody comes for it... Even from Bangalore, Delhi, Madras, Calcutta... last time...”

I let him go on, drinking in the flavor of my homeland; savoring its scents and sounds. The black tarmac road we are traveling is flanked by flowing paddy fields; spread like green silk shimmering with each ripple of wind. Slender coconut trees bend over in curiosity to see this new visitor. With each breeze they seem to be whispering - “Who is she?”, “Where is she from?” The stream runs gossiping and giggling like the temple-going girls. I am filled with a profound sense of contentment.

“I am home,” I say in English.

This captures the chattering auto driver’s attention.

“So, where are you going?”

“Kavoor.”

“Vellarumkunnu?”

“Yes.”

“Oh...” there is a pause. “You are going alone?”

“Yes, I know my way.”

Vellarumkunnu - ‘Marble Mountain’. The ancestral home looked like one with its gleaming whitewashed walls and huge size. The last photos revealed a

new garage. It clashed terribly with the ancient elegance of the lovely house. Rather like Abraham Lincoln wearing a baseball cap backwards.

Prasad had never stopped talking about it. The times they had had there. The lovely verdant hills, the lake, the cool rains... Of how the sun rose in a glory of red to the musical fanfare of the birds. Of the riot of colors in the sky when the sun set. Of the little mulberry tree where they sat and ate roasted kappa.

For a girl whose life was spent at a crowded orphanage and whose only sight of sky was a small square between the buildings; the world of Kavoor and Vellarumkunnu seemed like Utopia... Paradise. He had everything - family, friends, a mother ---

Mother, his mother; the reason I was here.



Uma thamburati - Lady Uma. She hadn’t approved. Her only son, waste his life on a rootless waif? No, she hadn’t approved. Her disapproval had made Prasad leave here. Leave the haven of beauty and love - all because of me. His love for me made him leave the things he loved. Perhaps any other woman may be flattered by this, but not me. All I feel is guilt to have caused this. It hurt, to know that because of me Prasad gave up all that. I know exactly how it feels to have no mother, no family, no love... until Prasad.

We had met at college, Prasad and I. It had started as friendship. Before we knew it, it was something more. Marriage had seemed the most obvious step. But then, my identity became my enemy yet again.

"What will the wedding card say?" I had asked.  
That

'We cordially invite you for the marriage of  
Prasad Menon  
(S/O late Ravi Menon and Uma Menon)

And

Me  
(D/O of God-knows-who?)'

But he had flashed his boyish grin and said, "I don't think a register office requires a wedding card and all, do you sweetheart?"

Only he could do it. Hide everything under his smile. Smother his loss and make you laugh. How much ever I stormed and frowned he would smile that wonderful smile and stick to his resolve. It was the same when he was dying.

The accident was a major one. The truck had rammed his bike into a twisted lump of unrecognisable metal. It was a wonder how he had survived till the hospital let alone three days in the ICU.

"Kutty, we have reached." says the auto driver.

I return from my memories with a jerk. Hastily, I wipe away the tears.

"Thank you Cheta. How much?"  
"Nothing mole." He says, his face crinkling like a raisin with his grin. "No charge for Vellarumkundu parties. Uma Thamburati had helped me get this auto. My whole family is indebted to her... But she never let us." He ended with a shake of his shaggy white head.

"Ok mole, hope to see you around sometime... take care." And he sped off in a cloud of smoke and rattling engines.

I look up at the grand house and step in on shaking legs. It is even more impressive than the photos. It had that strange mysterious aura of enigma and stories untold. Through another's eyes, the house may appear a little awesome as it loomed white and large with sentries of betel palms and coconut trees fringing it. But to me, it seems like a sanctuary.

And in the yard, stands the Mulberry tree.

So this was it - The Mulberry tree. It looks normal enough - but oh, it is so much more...

Prasad's words at the hospital came back to me.

"The Mulberry tree was special. It was my own spot. If I wanted to be alone and think, I'd go there. I used to write my thoughts into letters and keep them there. When I'm gone sweetie, I want you to go there. Go there, see my home, meet Amma. Go there for me sweetheart."

I touch the tough brown bark.

"Who is there?" A soft voice calls.

I turn to the house to find a small, soft little woman looking out of the doorway.

"Are you Uma...thamburati?"

"Amma... I... I am... Prasad's wife."

I wait for the scorn, the derision; the bitter words... precipitate of two years of separation from her son. And now, separation forever.

"Come inside mole, come inside." She beckons smiling. I am ushered in.

She is sweet and caring, her white hair spreading out behind her like a silvery cape in the breeze.

"I have been waiting for you ever since he died." She says, her eyes filling up with tears like mine.

"Why didn't you come earlier kutty?" she asks, sitting next to me, handing me a cup of tea.  
"Amma...I ..."

I look into her eyes - dark gray, like a gathering storm. Prasad's eyes, but without the life. I willed her to understand.

"Never mind mole, I understand. How could he have come here, when you had never come to terms with his death?" She shoots me a shrewd glance, so like her son's. "You still haven't."

There we are, sitting together. Two women, both who loved a man and lost him.

"Come, let me show you the places he loved."

She seems almost ethereal, gliding smoothly over the ground, her hair perpetually fanning around

her. She takes me to the fields, the lake the little green copses. All the while, she and I talk of him.

We laugh and cry and talk together as if we have known each other forever. Two women, bonded together through the love of a man. Now I know why she was the centre of his life... until I came along.

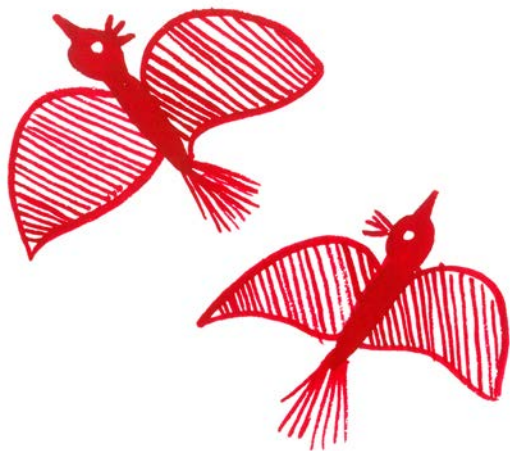
Time flew, it was time for me to leave. She takes me to the Mulberry tree.

“Look there,” she says pointing to a hollow in the trunk. I find a little box full of paper cuttings and letters. I see his handwriting, a picture of me.

“Take it with you kutty. Show it to the baby... if the baby is a girl, call her Priya, ok mole?”

I smile at her and pass a hand over my swollen belly. Priya... nice name.

“Amma... I love you.” There, I had said it. Impulsively, I hug her. Surprisingly she feels cold. Partly due to worry and partly because I am afraid what she will say after my action, I ask her -



“Amma, you feel so cold! Are you ill?”  
“I had a heart problem earlier,” she explains as we walk. “Sadly, the medicine has this side effect.” she says ruefully.

“Wrap yourself up properly Ok, the last thing we want is you falling ill!” I admonish, forgetting myself for a moment.

She lets out a tinkling of laughter as I blush and stammer embarrassed nonsense.

“No wonder Prasad loved you...” she says.

I look at her, blushing redder still. Is she teasing me? No, her eyes are full of tenderness. Eyes so like Prasad’s.

“I love you too mole, I was too obstinate earlier and refused to even see you. I realize now what a fool I was. Forgive an old woman’s folly.”

As I begin to reassure her she raises her arm to stop me. “No mole, I have to say this - I love you. It’s not your fault that Prasad left here. It was his choice. You’ll never be alone. Wherever you are kutty, I’ll always be there in spirit - just like Prasad is. Remember that.” And she reaches up and kisses my forehead with her cool lips.

I look down at her a little taken aback. It was as if she had read my mind - seen the guilt and the doubt there even without my saying a word about it. And somehow, she had laid them to rest. I hug her again and turn to leave.

I stop at the gateway and turn to look at her, get my reassurance. She seems to fade in the dull evening light.

“Poyi varu mole,” She smilingly calls out the traditional farewell greeting. “I’ll be waiting for you right here, always.”

I smile back and turn to hail a passing auto. It is the same one I came by. I look back to see a last glimpse of her, but she is gone. Probably returned inside.

“So kutty, you are not staying there?” asks the driver, as we rattle away in the silent dusk.  
“No, I was only visiting.”

“Hmmm... I suppose that is a good thing. Now, if Uma thamburati were still there, it would be a different case.”

I look up surprised. “Still there?”  
“Yes, poor lady... died as soon as she heard about her son’s death. Heart attack they said.”

“WHAT???”

I turn around in my seat and look out. In the shrinking gateway, I see Amma waving at me. And next to her... my Prasad.

“...I’ll always be with you in spirit...”

**Sreevidya Surendran**  
**III B.A English**

## Jusqu'où aller?

*“Science sans conscience  
n'est qu'une ruine de l'âme”*

Il y a quelques jours j'ai vu dans une série tamoule à la télé: une jeune fille qui se prête à porter un enfant motivée par un besoin financier – dans ce cas, pour sauver sa mère qui est gravement malade. Plus tard je suis tombée sur des annonces pour les mères porteuses dans les journaux. Je me demande où- va-t-on ? Dans un pays où l'on met la maternité à côté de la divinité, la couverture médiatique sur la GPA (Gestation Pour Autrui) , va-t-elle nous faire voir ce problème sous un jour différent ? Que peut-on dire à propos du « cadre légal » encadrant le statut des « mères porteuses » ?

On n'a pas besoin d'être pratiquant d'une religion pour être inquiet d'un tel projet : il suffit d'avoir du bon sens , de voir la détresse de celles qui sont exploitées . Je trouve vraiment dommage que, dès qu'on aborde des sujets aussi délicats que ceux qui touchent à la personne humaine, les débats soient immédiatement aussi virulents et sans aucun recul. Il y a des pays européens, la France, par exemple où la loi est claire concernant ce projet : elle l'interdit. Mais l'Inde prépare une loi pour protéger les mères porteuses parce que la pratique est très répandue. En juin 2008 , interrogé par le quotidien *The Hindustan Times*, Renuka Chowdhury, ministre du Développement des Femmes et des Enfants, a dit que pour l'heure, il n'y a aucune protection contre l'exploitation des mères porteuses indiennes et les droits des enfants nés de ces femmes restent flous. Un pas vers légalisation, c'est un pas vers le déclin . Citons par exemple le cas de Avantiben, d'origine indienne basée à Londres. Souffrant d'une malformation utérine, elle avait recours à une mère porteuse , sa propre mère. Celle-ci a porté deux bébés pour sa fille. On ne peut pas imaginer les conséquences familiales, psychologiques et éthiques de l'acceptation du principe de pouvoir être la mère de ses propres petits-enfants. Ce sujet de la gestation pour autrui bien qu'il favorise les femmes ayant des problèmes de stérilité cela aboutit à la rupture du lien de filiation et d'objetisation de l'enfant qui poserait le fait qu'elle soit à la fois la grand-mère et la mère de l'enfant de sa fille.

La question des mères porteuses soulève de nombreux problèmes tant éthiques que juridiques. Quel encadrement judiciaire pourra garantir que la mère porteuse renonce à tout droit sur l'enfant?

Que se passerait-il s'il lui prenait l'envie d'avorter? Cette gestation serait-elle rémunérée, et par qui? Si le fœtus se forme mal à la suite d'une maladie ou d'un mauvais comportement de la mère porteuse , y aura-t-il des conséquences judiciaires, sans parler des conséquences psychiques pour le couple géniteur? Quel sera l'équilibre d'un enfant lorsqu'il apprendra qu'une tierce personne l'a porté? Que se passera-t-il si les parents en attente d'enfant meurent pendant la grossesse de la mère porteuse? De plus , les effets sur les premiers enfants de la mère porteuse, qui voient leur mère enceinte puis l'enfant être donné ensuite ? Bien des questions morales et philosophiques qui méritent qu'on s'y arrête dans un monde qui a exacerbé le droit individuel au détriment du devoir, de la responsabilité et de l'engagement.

Au plan éthique il y a encore des réflexions à faire. En permettant la mère de disposer le bébé comme un bien matériel, on fait un retour à l'esclavage dans sa plus stricte définition. L'esclavage est l'état d'une personne qui se trouve sous la dépendance absolue d'un maître qui a la possibilité de l'utiliser comme un bien matériel. Juridiquement l'esclave est considéré comme la propriété de son maître. A ce titre, il peut être acheté, loué ou vendu comme un objet. L'esclavage est interdit par la Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme de 1948. Dans cette déclaration, certaines pratiques sont considérées comme des formes d'esclavage moderne : servitude pour dettes, servage, fausses adoptions, asservissement de femmes mariées, prostitution forcée etc. Est-ce qu'il faut retourner à l'esclavage ? N'oublions pas qu'il y a de grands patrons de l'industrie indienne qui parlent de leur employés ( nourris et logés par leur soin) en disant « mes gens ».

Quelles sont les conséquences pour l'enfant ? Le « détriment du lien social », c'est précisément ce que l'on dénonce. C'est une femme en mal d'enfant qui se tourne vers la science pour lui demander de concevoir un futur orphelin de mère biologique. C'est imposer à un enfant l'abandon comme acte de naissance pur en faire son enfant. Ce n'est pas du tout comme adopter . Adopter, c'est offrir une famille à un enfant qui n'en a pas. Tandis que là, c'est l'inverse : c'est créer un enfant pour l'offrir à une famille qui n'en a pas . Éthiquement c'est très différent. C'est surtout acheter un être humain sur catalogue. Exploiter la misère pour le plaisir d'obtenir un enfant prétendument de son sang en mettant en danger la santé d'autrui. Une mère qui porte un enfant neuf mois et qui l'abandonne, une mère qui donne ses ovocytes mais qui n'accouche

pas, un enfant qui a « deux mères ». Ne faut-il pas se rendre compte des dégâts irréparables que ça va causer chez ces trois personnes. De plus, selon les psychologues, la grossesse n'est pas sans attachement, mais il y a deux types de grossesses : la grossesse physique ( le fait de porter l'enfant dans son ventre) et la grossesse psychique (le fait de porter l'enfant dans sa tête). Généralement ,les deux sont associées.

En parlant de l'éthique de la maternité de substitution, il faut aussi mentionner sa marchandisation. Pour les étrangers l'Inde est un pays des mères porteuses à bas prix. Bien des couples se rendent en Inde pour "tourisme médical," attirés par des prix bas, des médecins qualifiés et une législation souple, notamment

en ce qui concerne la procréation médicalement assistée. En Inde , le recours à une mère porteuse coûte quarante mille roupies, (plus cinq cent mille roupies pour la grossesse et l'accouchement) qui est beaucoup moins cher qu'aux Etats Unis ou au Royaume Uni. La mère est essentiellement motivée par le gain mais que cette pratique n'est pas admise par la société indienne.

Pour conclure, on peut dire que la légalisation de cette pratique de la mère porteuse va être un détriment du lien social. A quoi bon faire des enfants quand on voit qu'il y en a qui crèvent de faim à cause de la démographie incontrôlée de certains peuples? Le meilleur rempart contre ça c'est la sensibilisation des jeunes au respect de la personne humaine et à son intégrité physique.

**Ms. Jacinta Fenelon**  
**Faculty, Department of French**

---

### Searching for House Key

I have a house in Dharamshala,  
A house in Bylakuppe  
One in Chennai,  
And a house in Tibet.

My father grows vegetables on the hills,  
My mother tries to save the frosted garden.  
I've told them many times,  
A habit does not mean foolishness.

My grandmother, caught between cows and fields  
She manages to make the best momos

It is rumoured around the village,  
She has learnt to bury her emotions.

Only just yesterday,  
Living the usual borrowed life.  
I again felt the pain.  
The splinter merely keeps digging in.

I climb up the steps to my room  
And look at the old wooden door  
Sometimes I pretend  
I've lost my key.

**Tenzin Dekyi**  
**I B.A. English**

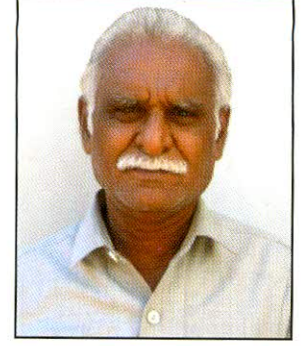
## LIST OF OVERALL PERCENTAGE OF PASSES

April - 2008

CLASS	APPEARED	PASSED	% OF PASS
B.A. History	47	34	72.34
Sociology	54	40	74.07
Economics	67	53	79.10
Fine Arts	44	39	88.64
English	59	39	66.10
B.Com.Section - A	69	63	91.30
Section - B	202	167	82.67
B.Sc. Mathematics			
Section - A	59	55	93.22
Section - B	49	39	79.59
Physics	47	43	91.49
Chemistry	43	35	81.40
Plant Biology & Plant Biotechnology	45	44	97.78
Advanced Zoology & Biotechnology	50	49	98.00
B.C.A.	99	90	90.91
B.S.W.	36	31	86.11
M.A. International Studies	12	8	66.67
Economics	15	13	86.67
English	27	24	88.89
Fine Arts	14	8	57.14
Public Relations	14	12	85.71
M.S.W.	27	26	96.30
M.Com.	25	21	84.00
M.Sc. Mathematics	31	29	93.55
Information- Technology	25	25	100
Bioinformatics	13	13	100
Chemistry	24	23	95.83
Biotechnology	14	14	100

## அன்புத் தாத்தா அந்தோணிசாமி

அதிகாலை துயில் எழுந்து  
அவசரமாய் ரயில் பிடித்து  
அலுவலகம் தனை அடைந்து  
அர்ப்பணமாய் பணிபுரிந்து  
அருமையாய் சேவை செய்து -



இன்று அகவை ஐம்பத்தெட்டில் பணி ஓய்வுபெறும்  
எங்கள் பாசத்திற்கும், நன்மதிப்பிற்கும் உரிய திருவாளர் அந்தோணிசாமி  
அவர்களைப்பற்றி ஓரிரு வார்த்தைகள் உங்கள் முன் வைக்கிறோம்.

இவர் 1981ம் ஆண்டு அலுவலகத்தில் பணியில் சேர்ந்தார். அலுவலகப் பணியைத் தவிர பேருந்து ஓட்டுநராகவும் இருந்துள்ளார். பேருந்தைத் திறம்பட கையாளுவதில் சிறந்தவர். இந்நாள் வரையில் விபத்து ஏதும் ஏற்படாமல் பாதுகாப்பாக பேருந்தை இயக்கியுள்ளார். இவர் சஃபாரிக்கு சொந்தக்காரர். இவர் திருவள்ளூரிலிருந்து அதிகாலை நான்கு முப்பது மணிக்கு புறப்பட்டு ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் கல்லூரிக்கு ஆறுமுப்பது மணிக்கெல்லாம் வந்துவிடுவார். இவர் கல்லூரி சேர்ந்த நாள் முதல் அதிக விடுப்பு ஏதும் எடுக்காமல் சாதனைப் படைத்துள்ளார். இவர் பணியில் சேர்ந்த நாள் முதல், கல்லூரிக்கு பணிபுரியவரும் முதல் நபர் இவர்தான். கல்லூரியில் அனைவராலும் இவர் அன்பாக அழைக்கப்படும் உறவு தாத்தா.

'அரியர்' எக்ஸாம் நம்பர் எழுதுவதில் தவறு ஏதும் செய்யாமல் எழுதக்கூடியவர். மேலும் அரியர் எழுதும் மாணவிகளிடம் மிகவும் அக்கறை செலுத்துவார். உதாரணத்திற்கு ஒரு மாணவி தேர்வுக்கு வரவில்லை என்றால் வீட்டிற்கு போன் செய்து தேர்வுக்கு வரசொல்லுவார். அந்தளவிற்கு மாணவிகள் மீது அக்கறைக் கொண்டவர்.

அவருடைய Files, Books, Old Mark Sheets, Degree Certificates, ஆகிய அனைத்தையும் வருடம் வாரியாக பிரித்து வைத்திருப்பார். குறிப்பாக அனைத்தையும் சுத்தமாக வைத்திருக்கும் பண்பு கொண்டவர். இவர் கடின உழைப்பாளி. சுறுசுறுப்பானவர். இவர் நோய் நொடி இல்லாமல் நீண்டகாலம் வாழவேண்டுமென இறைவனை வேண்டிக்கொள்கிறோம்.

## இயற்கைத் தாயின் அழகுரல்

அழகுரல் வந்த  
திசை திரும்பினேன்!  
அதிர்ந்து போனேன்!  
இயற்கை அன்னையின்  
முலையில் வெள்ளியருவி  
சுரப்பதற்கு பதிலாக  
இரசாயனக் கழிவு கருப்புநிறத்தில்!  
அவளின் கருவறையில்  
முத்துகளோ, பவழமோ இல்லை.  
ஆனால்  
அகிலத்தை அழிக்கக்  
காத்திருக்கும்  
நச்சுக்காற்றின் விந்துக்கள்!  
மனிதர்களே!  
நீங்கள் இவளுக்குச்  
செய்த  
கொடுமைக்காகத் தான்  
சென்று வந்திருக்கிறாள்  
'சுனாமி' மருத்துவமனைக்கு.  
அவள் என்னிடம்  
சொன்னாள்,  
'என் பிள்ளைகள்  
என்னைக் கூறுபோட்டு  
விற்கிறார்கள்'  
'ஆடம்பரம்'  
என்னும்  
சந்தையில்!

அ. திரேசாமேரி,  
இளங்கலை விலங்கியல் மூன்றாம் ஆண்டு

## மலரட்டும் மனித நேயம்

தென்றல் வீச மறப்பதில்லை  
குயில்கள் கூவ மறப்பதில்லை  
சூரியன் உதிக்க மறப்பதில்லை  
இமைகள் இமைக்க மறப்பதில்லை  
மனிதா!  
நீ மட்டும்  
ஏன் மறந்தாய்?  
மனித நேயத்தை!  
வெடிகுண்டுகள் வெடிக்காத - குண்டுகள்  
துப்பாக்கிகள் தூசி தட்டிப் போக -  
கத்திகள் கவனிப்பாரற்றுக் கிடக்க -  
தீவிரவாதம் அடியோடு ஒழிக்கப்பட,  
இராணுவகிடங்குகள் அருங்காட்சியகத்தில்  
வீற்றிருக்க -  
மலரட்டும் மனித நேயம்.  
வாழ்த்தி வளரட்டும் வளரும் சமுதாயம்!

எம். தீபிகா  
இளநிலை கணினியியல் முதலாம் ஆண்டு



## சிகரெட்

தன்னையே அழிக்க  
மனிதனால் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட  
வெடிக்காமல் புகையும்  
கையடக்க ஏவுகணை!

## கனவு

நிறைவேறாத ஆசைகளை  
நிசப்தமாய்  
அரங்கேற்றும்  
அழகிய மேடை

## சீதனம்

இடுப்பு பலம் இல்லாத  
ஆண்களால்  
வாங்கப்படும் பிச்சை!

## இன்னும் வேண்டும்

உருகுநிலை மனம் பெறும் அழகிய  
திருவதனம்  
விறுவிறுவென நாளங்களில் வந்தேறும்  
வாழ்வுச்சுரம்  
திரும்பும் போதெல்லாம் தெரியும்  
மனிதமுகம்  
வரும் போகும் காட்சியெல்லாம்  
வந்தனத்திற் குரியதாகும்  
விரியும் பிரியத்தில் திக்கெட்டும்  
மறைந்து போக  
விரியும் வேறொரு பரிமாணம்  
ஒன்றா... இரண்டா... மூன்றா?  
இரண்டும் இரண்டும் நான்கா...  
யாரைக் கேட்க? எதற்கு கேட்க?  
அவரவருக்கான பதில்கள்  
ஆயிரமாயிரமிருக்க சுவரென்ன?  
சித்திரமென்ன?  
சொப்பன வாழ்விற்காக நாவறட்சியில்  
சொற்பமென்ன? அற்பமென்ன?  
சோரும் நேரம் சுமைமாடாய் அசைபோட்டு  
இளைப்பாறி  
கண்ணீரும் காய்ந்து போக,  
புண்ணாறி காய்ந்து போக,  
வண்ணமயமானதொரு மண்விரிய  
விண்விரிய  
சிலநேரம் வானவில் சிலகண்ணில் சேரச்சேர  
இந்நேரம் சந்தோஷம் இது போதும்  
என்றாலும்  
இன்னும் கிடைத்தாலென்ன வேண்டா  
மென்றா சொல்லத் தோன்றும்!

ஜெ. கவிதா

இளநிலை சமூகப்பணித்துறை இரண்டாமாண்டு

## பெண்ணே! நீ!

பெண்மணியே கற்றதனால்  
என்னபயன் எண்ணிப்பார்!  
எத்தனையோ பெண்மணிகள்  
வரலாற்றுக் கண்மணிகள்!

மண்ணிலன்று பிறந்திட்ட  
மகத்தான நன்மணிகள்  
மக்களுக்கு உதாரணமாம்  
வரலாற்றுப் பெட்டகங்கள்!!

பெண்கல்வி முன்னேற  
பெண் உரிமை தழைத்தோங்க  
போராட்டக் குரல்கொடுத்த  
பேருள்ளச் சான்றோரால்

எண்ணற்ற பெண்ணினங்கள்  
புகழ்சேர்த்தனர் நம்நாட்டில்  
எழுச்சியோடு போராடி  
விழிப்புணர்ச்சி தந்தார்கள்!!

வேதனைகள் வாழ்க்கையில்  
விளையாட்டாய் வந்தபோதும்  
வாடாமல் வதங்காமல்  
எதிர்நீச்சல் முறைகண்டு

சோதனைகள் பலதாங்கி  
சமுதாயம் நலம்பெறவே  
சோதிக்கும் முட்களையே  
தம்திறத்தால் விலக்கிவிட்டு

சாதனைகள் பலபடைத்து  
சரித்திரத்தில் பதிவான  
சமுதாயத் தொண்டாற்றி  
தரணியிலே உயர்ந்திட்ட

மேதையர் பலபெண்கள்  
பட்டியலை அறிந்திருங்கள்  
மேதினியில் உம்வாழ்வை  
வகுத்திடவே புறப்படுங்கள்!!

தாய்மொழியை உயர்த்திடவே  
சிறைசென்ற தருமம்பாள்  
தனித்தமிழ் இயக்கத்தின்  
உறுதுணையாம் நீலாம்பிகை.

அமிழ்திசையால் உள்ளத்தில்  
நிலைபெற்ற சுப்புலட்சுமி  
அரசாட்சித் திறம்வென்ற  
பெண்ணரசி மங்கம்மாள்!

காந்திமகான் உயிருக்குத்  
தன்உயிரை இரையாக்கி  
நெஞ்சத்தில் நிலைத்திட்ட  
தில்லையாடிவள்ளியம்மை!!

பாந்தமுடன் பரதக்கலை  
பலரிடமும் நடைபோட  
கலாசேத்திரம் தோற்றுவித்த  
ருக்மணிதேவி அருண்டேல்

எழுத்துலகில் முதல்பெண்ணாம்  
எழுத்தாளர் கோதைநாயகி  
ஏற்றமுடன் விதவைக்கும்  
கல்விதந்த சுப்பலட்சுமி

மருத்துவராய் தொண்டாற்றிய  
முதல்பெண்ணாம் முத்துலட்சுமி  
மறுமலர்ச்சி வளர்ச்சிக்கு  
நாகம்மை, மணியம்மை

அருமையாய் உழைத்துயர்ந்த  
பெண்மணிகள் பலப்பலரே!  
அரும்புகளே! எதிர்காலம்  
உம்கையில்! மிளிரட்டும்!

அயற்சியின்றி அயராது பாடுபட எழுந்திருங்கள்!  
 அருந்தொண்டு ஆகற்றிடவே அனைவருமே புறப்படுங்கள்!  
 முயற்சியோடு உழைத்திடவே முழுமனதாய் மலருங்கள்!  
 முயலாமை தோற்றிடவே பீடுநடை போடுங்கள்!  
 முடியாது என்பதைநீர் முழுமையாய் ஒதுக்குங்கள்!  
 முடியுமென்ற வாசகத்தை மூச்சாகக் கொள்ளுங்கள்!  
 படிப்படியாய் உயர்ந்திடவே திட்டங்கள் தீட்டுங்கள்!  
 பகுத்தறிவுப் பெண்ணாக வாழ்வமைத்துக் காட்டுங்கள்!!

முனைவர், விஜயலட்சுமி இராமசாமி,  
 பேராசிரியர், தமிழ்த்துறை, ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் கல்லூரி.

## வாழ்க்கை என்பது

அழகு	:	பேசும் வார்த்தையில் உள்ளது "அழகு"
அடிமை	:	ஒருவரது திறமையில் ஆவோம் "அடிமை"
தெய்வம்	:	குழந்தையின் உருவில் உள்ளது "தெய்வம்"
நட்பு	:	விட்டுக்கொடுப்பதில் உள்ளது "நட்பு"
காதல்	:	நான்கு கண்களில் தோன்றுவது "காதல்"
பொறுமை	:	நம்மை நமக்குள் செலுத்துவது "பொறுமை"
சொர்க்கம்	:	செய்யும் புண்ணியத்தில் உள்ளது "சொர்க்கம்"
நரகம்	:	செய்யும் பாவத்தில் உள்ளது "நரகம்"
வாழ்க்கை	:	நாம் நாமாக வாழ்வதே "வாழ்க்கை"

த. சுதா  
 இளநிலை இயற்பியல் முதலாம் ஆண்டு

## வெற்றி மீது ஆசை !

நாளை நமதென்று  
நம்புவோம்! வாழ்வியல்  
தோல்விகளைத் தள்ளுவோம்!  
வெற்றி முரசு கொட்டுவோம்!

வீழ்வதில் வெட்கமில்லை!  
வீழ்ந்து கிடப்பதில்தான் வெட்கம்!  
ஏழையாய் மறந்ததில் குற்றமில்லை!  
ஏழையாய் வாழ்வது தான்குற்றம்

அன்பு நண்பா!  
வெற்றி மீது ஆசை வை!  
உழைப்பு முக்கியம்

வெற்றி நிச்சயம்!  
இதன்மீது நம்பிக்கை வை!  
எச்செயலிலும் ஆர்வம் வை!

காரணங்கள் சொல்பவர்கள்  
காரியங்கள் செய்வ தில்லை!  
காரியங்கள் செய்பவர்கள்  
காரணங்கள் சொல்வதில்லை!

வெற்றியைத் தேடு!  
வாழ்க்கை உன்னுடையது!  
முயற்சியை மூலதனமாக்கு  
முளை உன்னுடையது!

'வாழ்க்கை என்றால்  
ஆயிரம் இருக்கும்!  
வாசல் தோறும் வேதனை இருக்கும்!  
என்ற கவியரசு கண்ணதாசனின்

கவியமுதம் பருகி  
வெற்றிமீது ஆசை வைப்போம்!  
வெற்றிக்கு புறம்பானவைகளை  
தள்ளி வைப்போம்!

வாழ்க்கை ஒரு முறை!  
வழிவிடுவோம் நம்  
தலை முறைக்கு!

முனைவர் உலகநாயகி பழனி  
பேராசிரியர், தமிழ்த்துறை  
ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ்கல்லூரி.

## मेहनत की कमाई

सुरेश अपने पिता के पास गुजारिश लेकर गया कि उसकी शादी कग दे क्योंकि वह मेहनत नहीं करता था। पिता उसका विवाह नहीं करना चाहते थे इसलिए उन्होंने कहा कि “मैं कल तुम्हारी परीक्षा लूँगा। अगर तुम कामयाब हुए तो तुम्हारा विवाह करवा दूँगे।” वह उसे एक तालाब के पास ले गए और अपनी जेब से एक सिक्का देते हुए कहा कि इस सिक्के को तलाब में फेंक। दो अगर यह नहीं डूबा तो वह अपने बेटे की शादी करा दूँगे। इस प्रकार उन्होंने कई बार यह कार्य कराया। हर बार सिक्का डूब गया।

पिता ने पुत्र को समझाया कि यह उनका सिक्का है इसलिए डूब जाता है। पिता ने उसे अपनी मेहनत की कमाई का एक सिक्का लाने को कहा। बेटे ने अपनी मेहनत की कमाई का सिक्का लिया और अपने पिता के साथ तालाब के पास पहुँचा। लाख कोशिश करने के बाद भी वह सिक्के को तालाब में फेंकने का मन न बना पाया। तब पिता ने कहा कि “हाँ, अब तुम मेहनती और समझदार हो गए हो। तुम्हें पैसों की कीमत का पता लग गया। अब मैं तुम्हारा विवाह करा दूँगा।”

खुशबू गुप्ता

II BA, Fine Arts

## जीवन एक गूँज है

एक छोटा बच्चा अपनी माँ से नाराज होकर चिल्लाने लगा, “मैं तुमसे नफरत करता हूँ। मैं तुमसे नफरत करता हूँ।” पिटने के डर से वह घर से भाग गया। पहाड़ियों के पास जाकर चीखने लगा, “मैं तमसे नफरत करता हूँ। मैं तुमसे नफरत करता हूँ।” वहाँ पर वही आवाज़ गूँजने लगी। यह जिन्दगी में पहली बार था, जब उसने कोई गूँज सुनी। वह डर कर अपनी माँ के पास भागा और बोला “घाटी में एक बुरा बच्चा है जो चिल्लाता है। मैं तुमसे नफरत करता हूँ।” उसकी माँ सारी बात समझ गयी। उसने बेटे से कहा कि वह पहाड़ी पर जाकर फिर से चिल्ला कर कहे, “मैं तुम्हें प्यार करता हूँ। मैं तुम्हें प्यार करता हूँ।” छोटा बच्चा वहाँ भाग कर गया और चिल्लाया और वहीं आवाज़ गूँजी। हमारा जीवन एक गूँज की तरह है। हमें वही वापस मिलता है, जो हम देते हैं।

पूर्णिमा गाँधी

II BA, Fine Arts

## बॉक्टेरिया

ओ बॉक्टेरिया,  
तुम तो हो एक फेक्टर यार।  
कभी करती हो हमारी हानि,  
तो कभी दूर करती हो हमारी परेशानी।  
बनाती हो तुम जूट को सूत,  
लगाते ही दाँत में बन जाती हो भूत।  
दूध को बनने देती हो दही,  
जो हमारे सेहत के लिए होती है सही।  
कभी देती हो हमें सर्दी-जुकाम और बुखार,  
तो कभी दवा बनकर, करते हो उद्धार।  
इस कारण विज्ञान,  
करत तुम्हारा गुणगान।

अग्निता घोष  
II B.Sc., Zoology

## विज्ञापनों की दुनिया

विज्ञापनों की दुनिया एकदम अनोखी दुनिया है। लुभावनी, मायावी और चमकदार। लेकिन क्या ये विज्ञापन सच्चे हैं? आज अगर टी.वी. देखें, तो हमें सीरियल से ज्यादा विज्ञापन देखने पड़ते हैं। इन विज्ञापनों से प्रभावित होकर हम कई नई चीज़ें खरीदते हैं, चाहे उनकी हमें ज़रूरत हो या नहीं। लेकिन क्या हमने कभी यह सोचा कि ये विज्ञापन कितने सच्चे हैं?

चार हफ्ते में चेहरे का रंग निखर जाना, पंद्रह दिन में केश मुलायम होना, एक महीने में अपनी जवानी का लौटना, कुछ पीने से हाइट बढ़ता तो कुछ खाने से स्टार बनना - ये सब चीज़ें देखने और सुनने में तो अच्छी लगती हैं, लेकिन ग्राहक को चालाकी से सोचकर यह तय करना चाहिए कि क्या वास्तव में जो बताया गया है, वह संभव है या नहीं।

विज्ञापन की मुख्य कोशिश होती है ग्राहक को सूचित करना, हाल ही में आई नई चीज़ों के बारे में विज्ञापन ग्राहक को अपने आकर्षण में लाते हैं और उन्हें खरीदने को प्रेरित करते हैं। लेकिन आजकल के विज्ञापन में एक उत्पाद के बारे में सूचित करने की जगह एक उत्पाद की तुलना में दूसरे उत्पाद को बेहतर बनाना ही लक्ष्य हो गया है। दूसरे उत्पाद पर सीधा वार न कर, तिरछेपन से बहुत कुछ बताते हैं।

प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्ति तथा स्टार को विज्ञापन में देखने पर बच्चे भी उस चीज़ की मांग करने लगते हैं। हमें इसका दोष स्टार पर नहीं डालना चाहिए, किन्तु हमें अपने बच्चों को असलियत के बारे में ज्ञान देना चाहिए और यह बताना चाहिए कि जो दिखता है, वह वैसा नहीं है। हममें सच्चे उत्पाद की परख करने की क्षमता होनी चाहिए जिससे कि हम सुरक्षित तथा चतुर ग्राहक बन सकें।

श्रेया मेहता  
II BA, Fine Arts

# इंटरनेट का माउस

सोफे पर पसरा वैभव फुर्ती से उठा और जैकेट पहनने लगा। कक्ष में कंप्यूटर के सामने बैठा संस्कार कनखियों से देख रहा था। कंप्यूटर छोड़ वह वैभव के सामने आ खड़ा हुआ।

‘आप कहीं जा रहे है?’

‘हाँ क्यों.....? कोई काम है.....?’

‘भइया, मेरे मन में एक सवाल उठता रहता है। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूँ। यदि आपके पास समय हो तो.....?’

‘हाँ-हाँ छोटे..... तेरे सवाल का जवाब देने के लिए मेरे पास समय ही समय है.....’ वैभव ने बाल संवारते हुए उत्तर दिया।

‘सवाल यह है कि जब नई तकनीक से सारी दुनियाँ मुड़ी में आ गई है, सारी व्यवस्था एलपीजी हो गई है तो ऐसी स्थिति में मानव जीवन कैसा होना चाहिए?’

अपने अनुज संस्कार का प्रश्न सुन वैभव के हाथ रुके उसने दर्पण से ही अनुज संस्कार की ओर देखा। उसे लगा यह अनुज संस्कार नहीं अपितु संस्कार का दूरदर्शी ज्ञान बोल रहा है। अपने छोटे भाई को कंधे से पकड़कर वैभव ने कहा -

‘मेरे प्रिय अनुज! यह सत्य है कि मैं आयु में तुमसे बड़ा हूँ, किन्तु तीन कारणों से मैं तुम्हें ही अपना ज्येष्ठ मानता हूँ पहला तुम धैर्यपूर्वक मेरी बात सुनते हो, तुम्हारे में धैर्य है। दूसरा तुममें श्रद्धा भाव कमाल का है। और तीसरा जीवन दर्शन का अच्छा ज्ञान रखते हो। इतना कह वैभव संस्कार को स्नेहमयी दृष्टि से देखते हुए मुरकुराने लगा। एकाएक उसे ख्याल आया कि प्रश्न में कुछ एलपीजी शब्द भी था। अरे हाँ, यह एल पी जी क्या है.....?’

‘एलपीजी..... एल-लिबरलाइजेशन यानी उदारीकरण, पी-प्राइवेटाइजेशन यानी निजीकरण और जी-ग्लोबलाइजेशन यानी भूमंडलीकरण या वैश्वीकरण। हँसते हुए संस्कार ने बताया।

‘वाह! मान गए तुम्हारा ज्ञान!’

‘यह तो आपका प्यार और बड़प्पन है भइया, भला बड़े भाई के ज्ञान के सामने छोटा भाई ज्ञानी हो सकता है?’ इतना कह संस्कार हँसने लगा। वैभव भी ठठा कर हँस पड़ा।

‘तुम देख ही रहे हो मेरे हाथ में सारा दिन सेल होता है और तुम्हारे हाथ कम्प्यूटर का माउस।’

पहले युवकों के हाथ धनुष बाण होते थे जिससे वह लक्ष्य वेध करना अपना लक्ष्य मानते थे। मेरे हाथ में सेल है और

अपना मनोरंजन मेरा लक्ष्य है।’

‘भइया, लक्ष्य वेध तो मानव जीवन का मुख्य कार्य है।’

‘यह क्या कह रहे हो तुम? तुम्हारी परिभाषा ने तो मुझे महान व्यक्ति बना दिया।’

‘लक्ष्य वेध अवश्य ही मानव को महान बनाता है, मानव को सफलता के शिखर पर ला खड़ा करता है। आज स्पर्धा एवं तकनीकी युग में इसका महत्व कई गुना ज्यादा बढ़ गया है।’ माँ का स्वर सुन दोनों चौंक उठे।

‘माँ, आप यहाँ.....?’ वैभव ने पूछा।

‘हाँ, सेल चार्ज के लिए रखने आई हूँ..... तुम दोनों की बातें सुनकर मन प्रसन्न हो गया है। आज जीवन निर्माण का लक्ष्य वेध होना चाहिए। जीवन का लक्ष्य निश्चित कर उस ओर क्रियाशील हो ‘जाएं तो लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति हो जाती है।’ माँ ने हँसते हुए समझाया।

माँ गुणवती सेल चार्जर पर रख चली गई थी। दोनों भाई फिर से बातों में लग गए। वैभव और संस्कार सगे भाई थे। वैभव बड़ा था और संस्कार चार साल छोटा। दोनों शहर के जाने माने उद्योगपति रत्नसिंह के साहबजादे राजकुमारों से कम न थे। उन दोनों की परवरिश नैतिकता के वातावरण में हुई थी। उन दोनों में सद्गुणों की कभी न थी। न्यायी भी दोनों ऐसे कि दूध का दूध और पानी का पानी करनेवाले। न्याय करते समय किसी में भेदभाव न करते। वे स्वयं खूब मन लगाकर पढ़ते थे। अपने जरूरतमंद मित्रों की मदद करते थे। अपने मधुर व्यवहार के चलते दोनों अति लोकप्रिय थे।

रत्नसिंह अपने दोनों पुत्ररत्नों को बेहद प्यार करते थे। वे चाहते थे कि दोनों अपने सुयोग्य संस्कारों से श्रेष्ठ जीवन का निर्माण करें। उन्होंने अपने आदर्शमय जीवन के साथ घर और बाहर बड़ा सुन्दर वातावरण बना रखा था। वैभव और संस्कार का जीवन इसी नैतिकता में पल्लवित हो रहा था।

यौवन की देहरी पर पाँव रखते-रखते साइबर युग का बोलबाला छा गया। ई-मेल, इंटरनेट तथा सेल का प्रचलन बढ़ने लगा। वैभव की शिक्षा पूर्ण होने वाली थी। कुछ माह उपरान्त वह उद्योगपति के उद्योग का एक खंड संभालने वाला था। इस दृष्टि से पाँच छह चतुर सहपाठी वैभव से सम्पर्क बढ़ाने की चेष्टा करने लगे। उसमें उनका स्वार्थ था। ये सोचते थे कि दो माह उपरान्त शिक्षा समाप्त हो जाएगी किन्तु नौकरी कहाँ मिलगी इसलिए यदि वैभव का पूरा विश्वास जीत लेंगे तो उन्हें पद-प्रतिष्ठा मिल जाएगी।

भोला-भाला वैभव इन सबसे अनभिज्ञ अपने ही ख्यालों में डूबा रहता। मित्र जो भी कहते वह करता। एक तो वह लोकनीति में निपुण न था, दूसरा यौवन का मस्ती भरा समय था। सहपाठियों की भोग प्रधान बातें, डिस्को जाना, रेस्तरां में खाना, पंचसितारा होटल में होने वाले कार्यक्रमों में जाना उसे अच्छा लगने लगा। धन की कोई कभी न थी। घंटो इन्टरनेट पर किसी न किसी से बातें करता रहता। कितनी आश्चर्यजनक बात थी उन दोनों के हाथ धनुष बाण नहीं, इन्टरनेट का माउस था किन्तु एक का माउस यानी चूहा गणपति का वाहन बन उसे सम्पूर्ण विश्व का भ्रमण करवाता हुआ सिद्धियाँ दे रहा था। दूसरे के हाथ का माउस यानी चूहा उसे चैट रिलेशन में भटकाता हुआ आम चूहे की भाँति जगह जगह कुतरता हुआ भटका रहा था। उसे उद्देश्य हीन जीवन की ओर ले जा रहा था।

संस्कार संस्कारों से परिपूर्ण माउस के सहारे ज्ञानवर्द्धन करने लगा। पिता की आंकाक्षानुरूप विशेष रूप से फलने लगा। किशोरावस्था में ही उसकी दृष्टि स्पष्ट, वाणी मधुर और आचरण विशुद्ध था। यह इसलिए क्योंकि उसने अपने जीवन का लक्ष्य सुनिश्चित कर लिया था। वह स्वस्थ स्वाधीन सुन्दर तथा नई तकनीकी विशेषज्ञ बनकर भारत में बहुराष्ट्रीय यानी मल्टीनेशनल कंपनियों की सुचारु संरचना करना चाहता था। अपने लक्ष्य के अनुरूप उसने अपनी संयमित तथा संतुलित गतिशीलता भी बना ली थी।

इसके बावजूद भी दोनों भाईयों में अपार स्नेह था। वैभव की आत्मीयता भले उतनी गहरी न थी। किन्तु संस्कार का प्रेम अभिन्न रूप से अपने बड़े भाई के प्रति था। वह अपने बड़े भाई के साथ समय-समय पर कई विषयों पर चर्चा भी करता।

‘मैं झील किनारे सैर करने जा रहा हूँ, यदि तू भी चलना चाहे तो चल।’ वैभव ने कहा।

‘चलो.....’ कहता हुआ संस्कार वैभव के साथ हो लिया। आज दोनों भाई शहर की झील के किनारे भ्रमण पर निकले। झील के किनारे हरी-भरी घास पर बैठे। झील के जल कणों तथा लता गुल्मों को निहारते हुए बातों में डूब गए। साथ ही साथ बसन्त ऋतु की मनमोहक सुनहरी धूप का आनन्द लेने लगे। झील की नील जलराशि को स्पर्श करती शीतल मन्द सुगन्धित वायु दोनों के मन-मस्तिष्क में पुलक भर रही थी। चारों ओर बिछी गुलाब की क्यारियों में लगे गुलाब आँखों को मोहित कर रहे थे। आसपास लगे सुन्दर सधन वृक्ष जन पर चढ़ी लदी हरी-भरी लवंग लताएँ जिन पर सैकड़ों की तादाद में लाल-पीले सफेद और बेंगनी फूल लगे थे, दर्शकों पर सम्मोहन चला रही थी। झील की अगाध जलराशि पर पड़ती

सूर्य की कोमल किरणें इस प्रकार झिलमिला रही थी मानों प्रकृति के नीले आंचल पर सुनहरी धागों का जाल बुना हो। प्रकृति के मनमोहक रूप को निहारते दोनों बातचीत में डूबे थे।

संस्कार ने उचित अनुकूल अवसर पाकर जीवन निर्माण की चर्चा छेड़ दी। जिससे गुमराह होते बड़े भाई की आँखें खुलें। वैभव का छोटा कंकड़ ठीक निशाने पर लगा। संस्कार प्रसन्न हो उठा।

‘भइया! आपकी विशेषता यह है कि आपका निशाना सदा अचूक होता है। आप अपने जीवन का श्रेष्ठ लक्ष्य निर्धारित कर उस दिशा में अचूक निशाना क्यों नहीं लगाते? यह अचूक लक्ष्य-वेध आपको पिताजी की भाँति योग्य उद्योगपति बना देगा।’

‘तुमने ठीक कहा। अब समय आ गया है कि मैं अपने जीवन का श्रेष्ठ लक्ष्य संधान करूँ, और अपना जीवन स्वस्थ स्वाधीन सुन्दर तथा नवीनतम तकनीक से युक्त करूँ, तभी हम मल्टीनेशनल कंपनियाँ खोलकर अच्छे उद्योगपति बन सकते हैं। यह अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण बात है। कि ऐसा जीवन का लक्ष्य जिसमें हम पूरे विश्व को नौकरियाँ दें और साथ ही अपने भारत की बेरोजगारी खत्म कर दें। वाह, यह लक्ष्य मेरा होना चाहिए।’ दोनों का शरीर अज्ञात प्रसन्नता से पुलकित हो उठा। मानो अपने देश की बेरोजगारी की समस्या का समूल अन्त कर दिया हो और चारों ओर स्वर्गीय परिवेश छा गया हो। शीतल मन्द समीर उनके प्रसन्न हृदयों को छू प्रसन्न होने लगी।

थोड़ी देर दोनों आने जानेवालो को देखते रहे फिर स्वर को गंभीर बनाते हुए संस्कार ने कहा - यह लक्ष्य वेध तो बाद की बात है भइया, पहले सुन्दरता कहाँ मिलती है, सुन्दरता तो अंतिम उपलब्धि होती है। सबसे पहले हमें स्वस्थ होना पड़ता है।’

‘मैं स्वस्थ हूँ।’ वैभव ने हरी घास पर पसरते हुए कहा। संस्कार ने समझाते हुए कहा, समझा जाता है लेकिन इसका अन्दरूनी अर्थ अत्यन्त गूढ़ है। स्वस्थ शब्द में ‘स्व’ का अर्थ है स्वयं यानी अपनी आत्मा और उसमें स्थित हो जाना स्वस्थ कहलाता है।’

‘छोटे..... तू बड़-बड़ी बातें करने लग गया है, पहले यह बता ‘स्व’ में स्थित कैसे होते हैं?’

‘भइया, ‘स्व’ में स्थित तभी हो सकते हैं, जब ‘पर’ से विमुख हो जाएँ। आत्मा ‘स्व’ है और सम्पूर्ण विश्व ‘पर’। ‘पर’ से मोह हटा लें तभी ‘स्व’ में स्थित हो सकते हैं। यही समता है। ममत्व हटाकर ‘स्व’ ‘पर’ का भेद समाप्त कर दिया जाए और संसार के समस्त प्राणी आत्मवत् बन जाएँ। ऐसी स्वस्थ आत्माही स्वाधीन बन सकती है - अपने ही अधीन



बाहर के मुखों के अधीन नहीं। बाहरी इच्छाओं से आकर्षित होकर इन्द्रियाँ और मन आत्मा को अपने काबू में न कर सकें, बल्कि आत्मा उन्हें अपने नियंत्रण शक्ति में रखे तो आत्मस्वरूप सुन्दर बन जाता है। ऐसी सुन्दरता हमारे जीवन के लक्ष्य बनने चाहिए।'

वैभव एकटक संस्कार को निहारता रहा। मन्द-मन्द बह रहे शीतल सुगंधित पवन वेग को जैसे अपने रोम-रोम में पूरी तरह भरते हुए कहा- 'तुम तो महाज्ञानी हो गए हो। अभी तो जवानी में कदम रखा ही है और तुम आत्मा की सुन्दरता की बातें करते हो जहाँ लोग नवीनतम जीवन शैली ढूँढते फिर रहे हैं।'

'संस्कार ने बड़े भाई के भावों को भांपते हुए अपने ढंग से कहा - भइया, मैं यह थोड़े ही कह रहा हूँ कि यौवन का आनन्द न उठाएँ या शरीर की सुन्दरता को न भोगे। हमने अभी-अभी यौवन में प्रवेश किया है। ऐसा न हो कि यौवन के मद में अंधे हो हम भोगों के पीछे पागलों की भाँति भागने लगे जैसे सब भाग रहे हैं और लक्ष्य से भटक जाएँ। फिर हाथ में पकड़ा माउस रूपी धनुष बाण लक्ष्य वेध न कर सकेगा।'

घास पर बैठे वैभव का माथा ठनका। वह हँसता हुआ उठ कर खड़ा हो गया। चेहरे का रंग उड़ा-उड़ा-सा लगने लगा। 'अनुज संस्कार, तुम बिल्कुल अपने नाम के अनुकूल हो। मुझे तो ऐसा लगता है कि संस्कार मानव रूप धर धरती पर उतर आया हो। मैं न तो तुम्हारे जैसे सोच सकता हूँ, और न ही सोचता हूँ बाहरी सौंदर्य दिखते ही मेरा धनुष बाण यानी हाथ में पकड़ा सेल चुप्पी नहीं साध सकता। यौवन का उन्माद मुझे आ घेरता है।'

'बड़े भइया का वाक्य सुनते ही संस्कार चौंक कर उठ खड़ा हुआ। यह जानने के लिए कि भइया से क्या गलती हो गई है। थोड़ी ही देर में उसे समझ आ गया कि अनर्थ हो ही गया है। झील के किनारे थोड़ी दूर पर पाँच छह अत्याधुनिक किशोरियाँ चहल कदमी कर रही थी। उसी समय भैया का सेल बजा और भइया हँस-हँस का मीठी-मीठी बातें करने लगे।

लक्ष्य वेध की क्रिया प्रतिक्रियाओं का अनूठा क्रम चल पड़ा। भीतरी लक्ष्य वेध की चर्चा करने वाले संस्कार बड़े भइया को ऐसा देखने लगा मानो कोई अजूबा हो। वैभव बाहरी लक्ष्य वेध कर रहा था जिसके कारण संस्कार ने चर्चा चलाई थी। वैभव विचारों की परिपक्वता से कोसो दूर तो नहीं किन्तु समीप भी न था, क्योंकि उसके सहपाठी उसे भरमाते

रहते थे। संस्कार वैभव के निकट सेल पर मीठी चुहल में व्यस्त था। संस्कार ने भाई को पुनः कहा किन्तु वैभव मुँह फेर भी ले तो परवाह नहीं, छोटा अपनी जान भी अर्पित करने के लिए तैयार है। फोन पर बातें समाप्त कर वैभव ने संस्कार को वहीं बैठने को कहा और स्वयं लड़कियों के बीच घिर कर मस्ती करने लगा। पास में खड़ा एक ग्यारह बारह साल का लड़का उनकी ओर हसरत भरी निगाहों से देख रहा था। इतने में उसके पिता आइसक्रीम लिये वहाँ पहुँचे और एक धौल जमाने हुए अपने पुत्र से बोले - शिघ्र, क्या देखा रहा है?

पिता का स्वर सुन लड़का घबरा गया। पिता ने कहा - ऐसा तुझे नहीं बनना है। ये लड़के या तो अवारा होते हैं या गरीब..... यह अमीरजादियों को फंसा कर शादी करना चाहते हैं।

“क्यों पापा?”

पिता ने पुत्र की ओर देखा..... क्योंकि अमीर बन सकें। वैभव के काना में मानो गर्भागर्भ उबलता हुआ सीसा किसी ने डाल दिया हो। वह तिलमिला उठा।

‘पर, पापा दोस्त भी तो हो सकते हैं।’

‘अमीर लड़कों के पास इस तरह समय बर्बाद करने के लिए समय नहीं होता क्योंकि उनको व्यापार संभालना होता है।’

परली तरफ बैठा संस्कार भी सुन रहा था। वह खून का चूँट पी गया। निम्न मध्यवर्गीय उनकी ओर ऊँगली उठाएँ। आज तक लोगों ने पलकें बिछाई थी। वैभव को ऐसा झटका लगा कि वह वहाँ और न बैठ सका। सबसे विदा ले उठ बैठा। संस्कार कार की ओर बढ़ता जा रहा था। उसकी आँखें ही नहीं दिल भी रो रहा था।

वैभव लम्बे-लम्बे डग भरता संस्कार के पास पहुँच गया। संस्कार ने अश्रुपूरित आँखों से बड़े भाई की ओर देखा, वैभव की आँखों में पश्चाताप झलक रहा था। संस्कार खड़ा हो गया। दोनों एक पल निहारते रहे फिर एक दूसरे के गले लग गए। संध्याकालीन सूर्यास्त होते गगन की रक्ताभ किरणों भीतरी भावों से चमकते हुए उन दोनों के अश्रु बाह्य आकर्षणों के चलते आई मलिनता को धोने लगे मानो आंतरिक लक्ष्य वेध एकारक सार्थक हो गया हो।

डॉ. मधु धवन

Faculty - Department of Hindi

**Statement about ownership & other particulars about the newspaper Stella Maris College Magazine  
to be published in the first issue every year after the last day of February**

**Form IV - (See Rule 8)**

- |  |     |  |
|--|-----|--|
| 1. Place of Publication  | ... | 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600 086.                 |
| 2. Periodicity of Publication  | ... | Annual   |
| 3. Printer's Name  | ... | Paul Antony  |
| Whether Citizen of India   | ... | Citizen of India                                       |
| (if foreigner state the country of origin)   |     |  |
| Address  | ... | C/4, Ambattur Industrial Estate,<br>Chennai - 600 058. |
| 4. Publisher's Name  | ... | Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras fmm, Ph.D.                    |
| Whether Citizen of India   | ... | Citizen of India                                       |
| (if foreigner, state the country of origin)  | ... |  |
| Address  | ... | 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600 086.                 |
| 5. Editor's Name   | ... | Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras fmm, Ph.D.                    |
| Whether Citizen of India   | ... | Citizen of India                                       |
| (if foreigner, state the country of origin)  | ... |  |
| Address  | ... | 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600 086.                 |
| 6. Name and addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one percent of the total Capital | ... | Stella Maris College, Chennai - 600 086.               |

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

Date : **15-08-2008**

Signature of Publisher : Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras, *fmm, Ph.D.*

---

Printed by Paul Antony at Vacha Fine Arts, C/4, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai - 600 058.  
Published by Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras fmm at Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600 086. Editor : Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras fmm



Stella Maris College (Autonomous), 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600086