



**STELLA MARIS**  
COLLEGE

2009-2010





TRUTH

CHARITY

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE**

(AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI - TAMILNADU

2009 - 2010



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# 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.



## Editorial

In a rapidly changing educational scenario, the only constant that moors institutions of higher education firmly to their foundational mission is the pursuit of excellence in every sphere of the educational process. It is this which provides institutions with a well-defined road-map to the achievement of visionary goals.

When translated into life's possibilities, it becomes the myriad ways through which, all of us, educators and learners, uncover those aspects of self that we had never imagined we possessed. As the eminent educationist John Gardner remarked, life " . . . is an endless and unpredictable dialogue between our own potentialities and the life situations in which we find ourselves."

The activities of the college documented in this year's magazine, stand testimony to the endless pursuit of excellence to which every constituent of the institution has committed itself. While the college constantly seeks to renew itself in order to provide learners with the highest quality learning experiences within the resources available, it is incumbent on all of us who live on campus to explore the fullest range of our potential for excellence. In an ever changing world, it is this which holds hope for the emergence of a new social order.

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"If the Institute was my work,  
it would perish with me.  
But it is God's work, and it will live."

BLESSED MARY OF THE PASSION  
Hélène de Chappotin 1839-1904

Foundress, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary  
Beatified on October 20, 2002

## The College

Stella 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. M. Phil, Ph. D, and postgraduate diplomas form part of the academic programmes.

Truth and Charity is the motto of the college. The college emblem represents a ship sailing on stormy waters, led on by a star. "Stella Maris" in Latin means "Star of the Sea".

*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 2000, the College was accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council and was awarded the Five Star status. In 2008, the College applied for reaccreditation and was awarded an A Grade with a CGPA of 3.57 on a 4 point scale.

"Stella Maris, shine on our lives forever and draw us ever upwards."



Annual Report  
by the Principal on College Day



*Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream, so shall you become. Your vision is the promise of what you shall at last unveil.*

*John Ruskin*

Respected Guest of Honour, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Secretary, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Stella Maris Convent Superior, Sr. Susan, members of the Governing Body and Academic Council, dear retiring faculty members, teaching, administrative and supportive staff, alumnae, students, parents, FMM Sisters, benefactors, well wishers and friends,

This is our sixty-third College Day and we have gathered here once again as a community with a common purpose: to celebrate our achievements and assess the effectiveness of the various roles we play as stakeholders in this crucial enterprise of preparing young women to face the challenges of a world where simple answers are hard to come by.

This is also a time for farewells. Seven of our faculty members are retiring after many years of committed service to the college.

Dr. Vijaya Asir, Associate Professor of Tamil, retires after 34 years of service. Dr. Agnes Fernando, Associate Professor of English, Dr. Madhu Dhawan, Associate Professor of Hindi, and Ms. Gita Balachandran, Librarian, retire after 32 years of service. Dr. Sharada Bhanu, Assistant Professor of English, retires after 25 years and Dr. Christina Rajkumar, Associate Professor of English, retires after 24 years of service. Ms. Mary Swamy, Associate Professor of English, retires after 23 years. A member of our supportive staff, Mr. Ramu, Attender, retires after 25 years of service. On this, their last College Day celebrations, as active and contributing members of the campus community, we wish them the very best as they move on to other ventures and new experiences.





Dr. Vandana Shiva, Chief Guest, addressing the audience on College Day



Dr. Vandana Shiva with members of the Student's Union and Vice Principal Dr. Geetha Swaminathan

It is also a moment of deep sadness for the loss of a loved former faculty member Mrs. Chandra Ilango of the Department of French, who passed away recently. As we mourn her passing, I would like to place on record her dedication and commitment to the college even after voluntary retirement in 2007, when she came forward to assist in the college archives project. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Stella Maris College has distinguished itself in the sphere of higher education in India and the college has emerged as a significant partner in the work of nation-building. At its inception, it was a farsighted, visionary experiment, rooted in the traditions of an ancient culture, on the cusp of a newly independent polity, animated by the vision of the Foundress of the Society of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Blessed Mary of the Passion. This vision has been translated into reality by human effort, hard work, unity of purpose and commitment to the realisation of the highest academic goals by the Founding Mothers, several generations of FMM Sisters, faculty members,

students, administrative and supportive staff. Our educational ideals seek to reflect the needs of Indian society today, while responding to contemporary global needs. It is for this reason that we continue to invest in new opportunities for our faculty members and students as we work together to build a great institution.

This evening, as we celebrate the collaborative work that we do in advancing our mission in education, we acknowledge the successes and achievements of faculty members and students, the progress and milestones attained in careers and learning, particularly students' triumphs and honours in various extra- and co-curricular activities. We record the advancements and developments on campus in relation to infrastructure and facilities, the contribution of the departments in continuing to build upon existing strengths, while tapping into innovative ideas and pedagogies in their never-ceasing pursuit of excellence. To detail all our achievements would be a difficult task indeed. In the limited time I have, therefore, I will present an overview of our activities.

**Graduation Day** was held on 6 March 2010. Eight hundred and seventy-five graduates and post-graduates received their diplomas from Prof. M. S. Ananth, Director, IIT Madras. The overall percentage of passes for the UG programmes was 81 and for the PG programmes, 96.

Faculty members have been the recipients of honours from several fora. Dr. Ulaganayaki Palani, Associate Professor of Tamil, has received the *Tamil Chudar* from the *Tamilar Thirunaal*, IIPPO, Malaysia, *Muthamizh Vittaki* from the Penang Tamil Sangam, *Illakiya Chudar Achiever Award* from *Anbu Palam*, and *Siddhantha Chemmal* from *Adirai Thirumurai Arakattalai*.

Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Department of Tamil, received the Best Teacher Award from the Thamizhaga Institute of Educational Research and Advancement.

Dr. V. Padma of the Department of English received the *Vetri Penmani* Award from the Centre for Women's Studies, Bharathidasan University, Trichy.

Dr. K. Sundari of the Department of Public Relations was awarded the PRSI Leadership Award 2009 for outstanding contribution to PR Education by the PRSI at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention in Chandigarh, in December 2009.

Dr. Madhu Dhawan, Head, Department of Hindi, received the Shri Laxmikant Verma *Smriti Samman* from Samekit Bharatiya Sahitya Parishad, UP, and the *Kesarvani Samman* from Kesarvani college, Jabalpur.

Many faculty members have obtained their doctoral degrees this academic year. Congratulations to Dr. Swapna Sathish, Department of Fine Arts, Dr. Mary George, Department of Chemistry, Dr. Jude Anne Cynthia, Department of Mathematics, Dr. Tirupurasundari, Department of Tamil and Dr. Usha Ramani, Department of Economics, who were awarded their doctoral degrees. Several more faculty members are in the process of completing their research while many have published articles and presented papers at academic fora.

Dr. Ulaganayaki Palani, Dr. Neeraja Rao, Associate Professor of Sociology, and Dr. Sandra Joseph, Head, Department of Social Work, presented research papers at academic institutions abroad.

Dr. Mahasampath Gowri, Dr. Mary George, Department of Chemistry, Ms. Raihana Sabir, Department of Economics, Ms. Jacinta Fenelon, Department of French, Ms Gita Balachandran, Librarian, Dr. Felbin Kennedy, Dr. Sr. Rosy Joseph and Ms. Teresa Arockiamary of the Department of Mathematics presented papers at International conferences at various academic institutions in India.

Dr. Swapna Sathish's article '(Dis)interested Belief: Visual Piety in Contemporary Temple Murals' was published in the National Journal *Kala Dirgha* in April 2009. She has also contributed two chapters to the historian S. Muthiah's book 'The Raj Bhavans of Tamil Nadu'. She was felicitated by the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, for her contribution.

Dr. Shiny John Vairamon of the Department

of Chemistry co-authored a paper in the international journal 'Wounds'.

Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras was a member of the Academic Advisory Committee, UGC-Academic Staff College, University of Madras, in November 2009 and was a member of the Peer Team of NAAC during its visit to the Government College for Women, Mandya, Karnataka. She was also a member of the team of college Principals who evaluated the XI Plan at the UGC in Bangalore and a member of the Expert Committee which scrutinised proposals for grant of financial assistance to colleges for conducting seminars, symposia and minor research projects at the UGC, Bangalore. She attended the General Assembly of IFCU in November at Rome and the meeting of member colleges of IFCU at Christ University, Bangalore, in February 2010.

Faculty members presented papers in their various areas of specialisation and related areas at national, state and regional level conferences and seminars. They have also been invited to lecture in colleges across the city and state and in other academic fora. Many of them are members of Boards of Studies and Academic Audit Committees in a number of institutions and have been called upon to be resource persons at various academic events.

Our students have excelled in a variety of fields. Today, as we celebrate the excellent work of students who are achievers in their disciplines, we hope they will become leaders in their communities and achieve greater heights of success. This comprehensive list of their achievements testifies to their initiative, motivation,

creativity and all-round accomplishment.

Poornima Rangadurai, a III year student of the Department of Chemistry, was one among the 44 nominated from all over India to attend the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of Nobel Laureates in June-July 2009 at Lindau, Germany. She has also been pre-selected on the Reserve List for admission into the Erasmus Mundus ASC Master Course at Brussels.

Roshini Ramachandran, a III year student of the Department of Chemistry, was selected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Science Conclave, a congregation of Nobel Laureates hosted by the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, supported by the MHRD and DST, Government of India, in December 2009. For the third consecutive year, a student of the college, Jotheeswari of M.Sc Chemistry has been appointed by the Smithkline - Beecham Labs in new product development at Weybridge, Surrey, UK.

Neha Prabhu of III year B.Sc Mathematics was selected for the national level 'Math Camp: Math Training and Talent Search Programme' in 2008 and 2009 and has been awarded the Balarama Iyer Scholarship for academic excellence from Madras University for the three-year undergraduate degree programme.

Elanthalir E. of III year B.Sc Mathematics has been awarded the K.S. Johnstar of Carniliosch Scholarship for academic excellence from Madras University for the three-year undergraduate degree programme.

As part of the student exchange programme with IESEG School of Management, France, five II year students of Commerce, Ms. Anisha

S., Ms. Rashmi R., Ms. Amrutha R., Ms. Munira and Ms. Sinduri were selected to attend a one-semester programme in France during this academic year.

We are proud of two III year students of Commerce, Ms. Gayathri Parthasarathy and Ms. B. Santhoshika, who were selected for the Global Foundation Programme and are at present in Washington D.C. doing an internship with non-profit organisations of the US State Departments organised by the United States Training Center.

Varsha Bajaj of II year Commerce attended the Global Young Leaders' Conference in the US in August 2009.

Nina Rex of II B.Sc Mathematics and Merlin S. of III B.Com attended the first Young Asian Women's Leadership Forum in October 2009 at Miriam College, Philippines. They also participated in the 2009 Asia Pacific NGO Forum.

Students have excelled in the arena of sports and games. Our sportswomen have won numerous awards and prizes and several have been chosen to represent the state and the University of Madras in various tournaments. In Games, our dominance in hockey was demonstrated this year. At the Inter-collegiate Hockey Tournament held at the Major Radhakrishnan Stadium in September 2009, our college team won the first place. The entire team was selected to participate at the Madras University Inter-zone Tournament. In volleyball, throwball and badminton, too, our players were exceptional. We recorded several wins in competitions at the state, university and national levels.

The departments represent a vibrant and dynamic core constituency of the college. The various courses they offer have been carefully structured to provide students with the best possible opportunities for development. Many departments have made industry collaboration an important aspect of their curriculum delivery and have included inter-institutional tie-ups and academic exchanges in order to introduce students to diverse learning experiences. This foregrounds the thrust to close the gap between industry and academia and thereby open up options for students to map their careers early in the educational process. Workshops, which introduced students to hands-on training and experiential learning, were conducted by many departments. Conferences organised by post-graduate science departments focussed on research. Several departments have conducted national and international conferences, seminars, symposia and Scholar-in- Residence programmes which have been extremely productive in terms of updating information, encouraging interaction between experts and students and introducing students to emerging fields of study.

The Departments of International Studies and Commerce continue to host students from ICES and IESEG universities in France respectively, as the result of the MoUs signed with these institutions. Students of the Fine Arts Department have created an installation and painted five panels inspired by the theme 'Greener Chennai' which have been mounted on the compound walls of Stella Maris College facing Cathedral Road. The panels were unveiled and dedicated by the Mayor of Chennai, the US Consul General

and members of Management of the college. The Department of Social Work moved this year to the new spacious second floor at Hélène de Chappotin Block, housing both the undergraduate and post-graduate departments. The construction was supported in part by the generous contribution of Rs. 20 lakhs from the Sun Foundation of the Murasoli Maran Trust. The special guest of honour at the International Human Rights Day celebrations organised by the Department was the well-known social worker and activist, Shrimathi Krishnammal Jagannathan, recipient of the Right to Livelihood Award 2008, widely known as the Alternative Nobel Prize. Her powerful speech on the rights of rural women and their vital role in building a peaceful society left a lasting impression on the audience, particularly on the students.

At the annual rural camp in collaboration with ANITRA TRUST the students' efforts resulted in the District Collector sanctioning Rs. 5 lakhs for immediate restoration of road works with a directive to the officials of the Block Office to provide each household in the colony with a toilet.

The three year international research project funded by the British Council titled 'Development of Partnerships in Higher Education' in collaboration with Bishop Heber College, Trichy, Madras Christian College and Hindu College, Chennai, Liverpool Hope University, UK and Stella Maris College, and carried out by the Department of Social Work will culminate in an international conference with all the member institutions at Stella Maris College on 27 and 28 April 2010.

The science departments of the college received a fillip with the award of the Star College Scheme by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. They were given financial assistance for strengthening life science and biotechnology education and training at the undergraduate level. The scheme envisages a substantial increase in the proportion of hands-on experimental work by students, improvement in access to books and journals, summer programmes for students, industrial visits and field trips.

The Centre for Research in Science and Technology (CRIST), a multi-disciplinary science lab was inaugurated on 15 October 2009. The centre, with its state-of-the-art instruments will enhance the learning process for science students and help them stay abreast of the latest instrumentation techniques used in research. The Centre will focus on socially relevant research projects. This process has already begun. The departments of Botany, Chemistry and Zoology are currently doing a project on 'Studies on Physico-chemical and Biological Parameters of the Soil' at the Adyar Poonga to plan strategies for soil restoration.

CRIST will add value to science education at Stella Maris College and provide an impetus to our faculty members and students to become more deeply involved in projects and increase research publications by both faculty members and students.

Other developments in infrastructure and facilities include the establishment of the Lillian Wellness Centre which was inaugurated this year to house the Infirmary and the Herbal Therapy Programme facility



on the ground floor and Counselling Services on the first floor.

The new hostel building is nearing completion and the interior work has begun. The hostel will be furnished and ready for students from June 2010.

The IQAC of the college organised a two day National Seminar on 'Quality in Higher Education: From Assurance to Enhancement' in February 2010. Eminent resource persons shared their insights and perspectives on quality management in higher education. The themes of the seminar focused on various aspects of higher education ranging from freedom and responsibility, stakeholder participation and the need for a paradigm shift in higher education.

The UGC-sponsored Women's Studies Centre was inaugurated on 12 December 2009. It seeks to consolidate and further strengthen the initiatives of the college in women's education, research and interventions on gender issues. To this effect a seminar on Women and Law was organised. A short-term certificate course on 'Gender: Economics, Environment and Media' was conducted in collaboration with the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development. A Leadership Training Programme was held in collaboration with Initiatives for Women in Development, Chennai.

The librarian, Ms. Gita Balachandran, initiated a project to set up an archive for the college. The team includes Dr. Agnes Fernando and Sr. Nirmala. Retired faculty members of the college are helping in collecting manuscripts and photographs for setting up the library archives. A one-day seminar called Open

House, in association with The American Center, was organised in January 2010. A series of CDs in various disciplines was played for the students and faculty members.

Annual events and departmental fests added variety to the ongoing programmes on campus. Many departments organised inter-collegiate fests which saw active participation from students from many colleges in the city. The various clubs also organised events to keep the students involved and active throughout the academic year.

The annual student theatre production this year was titled 'Winding up the Charm'. It was a lively, light-hearted portrayal of some of Shakespeare's famous women. It was scripted and produced by the students and directed by Hans Kaushik, eminent director and theatre personality. The play was staged in February and had a successful three-day run.

'Green Initiatives', a publication containing articles and essays on the activities of the college which focus on conservation, protection and sustainability of the environment, will be released today. The publication reflects the concern and care for the earth which is today a major thrust of the mission of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

The highlight of this year was the visit of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, to the college on 11 February 2010. After a motivating and inspiring talk, he had an interactive session with the students and answered their questions. It was truly a memorable evening for the entire Stella

Maris community.

Many stalwarts of this institution have been instrumental in charting our progress and bringing us to our current position as an institution of repute. It has been our practice, therefore, to pay tribute to such luminaries every year, by way of Endowment Lectures instituted in their name, by the departments to which they had belonged. Endowment Lectures were an important feature of the activities of several departments this year.

Co-curricular activities reflect our seriousness of purpose in serving the community and the nation through direct involvement. The NSS and the NCC units of Stella Maris have been at the forefront in terms of providing students with experiential learning through service to society and to the nation.

The NSS, co-coordinated by Dr. Millie Nihila and Ms. Beulah Francis, undertook a major Book Collection Project this year, initiated by the Vice Chancellor of Madras University. About 15,000 books collected by our students will be sent to the Arignar Anna Centenary Library. The NSS Unit also completed a pilot project of recording Audio Books for visually challenged persons. These records were converted into MP3 format and given to libraries for use by the visually challenged.

The NCC, with its aim of empowering the youth of India, has inspired the cadets of this college to put service before self and respond to every challenge with courage and conviction. They have been selected to attend prestigious training camps and have excelled in competitions and won medals.

Five of our cadets were selected to march on Rajpath on Republic Day. The cadets won prizes for the following competitions - Prime Minister's Rally, Contingent Drill, Rajpath, Flag Area, Line Area, Group Dance and Best Cadet Banner events. Flight Cadet Geraldine, Cadet Mini, Flight Cadet Lalitha Pooja and Cadet Devi Chandana have been short listed for the Youth Exchange Programme. We are proud to report that the Director General NCC Commendation medal this year was won by Lieutenant Dolly Thomas and Ex-Senior Under-Officer Divya Ajith.

The Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC) set up in 2006 with the support of the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Board, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, functions under the guidance of Dr. Geetha Swaminathan, Project Advisor, and Ms. Mary Teresita, Project Leader. In July 2009, it held six Entrepreneurship Awareness Camps (EACs), each of three days duration for first year undergraduate students. About 600 students participated in the EACs. A four-week Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme was held from 16 September to 15 October 2009, at Stella Maris College. Twenty-eight women chosen from different walks of life attended the programme.

The EDC, in collaboration with Science City, conducted a training programme for 25 rural women of Tiruvallur District in the preparation of herbal products in November 2009. The women were also informed about the various financial schemes available to them.

Sangamam, the Extension Project of Stella

Maris College, has presently launched into a strong advocacy and lobbying initiative on 'Child Rights and Child Protection'. Students from Stella Maris College, Madras Christian College, and Liverpool Hope University underwent their fieldwork training this year through Sangamam.

The three year qualitative research study supported by the International Federation of Catholic Universities, Paris, was completed in April 2009. The study was titled 'Drug Use/ Abuse among Youth of Fishing Community in Chennai City – India.'

Many student initiatives have been reflective of their involvement and commitment to the institution. At the forefront of these initiatives have been the members of the Students' Union and the dedicated Deans of Student Affairs.

The Students' Union motto was 'Spread Your Wings' with the logo being a butterfly emerging from a cocoon, symbolising positive transformation and living the joy of life. The Union has worked tirelessly throughout the year to achieve its goals and has consistently urged students to be environmentally conscious and actively involved in campus cleanliness. With excellent planning and attention to minute details, the Students' Union executed several programmes with great success.

The Clean Campus Drive was launched on 17 July with a talk by Mr. Jagan Mohan Rao from Greenpeace. A presentation by the Students' Union was also screened. The campaign was taken forward with a 'Green Rally' on 8 September with the active involvement of students, the Enviro Club, Pawpals Club

and Green Squad members. The Union also released the Care of Mother Earth eco-friendly bags on 25 September. The fundraiser, **Dhwani 2009**, a grand musical extravaganza with performances by leading musicians and singers, was a resounding success.

The Alumnae Association of Stella Maris College has been very active through the year. Several Kalanjyam programmes for students and alumnae were held. The Student Support Fund and collection of new clothes to help students were initiated. The Career Guidance Cell, a part of the Alumnae Association of Stella Maris College held two training programmes for III year students. In June, a five-day programme on personality development, goal-setting and communication skills was conducted. The November programme focused on honing skills for recruitment into the industry. 'Beyond Horizons', a Career Fair, was organised in September 2009 to create awareness among the students on employment possibilities and also options available for higher education in India and other countries.

The Campus Recruitment Drive which started mid-November 2009 saw major companies like Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, Ernst & Young, RBS, Wipro, and R. R. Donnelly, to mention a few prominent firms, on campus. Approximately 275 students from various departments of the college were recruited.

Coaching classes for the Civil Services Examinations began in November 2009. The classes were conducted under the guidance of Mr. A. X. Alexander IPS, former DGP of Police, Tamil Nadu. The college also intends

to link up the programme with the Civil Services Coaching Academy, Chennai.

'Spring Board for Leadership', a training programme for students with potential for leadership, was initiated this year, jointly by Stella Maris and Loyola College. The resource persons are corporate trainers and people who are outstanding in their respective fields. Participating students will be awarded certificates. Rev. Fr. Joe Anthony, Director of the Institute for Development of Research in Culture and Communication, Loyola College, and Dr. Sr. Colleen North, Vice Principal (Evening College), Stella Maris College, coordinate the programme.

A strong feature of our educational system is the emphasis we place on value-based education, and as a Catholic college we also focus on the spiritual development of our students.

The Campus Ministry for Catholic faculty members and students forms a vibrant part of life on campus. There is also an active Prayer Group on campus. The academic year began with the traditional Inaugural Mass. Three retreats were conducted for students. Training programmes were organised for faculty members involved in teaching Catholic Doctrine.

Our care for the disadvantaged sections of society remains a central focus in our strategic plans for the institution. We have instituted many financial scholarships and offer fee concessions to deserving students. A total of 1348 students benefited from Golden Jubilee, Diamond Jubilee, and Millennium Scholarships, private scholarships, Government scholarships, merit

cum means scholarships and fee concessions amounting to more than Rs. 36 lakhs this academic year.

The Stella Maris Pathway Programme, coordinated by Dr. Thilagavathi G. Joseph, Department of English, with its motto 'Pathways to Opportunities', helps students from disadvantaged sections of society to become competent individuals academically and socially. The Student Christian Movement of India, Bangalore, has selected 11 students for a two-year fellowship programme to pursue a course in English in the first year and a course in Computer Science in the second year.

Mentoring of students was initiated this year with the objective of enabling faculty members to monitor and guide students' academic and personal progress. Details of students' performance in tests and examinations and their credit totals every semester are entered in a booklet designed for the purpose.

The UGC funded Remedial Coaching classes were organised for undergraduate students as well as a few post-graduate students. In addition to providing subject coaching, special classes were also conducted in English grammar, library skills and basic computer skills. The programme has helped to enhance the self-confidence and academic performance of these students, who are from socially and economically backward sections of society.

As the academic year draws to a close, we remember the prophetic words of our Foundress, Blessed Mary of the Passion: "If this is my work it will perish with me; if it is

God's work it will continue." Her approach and attitude continue to resonate through all our work here.

We, as educators, have a very special role – to promote learning and research not just for our students, but for the world. It is a very special responsibility. We face many challenges both internal and external, in the midst of which we strive to preserve and enhance an environment and a culture in which we seek to put aside differences in the larger interest.

At this juncture, I would like to place on record the many organisations especially the UGC, DBT and DST, Government of India, the Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, the

University of Madras, the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia and the International Federation of Catholic Universities for their support. To the several public sector undertakings and the generous benefactors who continue to support us, we extend our gratitude.

My heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Cecilia Joachim, Provincial Superior, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Secretary, Sr. Susan, Superior, for their support and invaluable guidance; to the Vice-Principals Dr. Geetha Swaminathan, Dr. Christina Rajkumar and Dr. Sr. Colleen North, the Controller of Examinations Dr. R. Rajini and Associate Controller Dr. Margaret Clarence, the Academic Deans Dr. Sr. Rosy and Dr. Neeraja Rao, the Deans of Student Affairs Dr. Chitralkha Ramachandran,



Dancers performing on College Day

Dr. Priscilla Jebakumari and Dr. Razia Tony, and the Heads of Departments and faculty members for their commitment and dedication in carrying out their responsibilities; to the members of the various committees for their cooperation and meticulous work.

My grateful thanks also go to the Bursar, Sr. Veera, to Sr. Philo Manickam and Sr. Arockia Mary; the Office Superintendent, Ms. Alphonsa and all the administrative staff; Sr. Hilda and the supportive staff. My deep appreciation for the commitment of the Hostel Wardens, Sr. Hilda, Sr. Leonie and Sr. Maria Philo, who ensure that a spirit of camaraderie fills the hostels at all times. They also take care of the spiritual growth of the students through talks, prayers and attendance at meaningful Eucharistic Celebrations.

A special word of thanks to you, dear parents, for your collaboration in the formation of our young students, and for your presence here this evening to share these moments of celebration.

All of us as stakeholders are stewards of the legacy of the Founding Mothers of the institution. Let us work together to enhance that spirit of service and preserve the unique culture of this institution, for it constitutes our very special and unique contribution to society, a contribution that we alone can make.

*May Stella Maris, the Star of the Sea, lead us ever onwards.  
Thank you and God Bless.*

Visit of  
Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam







*The highlight of this year was the visit of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, to the college on 11 February 2010. After a motivating and inspiring talk, he had an interactive session with the students and answered their questions. It was a truly memorable evening for the entire Stella Maris community.*







Independence Day  
and Stella Maris's Birthday Celebrations





Flag hoisting by Mr. A. X. Alexander, IPS, former DGP, TamilNadu











# Graduation Day





Prof. M. S. Ananth, Director, IIT, Madras, Chief Guest, Graduation Day



Faculty and graduates on graduation day

# Valedictory





Chief guest, Ms. Sheela Rani Chunkath IAS (second right) lighting the kuthuvillaku at the valedictory function



Chief Guest, Ms. Sheela Rani Chunkath, IAS addressing the gathering



At the tree-planting ceremony





# Remembrance





## Chandra Ilango (1953 – 2010)



Born in Malaysia on 7 May 1953, Chandra Raju, as she was known then, was the second among four children. She had her early childhood and education in Malaysia. Later, she moved to India with her family to settle down in Madurai where she completed her high school education. After graduating in Home Science from Fatima college, Madurai, she obtained her M.A. in French from the Madurai Kamaraj University. While at college she was a very active student leader, very popular among her college mates.

After marriage, she moved to Chennai with her husband, A.V. Ilango, a Professor of Mathematics and an artist, and took up a post as lecturer at Stella Maris College in 1979.

A dedicated and highly motivated teacher,

she was very popular among students. Her fluency in French was admirable. She had varied interests and always involved herself in college activities. She held the position of Staff Club Secretary as well as Assistant Controller of Examinations. She was also the Head of the Department of French for a period of five years until she took voluntary retirement in 2006.

She had a happy life after retirement. Endowed with a penchant for art and art criticism, she supported her artist husband in all his ventures in India and abroad. She travelled abroad with him to manage his art shows.

The end came all too suddenly. She passed away peacefully in the early hours of 22 February 2010 leaving behind her husband, a daughter, a son and a grandchild.

The flower has withered but the fragrance remains. She will always be remembered by her friends and colleagues for her pleasant disposition and for her invaluable contribution to the institution.

*Ms. Jacintha Fenelon  
Head, Department of French*

## Felicitations



## Dr. Vijaya Asir

Dr. Vijaya Asir, Associate Professor and former Head, Department of Tamil retired after 34 years of service. After completing her undergraduate studies from Sarah Tucker college and post-graduation from Madurai Kamaraj University, she joined the Department of Tamil at Stella Maris College in 1976. She obtained her PhD from the Mother Teresa University.

She was the Head of the Tamil Department from 1989 to 2001. A committed and dedicated teacher, she was involved in several activities of the Department. During her tenure, she revived the Muthamizh Mandram and renamed it Bharathi Mandram. This students' forum is actively involved in conducting Tamil literary programmes in the college. She was instrumental in bringing out a students' magazine *Kottu Murasu* which featured student articles. She has authored the book *Bharathiyar-Bharathidasan Nokkil Poovaiyar*. As an educationist, she has contributed to curriculum development and evolving standards in the department.

She is a person of varied interests. Besides her doctoral work in Tamil, she has obtained a Post-graduate Diploma in Folk Lore, a Diploma in Journalism and a Diploma in Saiva Siddhantham.

Dr. Vijaya is a woman of deep faith and it is this faith that has been her strength all through her life and which will continue to lead and guide her.

*Dr. Geetha Swaminathan*  
Vice Principal  
Department of Chemistry



## Dr. Agnes Fernando



Dr. Agnes Fernando, Associate Professor of English, retired after 32 long years of dedicated and committed service to Stella Maris College. She joined the Department of English in 1978, after working as a Lecturer in English in Holy Cross college, Trichy, from 1973 to 1976.

She holds a PhD in English from the University of Madras, a Post-graduate Diploma in the Teaching of English and a Master's Degree in French from the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad. She is also a Certified Examiner for IELTS (International English Language Testing Services), for NELTS (National English Language Testing Service) and for OET (Occupational English Testing). She also completed a programme in Basic Studies in Religion, Philosophy and Sociology at

Auxilium, Lourdes, France, between 1976 and 1978.

She was a member of the Governing Body of the institution from 2006–2008. In the summer of 1998 she visited Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio, and Eastern Iowa Community College, USA on a Faculty Exchange Programme.

Dr. Agnes Fernando has served in several capacities during her tenure in the institution and has proved to be an efficient and capable administrator. In her roles as Vice Principal of the college from 2006 to 2009, as Head of the undergraduate department of English, and Dean of Student Affairs (two terms), she brought her special qualities of fairness, justice and compassion to bear in all her dealings with faculty and students. Her special skills as counsellor made her an automatic choice for orientation programmes for the incumbents of the college Union at the beginning of the academic year. She was proactive in her actions when dealing with sensitive issues and she enriched the collegiate experience for every member of the community on campus. An enthusiastic and self-motivated professional, she played a key role in the production of the Self Study Report of the college for re-accreditation in 2008 and was also the Coordinator of the IQAC from 2008 to 2009.

She has been an active member of the community of educators who put their expertise to use in the service of the larger community outside. She was a volunteer for SNEHA, a suicide prevention organisation in Chennai from 1993 to 1997. She was a member of the Selection Committee

for MBBS students at St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, in 1981 and a member of the Governing Body of Service and Research Foundation for Family and Culture (SERFAC) from 1995 to 1998. She has been a resource person for sessions on Personality Development and Team Building in city schools for Plus Two students and has conducted, along with student teachers, a Functional English Course for Bus Drivers of the Pallavan Transport Corporation (MTC) at Stella Maris College.

Dr. Agnes Fernando has carried forward the institution's mission and vision in every aspect of her professional career. Her approach has been collaborative and inclusive and this has in large measure, contributed to her success both as educator and administrator. Her service to the college has been a tangible expression of how educators can function effectively in the multiple roles that they have to perform on campus and in the larger society outside. The institution has benefited immensely from her long innings in the college. We wish her the very best in all her future endeavours.

*Dr. Bernadine Joseph  
Department of English*

## Dr. Madhu Dhawan



Dr. Madhu Dhawan, who retired as Head, Department of Hindi, Stella Maris College served the college as a dedicated teacher who held student progress and language proficiency as top priorities. She has 32 years of teaching experience and holds a PhD in Hindi from Bangalore University.

A teacher par excellence, she has conducted innumerable workshops on teaching methodology in schools and colleges in Chennai and other cities and has framed syllabi for several academic institutions. A scholar and a prolific creative writer, Dr. Dhawan has published many research papers, presented papers at national and international venues and produced creative work in a number of genres – poetry, drama, fiction, short story, one-act plays. Her themes cover a wide range from nationalism to concern for humanity and social issues.

She is the author of more than a hundred books in Hindi. Her writings have been prescribed as texts for undergraduate and M.Phil programmes and have been the primary sources for M.Phil dissertations of five students. Her reviews have appeared in several newspapers. She was the first person to conduct courses under the Network Project in Functional Hindi in Avinashilingam Deemed University under a grant from the UGC. She took the initiative to bring out a CD on spoken Hindi titled Sampreshan which was released by the former President of India Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. In addition, she has organised many seminars at national and state levels.

Dr. Dhawan has received numerous awards in recognition of her scholarship and her work for the advancement of the Hindi language. She was given a special award for her exemplary service to Hindi literature at the National Hindi Bhasha Kumbh at Bangalore in 2008, and also the Distinguished Academician Award by the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan Prayag for her contribution to Hindi literature. She received the *Verma Smriti Samman 2009* awarded by Samekit Bharatiya Sahitya Parishad, Basti, U.P. in November 2009. These are just a few of the numerous awards she has received.

This distinguished educationist, scholar and creative writer has received recognition at the highest levels in the country. Her eclectic interests, her creative muse and admirable scholarship will surely sustain her as she moves on to other avenues. We wish her the very best.

*Ms. Srabani Battachariya*  
*Department of Hindi*

## Ms. Gita Balachandran



Ms. Gita Balachandran retires after 32 years as Librarian of the Stella Maris College Library and Documentation Centre.

A product of Church Park Matriculation School, Chennai, and DTA Delhi, she graduated in Mathematics from The Women's Christian college, Chennai. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Library Information Science and a Master's degree in Sociology from SNDT University, Mumbai. Moving to Chennai, she opted for a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Madras.

Ms. Gita started her career as a Junior Library Assistant in SNDT University Library, Mumbai. Thereafter, following a brief stint in USIS, Mumbai, as an intern, she joined as an assistant librarian in Sophia college, Mumbai, where she worked from 1974 to 1977. On

her return to Chennai, she was appointed as the Librarian in Stella Maris College, a position she has held till her retirement this academic year.

Innovation, creativity and professionalism are her hallmark. She has been responsible for the computerization of the library which has enabled easy reference and acquisition of library resources. The 'Cozy Corner'- a special space in the library created for students' reading comfort is a popular spot for library users.

The online Library-www.Questionia.com and DSpace, a digital repository of various resources that she set up has been a blessing for students and researchers. The database EBSCO made available in the library has brought a fund of knowledge to its users to its users at the 'click of a button'.

Always eager to update her knowledge on the latest trends and technologies in Information Science, Ms. Gita has attended many courses in library usage, acquired a Diploma in DBase III, completed a computer course on CDS-ISIS, a course on 'Web Page Design' at CALIBER, on 'Re-engineering of Library and Information Services in an I.T. Environment' at XLRI, Jamshedpur, and in Digitising Libraries and setting up of Archives.

In recognition of her creditable contribution to the maintenance and expansion of the library as the best college library in the city, The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia selected her as a Visiting Scholar to Davidson College, North Carolina, USA, for a brief visit where she received special training in Software Skills

for designing and developing of library web page and other visual aids.

Ms. Gita is currently involved in setting up an archive for the college which will encapsulate and preserve all documents relating to the history of Stella Maris College for posterity.

Ms. Gita has organised several College Day functions and co-ordinated the Golden Jubilee, Diamond Jubilee and Fund-raising Programmes for the college with élan. She was the creative head for the production of video cassettes on the fifty years of Stella Maris College history titled 'Saga of Stella Maris' and 'Use of college Library' which is screened during the library orientation for incoming undergraduate and post-graduate students.

Besides managing the library, Ms. Gita has held additional responsibility of the college NCC Unit for twelve years. During her tenure, the NCC excelled in all their activities and made a mark at Republic Day Parades held in Delhi, bagging 'Youth Exchange Programmes' for several students of the unit. Her NCC students are full of praise for the discipline, dedication and duty that Ms. Gita has instilled in them. A member of many professional library associations, Ms. Gita was a member of the college IQAC and contributed immensely to its work.

As Ms. Gita lays down office as Librarian, the library that she has nurtured stands testimony to her sense of duty, discipline and dedication.

*Dr. Patricia Gabriel*  
*Head, Department of History*



## Dr. Christina Rajkumar



Dr. Christina Rajkumar, Associate Professor, Department of English began her career as a Lecturer in Holy Cross college, Trichy, in 1973. She joined the Department of English, Stella Maris College in 1975 and worked for four years as Lecturer, also teaching French at the PUC level until she left in 1979. She returned to the college in 1990 and served the institution until her retirement in 2010.

In addition to holding a Doctoral Degree in English, Dr. Christina Rajkumar also holds a Diploma in Modern French Studies from the University of Geneva (1998), a Post-graduate Certificate in the Teaching of English from CIEFL, Hyderabad and a Diplôme Supérieure from the Alliance Française, Chennai.

Dr. Christina Rajkumar has held many key posts in the college during her tenure. She

was Dean of Student Affairs from 2007-2009, Vice-Principal from 2009-2010, a member of the Governing Body from 2008-2010 and a member of the Academic Council as college nominee.

She has participated in several academic activities outside the college, in various capacities as Subject Expert, External Examiner and was a member of the Question Bank Project Workshop on English Language and Comprehension organised by the Staff Selection Commission, Chennai in 2002. She has conducted classes for M.Phil students of the IDE, University of Madras in 2003 and 2004.

She has been actively involved in organising several functions in the college such as College Day, Convocation Day, the valedictory ceremony, the Christmas Fete, the Christmas Programme for the college, Inaugural and Thanksgiving Mass, and Retreats for Catholic students. She was twice co-editor and once editor of the college Magazine, the editor of the Literary Journal of the English Department several times and has headed the committee for the preparation of the college Calendar. She has been the Staff Advisor for several student clubs, the student newspaper The Star of the Sea, as well as the online paper 'Stellaeidoscope'.

An excellent teacher, Dr. Christina has always been exemplary in her work ethics, never compromising on standards or principles that she believed in. Her involvement in several college events and activities in addition to her teaching is a reflection of a deep and abiding commitment and dedication of the highest order. She has

been a mentor to several generations of students in whom she has instilled a strong sense of discipline and values through the courses in Catholic Doctrine that she unfailingly taught almost every semester. She has been a valued member of the college community, generous with her time, meticulous in her work, and a very responsible and purposeful administrator. We wish her the very best in all that she does.

*Dr. Bernadine Joseph*  
*Department of English*

## Dr. Sharada Bhanu



Dr. Sharada Bhanu retired this year after serving the college for 25 years. Her long and commendable teaching career includes two stints at one of New Delhi's top colleges – Lady Sriram College, affiliated to Delhi University. She joined the Department of English in Stella Maris in 1981 and worked here until 1987, before relocating to New Delhi. She rejoined the Department in 1996. Overall, she has logged in about 30 years of teaching experience in various institutions.

A brilliant academic and an inspiring teacher, Dr. Sharada Bhanu has trained several generations of enthusiastic students to achieve the highest levels of academic excellence. With her extensive knowledge of a variety of subjects, she weaves her special brand of interdisciplinary approaches into her lectures, creating multiple avenues for

ideation and critical connections during the teaching-learning process. This dynamism has been her special forte, and students have benefited greatly from her unique scholarship.

Dr. Sharada Bhanu has presented several research papers at international and national seminars and conferences and published papers in her areas of expertise which range from Children's Fiction to Dalit Literature and Feminism. She has written books, articles and stories for children, co-edited a poetry anthology and co-written a key to grammar, composition and usage. She has co-authored the book '103 Myths, Legends, Fables and Stuff' published by Scholastic India in 2008.

She is a much sought-after resource person and has delivered lectures at several fora, both academic and general. She conducted a five day course for the general public on the connection between the Bhakthi Movement and the Sufi tradition of the Middle East, organised by the Hayagriva Study Circle in 2007. She also gave a public lecture on 'Bhagavan's Brahmastra' at Ramanakendra on the occasion of the anniversary of Ramana Maharishi's advent to Tiruvannamalai. In addition to other such public lectures, she has also given talks to students of other city colleges on a variety of topics. She taught a three month course on the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia, Japan and China at ICFAI Business School, Chennai, and addressed faculty members from various colleges on the topic 'Literature for Children' at the Refresher Course organised by the Academic Staff College, University of Madras in 2009. This hectic academic schedule has not

prevented her from participating fully in departmental and institutional programmes and activities. She was actively involved in the organisation of seminars and conferences in the college and Department, and was on the editorial board of the Department Journal on several occasions. She served as Dean of Student Affairs from 2005-2007.

Another sphere of activity of Dr. Sharada's is that of critic and creative writer. She has published her poems and short stories in magazines and journals, in addition to publishing reviews and critical articles on texts. Her diverse interests will surely be her mainstay as she begins life anew after retirement. We wish her every success in all her future endeavours.

*Dr. Prema Jagannathan*  
*Department of English*

## Miss Mary Swamy



Miss Mary Swamy, Associate Professor in the Department of English, Stella Maris College, was a student of our college from 1969-1975 doing both her undergraduate and post-graduate studies in English Literature. As a student, she was actively involved in several extra-curricular programmes like NSS, NCC, AICUF, Social Service, etc. She was a member of several clubs too.

Ms. Mary Swamy joined Nirmala college, Coimbatore in 1976 as a Lecturer in English and served that institution to the satisfaction of all. She served on several committees as well. Even today she is fondly remembered by her colleagues and students.

She joined the Department of English in Stella Maris College in 1987 on transfer from Nirmala college on compassionate grounds

when her mother fell ill. She completed her M.Phil studies under FIP from Madras University. She began her services in our college with enthusiasm. She was popular among students. She has served on several committees in our college besides teaching. She took the initiative to organize Masses and train the choir. She has been a member of the admissions committee and she did her duties conscientiously.

We pray that she may have a happy, healthy and peaceful retired life.

*Sr. Susan, fmm  
Vice President,  
Society of FMM*

## Mr. Ramu



Mr. Ramu, joined Stella Maris College as a 'marker' in the Physical Education Department. He now retires as an assistant in the library after working for 25 years in different capacities. During his time in college he was sincere and executed his duties with a sense of dedication and commitment. He was well known for his time consciousness. Being calm by nature he moved quietly around the campus performing his duties with a smile for everyone. Nobody has heard him raise his voice or lose his temper over any issue.

We pray to the Almighty that Mr. Ramu may be blessed with a healthy, peaceful and long life after his retirement.

*Dr. Geeta Sridharan*  
*Department of Economics*

## Reports of Departments



## Department of Mathematics

The 8<sup>th</sup> Dr. Thangamani Endowment Lecture was held by the Department on 11 December 2009. Michael Herty, Professor of Scientific Computing, RWTH



Prof. Michael Herty

Aachen, Germany, spoke on 'Methods and Applications for Optimisation with Partial Differential Equations'. The lecture was informative and a very complex topic was made accessible and interesting to both faculty members and students of the department.

Twelve Arts and Science colleges participated at **Mathzoom** 2010. Dr. Geetha Srinivasa Rao, Retired Professor, Department of Mathematics, Ramanujan Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics, University of Madras, who was the Chief Guest, spoke on the importance of mathematics in everyday life and gave a presentation on the macro and micro view of objects above and in the earth's core. St. Joseph's college of Engineering won the overall trophy.



Dr. Thangamani Endowment Lecture



## Department of Sociology

The Sister Christine Endowment Lecture was given by Mr. Shekar Dattatri, wildlife film maker and conservationist on 'Whose Planet is it Anyway?' Guest lectures were organised for students of the Department on 'Formation and Functioning of NGOs' on 24 July 2009 and Self Help Groups and Micro Finance on 30 July 2009. The resource persons for the two lectures were Ms. Latha of CSIM and Sr. Vimala, Directress of Arpanam respectively.

## Department of English

The Department of English conducted a seminar on African-American Literature on 17 February 2010. The keynote address was given by Dr. V. Geetha. This was followed by paper presentation and poetry reading by the students of the department.

## Department of Economics

Dr. U. Kalpagam delivered the Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture on 'Characteristics and Analytics of the Global Carbon Market' on 12 October 2009. The Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah centenary celebrations were held in collaboration with MIDS.

*Guest lectures by the following eminent persons were hosted by the department.*

- *Dr Kalpana Kochhar of the IMF on 'Global Financial Crisis and the Role of IMF' on 26 February 2010*
- *Shripriya Mahesh, Former VP, Product Marketing and Corporate Strategy eBay, on 'Product Marketing' for III B.A Economics*
- *Ms Nirupama S. on 'Retail in India' for PE marketing students in March 2010*

## Department of Fine Arts

The Department of Fine Arts kept itself very busy with a spate of activities during the year.

Heidi Bardot, Lisa Garlock and Sangeeta Prasad, Professors and Clinical Art therapists from George Washington University, USA, conducted an Art Therapy workshop for a group of 27 II BVA and III BA Fine Arts students in July 2009. Fifteen interns from George Washington University also participated in the workshop. The three resource persons made very insightful presentations of their experiences. They highlighted the therapeutic possibilities of the conflation of art and psychology in addition to sensitising the students to the importance of the process of creation rather than the finished product.

The Department mounted a show titled 'Stick no Bills' on the stage (OAT) of the college, on 12 and 13 January 2010. It was a component of a collective initiative called The Madras Arts Initiative, which itself was a part of Chennai Sangamam, an annual festival of arts conducted in Chennai in the month of January.

This year the focus was on Graffiti that has not been recognised so far as an art form in South India. Graffiti is an aggressive and dynamic urban communicative tool used to express any social or political message. It has found a prominent space in the urban landscapes on walls, doors, windows, posts, pillars and at street corners of South India.

The compound wall of Stella Maris College now has a set of multi-media murals depicting a greener Chennai. Twenty students of the Department of Fine Arts,

Stella Maris College, and six students from the Government college of Fine Arts, Chennai, along with American Street Artist, Tracy Lee Stum and Cholamandal artist, Jacob Jebaraj, created these mixed media murals. This collaborative effort was sponsored by the US Consulate General, Chennai. The grand finale to this venture had Chennai Mayor, Mr. M. Subramanian, and the US Consul General, Mr. Andrew Simkin, unveiling and dedicating the panels along with the members of the management of the college.

Apparao Galleries, Chennai, presented five events for the Madras Week in August 2009. Auto Art was one of the most attractive events. Artists, designers and design students took part in adorning and beautifying auto-rickshaws, the most mundane of vehicles. The intention of the project was to promote the essence of Chennai and parade the Chennai autos which are a common sight on Chennai roads. The students and alumnae submitted three entries. The I MA students won the first prize



Students of Fine Arts, with American Street Artist, Tracy Lee Stum



Multimedia mural on compound wall of Stella Maris College

in the category Exterior Painting of autos. World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organisation working for lasting change in the lives of underprivileged children, families and communities, decided to harness the artistic skills of the students of the Department of Fine Arts and the college of Fine Arts, Chennai, to illustrate quotations on the concept of peace titled 'The Peace Quote Campaign' in order to foreground its goal of 'Peace, A Right of Every Child'. Thirteen paintings were executed by the students of the Department of Fine Arts. The paintings were then displayed at Vinyasa Premier Art Gallery, Chennai in September 2009. A small format coffee table book with the compilation of the quotations and paintings was released on the occasion.

Eleven student volunteers of the third year, along with Ms. Mallika Madhavan, faculty member, participated in a five-day art camp at Shembaganur, Kodai hills of Tamil Nadu from 26-30 December 2009. The idea behind the project was to harness aesthetic skills and nurture confidence in forty-five young school-going girls aged eleven to eighteen from tribal and minority communities of the locality. It was a mutual learning process for both the groups. In essence, the camp demonstrated that art, craft and design transcend linguistic, social and cultural boundaries.

The Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry Endowment Lecture titled 'Celebrating Natural Fibres Worldwide: A Call to Expand, Innovate and Include' by Ms. Prabha Nagarajan, Managing Director of



Indigo India and Regional Director, India for Organic Exchange, was held on 30 July 2009.

The main event of the year, however, was the International Seminar on Design, the first of its kind organised by the Department. The two-day seminar titled 'Rethink Redesign: Towards Socially Responsible Design' was conducted on 28 and 29 January 2010, in collaboration with Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai. Several eminent national and international art educators, designers, social entrepreneurs as well as faculty members and students of the Department made very meaningful presentations. The participants comprised of faculty members and students

of the Department and other institutions in the city. It served as a very effective platform to raise several issues relating to ethics, social responsibility and intellectual property rights. The interactions drew several pertinent and insightful questions from the students and faculty members. Discussion with and clarification by the renowned speakers greatly benefited the student body for whom this seminar was organised.

## Department of Hindi

A two-day national seminar on 'Recent Trends in Contemporary Media' was organised in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Hindi Sahitya Academy on 11 and 12 July 2009. Many eminent scholars from all over India attended the seminar. On the eve of Independence Day, the Department organised a 'Poets Meet' to encourage the creative writing talents of students. Renowned classical vocalist, Mrs.Vani Jayaram, was the chief guest.

The Department of Hindi, along with the Bhartiya Hindi Parishad, University of Allahabad, organised a two-day National Conference on 22 and 23 December 2009 on the subject of linkages between Hindi and other Indian languages.



Mrs.Vani Jayaram being felicitated by Dr.Madhu Dhawan



At the National Conference on 'Linkages Between Hindi and Other Indian Languages'

## Department of History

A symposium on 'Growth and Development of Chennai City' was organised on 31 August 2009 in collaboration with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) during the Chennai Week celebration. The Chief Guest for the event was Dr. Suresh, Tamil Nadu State Convener, INTACH. A total of 19 students from Loyola, Anna Adarsh, Quaid-e-Millet and Stella Maris College presented papers at the symposium. The 'Travel Mart' held on 29 July 2009 saw ten travel agents participating. Several interesting travel plans were on offer.

The Department also organised educational tours for its students in the month of November. The Department, in collaboration with Prakriti Foundation, staged Mr. Parnab

Mukherjee's 'Unbound' on Hind Swaraj, an experience of Alternate Theatre in the college on 3 February 2010.



Inauguration of Saatvika, Inter-collegiate Department fest



At the Smt Indira Gandhi Endowment lecture



Participants with the judges and faculty



Charanya of II B Com, winner of the Sindhu Memorial Dance Competition

At **Saatvika**, the annual Inter-collegiate History Festival on 4 February, Loyola College won the overall championship trophy. A lecture on 'Women's Rights in India' was also delivered on that day by the Chief Guest, Dr. Rukmini Sampathkumar, Professor and Head, Department of History, MCC, Tambaram.

The annual Smt. Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture was held on 17 February 2010.

Justice A.S. Venkatachalamoorthy, Chairperson, State Human Rights Commission, Tamil Nadu, delivered a lecture on 'Human Rights and Social Justice'.

The Annual Sindhu Memorial Inter-departmental Dance Competition was organised by the Department on 18 February 2010. The first place was won by Charanya of II B.Com while the second place was won by Vaishnavi of I B.A. Economics.



Inaugural of Ticketing Class



## Department of Commerce

A certificate course in Retail Banking is offered to the second year undergraduate students in collaboration with Scope International Ltd and Standard Chartered Bank. The certificate course has been designed to meet the requirements of industry.

A workshop on 'Recent Trends in Advertising' was conducted by Mr. Vincent Narayanan, Vice President, Beehive Communications, Bangalore, on 31 August 2009 for the final year B.Com students and on 24 September 2009 for the M.Com students.

A three-day workshop on 'Soft Skills and Effective Communication' was conducted by Mr. Konrad Fernandez, CEO – Beacon and S. Suresh Joseph, Management Consultant, in December 2009. The objectives of the workshop were clarified in the following topics - Setting Life Goals: Having a Purpose Driven Life, Understanding Leadership, Presentation Skills and Public Speaking. Two sessions of a practical case discussion on 'The Secrets of Customer Retention' was conducted for the Customer Relationship Marketing students by Konrad Fernandez on 28 and 29 January and 5 February 2010. The annual Inter-collegiate Commerce Fest, **Combat** 2010 was conducted on 11 February 2010 with active participation by 20 teams from 12 city colleges. The team from Loyola College (Evening) was declared the overall winner. There was an overwhelming response to the five on-stage events and the seven off-stage events from the various participants of the Departments of Commerce, Business Administration and Corporate Secretaryship.

Guest lectures on the following topics served as value additions to the programme:

- *How to prepare for CAT 2009, Mr. Balasubramaniam, Director, T.I.M.E, 6 July 2009*
- *Career Prospects for MBA by Mr. Kamlesh Sajani – Managing Director, I.M.S Learning Resources (P) Ltd, 8 July 2009*
- *Trading in NSE by Mr. Anish, Facilitator, NSE, 13 October 2009*
- *Career prospects for CIMA students by Ms. Althea, CIMA, 25 November 2009*
- *Corporate Crime: Fraud and Speculation, by Sridhar Ganesh – Vice President(Finance), Standard Chartered Bank, 25 January 2010*
- *Recent Trends in HR and HR Practices, Sai Sridhar, Vice President (HR), Murugappa Group of Companies, 12 November 2009*



Sridhar Ganesh – Vice President (Finance), Standard Chartered Bank

As part of the student exchange programme with IESEG School of Management, France, five II year students of Commerce, Ms. Anisha S., Ms. Rashmi R., Ms. Amrutha R., Ms. Munira and Ms. Sinduri were selected to attend a one-semester programme in France during this academic year.



With the Coordinator of the IESEG program



Dr. Grace Paul, Sr. Susan, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent and Dr. Agnes Rozario

## Department of Physics

Workshops geared towards giving students hands-on training were organised by the Department. III year students of the Department participated in a two-day workshop on 11 and 12 August 2009 titled 'Learning Electronics through Mini Projects' with Dr. Kumar Sathian, former Head of the Department of Physics, Madras Christian college. Projects executed by students were presented on 19 August. First year students were given inputs on electronic devices like diodes and operational amplifiers by Dr. Sathian in July 2009.

The importance of research practice was underscored by Dr. Sahayaraj, Department of Physics, Loyola college, with his lecture on

'Nanomaterials and its Applications' on 18 September 2009. Lively interaction followed the lecture.

A workshop was organised to train students to assemble their own PCs. Mr. Paul Priyadass, Systems Analyst, Department of Computer Science, MCC, was the workshop instructor. The students were familiarised with the constituents of the mother board, different slots in ATX cabinet and were trained to assemble, test and debug the boards.

A lecture titled 'Macrocosm to Microcosm' was given to the III year students by Mr. Barnabas Tiberius.



Mr. Barnabas Tiberius



Dr. Kumar Sathian with III year students

## Department of Chemistry

A four-day workshop on 'Computing Techniques For Sciences', was organised by the Department of Chemistry, Stella Maris College, from 21 to 23 January 2010 under the 'Star college Scheme' granted to the college by DBT, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. Faculty members of the departments of Chemistry, Botany, Physics and Zoology of the college, a few registered participants from the Department of Computer Science and a few faculty members from outside

colleges registered for the workshop.

Under the Star college scheme, the Industry – Institute linkage has been enhanced through participation in exhibitions, workshops, interactive sessions, guest lectures and creating environmental awareness through water and soil analysis. The experiential learning, it is hoped, will motivate the students to develop a passion for basic sciences and to pursue higher education and research.



Dr. V. Subramanian, Professor (Retd) with students



Workshop on Crystal Growth Studies

- *Dr. V. Subramanian, Professor (Retd) Pachaiyappa's college, Chennai, made the students understand key concepts in Chemistry through simple lab experiments on 29 June 2009.*
- *Dr. J.N Reddy, Director, Max Academy for Excellence, delivered an interactive motivational lecture, 'Discover the Genius in You' on 10 July 2009.*
- *Visit to Diet Aqua, a water bottling plant, enabled students to understand the importance of quality maintenance and techniques involved in the manufacture of packaged drinking water on 21 August 2009.*
- *A workshop was conducted at SMC by Ms. Shanmuga Priya and Mr. Hemakumar, staff of Diet Aqua, on 14 and 15 October 2009 to identify and estimate various ions through the study of various physico-chemical tests.*

- *A workshop on Crystal Growth Studies was conducted by Dr. P. Sagayaraj, Dean of Sciences and Associate Professor, Department of Physics, Loyola College, and his research students on 3 September 2009. The students were exposed to informative lectures followed by hands-on experience of various crystal growth techniques.*
- *The Department of Chemistry organised a workshop on 'Computing Techniques for Sciences' from 20-23 January 2010, coordinated by Dr. K. Mangalasundar, Prof. IIT, Madras, and Dr. Rukmani Srinivasan of the Department of Chemistry, Stella Maris College. The workshop was attended by a few faculty members from other colleges also.*
- *Two UGC funded Minor Projects have been sanctioned:  
Dr. Mary George – Synthesis and Characterisation of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles. March 2009 to December 2010, Research fund - Rs.1, 45,000/-  
Dr. Mary Terry - Novel Metallomesogens as Advanced Materials. March 2009 to December 2010, Research fund - Rs.1, 25,000/-*

## Department of Botany

In collaboration with the Krishnamurthy Institute of Algology, the Department organised an International Conference on 'Algal Biomass Resources and Utilisation' from 27 to 30 July 2009. The certificate course on 'Herbal Therapy and Beauty Care'

funded by the UGC continues with great success. Students organised an Inter-collegiate Botany Fest **Sakura 2009** on 29 January 2010. Thirteen colleges participated in various events and Loyola college bagged the overall shield.

*Several distinguished scientists and academicians delivered lectures to students and faculty members on key topics.*

- *Dr. A. Annamalai, Chief Conservator of Forest, and Director, Department of Environment, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, spoke on Global Warming and its Impact on Environment*
- *Dr. Narasimhan, Associate Professor, Madras Christian College, delivered a lecture on Ethnobotany on 22 July 2009*
- *Dr. Bhavani, Associate Professor, Women's Christian College, gave a lecture cum demonstration on Yoghurt Preparation and Wine-making on 14 September 2009*
- *Dr. Udayaprakash, SRM University, delivered a lecture cum demonstration on Citric Acid Production on 29 September 2009*
- *Ms. Vaideki of The Urban Horticulture Development Centre spoke on Bonsai cultivation on 29 September 2009*
- *Dr. Balusami, Associate Professor, Madras Christian College, on Algal Biotechnology on 12 October 2009*
- *Ms. Rosaline Saverirayan, University of Chicago Medical Centre, delivered a lecture on Molecular Diagnostics: Essays and Research on 12 January 2010.*



Inauguration of the exhibition on Algal Products



Dr. T. Ramaswamy, Secretary, DST, Govt. of India, at the exhibition



## Department of Zoology

A workshop on 'Drosophila Culture Techniques' was organised on 3 July 2009 for the III year students of Zoology. The resource person was Dr. R. Srinivasan, Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology, AMET University, Chennai, and former Professor, Department of Zoology, Presidency College, Chennai. A manual compiled by Dr. Juliana Joe was also released.



Dr.V. Srinivasan conducting the workshop on 'Drosophila Culture Techniques'

A workshop was organised for I BSc Zoology students on 18 February 2010 at the Crocodile Bank to introduce them to the habits, habitat, behaviour and conservation of snakes and crocodiles.

A workshop on 'Immunological Techniques' was organised in collaboration with Dr. P. Mullainadhan, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Madras, on 18 and 19 September 2009. Dr. F.D. Solomon Paul, Principal, college of Biomedical Sciences, Technology and Research, Sri Ramachandra University, delivered the keynote address on 'Antibody of Predefined Specificity – Hybridoma' and Dr. P. Mullainadhan delivered the valedictory message. Faculty members from the department and from various city colleges participated in the workshop. Three PhD research scholars from Dr. P. Mullainadhan's research unit handled the various practical sessions and introduced



Dr. V. Srinivasan releases the manual compiled by Dr. Juliana Joe

the faculty members to eight immunology practical experiments which could be taught to the undergraduate students. A manual on the experiments conducted at the workshop was also released. The workshop was funded by Department of Biotechnology (Star College Scheme), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

At the annual inter-collegiate fest **Synapse 2009** organised on 15 December 2009, Mr. Preston Ahimaz, Head, Environmental Education, Pitchandikulam Forest Consultants, Adyar Poonga, delivered the keynote address on 'Conservation of Wildlife: Issues and Concerns' and Dr. Supraja Dharini, Chairperson, TREE Foundation, delivered the valedictory message on 'Conservation of Marine Turtles'. Undergraduate students from various city colleges participated in events like creative writing, crossword, eco-bag designing, treasure hunt, block and tackle, quiz and poster presentation. The overall trophy was won by Loyola College.



At the Exzoobition

*The following guest lectures were organised by the department:*

- *Genetic Counselling on 16 September, by Dr. Kalpana Chandrasekar, Genetics Consultant, Child Trust Hospital, Chennai for III year students*
- *Cancer Genetics on 23 October by Ms. Megha Rajaram, (alumna), PhD student, from Cold Spring Harbor Lab, New York, for III year students*
- *Animal Tissue Culture on 14 September 2009 by Dr. V. Judia, Asst. Professor, PG Department of Biotechnology, Women's Christian College*
- *DNA Sequencing and Molecular Medicine on 15 February 2010 by Dr. Vetri Selvi, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Genetics, Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai.*

## Department of Social Work



At the Sr. Thecla Endowment Lecture

The academic year marked a new beginning for the Department of Social Work as they moved to the new spacious second floor at Hélène de Chappotin Block, housing both the undergraduate and post-graduate departments.

In collaboration with the Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, U.K., the Department supervises and guides Social Work students of the Liverpool Hope University in field work. Students had a week-long orientation on India, its culture, heritage, traditions, social concerns, developmental programmes, etc. They were placed in Shanthi Bhavan Day Care Centre and Sangamam, the Extension Project of Stella Maris College, for their urban community experience. They were also taken for a visit to Yelagiri Hills in order to

learn more about the lives of the tribals in the area.

To mark World Elders' Day, the Department conducted a programme in collaboration with the Senior Citizens Bureau, Chennai, on 30 September 2009. The chief guest for the programme was Thiru. Justice A.S. Venketachalamoorthy, Chairman, Human Rights Commission, Chennai. The programme was well attended with over 500 elderly people from Tamil Nadu participating in it.

International Human Rights Day is observed every year at Stella Maris College on 10 December. This year, the students' forum of the department, 'Unnathi', deliberated on the issue, 'Human Rights and Environment'.

Issues relating to land rights, women and development were brought to the forefront by the chief guest, Shrimathi Krishnammal Jagannathan, recipient of the 'Right to Livelihood Award – 2008', widely known as the Alternative Nobel Prize. She was honoured and felicitated by the management, faculty members and students of the college. Eighty-four years old and still vivacious, she is a true Gandhian in thought and action. She emphasised the importance of land rights of the Dalits, particularly women. She spoke powerfully on the rights of rural women and their vital role in building a peaceful society. Faculty members and students listened in rapt attention as she narrated her life stories and experiences. It was an inspirational and humbling experience for the Stella Maris community. A street theatre performance and a panel discussion on the theme 'Human Rights and Environment' were the other events of the day.

On 16 December 2009, Dr. Herb, Fulbright scholar and psychotherapist from the United States, visited the Department and was the resource person for a one-day workshop on 'Psychodrama' for the faculty members and students of Social Work, organised by the Department in collaboration with the Centre for Counselling, Chennai.

A three-year international research project funded by the British Council, 'Development of Partnerships in Higher Education' (DeIPHE) in collaboration with Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirapalli, Madras Christian College, Chennai, Liverpool Hope University and Stella Maris College, was undertaken by the Department of Social Work. The research studies are titled:

1. A Comparative Study of Women's Experiences in Chennai, India and Liverpool, England
2. Fit for Purpose Models in the Teaching, Learning and Practice of Social Work

This three-year research endeavour culminated in an international conference in April 2010 at Stella Maris College.

The Department organised their annual rural camp for the 1 year MSW students to Dheenabandhupuram, Thiruvalluvar District, in collaboration with ANITRA TRUST, from 18 to 24 October 2009. The students were accompanied by two faculty members, Ms. Priya George and Ms. Madhavi. Their work, directed towards drawing attention to the atrocities experienced by the people and an appeal to restore rights, bore fruit as the District Collector, Thiru V. Palanikumar, IAS, ordered an enquiry and also sanctioned a grant of rupees five lakhs for restoration of road works in the village. He has also directed the officials of the Block Development Office to provide each household with individual toilets through the concerned NGOs.

## Department of Computer Science

**WIZIT '10**, the Inter-collegiate Computer Science Festival, was organised by the Department on 5 February 2010. The inaugural speech was delivered by Mr. Balakrishnan Shanmugham from Cognizant Technologies. He spoke on the topic 'Formula for Success in an IT Career'. The keynote speech was given by Ms. Prathiba,

were taken on an industrial visit to Infosys, Sholinganallur on 23 January to attend the nation-wide programme Spark which focused on the advances made by Information Technology (IT) and the role of Infosys in the growth of IT. Students were also briefed about the IT service industry and the challenges associated with it.



Mr. Balakrishnan Shanmugham, Cognizant Technologies inaugurating **WIZIT '10**

a freelance consultant and trainer at 'Sixth Sense Technology'. The participation of students from various city colleges was overwhelming. More than 380 students participated in the fest. The major event of the day was 'Bug Boxing' in which 45 teams participated. Other events were Quiz, Pot Pourri, Ad Zap, Walk and Talk, Microprocessor, Challenge Hub, Final Destination, Pic C, Junk Art and Debate. The overall winners were Loyola college and the runners-up were the students of Women's Christian College. The final year undergraduate students

Ms. Sabitha, faculty member of the department, is now a SUN Certified Java programmer for J2SE 5.0.

A workshop on 'Networking Applications' was conducted for I year post-graduate students by SATVAT Infosol on 22 October 2009. Final year undergraduate and post-graduate students attended the 'Bridge IT Programme' on 18 and 25 November 2009 organised by the department in association with Fr. Fredrick and handled by a team of experts from CTS.

A guest lecture on 'IT Project Methodologies' was conducted on 24 November for III BCA and II PG students by CTS and another on XML for I year post-graduate students on 15 February 2010 by Ms. Revathi from SSI Education, Chennai.

A hands-on training session for the administrative staff members of the college on 'Basic Computer Skills' was organised by the department from December 28-30, with Ms. Jeyashree and Ms. Blessy as instructors. A seminar on '3D Animation' by Arena Multimedia was conducted for the II year students on 2 February 2010.

The Links Club of the department organised a seminar on 3 August 2009 with Mr. Syed Saleem, Manager, Operations, IMS, Chennai, as the resource person. The theme of the seminar was 'Education is the Only Route to Emancipation'. A mock interview for the final-year students was conducted by experienced IT professionals, Ms. Vidyalakshmi, Verizon, and Mr. Chandran, CTS, Chennai on 29 August 2009. To challenge the creative skills of the students, a web designing competition was organised in January 2010.

## Department of Bioinformatics

A national-level conference on 'Bioinformatics in Life Science Research' was organised on 10 and 11 December 2009. Dr. G. Srinivas, Joint Secretary, UGC Eastern Regional Office, gave the inaugural address and the keynote speaker was Dr. S. Bhaskaran, Principal, ANJAC, Sivakasi. On 1 September 2009, a lecture on 'Molecular Modelling in Bioinformatics' was given by Dr. Ganesh Kumar of Orchid Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Chennai.

The workshop on 'Recent Methodology in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology' on 2 February 2010 was followed by a guest lecture on 'The Relevance of PCR in Studying the Expression Levels' by Dr. Radha, faculty member, CBT, Anna University.

Professor Dylan Edwards, Head, Life Sciences School, East Anglia University, UK, spoke on 'Will We Ever Cure Cancer?' on 22 February 2010.



National-level conference on 'Bioinformatics in Life Science

## Department of Biotechnology

A national workshop on 'Hands-on Training in Biotechnology' was conducted at the college from 6 - 9 January 2010. The workshop had presentations by eminent scholars and teachers such as Dr. T.S. Lokeswari Sivaswamy, Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Dr. S. Rajalakshmi, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Dr. D. Sudhakar, department of Plant Molecular Biology, TNAU, Dr. Saradha Vasanth, Scientist, and Captain Srinivasamurthy, Drug

experts in the field. This will open up avenues for developing formulations from plant extracts, purification and antimicrobial screening.

The department also organised lectures by eminent scientists in the field of biotechnology. Dr. D. Sudarsanam, Department of Zoology, Loyola college delivered a lecture on 'Stem Cell Technology' on 8 July 2009. Dr Tithi Parija, Department of Molecular Oncology, Cancer Institute, Adyar,



Dr. Deepali Ghai, at the national workshop

Research Institute for Ayurveda. The inaugural session began with the welcome address by the Principal, Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras.

The workshop covered contemporary issues devoted to herbal medicine and transgenic plants. It provided the participants with an opportunity to gain practical experience as well as a chance to interact with prominent

spoke on 'Cancer Biology' on 17 July 2009. On 27 November 2009, Dr. T. Subramoniam, a scientist from NIOT, delivered a lecture on 'Transcriptional Control of Stem Cell Activity and its Therapeutic Role in Regenerative Medicine'.



## Department of International Studies

The Department of International Studies and the Observer's Research Foundation, Chennai, organised a one-day seminar on 'Post-War Reconstruction in Sri Lanka' on 7 July 2009. The Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India, His Excellency C. Romesh Jayasinghe, delivered the keynote address on a very topical issue, 'Post War Sri Lanka and India's Role'. He provided a glimpse into the future political situation in Sri Lanka. He conveyed the President's firm commitment to hold provincial elections in the north.

A talk on 'Geostrategic Security' was organised by both the Department and the Foundation on 21 August 2009. The speaker, Dr. Prabhakaran Paleri, Former Director

General, Indian Coast Guard, currently Professor and Head, School of Management Studies, National Institute of Technology, Calicut, dwelt upon the essentials of geostrategic security.



Remembering 26 November Solidarity Campaign



Seminar on Post War Sri Lanka



Scholar in Residence–Dr. Navnita Chada Behera



Regional Workshop for Young Researchers

The Department and the Institute of Development Research and Corporate Ethics organised a one-day workshop for young researchers on 'Globalisation and the Emerging World Order' on 18 September 2009.

In memory of the victims and martyrs of 26/11 in the Mumbai terror attacks, the Department initiated a Solidarity Campaign in the fight against terror on 26 November

2009. The students of the department organised a poster exhibition, a slogan competition and also screened a video produced by them. They distributed white ribbons as a symbol of peace and unity.

The Department held its second Dr. Kamala Aravind Endowment Lecture on 15 February 2010. Eminent scholar and academician, Dr. Navnita Chadha Behera, Professor, Delhi University, New Delhi, delivered the endowment lecture on 'Re-Imagining International Relations in India'. Dr. Chadha Behera was also the resource person for the department's annual Scholar-in-Residence programme which was held from 15 –18 February 2010. The focus of the programme was on the topic 'Unravelling the Enmity: Constructing Humane Space in India-Pakistan Relations'.

## Department of Public Relations

In July, the I MA Public Relations (PR) students attended a Folk Theatre Workshop conducted by Dr. Kumaragurudasan and his team from the Tamil Nadu State Resource Centre, Chennai. They staged a performance at the college and subsequently in a village as part of the Social Awareness Programme.

On 3 August 2009, Mr. Alexander Mohan, Inspector General of Police, delivered a guest lecture on 'Friends of Police' to the I MA PR students for community policing.

On 22 and 25 September 2009, the I MA PR students attended a photography workshop conducted by Mr. P. M. Jayakumar. The photographs were exhibited at the Open Air Theatre on campus. They also attended a workshop on public speaking conducted by Mr. Anand.

The Sahaviryam Memorial Programme was held on 12 February 2010, in memory of Dr. Sr. Juliet M. Irene, Principal of the college between 1968 and 1978. The speakers included Ms. Jayalakshmi, I.A.S, Mr. G. C. Shekhar, Associate Editor of the Telegraph and Dr. R. Bhanumathi of Pavai Centre for Puppetry. All the representatives of the NGOs through which the students had interned from November to December had been invited. Ms. Savithri Vaithi, Chairperson, Visharanthi Charitable Trust spoke on 'The Need for Taking Care of the Elderly'.



Mr. Nazeeb Arif, VP- Corporate Communications, ITC



Mrs. Kavitha Dutt, (extreme right) National President, FICCI

On 19 February 2010, PRSI Chennai Chapter and Department of Public Relations jointly conducted 'Best Practices in PR', a Memorial Lecture in honour of Mr. Gyan Haksar and Mr. M. Gopalakrishnan. Mr. Nazeeb Arif, Vice President and Head of Corporate Communications of the ITC Group, spoke on 'Sustainable Development: A New Dimension in Public Relations' with case studies from ITC.

A Scholar-in-Residence Programme was held from 24–26 February 2010 in collaboration with the FICCI Ladies Organisation. Ms. Shobha P. Dhanwatay, Assistant Professor, Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication, Pune, was the resource person for the sessions on Event

Management. A public lecture on 'How to Start a Home-based Event Planning Business' was open to staff and students of the college.

A media campaign on self-defence techniques by the class of 2008 was also held.

## Library Report

*"Without libraries what have we? We have no past and no future."*

*Ray Bradbury*

The college library has been witnessing a sea change over the past few years. The user environment of our library has changed radically with connectivity to different parts of the campus being enhanced through networking and the installation of DSpace.

DSpace is the software of choice for academic, non-profit, and commercial organisations building open digital repositories. It is free and easy to install, 'out of the box' and completely customisable to fit the needs of any organisation. The system's information model is built around the idea of organisational "communities" - natural sub-units of an institution that has distinctive information management needs. DSpace preserves and enables easy and open access to all types of digital content including texts, images, moving images, mpegs and data sets.

The following are available to the students and faculty members online:  
The open access e journals comprise those published by High Wire Press (<http://highwire.stanford.edu/>), Indian Academy of Sciences (<http://www.ias.ac.in/>), Indian Journals (<http://indianjournals.com/>), Journal of digital information (<http://jodi.tamu.edu/>), Doaj (<http://www.doaj.org/>), the database EBSCO (<http://search.ebscohost.com>) and the online library Questia ([www.questia.com](http://www.questia.com)). Icons for these web sites have been put on the desktop for easy access.

A one-day seminar 'Open House', in association with The American Center, was

held on 28 January 2010. A series of CDs in various disciplines was screened for the students and faculty members. The American Center also conducted a poetry reading session for the students of the English Department and held an interactive session on global warming for the students of Economics.

The need to set up an archive for the college to preserve the glorious past for posterity has been a long-felt desire. The aim is to collect, organise, preserve, digitise and institutionalise all documents, artifacts and memorabilia of the college. Ms Gita Balachandran along with Sr. Nirmala, faculty member of the Department of Physics, attended a workshop on 'Setting up of Archives' at the Roja Muthiah Research Library, Taramani, Chennai, from 1-3 December 2008.

*Ms. Gita Balachandran and her team consisting of Dr. Agnes Fernando and Sr. Nirmala visited the various archive centres listed below:*

- *Shenbaganur Archives, Kodaikanal on 27 October 2009*
- *Tamil Nadu Archive, Egmore, Chennai on 4 November 2009*
- *Babuji Ashram, Madippakam, Chennai on 29 November 2009*
- *MCC, Tambaram, Chennai on 30 November 2009*
- *National Archives of India, New Delhi on 4 February 2010*

The library personnel organised a meeting for the retired staff of the college for the purpose of collecting manuscripts and photographs for the archives. A separate departmental library for the Commerce Department was set up.

Ms. Gita Balachandran and Sr. Nirmala attended the World Book Fair at New Delhi from 1–3 February and bought books worth Rupees four lakhs, thus enriching the collection of the library.

It was a proud moment for the library to add the book 'Envisioning an Empowered Nation', autographed by Dr. Kalam during his visit to the college, for the special collection of autographed books by eminent personalities.

## Department of Physical Education

Our college has always been at the forefront of sports and games, thanks to the active support of the Management which has always extended encouragement and assistance to the students who excel in sports and games. I am very happy to report that this year too we have not only come up with a very impressive performance but have also improved our positions in most events.

The Table tennis team of our college exhibited the Midas touch this year by winning the first position in almost all tournaments in which they participated, be it at the state level or the national level. The team players were N. Sathya Bama, III B.Com, R. Additheer, II BCA and K.K. Narmadha, I B.Com.

The college team began its winning streak by getting the first place at the National Level Inter-collegiate tournament conducted by Christian Medical College, Vellore from 15-18 July 2009.

At the national level inter-collegiate tournament (VESPO) conducted by MOP Vaishnav College on 29 and 30 July 2009, our college team won the first place.



College Table Tennis Team Winners at Riviera 2010

At the state level Inter-collegiate tournament conducted by DG Vaishnav College on 6 August 2009 too, our college team took the winner's title, and again, at the Srimathi Kamalam Udaya Memorial Trophy tournament conducted by Sri Ramachandra Medical College on 10 and 11 August 2009, our team won the first place.

At the Inter-collegiate TT Tournament conducted by Madras University B Zone on 1 September 2009, our college team secured the first place. N. Sathya Bama and



College Tennis Team with SSN Trophy  
Standing L-R Mr Dayanandan, Tennis Coach, Sr. Helen Vincent, Prarthana Pattabhi (FA), Shahin Ansari (EC), Sr. Principal, J. Ritika (CM), O.Tabassum Fathima (CS), Preethi Srinivasan (EL), Ms Ancy Emmanuel



College Tennis Team



College Tennis Team with Winners Trophy won at Riviera 2010

K.K. Narmadha were selected to represent the Madras University and their team won the third place at the All India Inter-University Tournament held at Vijayawada. They were also selected to represent the Tamil Nadu State for the 17th Junior and Youth National and Inter State Table Tennis Championship held at Raipur from 30 December 2009 to 4 January 2010 and their team secured the bronze medal.

Making us proud, our college tennis team, consisting of J. Rithika, III B.Com, Shahin Ansari, II B.A. Economics, Prarthana Pattabhi, II B.V.A and Preethi Srinivasan, I B.A. English, won the first prize and received Rs. 10,000 as cash award at the National Level Inter-collegiate Tournament conducted by VIT, Vellore from 30 January to 2 February 2010. At the CMC Vellore National Level Inter-collegiate Tournament our team secured the second place.

At the National Sports Festival for Women held at Chennai, Preethi Srinivasan was selected to represent Tamil Nadu State in Tennis and her team secured the first place. At the Madras University B Zone Tennis Inter-collegiate Tournament held on 5 September 2009 as well as at the Inter-zone Tournament held on 12 September 2009, our college team came in first. O. Tabussum Fathima, Shahin Ansari, Prarthana Pattabhi and Preethi Srinivasan were the team members. O. Tabussum, Fathima and Preethi Srinivasan were selected to represent Madras University for the South Zone at the All India Tournament at Mumbai from 23 - 29 January 2010. Their team secured the second place. Preethi Srinivsan received the 'Best Player' award at this tournament.

At the National Inter-collegiate Tournament conducted by SSN Engineering College from 21–24 August 2009, our team secured the first place and received a cash award of Rs.10,000.



Our dominance at the game of Hockey too was demonstrated this year. At the Inter-collegiate Hockey Tournament held at Major Radhakrishnan Stadium on 14 September 2009, our college team won the first place. The entire team was selected to participate in the Madras University Inter-zone Tournament.

Four students of our College, V. Shanthi, III B.Com, R. Nishanthi, III. B.Sc Mathematics, M. Menaka, III .B.Com and R. Maheswari, III. B.Com were selected to represent the Madras University at the South Zone Inter-university Tournament held at Shivaji University, Gwalior.

In Basketball, at the Madras University Inter-collegiate Tournament on 11 September 2009, our college secured the second place and the following players have been

selected to represent the Madras University B Zone: S.V. Ananya, III B.Com, V. Deepika, III. B.Com, S. Kavitha, II B.Com, Chitradevi, II BCA, R. Melisha, II B.A. English and Sakshi Kapil, I. B.Sc. Botany. The team secured the third place.

S.Kavitha and V. Deepika were selected to represent the Madras University and the team won the second place at the South Zone Tournament held at Kottayam and were the runners up at the All India Inter-university Basket Ball Tournament held at Kottayam.

At the State Level Basketball Tournament conducted by JBAS College from 6–8 January 2010, our college team won the runners - up position.



College Throwball Team - Winners Riviera 2010  
J. Ritika (CM), Sangeetha Monica (CM), Anusha (FA), P. Cynthia (CM), V. Thaarika (CM), Sakshi Kapil (BT), D. Karuna (ZL), G. Kanksha (SW), Madhumita (CM), S. Monica (CM), and Rosy Merlin (MT)



College Volleyball Team

L-R J. Ritikva (CM), S. Monica (CM), Laishram Laxmi Rani (BT), D. Karuna (ZL), Mercy Joyini (MT), Aleena K Antony (CM), and Rosy Merlin (MT)



University Players 2009 - 2010

L-R K K Narmada (CM) - TT, O Tabassum Fathima (CS) - LT, Preethi Srinivsan (EL) - LT, R. Nishanti (MT) - Hockey, N. Satya Bama (CM) - TT, V. Shanti (CM) - Hockey, J. Ritika (CM) - Cricket, S. Kavitha (CM) - Basket Ball, V. Deepika (CM) - Basket Ball, and R. Maheshwari (CM) - Hockey



Tennis, Table tennis, Throwball and Volleyball teams

S.Kavitha of II B.Com was selected to represent the Tamil Nadu State for the 60th Junior National Tournament held from 16–24 January 2010 at Indore and they secured the third position.

At the National Level Inter-collegiate tournament conducted by Hindustan University on 4 and 5 February 2010, our team secured the third place.

In Volleyball too our players were exceptional. At the State level Inter-collegiate Tournament conducted by DRBCC Hindu College from 14–16 December 2009,



100 m. finals on College Sports Day

our college team secured the winner's title. At the Inter-collegiate Volleyball Tournament held at Hindu College on 22 September 2009, our college team secured the runners-up position. J. Rithika of III B.Com, S. Monica, II B.Com, D. Karuna, II BSc. Zoology and I. Rosy Merlin, III B.Sc. Mathematics were selected to represent the Madras University B Zone. S. Monica was selected to represent the Madras University as well as the Tamil Nadu State for the 40th Junior National



Dr. K. Vaidyanathan, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University taking the salute

Volleyball tournament held at Bhubaneswar from 17–24 December 2009 and their team won the gold medal.

In Chess too we recorded several wins. At the State level Inter-collegiate Tournament conducted by DG Vaishnav college, our team secured the third place and Rajkumari Dona, I M.A. Public Relations received the 'Best Board Player' award by winning all the boards.

In Throwball, though we had formed a team only this year, we recorded an impressive performance. Our team started by winning third place at the State Level Tournament conducted by JBAS College from 6-7 January 2010. The team won the second place at the State Level Inter-collegiate Tournament conducted by KRMMC College on 28 January 2010.

In Cricket, our college team participated at the Madras University Inter-collegiate tournament and secured the second position. The following students were selected to represent Madras University B Zone: J. Rithika, O. Tabussum Fathima, V.S. Saranya and Milania of II B.Com., V. Nandhini, I B.Com., M. Divya, II B.C.S. and J. Rithika, III B.Com.



Dr. K. Vaidyanathan and Dr. V. Mahadevan, Assistant Director

In Badminton too our performance was impressive. The college team won the first place at the Madras University B Zone Inter-collegiate Tournament and we have won a position in this tournament after a period of eight years. The team players were Rajkumari Dona I M.A. Public Relations, Shilpa Wilson II B.Com., Carol Saroj Dennis, III B.Com and V. Abinaya, I B.A. English.

In Golf, Narayani Samyuktha, III B.Com, secured the runners up position in Silver Division Net at the South India Ladies Open Golf Tournament conducted by the Golf Club, Chennai from 1–5 September 2009. This year, our college organised the Madras University Inter-collegiate and Inter-zone matches in Basketball.

In a nutshell, our achievements in Sports and Games were quite remarkable this year. We could significantly improve our positions in many games and secure medals and awards in various events. This year we had 12 University players, 12 State players and 41 students who represented the Madras University B Zone. We hope to scale new heights in the coming years.



March Past



Aerobics on Sports Day



Folk Dance performance on Sports Day

Activities  
of the College



## Students' Union



Standing (L-R) Merrin Tess Jimmy - Cultural Secretary (Sciences), Reema Mathew - General Secretary, Vaishnavi Raghunath - Vice President, Roshini Ramachandran - President, Srinidhi Sampath - Cultural Secretary (Arts), Aishwarya Rajagopal - Treasurer

The motto of the Students' Union 2009-10: 'Spread your Wings' and the logo, a butterfly emerging from a cocoon, were unveiled by the Principal on 1 July 2009. They symbolised the emergence of each individual from the darkness of her shell to the light of humanity, and the potential to use her new-found strength to reach out to those who require her assistance.

The Union Office Bearers for the academic year, Roshini Ramachandran - President, Vaishnavi Raghunath - Vice President, Reema Mathew - General Secretary, Aishwarya Rajagopal - Treasurer, Srinidhi Sampath - Cultural Secretary (Arts) and Merrin Tess Jimmy - Cultural Secretary (Sciences) stressed

SPREAD YOUR WINGS!



Students Union 2009-10







that their focus for the year would be campus cleanliness and environmental awareness and kick-started it with the launch of The Clean Campus Drive on 17 July and a talk by Mr. Jagan Mohan Rao from Greenpeace. A presentation by the Students' Union and a mime by the NSS drove home the message of environment conservation. The campaign was continued with a Green Rally on 8 September with active involvement from the students, especially those from the Enviro Club, the Pawpals Club and the Green Squad.

Freshers '09, aptly titled 'Metamorphosis', was conducted to enable interaction between all the I year undergraduate and I year post-graduate students. The Inter-year Cultural Fest, **Parinati '09** was held on 12 September and was a great success. Both these programmes further strengthened the motto of the Students' Union as they provided an opportunity to the students to bring out their potential through various cultural and literary activities.



*The students expressed their gratitude and appreciation through the celebration of Teachers' Day, Workers' Day and Administrative Staff Day.*

The Union also released the Care of Mother Earth eco-friendly bags on 25 September. Over 200 bags were sold on campus. The students expressed their gratitude and appreciation through the celebration of Teachers' Day, Workers' Day and Administrative Staff Day. The Union has also conducted break-time presentations of clubs and organised events on special days like Ethnic Day, Friendship Day, Jatang Day, Onam and Deepavali.

**Dhwani 2009**, this year's fundraiser held on 6 December, was a grand event with actor Madhavan as the Chief Guest. It was a musical extravaganza with performances by renowned playback singers Srinivas, Stephen Devassy, Divya Vijay, Malgudi Subha, Rita, Vinaya, Naresh Iyer and Benny Dayal. This wonderful programme added another feather to the Union's cap. **Aquilae**, the annual inter-collegiate cultural event of Stella Maris College was hosted on 9 January 2010 with participation from 15 city colleges.



The Union conducted General Body Meetings in September 2009 and March 2010 and a Students' Council meeting in February 2010 which provided the students and the council members the forum to register complaints and make suggestions.

With various cultural activities within the college and at other city colleges, as well as the active participation of the various clubs on campus, the Students' Union has lived up to its goal, consistently urging students to give of their best, to be environmentally conscious and actively involved in campus cleanliness.



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Naresh Iyer, Divya Vijay and Benny Dayal performing at Dhwani 2009



The annual student theatre production, 'Winding up the Charm'

## National Cadet Corps



Standing L-R Second in Command, Cadet Jennifer Shalini, Cadet Hemalatha, Cadet Under Officer Surekha, Senior Under Officers Christabel Edwin and Reema Singhi, Cadet Under Officers Anita Nancy and Priya

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) with its vision of empowering the youth of India, has, since 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 cadets have worked hard all year and won laurels for the institution. Many of them have been selected for prestigious state and national level camps.

The first and most eagerly-awaited camp for cadets is the annual Trekking Camp in the Nilgiris which takes place in the month of May. Several of our cadets were selected to participate in this fun-filled and adventurous camp.

The first year cadets were enrolled in the month of June and were initiated into NCC life at the annual Inaugural Camp at Besant Nagar in the month of August. The competitions at the camp were adjudged by Lt. Wendy Shosten, Administrative Officer of the ITN Girls Battalion and Dr. Christina Rajkumar, Vice-Principal of the college.

It is the II year cadets of the college who compete for the main state and national level competitions leading to the Thal Sainik Camp at New Delhi, the Vayu Sainik Camp at Bangalore and the Republic Day Camp at New Delhi. Training for these camps began in the month of May with a cadre conducted by the girls' battalion. The first training camp



Commodore Sartaj Imam takes the salute

for the academic year was the Combined Annual Training Camp held in the month of June at Avadi. The team, comprising of our II year cadets, excelled at camp and won several prizes. Cdt. Mini of the Zoology Department won the silver medal in the Best Cadet Competitions; Cdt. Sirshamly of the Mathematics Department won the gold medal for individual drill; Cdt. Cynthia of the Commerce Department won the silver medal for individual drill; Cdt. Jennifer Juliana of the Commerce Department won the silver medal for solo song; Cdts. Devi Chandana of the Physics Department and Maria Nita of the Computer Science Department won the gold medal for piloting; Cdt. Shiny of the English department won the gold medal for the Flag Area Theme; Cdts. Lalitha of the Mathematics Department and Jenny T. Sunny of the Sociology Department won the gold medal for being the best emcees. The

Stella Maris NCC company won the first place for Contingent Drill, Group Song and Group Dance.

The combined annual training camp was followed by intensive training in Obstacles and Firing for the Thal Sainik Cadets. Cadets had to attend training camps leading to the inter-group competitions at Madurai in August 2009.

The Inter-group Competitions IGC-RDC training camps commenced in the month of June with the annual training camp at Avadi. The inter-group competitions were held in Coimbatore and our team of II year cadets performed exceedingly well, helping Madras Group A to win the overall shield for the year. Cdt. Mini of the Zoology Department won the gold medal and cash prize for Best Cadet which was awarded to her during the Chief

Minister's Rally. She also won the gold medal in the Firing Competitions.

The Air Wing cadets of the college had an extremely successful year as well. They have been in the forefront of every competition and camp conducted by Madras Group-B. The Combined Annual Training Camp for the Air Cadets began in June. The training for the Vayu Sainik Camps began in right earnest with Flying and Skeet Shooting Training at the Air Force Station at Tambaram. Flight Cdt. Darthy Sharli of the Mathematics Department has to be especially commended. The tenacity and determination that she displayed in mastering the art of Microlight Flying was recognised and applauded by all senior officers. She was eventually selected as the State Representative for the Microlight Flying Competitions. Jean Victoria of the Physics Department was selected as the State Representative for the Firing Competitions.

The valuable contribution of Flight Cdt. Supraja of the Mathematics Department during the Vayu Sainik Training Camps was acknowledged.

Cdt. Shiny of the English department was selected for the Officers' Training Academy Attachment Camp. Flight Cdt. Jayasudha of



Cadet Lalitha Pooja at the Air Force Attachment Camp



Pyramid Display





NCC cadets at the Republic Day Camp 2010  
Standing L-R Geraldine Maria Smith, Sirshamly, Lalitha Pooja, Jenny Sunny, Mini M, Devi Chandana

the Mathematics Department and Flight Cdt. Lalitha Pooja of the Commerce Department were selected for the Air Force Attachment Camp at Hyderabad.

National Integration Camps are organised by every Directorate to foster the spirit of camaraderie among the youth of the nation. The cadets of the college were selected for the NIC camps at Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala.

The Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Directorate organised a SSB Training Camp at Avadi in the month of August. Cadets of our college who were keen on joining the Defence Services participated in this camp.

Over the past few years there has been a steady stream of NCC Cadets of the college joining the Defence Services. Ex SUO Divya Ajith stood all-India fifth in the Defence Selections and is currently undergoing training. She will be commissioned as an army officer in September 2010.

In keeping with the motto of the NCC to be socially responsive, the cadets of Stella Maris also participated in blood donation camps, several rallies and awareness programmes conducted by the State Government.

At the A.L. Mudaliar Annual Sports Meet held in December, the Stella Maris NCC Contingent participated in the March Past Competitions and won the third place.

During the Inter-company camp on campus which culminated in the competitions held on 11 and 12 December 2009 the Alpha Company emerged the overall winner and was adjudged the best company of the year.

The Republic Day Training Camp commenced in the month of November. The cadets selected for this most prestigious of camps in the country were Cdt. Mini of the Zoology Department, Flight Cdt. Geraldine Maria Smith of the Economics Department, Flight Cdt. Lalitha Pooja of the Commerce Department, Cdt. Sirshamly of the Mathematics Department, Cdt. Jenny Sunny of the Sociology Department and Cdt. Devi Chandana of the Physics Department. These cadets were put through one selection and two training camps to prepare them for the competitions at Delhi.



Cadet Geraldine Maria Smith - All India Best Cadet (Bronze)

Flight Cdt. Geraldine Maria Smith was selected as the state representative in the Senior Wing Category as Best Cadet and Cdt. Mini was selected as the Reserve Best Cadet. Geraldine Maria Smith won the bronze medal as All India Best Cadet. Five of our cadets were selected to march on the Rajpath. They won prizes in the following competitions - Prime Minister's Rally, Contingent Drill, Rajpath Flag Area, Line Area, Group Dance and Best Cadet Banner events.

The Director General NCC Commendation Medal this year was won by Lt. Dolly Thomas and Ex Senior Under-Officer Divya Ajith.

The B Certificate Examination was conducted on 13 and 14 February 2010 and the Certificate Examination was conducted on 14 March.

Cadostar, our very own inter-collegiate NCC Championship, was held on 27 and 28 February 2010. Thirteen colleges participated in the various competitions. M.O.P. Vaishnav college won the overall championship and the students of Madras Christian college were the runners up.

Military Hospital Attachment Camp was held from 1 to 15 March 2010. Four of our cadets were selected for the SSB Training Capsule in Gwalior from 13 to 27 March. Flight Cdt. Geraldine, Cdt. Mini, Flight Cdt. Lalitha Pooja and Cdt. Devi Chandana have been shortlisted for the Youth Exchange Programme to countries like Singapore, Russia and the U.K.

## National Service Scheme

Stella Maris has three National Service Scheme (NSS) units with 322 students enrolled as NSS Volunteers.

The year began with the registration of III year volunteers as Senior Volunteers. All the II year students were allotted agencies with their work schedule for this year at the beginning of the academic year. Each volunteer was expected to work four hours per week in their respective agencies.

A general orientation was given to all I year students when they entered college. A special orientation programme about NSS activities was conducted for them in batches to enable them not only to understand the concept of service but also to learn more about themselves so that they might reach out to people with empathy.

The orientation programme on peace and education, organised by Gandhi Peace Foundation, saw 50 students participating, though only three worked with them throughout the year on this noble endeavour.

The Unit organised a one-day blood camp on campus in July, in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Blood Association. Two hundred units of blood were donated by our students, of which 100 units of blood were given to the Government Hospital at Royapettah and another 100 units donated to the Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children at Egmore. In appreciation, a memento was given to the NSS Unit.

A. Dhiyana of the Commerce Department, a senior NSS Volunteer, was nominated Female NSS Student Representative for Madras University NSS Unit in the Advisory Committee of the NSS.

The NSS office organised 30 student volunteers to assist the Income Tax Department, Government of India, to help income tax payers file their tax returns on the last two days. Their assistance was appreciated by the Department of Income Tax and all students were honoured.

The NSS Unit has adopted a slum in the neighbourhood and volunteers will be



working there for a further five years. They will concentrate on issues relating to women's empowerment, school dropouts, environment - which includes hygiene and sanitation - identifying and working with youth i.e. identifying youth talent in sport and cultural activities and helping them develop it. The NSS unit is also in the process of adopting Satyamurthy Higher Secondary School and Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust where most of the children from the slum adopted by the unit are enrolled.

One of the major activities during this academic year was the annual camp which was organised in November during the semester break. 165 volunteers registered for the camp and around 140 energetic volunteers successfully completed the camp. The camp focused on the slum adopted by us, Ward 114, in Teynampet. The ward consists of Giriappa Nagar, M. K. Radha Nagar, Gangai Karai Puram, S. S. Puram and Nakkeeran Nagar. NSS volunteers visited the slum every day and did a pilot survey in order to identify the needs of the people so that the unit could serve them better in future.

At the camp, meaningful input sessions on NSS activities were given to the campers. These included orientation on field visits and sensitisation and sessions on field experience as learning and knowledge formation. Other sessions covered vital issues like Societal Analysis, Ethics of Womanhood, Mann Payanura Vendum (Let the Land Benefit), Floral Arrangement, Perception of Slums, Housing Rights, Gender Issues, Images of Women, Sustainable Development, Counseling, Personality Development, Environmental Awareness and so on.

During the camp, students had workshops in the mornings. Experienced artists trained them in activities based on their interests. They were trained in Tappattam, folk songs, street theatre and mime. Some student volunteers trained students in Karagattam, western dance, yoga and karate. Dr. Raja Hussain, NSS Coordinator, University of Madras, was the Chief Guest for the valedictory function.



Dr. Raja Hussain, NSS Coordinator, University of Madras



Another major undertaking was the Book Collection Project in which all students were actively involved. Pamphlets were circulated to the public in the neighbourhood through newspaper agents, and texting done through mobile phones. Volunteers also went from door to door collecting books. It was an enriching experience for them. More than 15,000 books were collected during this intensive drive during which many people also offered books voluntarily. These books will be handed over to the Arinzhar Anna Centenary Library to be opened in June at Kotturpuram and other community libraries in rural areas. Five of our NSS volunteers received books from the Honourable Chief Minister, Kalaigarnar Karunanidhi, on behalf of the University of Madras. Dr. Millie Nihila served as member of the NSS Core Committee for the Book Collection Project.

We would like to place on record the camps attended by our volunteers. Jeya Malathy represented the University for



a Trekking Camp at Darjeeling. Malini represented Madras University at the 15th National Youth Convention for NSS volunteers at Bhubaneswar and received a special certificate at the Convention for her presentation 'Celebrating Diversity'. Sr. Jeovia Jesikala, Shirmila and Muthu Kamu participated in the camp organised by Gandhi Peace Foundation on Manual Labour. Twenty volunteers assisted in the NSS Camp of St Louis Institute for the Blind and Deaf at Nandanam Government School. Volunteers participated in various NSS

cultural events held at Loyola college, Stanley Medical college, DG Vaishnav college and Madras Veterinary college. They won prizes in most of the events and were declared the runners up at the Madras Veterinary college Cultural Programme.

NSS volunteers also participated in a number of rallies held to mark significant days and causes such as Diabetes-free Chennai, Creating Awareness about Severity of Obesity, Rajiv Gandhi Renewable Energy Day, and Candle-light Vigil in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal gas tragedy and World Heart Day.

The NSS students regularly scribe for the visually challenged residents of Lotus School for the Blind, Thakar Baba and Goodwill Foundation. The Unit did a pilot project of developing audio resources for visually-challenged persons. These records were converted into MP3 format and given to libraries for the use of the visually-challenged.

Students and Programme Officers also participated in awareness campaigns and workshops on Personality Development, Environment, Cancer Awareness organised by Vasantha Memorial, Disaster Management, Women and Human Rights, Smoke-free Chennai, Environment and Human Rights, Pongal Celebrations, Fire Safety and First Aid, Independence Day Celebrations, AIDS Workshop and in the Orientation Programme on Adolescent Diabetic Awareness at Royapettah General Hospital. The volunteers assisted in the organisation of Handi Park 2010, a Sports Meet for Special Children, and assisted the Dignity Foundation in the distribution

of privilege cards for senior citizens and organised a drawing competition for special children.

NSS volunteers also participated in various college programmes. They performed a street play at the MTC Day Celebration, were ushers for the College Play, and took part in the dance for Chennai Sangamam. The NSS unit organised a drawing competition on Women's Day with the Women's Collective on the themes of Climate Change and Global Warming. Around 50 students participated. Students from Loyola college and the Madras School of Social Work also participated. Our students won the second, third and consolation prizes.

Fifteen NSS students have been nominated to receive award certificates from the All India Freedom Fighters Legal-Heir Welfare Association.

Our motivated and committed NSS students have been part of many service and empowerment-oriented programmes throughout the year, developing as individuals and becoming agents of change. The NSS unit would like to record the constant support of the Management and Principal of the college without which we could not have achieved our goals. The NSS would like to place on record the encouragement of a few faculty members, namely, Dr. Geetha Sridharan, Dr. Usha Ramani, Ms. Pearl Paul, Dr. Crystal David and Dr. V Padma who had been of great help during the special camp and Ms. Gita Balachandran, Dr. Neeraja Rao, Dr. Tirupura Sundari and Sr. Hilda for their generous help in the Book Collection Project.

*NSS volunteers meeting with Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi to hand over used books collected under the directive of Col. Dr. G. Thiruvassagam, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras.*







## SANGAMAM

### Extension Project of Stella Maris College

Sangamam, the Extension Project of Stella Maris College, continues to reach out to the fishing communities located in the north of Chennai city. The project has expanded its activities and deepened its commitment with its decision to focus on the holistic development of slum children in these communities. The project has presently launched into a strong advocacy and lobbying initiative on Child Rights and Child Protection. This initiative covers a gamut of needs for the child in the community, ranging from health to education and protection from abuse. This, in turn, will lead to a holistic development in the community that is specific to children. In order to create a 'no child labour zone' at Kasimode, the main strategy used in the project is to network through the local government and schools.

The project further envisages creating formal and stable organisations of children and women, developing opportunities for the differently-abled (physical and mental) children, producing a set of experiential training modules for holistic child development specific to these fishing communities and enhancing capacities of participants, particularly mothers, through implementation of training modules on holistic child development. Networking with the local Corporation and private schools and health centres to implement the Holistic Child Development initiative is an important step in the process.

Sangamam serves as a service-learning/ field-work agency for students of Stella Maris as well as students from various schools of Social Work in the city. The community-



Faculty members of the Liverpool Hope University at Sangamam

based initiatives of Sangamam have had a great learning impact on students of Social Work and particularly Social Work students from Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, UK, who are on a regular placement through Sangamam by way of the undergraduate department of Social Work.



Children's Camp

*With its main source of financial support presently from Caritas India, the objectives of this project are to:*

- *Create awareness on child labour issues in the community*
- *Provide education and life skills training through transit schools and other influential groups for children and child labourers*
- *Develop a link between the community, parents, children and the transit schools*



#### *Children*

- *A children's camp focusing on issues such as child rights, child abuse, importance of education, environmental hygiene and personal hygiene was organised. Puppetry, street theatre, guest lectures and documentary movies were also part of the programme.*
- *Training in Children's Parliament: Children were trained in functioning as Parliament members and their key roles in the community were identified. Children's Parliaments were established in three areas.*
- *Puppetry was organised at two levels:*
  1. *Communicating important facts of child development through puppetry*
  2. *The importance of puppetry as a medium of communication and a training programme on making puppets.*
- *Cultural programmes - to identify the potential and talents among the children.*
- *Exposure visits to the Museum, to Guindy and Vandalur Zoo to learn and understand the cultural heritage of South Indian and the need to conserve the art, craft and tradition of South India*
- *A Medical Camp was organised through the Xavier Medical Trust for the children.*

### Women

- 12 SHGs received the Revolving Fund from the Chennai Corporation.
- 57 SHGs received the Revolving Fund from the Women's Development Corporation.
- The SHG members from 10 groups contributed Rs.1,00,000 for the Provision Store (Income-generation programme).
- Entrepreneurship Development Training was conducted for 50 SHG members for a period of ten days by the Women's Development Corporation.
- Awareness on Women's Rights was organised for women from SHGs and the intervention areas. 431 women participated in the programme.
- Women's Day celebrations: 500 women from 10 intervention areas and SHG women participated in the programme.
- Awareness on Reproductive Health: Women from SHGs and intervention areas (462 women) participated in the programme.
- Two SHGs (Vidivelli and Natchathiram) received the prestigious Motivation Award from the Women's Development Corporation.
- VCTC from Sadhan Clinic organised a camp in the community to create awareness on HIV and AIDS. 58 members from the community benefited from the testing.

The following are entrepreneurial training programmes conducted for the SHG groups.

- Tailoring
- Hand Embroidery
- Beautician's course
- Fabric Painting
- Candle-making
- Phenol preparation
- Paper Bag Making



### Adolescent Girls

- Six adolescent girls' groups were formed.
- Thirty girls started tailoring classes from January to December and completed the course successfully.
- Ten sewing machines were given to the girls who underwent training classes on cutting and embroidery for 6 months under the auspices of Sangamam.
- Thirty certificates were issued to the students who completed the course successfully.



### The Physically Challenged

Sangamam also focuses on physically challenged persons. They are recognised as equal partners in the process of development at Kasimode. As their needs are different, efforts to link with the Institute for Differently-abled People brought to the community's notice the special needs of the physically challenged. These are listed below:

- Identity cards
- Bus Passes
- Tricycles
- Wheelchairs
- Two Wheelers
- Medical Insurance Cards for 73 people
- Monthly Pension for 20 members





### **Social Work Field Trainees**

Students undergo regular training through Sangamam in professional approaches in community development. The students are trained in several techniques of working in urban communities and they organise programmes which are beneficial to the people in consultation with the community and the personnel of Sangamam. Students from Stella Maris College, Madras Christian College, Hindu College and Liverpool Hope University underwent training this year through Sangamam.

Sangamam functions in collaboration with Caritas India, Corporation of Chennai, the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Women's Development Corporation, the local Panchayats, Community-based

*The following were the activities of the Social Work students:*

- *Street play on the importance of education*
- *Personality Development Sports for Children*
- *General Medical camp and Eye camp*
- *Awareness programme on drug addicts*
- *Camp for the differently-abled to guide them about obtaining Government ID*
- *Formation of 2 New SHGs*
- *Awareness Programme on HIV*
- *Causes and symptoms of Kidney failure*

organisations, Arunodhaya, Karunalaya, Saral, Anbu Illam, Sneham, Cdot., C.daws, Sadhan Clinic, Jain Trust, Xavier Medical Trust and Snegithan.

## Centre for Women's Studies

The celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March 2010 marks the beginning of the global centenary year of International Women's Day. The UN theme for International Women's Day this year is 'Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All'. In India, the celebration of International Women's Day was marked by the passing of the historic Women's Reservation Bill by the Rajya Sabha on 9 March after a stormy Parliament session the previous day, amidst a lot of political opposition, clearly portraying that the path to gender equity is still a hard uphill climb.

This year, Stella Maris College celebrated International Women's Day as per tradition, but this time it was organised by the newly-initiated Centre for Women's Studies. The Centre has been sanctioned by the UGC under the XI Plan in the academic year 2009-2010 and it marks the fruition of a vision kept alive for several years.

Guided by the vision of Blessed Mary of the Passion, the Foundress of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Stella Maris College has endeavoured to educate young women for a life of courage and commitment. Blessed Mary of the Passion was a feminist in her



Sr. Susan, Vice President, FMM Society, unveils the logo for the Centre for Women's Studies



Inauguration of the Women's Studies Cell by the Principal

time, whose compassion towards women in need, more than a century ago, guided her mission to empower them through education, rehabilitation and entrepreneurial skills.

This vision has been carried forward zealously by all the Principals of the college. In 1983, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, our former Principal and presently Secretary of the college, was invited to attend an International Conference on Asian Women's Concerns by United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. On her return, she initiated 'Ujjwala', a forum for women's concerns, in the college in 1984 and introduced a course in Women's Studies in the Department of Economics - an example of her commitment, and that of the institution, to the cause of women.

The Centre for Women's Studies was inaugurated on 12 December 2009 by the present Principal, Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras. In her speech at the International Women's Day

Celebrations on campus, she emphasised the core focus of the centre which is to consolidate and further strengthen the many initiatives of the college towards women's education, research and interventions on gender issues. The Centre aims at a paradigm shift in socialisation of gender issues through a systematic programme of teaching and action, aimed at sensitising its own students and faculty members and thereby reaching society. As a resource centre, it will take up research and documentation in the field. The centre also seeks to focus on linkages between activism, intervention and academics. Working across linguistic divides, it hopes to build a local thrust. The team consists of faculty members who are interested in gender issues, some of whom are recognised in the field of women and gender - Dr. Sr. Colleen North and Dr. Geetha Swaminathan, Vice Principals; Dr. V. Padma (Mangai), faculty member, Department of English and Dr. Crystal David John, faculty member, Department of Economics, Ms. Lora Devaprasanna, Head-in-charge, BSW Department and Dr. Benita Marian, Coordinator of the Centre and faculty member, Department of Social Work.

A seminar on 'Women and Law' marked the inauguration of the centre. It was organised for the III year undergraduate and post-graduate students. Senior advocates and activists enlightened the students on the various laws governing marriage, property, rights of women and the empowerment of women.

A short-term Certificate Course on 'Gender: Economics, Environment and Media' was organised by the Centre in collaboration with The School of Gender Studies, Rajiv Gandhi

National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur. It was a seminar cum workshop organised over seven days in January and February 2010 for the students of the college and participants from outside. Twenty-five participants were awarded participation certificates. Eminent resource persons from Delhi, Bangalore and Tamil Nadu shared their expertise. The topics included Concepts in Women's Studies, Gendering Economics, Praxis of Gender in the Economy, Globalisation: Family, Market and Society, Gender in Media, Eco-feminism, Gender and Bio-diversity, Environmentalism and Gender and Doing Gender, which generated much discussion and debate. The sessions were chaired by the faculty members of the college. The participants made presentations individually and in groups under the guidance of the organisers.

A Leadership Training Programme for Political Participation in collaboration with Initiatives for Women in Development, Chennai, had the students enthusiastically participating in a mock, all-women's legislative assembly, giving them a taste of things when women are at the helm. The Centre, in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Development Cell of the college, also organised three skills-training programmes for community women and students on juice / jam / pickle-making and jewellery designing.

A competition to design a logo for the centre was organised for the students of the college as part of Women's Day Celebration and the chosen logo was unveiled on 8 March by Sr. Susan, Vice-President, Society of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. The day was also marked by a campaign on self-

defense by the students of the Department of Public Relations. A banner was put up for the faculty members and students to express themselves through writing, painting or drawing which saw their active participation through the day.

As the fledgling centre marks the completion of its first year, the members are grateful to and thank the Management, Principal, Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras, Vice Principals, Deans of Student Affairs, faculty members and students for their encouragement, participation and support. As it marches towards its goal of empowering women in the coming year the centre looks forward to praxis and to many more meaningful collaborations.



## 'Rethink, Redesign: Towards Socially Responsible Design' International Seminar, Department of Fine Arts

Design affects every part of our daily living. The pervasiveness of design presents designers with an important role and an opportunity to use design to call attention to imperative social issues. Designers need to influence positively the products and services they design and consume, for responsibility extends well beyond the time a product is used. Today there is the need to converse about green design and sustainability thereby building societal intelligence towards marketable and sustainable solutions and radically evolving our values and practices as designers.

In an attempt to interrogate the designer's role in creating environmentally and socially responsible design through creative ingenuity and to address the issue of eco-efficient sustainability, the Department of Fine Arts organised an international seminar titled 'Rethink, Redesign: Towards Socially Responsible Design' on 28 and 29 January

2010. The two days witnessed presentations by leading designers, entrepreneurs and art educators in five academic sessions. The sessions focussed on the various dimensions of art and design and brought to light the indispensable role that design plays in every field of study and life.

The keynote address was delivered by Anthony Lopez, Director, Lopez Design, New Delhi. His talk underlined the importance of designing differently and appropriately while simultaneously addressing issues of social responsibility. Design sustainability, recycled design, design ethics, rethinking and redesigning education and redesigning craft practices were some of the broad areas under which the invitees presented their papers.

In a session on 'Sustainable Design', Harini Chandrasekar, Creative Director, Therefore Design, Pune, shared her experiences as





Dr. Alamelu N, Sr. Susan, Mr. R.M. Palaniappan, Mr. Anthony Lopez, Sr. Principal, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent

a designer and what her design team has done to help people who work in the salt fields of Kutch, Gujarat. She clarified the terms 'eco-friendly' and 'sustainability' stating that they were not always synonymous. Prabha Nagarajan, Regional Director, India, Organic Exchange and Managing Director, Indigo India addressed issues of certification and accreditation in the context of textile production and design in India.



Addressing the issue of 'reuse, recycle' Dr. Genevieve Hyacinthe, Assistant Professor, Purchase College, State University of New York, presented her paper on Afro-Atlantic culture and their concepts of art and design while Mariona Otero Ibanez, a graphic designer and photographer from Catalonia, Spain, spoke of green design and using recycled material in her creations. Discussions led to comparisons closer to

home such as the 'recycle, reuse' concept underlying the Kantha embroidery of Rajasthan and so on.

Dr. Skye Morrison, folklorist, textile scholar and activist, discussed the importance of systematic craft documentation in art institutions. The Professor and Head of Textiles at Sheridan School of Craft and



Art design in Oakville, Ontario, Canada, stressed the need to give back to the artisan community, with whom the students had worked. This, she suggested, could be done through documentation or design intervention. She was followed by Anupam Jain, Professor of Design at National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, who dealt with aspects of law concerning Intellectual Property Rights pertaining to design and craft. These papers were substantiated by a case study by Mallika Madhavan, Assistant Professor, Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College, who shared her research on design intervention and geographical copyright in the context of the silk weavers of Kanchipuram. Visalakshi Ramaswamy, Founder Trustee, M.Rm.Rm. Foundation, Chennai, presented her paper on the use of responsible and practical design in craft revival and conservation and its societal impact and empowerment of the village woman. She cited her personal experience of reinvigorating the art of Kottan basketry in the Chettinad region of Tamil Nadu.

The final session had speakers address the issue of design and art education. Arathi Abraham, Creative Director, 99&1 Design, a Chennai-based design firm, shared her experiences in designing and marketing 'Slate', a software authoring tool, designed for teachers to create communication aids and educational multimedia. Slate has been awarded the National Trust Award for the Best Innovative Design in 2007. Srivi Kalyan, Founder Director, Fooniferse: A Loony Arts Universe, explained how design plays an important role in the area of education. Papers by post-graduate and undergraduate students of the Department were drawn from their experiences in working with economically disadvantaged and tribal communities.

We live in a world where there is an urgency to make changes and a crucial need to alter our ways. This seminar initiated rethinking and redesigning and gave us a road map for socially responsible design processes which will contribute towards making the world a greener and better place to live in.

## Human Rights Day

International Human Rights Day which falls on 10 December is observed every year at Stella Maris College. The Department of Social Work organises activities on campus in observance of this special day.

While hectic discussions were on at the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change, the Department of Social Work and its active students' forum, 'Unnathi', chose to deliberate on the theme 'Human Rights and Environment'. It aimed at highlighting the issues of land rights, women and development by bringing into its campus none other than Shrimathi Krishnammal Jagannathan, Recipient of the Right to Livelihood Award - 2008, widely known as the Alternative Nobel Prize.

Shrimathi Krishnammal Jagannathan was honoured and felicitated by the Management, faculty members and students

of the college on the eve of Human Rights Day. This 84 year-old vivacious lady is a true Gandhian in thought and action. She strives to safeguard the rights of the marginalised sections of society.

Her lucid speech that described her day to day experiences brought out deeper issues of socialism, marxism, feminism, spirituality, peace and justice. She emphasised that the way forward towards true development was to restore land rights to the Dalits, particularly to the women. She spoke powerfully on the rights of rural women and their role which was vital in the building of a peaceful society. She highlighted the importance of women's liberation to create a just and humane society.

The audience listened with rapt attention as she narrated her experiences with the Mahatma in her youth. Her unceasing



Shrimathi Krishnammal Jagannathan addressing the gathering



passion at the age of 84 to work for the rights of dalits and the landless was undoubtedly an inspirational and humbling experience for the audience. The young students were touched by this great lady and her words of wisdom. They gave her a standing ovation. It was indeed a special moment at Stella Maris College.

Her speech was followed by a street theatre performance presented by the students from the Department of Social Work and a panel discussion on the theme 'Human Rights and Environment'. The panel discussion included eminent speakers such as Shrimathi Krishnammal Jagannathan, Mr. Nithyanandan Jayaram, an environmental activist and Thirumathi Parashakthi, Leader, Federation of Self Help Groups, Tiruvallur District. The discussion was chaired by Dr. Geetha Shridharan, Faculty member, Department of Economics, Stella Maris College.

Mr. Nityanand Jayaram, an independent journalist and researcher who investigates human rights and environmental abuses in the corporate sector, spoke extensively on the Bhopal gas tragedy. His conviction and commitment to the cause of Human Rights especially of the downtrodden and the marginalised was inspirational. Thirumathi Parashakthi is a woman with a tenacious drive to empower women in her village to stand up for their rights.

The panel discussion was stimulating and motivating, highlighting the need for the student community to recognise the works of millions of simple and ordinary women who make a difference in society. It spurred the students on and set them thinking about their responsibility towards society.

## Making a Difference

To a large number of us urban Indians, being a member of a particular caste or sub-caste has no meaning but for about 160 million of India's population it is a day-to-day reminder of the cruelties of life. Excluded from economic growth and modernisation processes the Dalits of India have experienced centuries of oppression, discrimination, abuse and exploitation, and face destitution and denial. Rajanagaram village, R. K. Pet block, Tiruvallur district has been in the news for the same reasons. A cobbler community, living in group-houses in abject poverty on the land provided by the Adi Dravidar Welfare Department, has been denied basic human rights. They have

no direct access to roads and are cut off from civilisation during heavy rains. Sanitary conditions in the area are appalling - no toilets, open drains and effluents pollute the surroundings. The higher castes living in the vicinity pelt them with stones in an effort to get them to vacate this land. Enquiries by the police yielded no results and the stoning continued even in their presence. However, the community has resisted this continual mistreatment by asserting their rights and organising themselves to resist further oppression. Almost ten petitions were handed over to the District Superintendent of Police and the matter reported to the Commissioner of Police and the Women's



Students meeting women in the community



Thiru. V. Palanikumar, IAS, Collector, Tiruvallur Dist.



Social Work Rural Camp

Commission of the State. There was some respite after the then Collector ordered conducting of a Peace Committee meeting (which could however not be convened) and surveying of the land. However, the wait continued till 39 students and two faculty members of the Department of Social Work camped in these villages for a week. Time spent with the residents of Rajanagaram village was an opportunity

for the group to experience and obtain a firsthand account of atrocities the community experienced. Interaction with our collaborators in this area, ANITRA Trust, an NGO working towards building a sustainable people's movement and acting as a watchdog over people's rights, provided us better insight into the experiences of the people.

An appeal and advocacy by the students on behalf of the people to the District Collector, Thiru. V. Palanikumar, IAS, has brought hope to this community. The Collector ordered an enquiry after which he sanctioned a grant of Rupees five lakhs for restoration of road works in the village and has directed the officials of the Block Development Office to provide each household with individual toilets through the concerned NGOs.

The students are ecstatic. Some of them shared their feelings. This is what they had to say:

“... we did not know the people by face or name but we experienced their misery. I could empathise with their miseries, a skill I have developed through the course. The Collector sensed our commitment to the cause and has provided the people their basic need for a road and toilets ...”

“... as the people shared their woes, I am sure they expected nothing would change. I too never expected anything could happen. This experience has changed my views about Government officials. I am encouraged to meet and feel confident to work to bring about a change ...”

“... am convinced about the strength of young people like us. We can make a change. I have renewed energy and enthusiasm after our rural camp and I try to translate my efforts (sic) to change things in the community I am placed in for concurrent field work ...”

“... through this experience I have been able to understand theoretical inputs better. Reality of poverty and discrimination has changed my perception about life itself ...”

“... I have always wanted to be a bureaucrat. This experience has strengthened and convinced me about my decision ... I will become a Collector as he/she has the capacity to change and do so much!”

For the two of us faculty members accompanying the students, it has been a learning experience as well. Theory was integrated seamlessly with practice and we sincerely hope that the students carry on with the same enthusiasm. We have all learnt to appreciate the freedom we enjoy and continue to be inspired by the resilience of the people inspite all their trials. The Collector has been an inspiration and the speedy action taken by him has given us hope. (As I pen this article we receive news that road works have already commenced. I can picture the smiles on the faces of our acquaintances). This is just a drop in the ocean. I believe we can all work towards ensuring rights and realising the dream of an egalitarian social order.

*Ms. Priya George*  
*Department of Social Work*



## IFCU RESEARCH

### 'Drug Use/ Abuse in Asian Settings'

The three-year qualitative research study supported by the International Federation of Catholic Universities, Paris, was completed in April 2009. The study was titled 'Drug Use/ Abuse among Youth of Fishing Community in Chennai City – India'. Dr Sandra Joseph, Director of the research project attended the meeting held at Assumption University, Bangkok that brought together partners from Asia, the Near East and Latin America.

The aim of this meet was to reflect on continuing the contribution of academics to the public debate on drug use and abuse and go beyond local issues. It proposed new work orientations, in the perspective of greater co-operation between scientists, social workers, health professionals, politicians and other social actors.

## Entrepreneurship Development Cell

The Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC) of the college was set up with the support of the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, in 2006. The Cell functions under the direction of Dr. Geetha Swaminathan, Project Advisor and Ms. Mary Teresita, Project Leader.

The EDC helps in orienting the students to entrepreneurship and serves to motivate them to become successful entrepreneurs. The EDC also imparts skills development training to enhance self/wage employment opportunities. The setting up of the EDC in the college has helped in bringing a new dimension to the curriculum by opening up an inter-disciplinary approach to various projects and imparting skills to students for starting a micro enterprise.



Making papaya jam during the WED programme



Women entrepreneurs display their herbal products

*Skill Development Training Programmes: The EDC conducted Skill Development Training Programmes to equip the students with hands-on training in different fields:*

- Preparation of herbal products like herbal shampoos, pain balms, fairness creams and foot-care creams for 60 students
- The preparation of vegetable/fruit-processed products like juices, jams, pickles, squashes and sauces for a batch of 35 students
- Costume-jewellery designing for about 250 students

*These training programmes have motivated many of the students to become entrepreneurs in a small way.*



Student participants at the 'Skill Development Programme'



Display of herbal products prepared by rural women



Dr. Geetha Swaminathan, Project Advisor, EDC, with Mrs. Shanthi Emerald

**Entrepreneurship Awareness Camps (EACs):** In the academic year 2009-10, the EDC conducted six EACs, each of three days duration for 1 year undergraduates to introduce them to the importance of entrepreneurship, the qualities of a successful entrepreneur and to the guidelines for setting up a micro enterprise. About 600 students participated in the EACs.

**Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WEDP):** The Cell conducted a four-week Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme from 16 September to 15 October 2009 at Stella Maris College. Twenty-eight women, budding entrepreneurs / home-makers with varied educational backgrounds including B.Tech, B.E., M.Sc., B.A. and Diploma holders participated in the programme. The entire programme focused on training the women to become successful entrepreneurs and motivating them to start an industry. The women were given intense training in both theoretical and practical aspects of setting up an enterprise. They were given inputs in marketing analysis, formulation

of project proposals and were informed about the various loan schemes available to them. The participants were also given hands-on training in the preparation of herbal products, fruit-processing and jewellery designing. Twenty of the women participants have already started preparing and selling the products to their friends and neighbours.

**Reaching out to Rural Women:** With the mission to empower rural women, the EDC, in collaboration with Science City, conducted an Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme for 25 rural women of Tiruvallur District in the preparation of herbal products, from 23–28 November 2009. The programme focused on training the women of Self Help Groups in the preparation of herbal shampoos, hair conditioners, hair oils, foot care creams, face creams and pain balms. The women were also informed about the various financial schemes available to women entrepreneurs and encouraged to work towards uplifting their socio-economic status. Special mention must be made of Mrs. Adhi and Mrs. Shanthi Emerald of Thirupassur, Tiruvallur District, who, having undergone the training earlier, have now successfully started their own venture under the brand name, Bliss Products. Their success story has inspired other women to take up entrepreneurship and work towards self employment.

## The Beginning of a Long Journey

### The Destination - Stellarchives

“It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.”  
Kaitlin

The academic year 2008 – 2009 saw a change of guard in Stella Maris College. Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras assumed office as the eighth Principal of the college, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent as Secretary and Sr. Susan as Superior of the Community and Vice President of the Society of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

In sync with the accelerated rate of change in the nation that reflected global trends, the college witnessed myriad changes leading to growth and development in curricular aspects, infrastructure, and industry/ community partnership. Change was the order of the day. Milestones were crossed

and events and achievements hurtled down a vortex of transformations at dizzy speeds. Colourful moments were captured by both professional and amateur photographers. Events which were considered news-worthy were covered by local dailies and the Papyrus Club’s campus news online, ‘Stellaeidoscope’. The annual college Magazine mentioned highlights of achievements of the college and the departmental journals covered all departmental activities.

However, the need to preserve all the precious documents of an eventful present for a posterity that would be eager to delve into the college’s past, to analyse, evaluate, appreciate, and, above all, to learn useful lessons from it was urgently felt. Yes, the need was felt for setting up the archives of the college. The aim was to collect, organise, preserve, digitise and institutionalise all



The Stellarchives trio - Ms. Gita Balachandran, Sr. Nirmala, Dr. Agnes Fernando



Participants at the National Workshop, Roja Muthiah Research Library



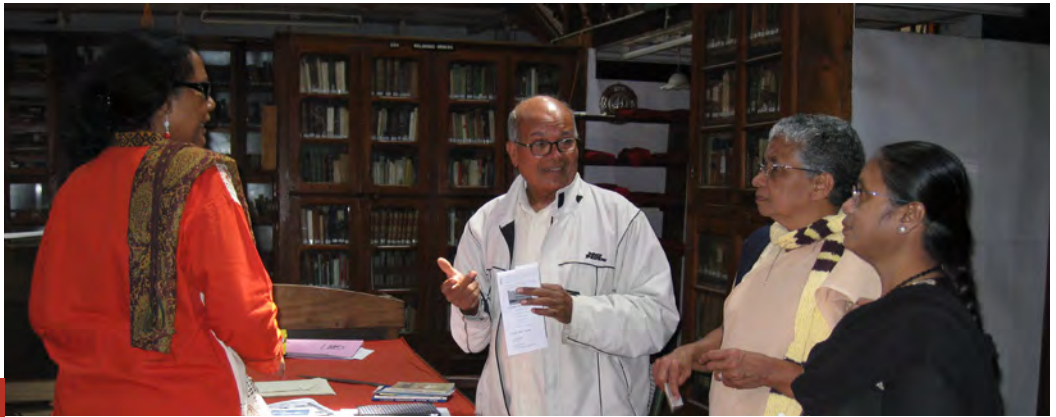
Meeting of retired faculty members

documents, artefacts and memorabilia of the college that would help preserve the rich heritage of the college. Encouraged by Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Sr. Susan and Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras, the Librarian, Ms. Gita Balachandran, was asked to take up this herculean task. Sr. Francisco Nirmala, Assistant Professor of the Department of Physics and Systems Manager on campus, and Dr. Agnes Fernando, Associate Professor of English and former Vice Principal of the college agreed to be part of the team

and assist the Librarian in setting up the archive. Thus began the long journey to the destination, the 'Stellarchives'.

The team felt that as a first step it was necessary to visit other archives in order to study the technical aspects of setting up an archive. At this juncture, providentially, there was an invitation to attend a National Workshop on 'Setting up an Archive' organised by the Roja Muthiah Research Library, Taramani, in association with the Association of British Scholars, Chennai Chapter from 1-3 December 2009. Two members of the team, Ms. Gita and Sr. Nirmala attended this workshop which provided a lot of practical knowledge about the documentation, preservation and digitisation of the material.

Ms. Gita and Ms. Agnes prepared a brochure projecting the proposed plan for the archive. This brochure was presented at the Library Committee meeting. Further meetings helped to conceptualise infrastructural



With Fr. Edward Jaganathan at JEMPARC (Jesuit Madurai Province Archives), Shenbaganur, Kodaikanal

requirements for the archive.

The team also visited the following archive centres – the Jesuit Province Archives, Shenbaganur, Kodaikanal, on 27 October 2009, the Tamil Nadu Archives, Egmore, Chennai, on 4 November 2009, the Babuji Ashram Archive, Ramavaram, Chennai, on 29 November 2009 and the Madras Christian College Archive, Tambaram, Chennai, on 1 December 2009. These study trips culminated in the visit to the National Archives of India, New Delhi, on 4 February 2010.

A meeting was organised for the retired faculty members of the college on 28 January 2010 with the purpose of collecting manuscripts and photographs from them for enriching the college archives. The enthusiastic response of the retired faculty members who took the opportunity to launch an association called SMART (Stella Maris Association for Retired Faculty) was very encouraging. Some of the faculty members have already started contributing some photographs and documents for

the archives which are being stored in the Librarian's cabin for the time being.

Work on the Stellarchives is already afoot and the librarian has already created an archive community on DSpace for the purpose and has uploaded the photographs and some College Day speeches of former Principals of the college. The space that can be converted into a room for the archive has been identified and proposals have been made for its renovation and installation of equipment. The team is hopeful that it will be able to raise funds by appealing to alumnae, students, faculty members, parents, well-wishers and benefactors of the college.

To conclude, we can say that we are looking backward in order to move forward. An organisation builds on its past. So let all Stella Marians, wherever they may be, join this exciting journey to preserve their history in the 'Stellarchives'.

***Ms. Gita Balachandran***  
***Librarian***

## Star College Scheme

It was a proud moment for Stella Maris College when the proposal submitted by the four science departments - Botany, Zoology, Chemistry and Physics, was selected by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, for financial assistance under the Star College Scheme. A total amount of Rs. 36 lakhs has been sanctioned to the above departments for a period of two years, of which Rs. 28 lakhs has been received so far. The scheme aims at strengthening Life Science and Biotechnology education and training at the undergraduate level, thereby encouraging students to pursue life sciences as a career.

### *The scheme envisages:*

- Substantial increase in the proportion of hands-on experimental work by students.
- Improvement in access to books and journals
- Summer programmes for students
- Industrial visits/field trips
- Upgrading of faculty members' skills by organising training programmes



Workshop on 'Analytical Instrumentation Techniques'

The process of implementing this scheme saw a busy year for all the four science departments. New and simple experiments were added to the curriculum to make the learning process more experiment-oriented. Equipment was purchased to enable more students to individually handle regular and relatively new experiments.

The fund has enabled the concerned departments to organise field trips, guest lectures and workshops for faculty members and students. Using the funds from the scheme, the departments have also brought out laboratory/ workshop manuals.

It was an enriching and fruitful academic year for all the departments supported by this scheme.

**Dr. Juliana Joe**  
**Head, Department of Zoology**  
**Star College Scheme Coordinator**





## Centre for Research in Science and Technology

The inauguration of the Centre for Research in Science and Technology (CRIST) on 15 October 2009 marked an important milestone in the history of Stella Maris College. The CRIST LAB was inaugurated by Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail, Managing Director, Ecoscience Research Foundation. The function was presided over by Dr. P. Iyamperumal, Executive Director, Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre.

The Centre, the first of its kind in the college, with its sophisticated instruments will enhance the process of learning for the Science students, helping them to keep abreast of the instrumentation techniques used in research. It will bring together the Science departments, providing an impetus to our faculty members and students to carry out projects.

This will be a big step in the process of interdisciplinary learning. CRIST will undoubtedly add value to Science education at Stella Maris College.



Dr. Iyamperumal , Dr. Sultan Ismail and Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras

## Internal Quality Assurance Cell Annual Report

As part of the post-accreditation Quality Sustenance Activities recommended by the National Accreditation Assessment Council (NAAC), Stella Maris College has set up an Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) to enhance quality in a continuous process for academic and administrative excellence. The IQAC functions as a core quality-enhancing system, facilitating a sense of belonging through a participatory approach towards enhancing, sustaining and internalising of the quality culture within the institution.

The IQAC comprises a team of 16 members headed by the Principal, Dr. Sr. Jasinthra Quadras, and coordinated by Dr. Juliana Joe, Head, Department of Zoology. The IQAC has been conducting programmes to enhance the quality of education in the college through quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance initiatives.

The IQAC organised a two day National Seminar sponsored by NAAC on 'Quality

in Higher Education: From Assurance to Enhancement' from 2-3 February 2010. It was well attended by participants from all over the country. Eminent resource persons shared their insights and perspectives on quality management in higher education. Faculty of colleges from all over India presented papers on the theme 'Education: A New Framework'. By focusing on various aspects of higher education ranging from freedom and responsibility and stake holder participation to the need for a paradigm shift in higher education, the seminar provided ample opportunity to discuss and deliberate on issues concerning higher education.

Another very important initiative during the academic year 2009-10 was the launching of Mentoring for students. Every faculty member in the college has been assigned a set of students from the department, for whom periodic guidance and assistance are provided. To ensure the effective functioning of this Mentoring Programme the college has



Release of the proceedings of the Seminar 'Quality in Higher Education: From Assurance to Enhancement'



Col. Dr. G. Thiruvassagam, Vice Chancellor, University of Madras

prepared a booklet to record the personal details and academic progress of the student. Mentoring has facilitated a one-to-one interaction between students and their mentors enabling students cope with problems and challenges.

The IQAC has prepared the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) for the year 2008-2009, based on the data submitted by the departments and the offices in the college, as per the recommendation of the NAAC. Besides this, the Annual Report has been prepared and submitted to the University of Madras.

Several training programmes were conducted for the teaching faculty, and for the administrative and supportive staff.

The IQAC has initiated the creation of a Question Bank for all courses. This question bank will be made accessible in the DSpace of the intranet of the college.

The IQAC template has been modified as per the new guidelines suggested by the NAAC

and the redesigning and updating of the existing college website is in progress.

The IQAC of Stella Maris College is thus making all attempts to ensure that the culture of excellence is sustained in all areas of higher education in the college.

*Dr. Juliana Joe*  
*IQAC Coordinator*  
*Head, Department of Zoology*

## Stella Maris Pathway Programme

The Stella Maris Pathway Programme, with its goal 'Pathways to Opportunities', helps students from the disadvantaged sections of society to become competent individuals academically and socially.

Training in communication skills, presentation techniques, computer applications, employability skills and entrepreneurship have been conducted throughout the year with the goal of equipping students with skills and capabilities which will widen their scope for employment.

### Summer Training:

The Pathway Programmes for the year 2009-10 began during the summer vacation. A 30 hour training course in computer skills was conducted from 29 April to 2 May 2009, in which 80 first year undergraduate students participated. From 8-12 June 2009, skills



Students at the training programme



Summer Training in Basic Computer Skills



Training Session in official communication for the Administrative Staff



Administrative Staff at the Language Lab

training in Career Guidance and Training in Employability was offered to 30 final year undergraduates to help them explore and expand employment opportunities. The same group of students was given further training by professional trainers from the corporate sector, from 9-14 November 2009, in preparation for campus recruitment.

**Training during the semester break:**  
During the semester break, from 11-13 November 2009 with the objective of helping students realise their own potential, a training programme in life skills was conducted for the students of the first year.

Training in effective communication and in the presentation of various subjects using PowerPoint was given to the students of the second year in the multimedia language laboratory. The best presentations were awarded prizes.

### **Weekend Programmes:**

One Saturday every month, about 100 pathway students participate in various sessions in Motivation, Communication Games, Thinking in English, Public Speaking, Neuro Linguistic Programming, etc.

**Entrepreneurship Development:**  
The Entrepreneurship Development Cell of the college organised a course in Jewellery Designing on 3 March 2010 for 25 II year Pathway students.

The JAWS and the Open Book Software installed with the help of the Ford Foundation continues to be a learning aid for the visually challenged students of the college.

**Training Session in Official Communication for the Administrative Staff:**  
As part of the Pathway Programme, the administrative staff of the college was trained in Official Communication, including Telephone Etiquette, Letter Writing and Grammar.

The Student Christian Movement of India, Bangalore, has selected 11 students of our college for a two-year fellowship programme which gives them financial assistance to pursue a course in English in the first year and a course in Computer Science in the second year.

The Pathway Programme is a beacon of hope to these young women who dream and aspire for the great things that life has to offer.

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

## Spring Board for Leadership

Spring Board for Leadership, a training programme for students with potential for leadership was initiated in the academic year 2009-10 jointly by Stella Maris and Loyola College. The meetings were organised alternatively in Stella Maris and Loyola, approximately once a month. About 40 students have registered for this programme.

The Resource Persons were corporate trainers and persons who are outstanding in their respective fields of specialisation. Intensive workshops to sensitise students to political and socio-economic realities are also being planned for this programme. Participants will be awarded certificates.

The coordinators of the programme are Rev. Fr. Joe Anthony, Editor of a Jesuit National Magazine, 'Jeevan', and Director of the Institute for Development of Research in Culture and Communication, Loyola College, and Dr. Sr. Colleen North, Vice Principal (Evening College), Stella Maris College.

## The Remedial Coaching Programme

Remedial Coaching classes were organised in all the undergraduate departments of the college as well as in a few post-graduate departments. In addition to providing coaching in the major subjects, special classes were also conducted in English grammar, library skills and basic computer skills. The programme has helped to enhance the self-confidence and academic performance of the students who had enrolled for the programme.

It was a proud moment on Graduation Day 2010 when over 50 of the students who had benefited from the Remedial Coaching Programme of the college, received their University Degrees. This, indeed, has been the objective of the programme – to help first-generation learners and slow learners to cope with the challenges of higher education.

With English language proficiency being the prerequisite for the development of academic proficiency in other major subjects, the students who need remedial coaching are being trained in the multimedia language lab, using the language-practice software.

*Dr. Geradette Davey*  
*Coordinator*

## Civil Services Coaching Programme

Coaching for the Civil Services has been a long-cherished dream of the college. The last NAAC Re-accreditation Team once more suggested that the college launch into Civil Services Coaching since it was a greatly-felt need of the southern states.

The process for starting coaching in the Civil Services was initiated at the beginning of this year. After preliminary preparatory work, the classes began on 28 November 2009. The classes are conducted under the able guidance of Mr. A. X. Alexander, IPS, former DGP of Tamil Nadu.

Classes for both sections of the college are held on Saturdays. Seventeen students regularly attend the classes.

The college hopes to build on what it has started in a small way and in the next academic year increase the number of candidates. The college also intends linking its training programme with the Civil Services Coaching Academy, Chennai.

## Career Guidance Cell

The Career Guidance Cell (CGC), a wing of the Alumnae Association of the college, plays a vital role in guiding the students towards a successful career. Two training programmes are conducted for the III year students. In June, a five-day programme on personality development, goal setting and communication skills was conducted. The November programme was focused on honing skills for recruitment into the corporate sector.

'Beyond Horizons', the Career Fair, was organised on 4 September 2009 to create awareness among the students on options available for higher education in India and abroad.

The Campus Recruitment Drive which started mid-November 2009 saw major companies like Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, Ernst & Young, RBS, Wipro, and R. R. Donnelly on campus. Approximately 275 students from various departments in the college have been recruited.

## Creative Writing





## English

### Morning Dusk

The world gone astray  
 Complete with denials  
 Anger and misgivings.  
 Day's struggle and nights relent  
 Yet, miserly seems change.  
 Full of angst, I look at thee  
 Unable to move  
 To my vision alone-Ring of fire,  
 Rising flames that never cease  
 For me to cross over.

Our lands were consecrated,  
 but perhaps not we.  
 The hate has gone beyond-  
 overpowering love of  
 two lonely cowards.

The Gods all one.  
 Fanatics,  
 Powerful as He  
 To only sin  
 In the defense of Name.  
 To what liberty, I rise must,  
 succumbing to a commune  
 all the universe a paradox,  
 Hypocritical and in contempt.  
 To different faiths born  
 we, led to,  
 a soul- now tattered and bruised.  
 Birth seems the only unfelt  
 guilt,  
 helpless.

Destitute- rendered by beliefs,  
 I am chained in holy confines.  
 Agony of chastity,  
 be undone in a kiss of euthanasia.

The shores of death seem comforting,  
 sands of life, numbing  
 hope, only in the unknown,  
 I am leaving, this poisoned ground.  
 To peace, tranquility  
 And above all prejudice free  
 Equality.

Forgive me.

*Niharika M.*  
*II B.A. English*

## Awakening

Walking up to the windows shut,  
opened in a momentary lapse;  
the sun rays shoot in,  
through closed lace curtains  
of pale pure white and  
intensify the wistful red  
of my dress that flutters in  
the trickling breeze like  
gypsies tamed, while he  
sleeps.

The light brightens,  
glorifying the shades of my  
dark dull skin, the reflection  
like a never-before appearance  
and the light moves down in  
gentle reassurance like the  
experienced hand of tender touch  
with its intention luminous,  
desire stark and he sleeps,  
unsuspecting.

My hair in electrified movement,  
my fingers clutch the windows for  
support and the wind blows, imprisoning  
itself in me as I move to make  
space for a multiplying spell that  
binds me in dependable illusion.

I shut the windows and the darkness  
storms in. He wakes for a cup of  
coffee.

**Niharika M.**  
**II B.A. English**

## Burning Fingers

A small step, then a plunge  
Into near darkness.  
Warnings, they were plenty,  
Listening, of course not!

“Don’t play with that match dear”  
“You will hurt yourself”  
But curiosity triumphs.  
A sniff, a taste will do.

A sly grin forming,  
Supremely confident.  
Sneaking into darkness,  
On tiptoe.

SMACK!

Head down, feet dragging,  
Walking quietly back.  
What are you looking at?  
Of course I am hurt!

**Melisha Robinson**  
**II B.A English**

## Insecurity

As I walked down the road to Heaven,  
I suddenly stopped to ask:  
Why am I here? How can I be?  
Where's the good in all my past?

The angels groaned and told me,  
Flashbacks are so clichéd.  
Please, please, they begged of me,  
Simply look ahead!

No, I said, and I sat down there,  
The only girl grumpy in heaven.  
Fine, they growled, be like that.  
We'll see what can be done.

So then they brought forth my mom,  
Who said I'd been a ray of joy.  
She said, we're judged by the love we bring,  
And I had filled her life.

Hah! I said, dismissing that,  
Why'd I believe my mom?  
She loves me, I know she does.  
She'd lie to get me in Heaven.

The angels looked at each other  
Realising, this would be hard.  
They looked at each other, wishing I would  
enter  
The gates within which I belonged.

Next they called my brother,  
Quickly appraised of the facts.  
He looked at me long, looked at me hard,  
Then delivered his advice.

Why are you such an idiot?  
He asked of my immortal soul.

Whatever the reason, you're almost in  
Heaven.  
Can you ask for anything more?

Yes, I said.  
And I waved him away.

The angels groaned in frustration.  
Look, they said, 'most hysterical now,  
We've never been wrong before.  
Take our word, you're good enough,  
Now please, please pass through those  
golden doors?

I cannot, I explained, until I know why.  
Why am I here?  
What means this life?  
What lies beyond those gates?

I should not be here, I insisted.  
I am not one of you.  
My name can not be on the parchment  
scrolls  
That stand in front of Heaven.

Standing before those shining gates,  
With a reluctant heavenly entrant,  
The white-winged women snapped.  
They could simply stand no more.

We have had enough, they said to me.  
Decide now, or part in peace:  
Will you walk into the glorious halls,  
Or leave them behind forever?

I stand there still, in spirit,  
Staring at those closed doors,  
Beyond which lies Man's final goal.

I stand still on that grassy path,  
Wondering what to do.  
Wondering, do my loved ones lie?  
Or am I just a fool?  
I stand there still, on that perfect day,  
Wishing for advice, for guidance.  
Do I dare enter where the free spirits dwell?  
Do I dare to trust myself?

*Priya K.*

*II B.A English*

## Tamil

### பெண்ணால் முடியும்

பனிக்குடம் உடைந்ததிலிருந்து, மண்குடம் உடையும் வரை,  
வீரியம் குறையாமல், ஆல விருட்சமொன்று வளருகிறது.  
தியாகத்தின் சின்னம் என்பார்கள், நிலவே என்பார்கள்,  
உயிரே என்பார்கள், நேரம் கிடைத்தால்  
புடைத்து தின்பார்கள்.

வெடித்து சிதறினால் தான் அணுகுண்டா?  
பொங்கி எழுந்தால் தான் கடலா?  
அனைத்தையும் சுட்டெறித்தால் தான் சூரியனா?

குனிய குனிய குட்டும் மனிதர்களே  
பெண்ணென்றால்...,  
என்ன உங்களுக்கு சமூக கேடா?  
சுயதேவைகளுக்காய் பிற சுயம் குடிக்கும் குரங்குகளே  
கேளீர்!

இங்கே தனித்தன்மையெல்லாம் அடுப்படியில்  
இங்கே சுயமரியாதையெல்லாம் கட்டிலில் மட்டும்  
இங்கே சுதந்திரமெல்லாம் வாசல் வரை தான்  
இங்கே பேச்சு உரிமையெல்லாம் தொண்டை வரையே

ஆனால் உண்மையில்.....

இவள் விழித்தால் நெருப்பு  
இவள் எழுந்தால் நிலம்  
இவள் அசைந்தால் காற்று  
இவள் நடந்தால் நீர்  
இவள் நிமிர்ந்தால் ஆகாயம்

பெண்ணினம் ஒன்றும் சோடை போனதல்ல  
சாடினர் யாவரும் மடிந்தனர் நன்னாளிலே  
பாரதியின் புதல்விகள் நாங்கள் பதருகள் அல்ல.....

வாருங்கள் .....  
கல்வியின் சாரம் காண்போம்  
கரம் சேர்ப்போம்,  
மருத்துவம் காண்போம்  
கணிப்பொறி படைப்போம்  
விண்ணில் பறப்போம்  
அரசை ஆளுவோம்  
வெல்வோம்.

சரித்திர சாக்கடைகளே  
ஒடி விடுங்கள்...  
நெருப்பு ஊர்வலங்கள் நாங்கள்  
சூரிய தோரணங்கள்  
உன்னால் மட்டுமே முடியுமா?  
இல்லை.....இல்லை.....  
என்னாலும் முடியும்  
எந்த பெண்ணாலும் முடியும்.

**D. Shiney Abraham**  
**I B.Sc. Zoology**

## Hindi

### उम्मीदें

उम्मीदें उभर आती हैं दलि में  
इच्छाओं की कश्ती पर चढकर  
जीवन सरति के लहरों पर चलते-चलते  
हम इसे पूरा करने को तत्पर होते।

उम्मीदों को बस उम्मीद न रहने दो  
यही आशा हमें जनिदा रखती है  
आँसू, फरियाद रासते में है  
मगर इन्हें पीछे छोड आगे बढो।

चाहे आसमान गरि जाए  
या हम मर भी जाए  
उम्मीदों की प्यास, प्यास बनकर  
दलि में रह जाए।

दूट जाए सपना तो क्या  
हम फरि भी आगे बढ जाए  
उम्मीदें पाकर हम जनिदगी से दूर तो क्या  
प्यार के रूप में कोई उम्मीद बनकर  
आ जाए।

**Urmila**  
**II B.A. History**

### कसम

आँखों में तेरे बसना चाहती हूँ  
प्यार में तेरे घुलना चाहती हूँ  
ये है कसम हमारी

तेरे इशक में बढकर जीना न चाहती हूँ।  
हमें बना लो अपनी जनिदगी का  
मानती हूँ मैं काबलि नहीं इस प्यार के  
फरि भी एक पल केलरि  
बना लो अपना  
इसी पल के साथ जीएँगे सालों साल।

**Urmila**  
**II B.A. History**

## भारत

जसि मट्टि में हमने जन्म लिया  
 जहाँ की नदियों का शीतल जल पिया  
 वह भारत हमारी जान है  
 वह भारत हमारी शान है।  
 जहाँ भरी-भरी हरियाली है  
 फूलों से लदी डाली है  
 वह भारत हमारी जान है  
 वह भारत हमारी शान है।

**Monica Antony**  
**IB.A. English**

## देश की सुरक्षा

यह भारत हमारा है, यह मातृभूमि हमारी है  
 इसकी सुरक्षा करेंगे हम  
 आगे इसे बढ़ाएँगे हम  
 आतंकवाद से इसे बचाएँगे हम  
 लोगों को पढाएँगे हम  
 उन्हें आत्मनिर्भर बनाएँगे हम  
 गरीबी को हटाएँगे हम  
 देश को उज्ज्वल बनाएँगे हम  
 भ्रष्टाचार को रोकेंगे  
 लोगों को जागरूक बनाएँगे  
 यह भारत हमारा है  
 यह भूमि हमारी है  
 इसकी सुरक्षा करेंगे हम।

**G.Preethi**  
**IB.Sc. Chemistry**



## French

### Testez vos connaissances en mythologie

Vous trouverez dans la grille les personnages mythologiques à l'aide des définitions données ci-dessous. Les mots y sont écrits de droite à gauche ou de haut en bas mais toujours en ligne droite. Certaines lettres peuvent être incorporées à plusieurs mots. Le nombre de lettres dans chaque nom est indiqué entre parenthèses.

S	I	D	A	V	E	N	U	S	E
S	E	S	S	I	C	R	A	N	S
P	R	E	S	O	R	E	E	I	E
O	S	I	H	L	I	R	O	E	S
S	T	Y	X	T	C	L	H	N	S
D	E	A	C	O	E	A	C	H	A
E	B	M	P	H	R	M	E	C	N
B	O	P	R	H	E	A	O	A	R
E	I	A	T	E	S	S	E	R	A
H	N	O	R	A	H	C	N	A	P

1. Jeune fille de Lydie métamorphosée en araignée par Athéna. (7)
2. Dieu de la Guerre, dit Mars, fils de Zeus et Héra. (4)
3. Déesse de la Discorde, jetée par Zeus sur la Terre. (3)
4. Mère de Perséphone, cette déesse fait mûrir le blé et jaunir la moisson. (5)
5. Ce vieillard a pour fonction de faire passer aux âmes des morts les fleuves qui les séparent du monde des Enfers. (6)
6. Enchanteresse douée de pouvoirs extraordinaires qui transforma en pourceaux les compagnons d'Ulysse. (5)
7. Muse de l'Histoire. (4)
8. Dieu des Enfers, dit Pluton. (3)

9. Belle nymphe, favorite de Diane, amoureuse de Narcisse. (4)
10. 10. Fils d'Aphrodite, dieu de l'Amour, représenté comme un jeune garçon ailé, perçant de ses flèches le cœur des hommes. (4)
11. Fille d'Héra, déesse de la Jeunesse, elle versait aux dieux de l'Olympe le nectar. Son successeur était Ganymède. (4)
12. Héraut officiel des dieux, il porte un casque ailé et a des ailettes attachées à ses talons. (6)
13. Fontaine des Muses qui jaillit sur l'Hélicon sous le sabot du cheval Pégase. Les poètes y viennent chercher l'inspiration. (10)
14. C'est là que Pâris choisit Vénus comme la plus belle déesse en lui offrant la pomme d'or. (3)
15. Rivale d'Héra, Zeus l'a transformée en génisse. (2)
16. Jeune homme d'une beauté éclatante qui est tombé amoureux de son propre reflet. Symbole de l'égoïsme. (8)
17. Ses 14 enfants furent tués par Artémis et Apollon. Zeus la changea en rocher d'où coulèrent ses larmes sous la forme d'une source. (5)
18. Epouse de Saturne et déesse de l'Abondance, représentée comme tendant la main droite pour offrir du secours et la main gauche pour distribuer du pain. (3)
19. Dieu monstrueux avec sa tête et ses pieds de bouc, son torse velu d'homme. Dieu de la Fécondité et de la puissance sexuelle. Inventeur de la flûte pastorale. (3)
20. Cette chaîne de montagnes était le séjour des Muses. (8)
21. Il créa d'un bloc d'argile mêlé d'eau le premier homme. Il offrit le feu divin aux mortels. Zeus le punit en l'enchaînant sur le plus haut sommet du mont Caucase. (9)
22. Cupidon s'éprit de cette mortelle. (6)
23. Epouse de Cronos et mère de Zeus. (4)
24. Principal fleuve des Enfers, maudit et pernicieux. (4)
25. Mère de Cupidon, déesse de l'Amour, dite Aphrodite. (5)

*Ms. Bilkhis B. Sait  
Faculty, Department of French*

**Solution :**

- |               |            |                |          |              |
|---------------|------------|----------------|----------|--------------|
| 1. Arachné    | 2. Arès    | 3. Até         | 4. Cérès | 5. Charon    |
| 6. Circé      | 7. Clio    | 8. Dis         | 9. Écho  | 10. Éros     |
| 11. Hébé      | 12. Hermès | 13. Hippocrène | 14. Ida  | 15. Io       |
| 16. Narcisse  | 17. Niobé  | 18. Ops        | 19. Pan  | 20. Parnasse |
| 21. Prométhée | 22. Psyché | 23. Rhéa       | 24. Styx | 25. Vénus    |

## Class Photographs





II M.A. Economics



II M.A. English



II M.A. History of Fine Arts



II M.A. International Studies



II M.A. Public Relations





II M.Com



II M.S.W



93

II M.Sc. Bioinformatics



II M.Sc. Biotechnology



97

II M.Sc. Chemistry



II M.Sc. Mathematics



II M.Sc. (Information Technology)



III B.A. English





III B.A. Fine Arts



III B.A. History



III B.A. Economics



III B.A. Sociology



I III B.C.A. (Sec A)



III B.C.A. (Sec B)



III B.Com. (A1)



III B.Com. (A2)





III B.Com. (A3)



44

III B.Com (Day)



44

III B.Com (Day)



III B.S.W



III B.S.W



III B.Sc. Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology



III B.Sc. Chemistry



III B.A. History





III B.A. Economics



III B.A. Sociology



I III B.C.A. (Sec A)



III B.C.A. (Sec B)



III B.Com. (A1)



III B.Com. (A2)



III B.Com. (A3)



III B.Com (Day)





III B.S.W



III B.Sc. Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology



III B.Sc. Chemistry



III B.Sc. Mathematics (Day)



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III B.Sc. Mathematics (Evening)



III B.Sc. Physics



III B.Sc. Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology



M.Phil. English





M.Phil. Mathematics



Administrative Staff



Supportive Staff



Library Staff

# Results

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI - 600 086

LIST OF OVERALL PERCENTAGE OF PASSES

UG - 2006-07 BATCH

PG - 2007-08 BATCH

Class	Appeared	Passed	% of passed
B.A. History	33	26	78.79
Sociology	55	42	76.36
Economics	54	40	74.07
Fine Arts	35	29	82.86
English	57	40	70.18
B.Com. Section - A	69	59	85.51
Section - B	211	197	93.36
B.Sc. Mathematics			
Section - A	60	55	91.67
Section - B	44	41	93.18
Physics	37	32	86.49
Chemistry	29	27	93.10
Plant Biology & Plant Biotechnology	50	47	94.00
Advanced Zoology & Biotechnology	42	38	90.48
B.C.A.	103	88	85.44
B.S.W.	34	29	85.29
M.A. International Studies	19	15	78.95
Economics	9	7	77.78
English	35	33	94.29
Fine Arts	14	13	92.86
Public Relations	19	19	100.00
M.S.W. Social Work	32	30	93.75
M.Com	18	18	100.00
M.Sc. Mathematics	26	26	100.00
Information Technology	25	23	92.00
Bioinformatics	20	20	100.00
Chemistry	25	25	100.00
Biotechnology	22	21	95.45

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

Date: 15.08.2010

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

