



STELLA MARIS COLLEGE
AUTONOMOUS **2008-2009**



TRUTH

CHARITY

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

(AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI - TAMILNADU

2008-2009



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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.



Post elections, we are on a rising curve. Collective memories of Gujarat and Kandhamal and Shopian call for healing. Leadership is attuning to the voices of the people. Reform is in the air.

For us in the education sector rethink is on the cards. As a minority institution we welcome the challenge to ride the wave—to re-vision our common task of learning and teaching in contexts that create meaning, and in environments that nurture plurality. If we are to bring in a better world we must learn humility; like Francis of Assisi challenge our limits and expand our capacity to see each other as persons and understand differences that condition who we are.

To celebrate life; to rejoice in the myriad hues.

Editorial committee

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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
née Hélène de Chappotin 1839-1904

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



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.

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

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 effects 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 2000, the college was accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council and awarded 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”

PRINCIPAL - AT THE HELM

Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras, fmm, took up office as the eighth Principal of Stella Maris College on May 1, 2008, after serving as Vice-Principal of the college for over three years. As an academician and administrator, she is committed to expanding academic opportunities for students and helping to chart the future of Stella Maris for the next generation.

Sr. Jasintha holds an M.Phil degree and a Doctorate in Mathematics from the University of Madras. Her area of specialization is Graph Theory and her research was titled 'Embeddings and Interconnection Networks'. In addition, she has a Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Applications from Stella Maris College and an MS in Computer Science from Marquette University, USA. She has also undergone a course in Theology at Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune.

Sr. Jasintha has published several research articles and presented papers in her area of specialization. She was the recipient of the Fr. Racin, SJ Award in 2004, for having published the Highest Number of Research Papers during her doctoral programme at Loyola College, Chennai.

She joined the faculty of the Department of Mathematics in 1996, and held the additional post of Director, Department of Computer Science, Stella Maris College from 1996 to 2000. During this time, she conceptualised and set up one of the earliest state-of-the-art computer labs in the college and helped design the syllabus for the BCA degree programme which was introduced in 1998.

As faculty, she has helped organize and conduct symposia and workshops in the college. She has also participated in numerous seminars, workshops, conferences and training programmes in a wide range of areas including leadership training, capacity building, networking and quality sustenance in educational institutions. She has been M.Phil Supervisor for research students of Mathematics from 2003 onwards.

An able and tech-savvy administrator, Sr. Jasintha streamlined the functioning of the office of the Vice-Principal, automated the day-to-day working of the campus through intranet software, and carried out key tasks as Dean of Faculty in her position as Vice-Principal.

A native of Karnataka, Sr. Jasintha is a polyglot with a good command over six languages - English, Tamil, Konkani, Kannada, Tulu and Hindi. She belongs to the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, and is firmly and committed to the charism of its Foundress, Blessed Mary of the Passion.

Principal Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras, fmm



COLLEGE DAY REPORT

*Because we are blessed with a natural and varied abundance,
Because we set no limits to our achievements,
Because we have great dreams,
And because we have the opportunity
to make those dreams come true –
We are truly blessed.*

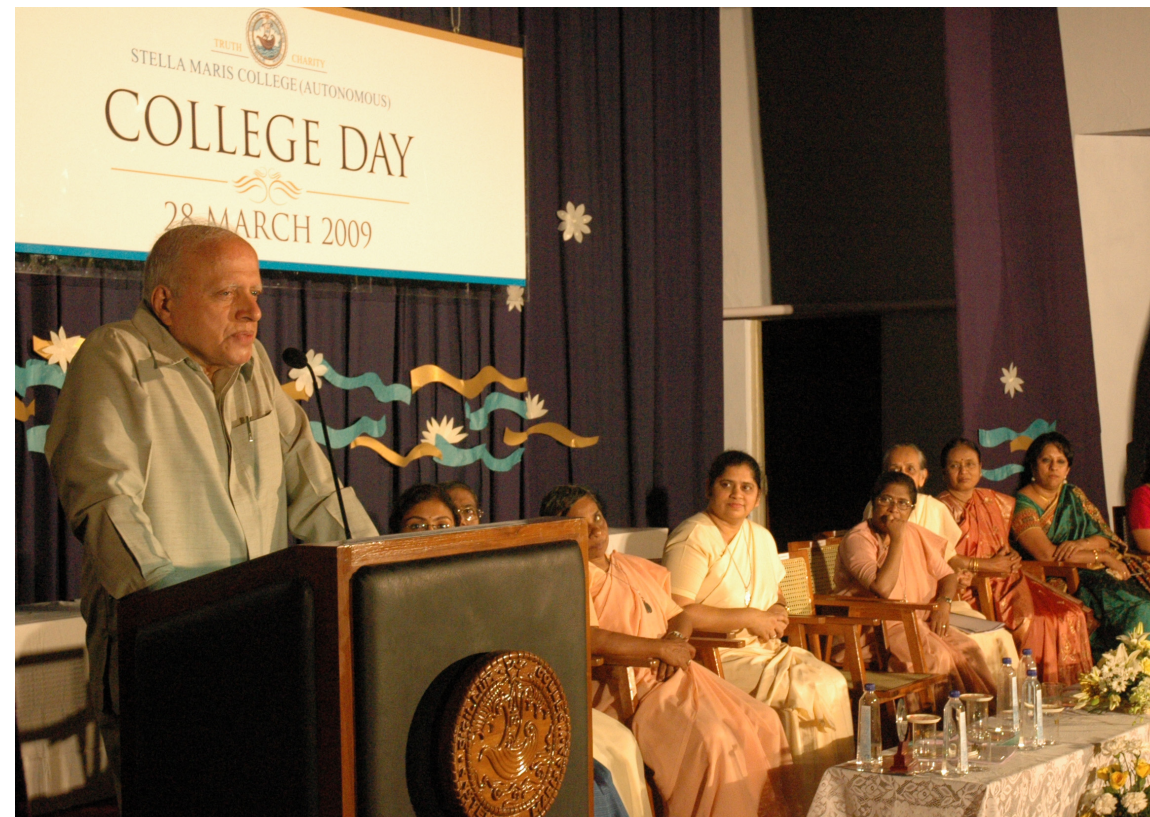
Wendell Wilkie

Respected Guest of Honour Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Founder and Chairman, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Sr. Cecilia Joachim, fmm, Provincial Superior, Chennai Province, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, Secretary, Sr. Susan, fmm, Superior, Stella Maris Convent, respected members of the Governing Body, Academic Council, and the Building Committee, dear retired faculty, committed teaching, administrative and supportive staff, enthusiastic alumnae, beloved students, parents, our FMM sisters from the Chennai communities, benefactors, well wishers and friends!

On this 62nd College Day, I deem it an honour and a privilege to present the College Day report for the academic year 2008-2009 – the first College Day Report since I assumed office as Principal of Stella Maris College. I thank the Provincial, Sr. Cecilia Joachim for having entrusted me with this responsibility, for which I seek God's blessings and the support and encouragement of my sisters in the congregation, and the entire college community.

I take this opportunity to place on record our sincere appreciation and deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, who laid down office in April 2008, after having served the college as Principal for 18 years. Her creativity and dynamism helped the college to respond proactively to emerging trends in higher education. The Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip Endowment Fund has been instituted by the Department of Chemistry, as a tribute to her achievements in the field of higher education.

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Founder and Chairman, MSSRF, delivers the special address on College Day



Before proceeding further I would like to honour the memory of Sr. Claude de Sauveboeuf, fmm, who passed away last March. She was one of the foundresses of the college. I would like to place on record our sincere appreciation for her dedication and contribution to the college and to the cause of higher education.

Our deep sense of gratitude and affection is due to Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, fmm, who served the college as Secretary for six years. Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, who has assumed responsibility as Secretary was formerly the Principal and Secretary of the college for two terms. Sr. Susan, fmm, the Superior of the Convent and the Vice President of the



Reaccreditation of the college by the NAAC

Society of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary is also no stranger to the college having served earlier as Dean of Students and Secretary of the college. While welcoming Sr. Susan I wish to place on record my sincere gratitude to Sr. Florine Monis who was earlier Office Manager and Superior of the Convent.

The major achievements of the college for this year are now briefly presented. I am happy to announce that the college was reaccredited with an A Grade with a CGPA of 3.57 on a 4 point scale with effect from September 16, 2008. In the same month the college was granted extension of Autonomous status by the UGC Autonomy Review Commission upto the academic year 2013-2014.

Stella Maris College has also been selected under the Star College Scheme by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India for strengthening of life sciences and biotechnology education and training at the undergraduate level.

The college has upgraded the three year Fine Arts programme to a four year professional Bachelor of Visual Arts (BVA) with effect from 2008-2009 to enhance employability and entrepreneurship, and to offer opportunities for higher studies in Universities in India and abroad.

Stella Maris College owes a debt of gratitude to its faculty who collaborate in translating the vision of the college into action. This year one of our faculty members, Dr. Poppy Kannan, Head of the Department of Social Work is retiring after having completed 31 years of dedicated service to the college. Dr. Poppy Kannan worked closely with Sr. Thecla Camacho, fmm, who founded the Department of Social Work, and was a social worker in the Stella Maris Social Service Centre before she was appointed lecturer in the Post-graduate Department of Social Work. Dr. Poppy Kannan has also served the college as NSS Coordinator and Dean of Academic Affairs. We wish her a fruitful retirement.

Congratulations to two of our faculty who were awarded their doctoral degrees this year: Dr. Agnes Rozario of the Department of Commerce and Dr. Sr. Rosy Joseph, fmm, of the Department of Mathematics.

This year four of our faculty – Ms. Anne Samuel and Ms. Lakshmi Priya of Fine Arts, Ms. Rasheeda of Commerce and Ms. Belina Xavier of Physics are being deputed for doctoral research under the UGC Faculty Development Programme in the 11th Plan period.

A truly proud moment in the life of a graduate and the institution is Graduation Day. February 14, 2009 saw 1037 graduates return to the college to receive their degrees and to celebrate their success. The percentage of passes was 86% at the UG level and 89% at the PG level.

In acknowledgement of their competence and intellectual calibre our faculty have received both national and international awards.

Dr. Poppy Kannan received the Tamil Nadu State Government Award for the 'Best NSS Programme Officer' for the year 2006-2007 and the 'Best Youth Red Cross Programme Officer' Award for the year 2007-2008.

Ms. Margaret Thomas, Department of Fine Arts, was awarded the 'Elizabeth Luce Moore Award' by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA) for Best Fellow 2006-08 at Hong Kong.

International conference held by the Chemistry Department



National Symposium held by the Mathematics Department





The inauguration of the conference 'Through the Eyes of the Other'

Dr. Razia Tony of the Fine Arts Department, received an award for her contribution to contemporary art by Salon de Printemps, Lyons, France in March 2009.

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

Dr. Madhu Dhawan, Head, Department of Hindi, was awarded the Distinguished Sahitik Award by the Rashtriya Vichar Manch, New Delhi.

Dr. V. Padma of the English Department, was awarded the Rockefeller-Bellagio Residency for 2009 in Italy.

As a Fulbright Fellow Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy, Head, Department of Public Relations received a Research Grant for organizing a one day workshop on 'Perspectives in Rural Development' for 60 villagers and 100 B.Ed students of Sri Saradha Ashram B.Ed College, in a development program at Ullundurpet, a socio-economically backward area.

Two of our faculty, Ms. Mary George and Dr. Mary Terry from the Department of Chemistry are engaged in UGC Minor research projects.

The Department of English collaborated with the University of Madras and Stendhal University, Grenoble and hosted the Interdisciplinary Bilingual International Conference: 'Through the Eyes of the Other' in December 2008.

Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras participated in the Regional Networking Conference of Presidents of Women's Colleges and Universities in Asia at Miriam College, Manila, Philippines in November 2008.

Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ramasamy delivered a talk on Folk Songs at the Tamil Sangam in Sydney, Australia in May 2008. Dr. Ulaganayaki Palani was interviewed by 'Geethavani', Canadian Radio Service, as the 'Best Literary Critic' in February 2009.

As part of the UBCHEA sponsored Exchange Programme some of our faculty visited various Universities abroad.

Sr. Kochutheresa attended one semester at La Salle University, Manila, Philippines as a United Board Fellow 2008-2010 from November 2008 to March 2009.

Margaret Thomas, UB Fellow 2006-2008, presented a paper titled 'Ideas for Smart Leadership' at a seminar organized by the UBCHEA at Hong Kong Baptist University in August 2008.

To keep pace with the changing trends in the field of higher education, Stella Maris College organized Orientation Courses for teachers of Government Colleges recruited by the Tamil Nadu Recruitment Board for Chemistry in Sciences, and for Economics, Sociology, Commerce, Psychology and Geology in Humanities. Dr. Rukmini Srinivasan, PG Head of the Department of Chemistry was the nodal officer who coordinated the Chemistry programme and Dr. Geetha Sridharan of the Department of Economics was the nodal officer for the programme for the Humanities. These

Dancers perform on College Day





National Conference on 'Novel Polymeric Materials' Students at the Crocodile Bank as part of a workshop

programmes, were sponsored by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education and the Academic Staff College, University of Madras.

With a commitment to excellence and innovation in the teaching-learning process the departments of the College organized a wide range of seminars/conferences/workshops, endowment and guest lectures at both national and regional levels to expose students to the latest developments in their fields and to motivate them to higher levels of academic performance.

The Department of Mathematics organized a National Symposium on Recent Advances in Computational Techniques sponsored by the UGC.

The Physics Department in collaboration with the Institute of Mathematical Sciences organized a Regional Workshop on 'Computational Physics'.

The Department of Chemistry in collaboration with CLRI organized a National Conference on 'Novel Polymeric Materials' sponsored by the UGC, CSIR, DST & TNSCST.

The Zoology Department organized a National Conference on 'Human-Animal Conflict' and a Workshop on 'Herpetology' in collaboration with the Madras Crocodile Bank.

The Department of Social Work organized a National Seminar on 'Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability' sponsored by SIDBI and the UGC.

The Department of Hindi organized a National Seminar on 'Cultural Unity through Hindi Literature and Official Language'.

The English Department organized a UBCHEA sponsored Translation Workshop by Anjum Katyal in January 2009.

The Department of International Studies organized Workshops on 'Nuclear Disarmament & Regional Security' and 'Conflict in Sri Lanka - Its Implication for Future Peace'. These workshops were organized in collaboration with the Institute of Peace & Conflict Studies, New Delhi and with OFERR respectively. In collaboration with the Chennai Center for China Studies, the Department organized a Public Lecture 'The Rise of China' by Prof. Shih Chih-Yu, Department of Political Science, National Taiwan University. The Department also organized a Panel Discussion on 'Mumbai Terror Attacks: How India Responded'.

Dr. Srikanth Kondapalli, Director, East Asian Studies Center, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi was the Scholar in Residence at the Department of International Studies from 28-31 January, 2009.

The Department of Public Relations organized two regional seminars in collaboration with the SAARC Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs Council on Social Entrepreneurship, and Economic Entrepreneurship.

Various departments organize Endowment Lectures instituted to honour retired faculty, as an annual feature. This year two more endowments were instituted.

The Department of International Studies instituted the 'Dr. Kamala Aravind Endowment Fund' and the first lecture was delivered in January 2009 by Mr. T. S. Krishna Murthy, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India.

The first Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip Endowment Lecture was organized by the Department of Chemistry in March 2009 and delivered by Dr. Baldev Raj, distinguished Scientist and Director, IGCAR, Kalpakkam.

In today's world of globalization and knowledge explosion, many of our faculty have authored books and also published articles in several national and international journals. They have participated and presented papers in numerous State Level, Regional, National and International Seminars, Conferences and Workshops and have served as Resource Persons at several of these programmes. They have also attended Refresher and Orientation Courses periodically to keep themselves abreast of changing needs and



Book release - Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip Endowment Lecture

trends in higher education. Faculty have delivered Guest Lectures in colleges across the city and state and in other academic fora. Many of the faculty are Members of Boards of Studies and have been invited to be members of Academic Audit Committees.

As education is an ongoing process, the faculty of the college have been encouraged to participate in training programmes to enhance their skills in teaching and personal effectiveness. Programmes were organized by the IQAC for all the teaching faculty in June 2008 in preparation for the NAAC Peer Team Visit. In July a programme on Teacher Effectiveness was conducted for 48 faculty. The Administrative and Supportive Staff attended a Capacity Building Programme in August. A Trainers Training programme in Soft Skills was conducted by Careers Junction for 45 faculty in November. Other Programmes include Quality Enhancement in Teaching, Achieving Excellence, Ethics in Education, Vision and Mission, and Basic Counselling Skills conducted throughout the year. In accordance with the thrust of the institution for this year the faculty participated in an interactive session on 'Care of the Earth' by Dr. Sultan Ismail, Managing Director, Eco Science Research Foundation.

In keeping with the current trend of globalization and networking Stella Maris College has signed the following MoUs and collaborated with prestigious national institutes of higher education.

The Department of International Studies has signed MoUs with two leading research institutes: the Institute of Social Change and the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, both based in New Delhi.

The Chemistry Department has signed an MoU with the Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai.

Stella Maris College and Eastern Iowa Community College District (EIC-CD) are partners in the Indo-US Professional Exchange Programme, 'Towards a More Connected World'. Stella Maris successfully implemented the course on 'Contemporary Issues' which included interactive video conferencing sessions with students of Iowa Community College on 'Climate Change.' Ms. Usha Ramani, Ms. Raihana Sabir, Dr. Benita Marian and Dr. Ordetta Mendoza visited community colleges in Iowa, USA during May 2008. Dr. Jeff Armstrong, Director, Resource Development International Education, EICCD and a team of 4 members visited Stella Maris College in November 2008 as part of the project.

As part of an on-going collaboration with Liverpool Hope University, UK, the Undergraduate Department of Social Work offered Field

Work Training to three undergraduate students of Liverpool Hope University, UK, from June to August 2008.

Three research projects were undertaken by the Department of Social Work of our college along with Bishop Heber College, Trichy and Liverpool Hope University, UK, as part of the MoU signed by the three institutions with (DELPHE) Development Partnerships in Higher Education, British Council, UK.

As a follow up of the MoU signed by the College with HCL Technologies, a course on 'Software Testing' for the Postgraduate students of the Computer Science Department was conducted by a team of experts from HCL during the first semester of the academic year 2008-09.

This year the Department of Botany has introduced a new UGC sponsored Add on Certificate Course in 'Herbal Therapy and Beauty Care'. The course enables the students to gain expertise in herbal therapy and beauty care in an experiential learning environment.

The college was awarded grants under the UGC Schemes for Remedial Coaching Programmes for students of Minority and SC/ST communities. Over 300 students participated and profited much, the evidence of which is seen in the significant progress of their academic performance.

Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access, the FAEA Programme funded by the Ford Foundation is a collaborative effort which continues to empower students from disadvantaged sections of society by training them in Life skills, Soft Skills, Computer Applications, and Employability and Entrepreneurship skills by professional trainers throughout the year. Two new language practice software from the United Kingdom to practise Conversation and Business Writing have been recently installed in the FAEA-sponsored Multimedia Language Lab. More than 400 students of the college enthusiastically attend these workshops. The students are also given free access to browsing in the Internet Centre on campus.

'Be a Leader' - FAEA Workshop



The FAEA programme is effectively coordinated by Dr. Thilagavathi Joseph. In January 2009 a four-day State Level Workshop titled 'Be a Leader' was conducted for 40 FAEA scholars, from Arts and Science, and Medical and Engineering Colleges of Tamil Nadu.

Sangamam, an extension project of the college, under the able guidance of Dr. Sandra Joseph, Head, Undergraduate Department of Social Work has continued to work among 13 coastal communities in the Kasimode/ Royapuram areas since 1992 co-ordinating several developmental programmes. In collaboration with the Women's Development Corporation of the Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Sangamam has also initiated and maintained 93 Self-Help Groups, two of which received motivation awards from the WDC. The training in capacity building has motivated them to launch a fair price provision store in the area benefitting 2000 families.

In June 2008 representatives of the disabled youth from the Sangamam project participated in the World Youth Conference held at Liverpool Hope University, where they had the opportunity to meet renowned world leaders and share their experiences with participants from other countries. The Sangamam project which networked with local NGOs and Government Organisations 89 children who were child labourers or school drop outs were mainstreamed into formal schools. Caritas India has sanctioned funding for the project titled 'Holistic Child Development Programme' to be launched in April.

Sangamam



The three year project on 'Insights into the Displaced Populations' sponsored by the Center for Coordination of Research, IFCU was initiated in 2006 and is ably coordinated by Sr. Lourthu Mary, fmm. It is a cross-cultural study in the Asian context focussed on Gender Dynamics and Displacement, and has covered the districts of Nallur, Kodungaiyur and Semmencheri.

The Entrepreneurship Development Cell has been set up with the support of the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Board, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, in 2006. It functions under the guidance of Dr. Geetha Swaminathan and Ms. Mary Teresita of the Department of Chemistry. This year the EDC has conducted several Entrepreneurship Awareness Camps of three days duration each for a total number of 700 first year undergraduate students. Training was provided in the preparation of herbal products, vegetable and fruit processed products, paper conversion products and jewellery designing for about 300 students. In collaboration with NABARD the EDC also conducted a two week training programme in the preparation of herbal products such as shampoos and creams for a batch of 25 rural women of Tiruvallur District in March 2009. E-Week



NCC Cadets in New Delhi

was celebrated in February 2009 in collaboration with the National Entrepreneurship Network. The students of the EDC participated in inter collegiate programmes and organized an 'Idea Generation' programme on campus which was attended by more than 100 participants bringing a sense of harmony.

The NSS Unit of the college has been an active part of student training programmes since 1969. This year with 325 volunteers and three NSS Programme Officers, Sr. Lourthu Mary, fmm, Dr. Millie Nihila and Ms. Anne Samuel, the unit has worked with 22 NGOs in and around the city. Ms. Diana Tressa Mary from the Department of Zoology has been selected by the University of Madras to participate in the Training Programme for Young Leaders in Japan this year. The college hosted the State Award Function for the best NSS Volunteers, Programme Officers, and Programme Coordinators for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. In September 2008 the NSS unit organized an inter collegiate competition 'Spica 2008' in collaboration with the NSS Unit of the University of Madras and Lions Club International District 324-A5. More than 2000 students from 50 colleges participated in the event.

The College NCC Unit under the able leadership of Lt. Dolly Thomas has been active throughout the year and the students have earned laurels in



Oath taking Ceremony on Sports Day

every event. The Inaugural Camp was held in July 2008. The students won prizes and medals at the Inter Group Competitions in Madurai and Trichy, the Thal Sainik Camp at New Delhi, the All India Vayu Sainik Competitions at Bangalore and the Republic Day Camp at Delhi. The Annual Inter Collegiate NCC Championship 'CADOSTAR' was held in college in February and 15 colleges participated. Three cadets were selected for the Republic Day Camp: Cadet Surekha, Cadet Chandran Ravi Priya and Cadet Satyalakshmi, of whom Cadet Surekha was selected to march on the Rajpath on Republic Day and Cadet Satyalakshmi for the Prime Minister's Rally. Some of our Cadets also participated in the Chennai Republic Day Parade. Senior Under Officer (SUO) Divya Ajith has been selected for the Youth Exchange Programme in Bangladesh.

In Sports and Games, under the able guidance of Ms. Ancy Emmanuel, Physical Director, the students have won laurels in all the major events in which they have participated throughout the year. In swimming Mridula Rajiv, III BA Economics represented the country at the Rescue Games 2008 held in Berlin, Germany. She also won Gold and Silver Medals at the National Level and University Inter Collegiate Swimming tournament. The Lawn Tennis and Table Tennis teams were winners at the National Level Inter Collegiate Tournaments and at the All India Inter University Tournaments. In Hockey, the college team won the First Place at the Bhatt Memorial Inter Collegiate Tournament at SDNB Vaishnav College after a gap of 10 years. Members of the Hockey Team have also

successfully represented Madras University and Tamil Nadu State. The Basketball Team participated and won laurels at the All India Inter University tournaments, National Level tournaments and Madras University tournaments. Volleyball, Chess, Cricket and Athletics were other areas in which our students participated and emerged winners in many events. In Karate, Shooting, Archery and Golf too our students have displayed their talents and emerged victorious.

The ISTD Cell of the college continued to be active and organized talks and sessions promoting healthy competition and an interactive learning experience. Eminent speakers such as Dr. S. Janakarajan, Director, MIDS, delivered talks to the students on diverse topics encouraging them to gain a holistic outlook on life.

With the theme 'Be a Star' the Students' Union has been enthusiastic in all its endeavours this year. The inter year culturals and Aquilae, the annual inter collegiate cultural, enliven the campus while bringing out the best aesthetic talents of our students.

The fund raiser, 'Nakshatra' showcased the talents of Stella Marians alongside professional singers and dancers. Special days such as Friendship Day and Ethnic Day added colour and life to the campus. This year a unique feature of the Union was the Green Squad, towards a Green Clean Campus. The Union has been an effective bridge between the faculty and the students and has worked harmoniously throughout the year under the guidance of the Deans of Student Affairs, Sr. Kochu Theresa Paulose, fmm, Ms. Lissie Alex, Dr. Christina Rajkumar and Dr. Priscilla Jebakumari.

The annual student theatre production this year 'Black and Blue and Other Hues' was an experimental dramatization of six short stories written by Asian women dealing with social issues, directed by Shri Balakrishnan and staged in the Francis Hall for two days. The students of the Fine Arts Department enhanced the effect of the performance with a visual display of their paintings.

Life on campus is made colourful and lively by the activities of the various departmental and non-departmental clubs. These clubs provide students with ample opportunities to showcase their talents and develop their personality and leadership skills. The students win laurels for themselves and the college in the collegiate and intercollegiate competitions organized by the clubs.

For the Rajiv Gandhi Renewable Energy Day organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, New Delhi,

our students presented a dance drama depicting the empowerment of women, in August 2008. This programme was coordinated by Ms. Usha Ramani, Dr. Shrabani and Dr. Kalpana.

We can proudly say that our students both past and present have excelled in many fields and raised the levels of student achievement.

Two alumnae of the Department of Commerce – Mariam Farzhana Sadiq and Irene Cynthia emerged successful in the IAS exam. Mariam was placed 30th in the All India category and First in Tamil Nadu. Sneha Krishnan, III BA History was selected as a Fellow to attend the Starting Bloc Global Institute for Social Innovation, organized by the London Business School. She was also selected by Harvard University to represent the College at the On-campus Conference organized by the Harvard Project for Asia and International Relations in February 2009 where she presented a paper on 'Rationalising Reservations.'

G. Janani, II BA Economics has worked as a freelance journalist and has published twenty articles. She has also worked with the Human Rights Organisation, People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) and helped draft memorandums for the United Nations Security Council regarding the Sri Lankan issue. She won a special prize in the National Essay Writing Competition conducted by the Friends of Police.

C. Sharada, II B.Com secured the All India 12th rank in the Company Secretary Foundation Course. Varsha Menon, III B.Com was one among five students selected from Chennai for the Campus Ambassador Programme of Infosys. Tejasvi Ravi, III B.Com was invited to attend the University Presidential Inaugural Conference at Washington DC, USA. She has also



A scene from the College Play



College Day Performance

the unique distinction of having received interview calls from all seven IIMs having scored a percentile of 99.95.

Tinjumol Mathew, II MSc Maths and Neha Prabhu, II BSc Maths have been selected to participate in the National Level Mathematics Training and Talent Search Programme during the summer of 2008.

Nithyasri, III BSc Physics did a summer project in the Centre for High Energy, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in May 2008. Lakshmi Ramesh and Anuradha of III BSc Physics attended a summer school at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Kodaikanal in June 2008. Nandhini of II BSc Physics interned at Raman Research Institute Bangalore and completed two projects in May 2008.

Poornima Rangadurai, II BSc Chemistry has been selected by DST to attend the 59th Nobel Laureates Conference at Lindau, Germany scheduled for June-July 2009. Gayathri Nair, III BSc Chemistry successfully completed the second year under the Project Oriented Chemical Education Programme of the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore. Nithya Santhanam, II MSc Chemistry is the second student of the college to be appointed in New Product Development by Smithkline-Beecham Glaxo Laboratories, UK, under the UKIERI programme.

Agneta, III BSc Zoology was the recipient of the Young Scientist Fellowship from the Department of Molecular Biology, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Smritha Choudhry, III BSc Zoology was awarded the Summer Research Fellowship of the Indian Academy of Sciences, to work at the Department of Molecular Biology, University of Delhi. Anusha, III BSc Zoology was selected by the Wild Life Trust of India to work at the Centre for Wild Life Rehabilitation and Conservation at Kaziranga in Assam. Mathangi, II BSc Zoology has been selected by the Jawaharlal

Nehru Centre for Advanced Research for a summer research fellowship at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore.

The Alumnae Association saw a change of leadership this year. Ms. Latha Kumarasamy, Managing Trustee, Tanker Foundation took over as Secretary of the Association. We thank Ms. Sarala Vasu, former Secretary for the commitment and dynamism she brought to the Alumnae Association. The Executive Committee meets on campus every month. This year the alumnae has started a Student Support Fund which extends support for exam and certificate fees for students recommended by their departments. Kalanjyam, an off shoot of the alumnae organized several interesting programmes for its members. 'The Stellar Times', a bi-annual news letter is a regular feature of the Association.

The Career Guidance Cell, a branch of the Stella Maris Alumnae Association, conducts skills development programmes, and facilitates campus recruitment for both UG and PG students. A pre-recruitment training programme 'Creating My Future' was organized in June for the III year students. Professional trainers from various fields were invited to conduct sessions and more than 180 students participated in the programme. Placement drives and career guidance presentations were conducted in the second semester. Representatives of Deloitte visited the college and interacted with the students with a view of providing internships in the company. More than 25 reputed companies including Tata Capital, Goldman Sachs, Irvna, and Verizon visited the campus and approximately 150 students have been offered placements. However compared to previous years recruitment figures have been much lower due to the global recession.

In keeping with the vision of the college to enable students who are socially and economically disadvantaged to pursue higher education, the college offers numerous scholarships and fee concessions. The Golden Jubilee Scholarships, with a principal amount of Rs.30,000 the Millenni-



Alumnae Association Executive Committee



Language Lab

um Scholarships, with a principal amount of Rs.50,000 and the Diamond Jubilee Scholarships with a principal amount of Rs.60,000 were awarded to 141 students this year. Fee concessions and Management Scholarships were given to 252 students. About 636 students receive Government Scholarships and 62 students receive Private Scholarships, while 16 students avail of fee concession for the hostel facilities. A total of 1246 students were provided financial assistance amounting to more than Rs.32 lakhs for this academic year.

Campus Ministry for Catholic faculty and students forms a vibrant part of life on campus. The Academic Year began with the traditional Inaugural Mass. Three retreats were conducted for students in each of which about 400 students participated. The college has an active Prayer Group on campus. Training Programmes were organized for faculty involved in teaching Catholic Doctrine. Being the Year of St. Paul, sessions on the Apostle were organized for Catholic faculty.

Stella Maris College has always shared its resources and expertise with other colleges and institutions of higher education in the country. This year there have been several visits to our college to study the functioning of autonomy and Choice Based Credit System.

Under the dynamism of the College Librarian, Ms. Gita Balachandran, the facilities in the College Library have been improved this year with provision of a leased line and internet access for all the systems. The EBSCO database has been added this year and PG students have free access to this facility. With the addition of DSpace a repository has been set up which stores information and material related to syllabi, question papers, e-books and seminar presentations. Other departments are also networked with the library and faculty can access the library and DSpace from their own faculty rooms.

The Computer Laboratories have been upgraded and all the departments have been provided with computers and printers as well as internet fa-

cilities. Students this year have the unique privilege of viewing their attendance reports online. Another innovation has been the online registration for the General Elective Courses. Lightning Conductors have been installed to protect electronic equipment on campus. Signages have been erected in front of all the buildings, and the garden in the front of the main building has been landscaped.

The existing Helene de Chappotin Block is being renovated and an additional floor is being constructed to provide more classrooms. This is sponsored by the donation of Rs.20 lakhs received from the Sun Foundation of the Maran Trust.

The construction of the new students' hostel partially sponsored by the UGC, has commenced and the foundation work is nearing completion. The building will be completed by May 2010 and will be ready for occupation from the academic year 2010-11.

As I end this report, we place on record the many organisations especially the UGC, DBT and DST, Government of India, The National Assessment and Accreditation Council, the Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, the University of Madras, the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, International Federation of Catholic Universities, and Ford Foundation for supporting us in our mission of education.

To the several public sector undertakings and the generous benefactors who continue to support us, we extend our gratitude.

It is now my pleasant duty to express our gratitude to all those who with their support, guidance and commitment have made these achievements possible.

Sr. Cecilia Joachim, fmm, Provincial Superior, Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, Secretary, Sr. Susan, fmm, Superior, Sr. Colleen North, fmm, Ms. Agnes Fernando, Ms. Geetha Swaminathan, Vice-Principals, Ms. Margaret Clarence, Controller of Examinations, Ms. Gigie Verghese, Ms. Chandunissa and Sr. Rosy Joseph, fmm, Academic Deans, Sr. Kochutheresa, fmm, Ms. Christina Rajkumar, Ms. Lissie Alex, Ms. Priscilla Jebakumari, Deans of Student Affairs, all of whose support has been significant to the growth of this institution.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the Heads of Departments, all the faculty and those who have contributed generously to the different committees for the smooth functioning of the college. I wish I could mention each of you by name.

My grateful thanks also to Sr. Ann Mathew, fmm, Bursar, Sr. Philo, fmm, and Sr. Veera, fmm, her Assistants, Ms. Alphonsa Simon, Office Superintendent and all the administrative staff, Sr. Hilda and the supportive staff. Your generous hard work contributes to the smooth functioning of the institution. My sincere thanks also to the Hostel Wardens, Sr. Hilda D'Almeida, fmm, Sr. Maria Philo and Sr. Leony Dhanaswamy, fmm, for the smooth functioning of the hostels and in keeping up the spirit of camaraderie and fellowship on campus.

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. As the academic year draws to a close we thank God for His abundant graces for we know He will sustain us as we forge ahead under the direction of the Star of the Sea.

In the words of Franklin Roosevelt: "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today". Therefore with an active faith let us move forward.

Thank you and God Bless.

College Day Performance



What miraculous things surround us! When the sun rises in the morning and brings the day, have you noticed how happily the birds sing, and how our hearts leap within our breasts, and how merrily the stones and waters laugh? And when night falls, how benevolently our Sister Fire always comes. Sometimes she climbs up to our lamp and lights our room; sometimes she sits in the fireplace and cooks our food and keeps us warm in winter. And water: what a miracle that is too! How it flows and gurgles, how it forms streams, rivers and then empties into the ocean—singing! How it washes, rinses, cleanses everything! And when we are thirsty, how refreshing it is as it descends within us and waters our bowels! How well bound together are man's body and the world, man's soul and God! When I think of all these miracles, I don't want to talk or walk any more; I want to sing and dance.

Francis of Assisi

The 2008 Chapter of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, held in Rome, articulated the Order's concern for the environment, in what appears the crisis hour. "Care for our Earth" is the leitmotif running through all FMM Institutes today. In February this year the Management of Stella Maris College offered the faculty a special orientation in order to reiterate our commitment to nature. The presentation was two-fold. It explored humanity's ethical and spiritual commitments to earth and provided a viable demonstration of these ties.

Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, Secretary of the college, elaborated on the ideals of justice, peace and integrity of creation. She called on the community to uphold the ethics of enough that we recite in the Lord's Prayer: "Give us this day our daily bread"; to build our reverence for Mother Earth; indeed to commune with nature and experience the wonder that transforms our earthly journey.

Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail, Head, Department of Biotechnology, The New College, and Director, Ecoscience Research Foundation, pointed out that in our shift in focus from ecology to economy, we have embarked on a perilous journey that threatens the very sources that sustain us. Human existence depends on air, water and soil. With increasing environmental degradation, today, the air we breathe is polluted, the water we drink is contaminated and the food we eat is poisoned. The earth is paying the price and so are we.

We have sought to increase agricultural productivity to match our growing needs. On an average 19 million tons of fertilizers and 90,000 tons of pesticides are used every year in India alone. The introduction of genetically modified (GM) food and crops has been a disaster. The science of taking genes from one species and inserting them into another has begun to pose a serious threat to biodiversity. There has also been an increase in the use of certain chemicals in the cultivation of some GM crops. Farmers who were supposed to reap the benefits of GM technology have come to face financial ruin and starvation. Approximately one lakh Indian farmers have committed suicide in the last seven years.

The soil is dying. The need of the hour is to restore soil health. Efficient waste management through techniques like biodung composting and vermicomposting will save our earth by restoring soil biodiversity. Sustainable and organic farming methods can serve to counter the havoc wrought by the excessive use of chemical fertilisers and biocides.

We cannot replace the earth, for that privilege is not ours. But we can take care of our earth and do what it takes to be good stewards of the planet and rejoice in the wonder of creation.

WE MISS YOU DHIV



At everyday roll calls, there's always the unanswered emptiness at number 16. Neat scrawls in the textbooks we still use, remind us of the person who made those indelible ink prints. And when exam preparations peak, 'you forcefully remind yourself', that her lucid explanations are no longer readily on hand.

Dhivya Srinivas passed away on the 20th of February, 2009 due to a plethora of medical complications. Weeks and months have flown past since then, yet not a day passes when we do not turn to the inconspicuous chair near the wall, only to find it empty. Or miss the avid M.S. Dhoni fan raving about India's latest cricketing exploit or on-field disaster.

To everybody who knew Dhivya, she was much more than the persevering student who was always prompt with her college work—though her test scores were one of her trademark attributes! So much so that even during her prolonged bout of illness Dhiv managed to score top grades in the internal assessments. But to all of us who spent an entire year with her, she was much more. A teenager who had the typical fascination for mushy chick-lit novels, and an atypical aversion to loud metal music. A youngster who'd spend hours trying to lucidly explain math concepts to

us, and spend an equal number of hours waiting outside college to catch the Indian cricket team zip past on their way to a practice match.

Coming to terms with her death will never be possible, we only consider ourselves blessed for the short time we could spend with Dhiv. Her family will always remember her as their responsible and loving little girl, her teachers as the principled and 'quiet' child she was, and we, as the fun-loving teenager who simply didn't get the time she wanted to accomplish her many dreams.

It's often said that a very cossetting God takes away his most favourite children quickly, so He can spend more time with them, with the best of His creations. We'd like to believe this to be true. Because for the rest of us down here who dearly loved Dhivya, this is the only comfort we can offer ourselves. That Dhivya left us because God wanted her elsewhere.

May her soul rest in peace with God.

Students of B.Com



FELICITATION

Dr. Poppy Kannan, Reader and Head, Department of Social Work retired after 33 years of dedicated service to Stella Maris College. She entered the portals of this college at the age of 16 to join the pre-university class of the batch of 1967. She graduated in History in 1971 and later obtained her postgraduate degree in Social Work with specialization in Medical Psychiatry in 1973.

Her career in Stella began as a social worker in the Stella Maris Welfare Centre in 1973. Later she was deputed to the Government Royapettah Hospital as a Medical Social worker where she created awareness on the importance of the utilization of professional social workers in Government hospitals. The credit for the creation of Government posts for medical workers in Government hospitals in the State goes to her.

Dr. Poppy Kannan's commitment to her profession and the professionalism with which she carries out her tasks is visible in every position that she has held in the college. As NSS coordinator from 2005 to 2008 she involved the volunteers of the NSS in several projects in the city for which she received the Tamilnadu State Award for the 'Best NSS Program Officer' in 2006 and 2007. She was also the recipient of the 'Best Youth Red Cross Program Officer' award in 2007 and 2008 and received special recognition from the Commissioner of Chennai Corporation for her active involvement in the 'National Pulse Polio Eradication' programme for 5 consecutive years from 1995 to 2000. She was also the proud recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation awarded by Central Lion's Club, Chicago for 'Invaluable Services and Cooperation Extended' as a Fulbright Scholar to the United States in 1978.

A committed social worker and activist, Dr. Poppy Kannan was the elected faculty representative of the college to the Academic Council of the University of Madras from 1994 to 1997. As the Dean of Academic Affairs in 2004, she left her indelible stamp on the academic initiatives of the college. She contributed to educational innovations as member of the Board of Studies of almost all Schools of Social Work in Tamil Nadu and these

innovations are a result of her erudite scholarship. She has served as the Chairperson of the Board of Studies in Social Work, University of Madras between 2003 and 2006 where she is credited with introducing the Bachelor of Social Work programme (BSW) both in the Madras University and in this college subsequently.

Dr. Poppy Kannan has carried out several research projects with State, Central and International assistance. A person of varied interests, Dr. Poppy Kannan has been an active member and office bearer of the Stella Maris Alumnae Association. An enthusiastic sports person she has represented the college in several intercollegiate tournaments both as student and as faculty. Organized, systematic and meticulous in her work, her infectious humour and outspoken nature have endeared her to students and friends alike. While she follows in the footsteps of Sr. Thecla, fmm, her mentor, she leaves behind a legacy of excellence and comradeship for the Social Work department to emulate.

Dr. Poppy Kannan being felicitated by Sr. Cecilia Joachim, fmm



ENDOWMENT LECTURES



Smt. Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture (History Department 29-01-2009). Consul General Andrew T. Simkin (US Consulate, Chennai) delivers the lecture "Interdicting Terrorist Travel: US Efforts"



Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry Endowment Lecture (Fine Arts Department 24-7-2008). Cinematographer Fowzia Fathima delivers the lecture "Cinema, Women, Imag-Nation"



Sr. Christine Antony Endowment Lecture (Sociology Department 18-3-2009). Founder and Managing Trustee Shri. P. N. Devarajan, Centre for Social Initiative and Management, delivers the lecture "Social Entrepreneurship: Bridging the Social Divide"



Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture (Economics Department 25-3-2009). Dr. K. Nagaraj, Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies, delivered the lecture "Present Agrarian Crisis in India"

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip
Endowment Lecture
(Chemistry Department
5-3-2009). Dr. Baldev Raj,
Director IGCAR, Kalpak-
kam, delivers the
lecture "Ethics, Energy
and Equity"



Dr. Meera Paul and Dr.
Hannah John Endowment
Lecture (Department of
Zoology 25-2-2009).
Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi,
Research Director, Centre
for Indian Knowledge
Systems delivers the lecture
"Seeds of Plenty, Seeds of
Hope: Building on Agro-
biodiversity for Food and
Nutritional Security)

Kamala Aravind
Endowment Lecture (Inter-
national Studies Depart-
ment 9-01-2009). Former
Chief Election Commis-
sioner of India T. S. Krishna
Murthy delivered the lec-
ture "The Challenges facing
Indian Democracy"



Sr. Thecla Camacho
Endowment Lecture (De-
partment of Social Work
23-9-08). Dr. Ms. Mary John,
former Head of Depart-
ment delivers the lecture
"Research—Implications
and Relevance in the Chang-
ing Scenario in India"

SEMINARS AND EVENTS



Department of International Studies – Regional Workshop for Young Researchers on “Nuclear Disarmament and Regional Security” in collaboration with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi held on 6 September, 2008



Department of Hindi – One day seminar on “Cultural Unity through Hindi Literature and Official Language,” August 2008



National Symposium on “Recent Advances in Computational Techniques” held on 9-10 January, 2009. Plenary lectures – Prof. Jörg Kuhnert Fraunhofer ITWM, Germany, Prof. Martin Frank, Department of Industrial Mathematics, TU Kaiserslautern, Germany, Prof. J.C. Mandal, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Bombay, Dr. K. Selvanayagam, Emmeskay Advanced Technology Solutions, Chennai. The Invited Lectures – Dr. N. Ganesan, Process/QMS Consultant, Canada and by the faculty of the Department of Mathematics, Stella Maris College and Valedictory Address – Prof. P.V. Subramanyam, Head, Department of Mathematics, IIT Madras



Seminar on “Computational Models and Methods” held on 24 November, 2008. Prof. S. Sundar, Department of Mathematics, IIT Madras, gave the introductory remarks and Resource Persons – Prof. Helmut Neunzert and Prof. Iliev Oleg from Fraunhofer ITWM, Germany

Department of Public Relations organised a Regional Seminar on Social Entrepreneurship in collaboration with the Asian Organisation SCWEC (SAARC Chamber of Women Entrepreneur Council). More than twenty NGOs were invited and honoured with “Friends of the PR Department Award” for their sustained relationship with the department in giving lectures and training students in internship during Semester I. Ms. Indira Dutt, Chairman, SCWEC, gave the inaugural address. Ms. Janaka Pushpanathan, USEFI, moderated the discussion on social entrepreneurship. Mr. Rama Subramaniam, Chief Samanvaya, gave the presidential address on Social Entrepreneurship and its role today.



Department of Fine Arts – “Celebrating the Cultural Line” – Exhibition as part of Chennai Sangamam Festival, January 2009.



Department of Zoology - “Ex-zoobition” – the highlight of the exhibition was the section on Global Warming



Seminar on “Mathematical Modeling” in Industry, 24 February, 2009. Resource Person – Prof. Thomas Götz and Prof. Rene Pinnau, TU Kaiserslautern, Germany and Valedictory Address – Prof. S. Sundar, Head, Department of Mathematics, IIT Madras

Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability

The National Seminar on Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability organized by the Department of Social Work, 5-6 March 2009, was the outcome of an endeavor initiated in 2006 to sensitise students on Social Entrepreneurship. The concept of Social Entrepreneurship is becoming popular globally and is today recognized as a culture which is to be inculcated in every person. Social entrepreneurship aims at having positive social objectives and a commitment which comes from altruistic social services that business provides in the field of health, education, development, environment, infrastructure and others. It has communitarian aspects which aid promoting community ownership, wherein the enterprise is owned by all the stakeholders by way of dividends and financial growth returns.

The seminar aimed at recognizing entrepreneurship for the social sector, by sensitizing and providing opportunities to cultivate entrepreneurial competencies. In order to address the emerging needs of wider society, emphasis was placed on catalyzing individuals to develop as change leaders, and creating enterprises with a social purpose that would in turn generate wealth, enhancing livelihood and sustainable development. The seminar also provided a unique opportunity for about two hundred students, scholars, faculty, and NGO personnel, to be inspired by and to interact with social entrepreneurs, gain insights into the dimensions and challenges of this sector, learn from existing models and evolve means to promote social entrepreneurship as a tool for social change. The participants formulated an action plan for three groups: Non Governmental Organisations /Community Based Organisations(CBOs), the Academe and the Corporate sector.

NGOs /CBOs

- Dissemination of the concept of Social Entrepreneurship
- Sensitization about the concept at the grassroots Capacity building
- Attitudinal change towards business principles unified with social ventures.
- Training for identification of enterprises

- Applying the Social Entrepreneurship through SHGs
- Use of local resources for development of villages
- Sound marketing and production strategies should be adopted.
- Networking between corporates, NGOs, educational institutions, Entrepreneurship Development Institutes
- Mentoring and handholding to be given by experienced organizations for sustainability of social enterprises

ACADEME

- To enhance value addition to courses, educational institutions to formulate a separate syllabus to cover definition, models and characteristics of social entrepreneurship
- Courses to form a chapter in Social Work/Social Science curriculum: workshop, specialization in the programme, certificate, diploma course etc.
- Internship - Field placement and block placement of students in social enterprises
- Youth to be provided opportunity to attend seminars on social entrepreneurship
- Participation of all sexes
- Research on the possibilities of setting up of social enterprises
- Research on existing social enterprises
- Setting up of a data bank on social enterprises for support and networking
- Documentation of success stories
- Social entrepreneurship to provide scope for service learning projects of institutions
- To network NGOs and students for long term planning and programme sustainability

CORPORATES

- Corporate Social Responsibility to be used to further social entrepreneurship.

- Skills of corporate persons to be used for capacity building
- Attitudinal change and orientation of corporate personnel toward social enterprises
- Funding of social enterprises
- Marketing of social enterprises
- Support
- Monitoring
- Advocacy

The seminar generated remarkable dividends in various forms: the identification of new interest, scholarship and insight into entrepreneurial activity. The New Indian Express report on the proceedings that all the initiatives undertaken will work towards 'beating the slump blues', empowering individuals and the transforming society, reiterates the Department's commitment to agency.

Priya Mary George
Faculty, Department of Social Work

RATIONALIZING RESERVATIONS

In India, two conflicting standards define equality. On the one hand, the legal system takes cognizance of the liberty and fundamental right of the individual to equality; while on the other, social legitimacy for considerations of caste, class, religion and creed persists. The Indian Constitution, ironically, tries to correct the unequal treatment of individuals arising from the historical discrimination that makes certain groups "more equal than others", by giving the disadvantaged groups certain privileges. Thus, as Galanter observes, the Constitution of India is a "compromise of competing equalities". Reservation Policy is the manifestation in the government executive of this compromise, and is, as such, tied to several questions of identity and prioritization. The legal terms "Other Backward Classes", "Scheduled Castes" and "Scheduled Tribes" are themselves collective for individual caste identities, such as that of the Nai, the Mahar, the Khasi or the Lingayat, the members of each of which, in turn, claim to belong to one of the four Varnas – Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaisya or Sudra.

India has been independent for over sixty years and several of those disadvantaged economically and educationally by birth-status have, in these years, moved out of poverty. However, as P. Sainath notes in his "Everybody Loves a Good Drought", Adivasis in poor districts form a disproportionately low figure in the higher education system. This remains the rationale behind Reservation Policy. However, increasing additions to Reserved lists as well as agitations by groups that formerly clamoured for "forward" status, to be recognized as "backward", have caused concerns regarding the creation of a "creamy layer" of those who are no longer underprivileged, and yet remain eligible to avail of quotas meant for the Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes. The moot point in the issue is how many of those who are included in Reserved lists actually face denial of opportunity because of the following:

- Economic poverty
- Social discrimination and exclusion

- Educational deprivation owing to social status or unavailability of quality primary and secondary institutions
- Lack of educated family background
- Denial of opportunity owing to location
- Discrimination owing to gender, physical handicap etc.

The National Commission for Backward Classes has recommended the exclusion of the creamy layer from Other Backward Class (OBC) lists in educational institutions. The policy is already in practice in employment. Since the Supreme Court ruling of 17 July 2007 favouring 27% reservations for OBCs in centrally supported “prestige” institutions like IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) and IIMs (Indian Institutes of Management), the central government has agreed to consider the idea of hiving off the creamy layer from the quota, as per the recommendations of the apex court.

The inclusion of the creamy layer has resulted thus far in the unfair distribution of the benefits of Reservation to the economically and politically powerful among “backward” groups, rather than those really deserving of social consideration. Justice Desai quotes the Rane Commission: “We have found, on applying relevant tests and on the basis of the evidence on record, that certain castes/communities or classes of people are backward, but, only lower income groups amongst them are socially and educationally backward.” In his concluding remarks in the case, Desai says that the inclusion of economic criteria in reservations would strike, in one blow at the derogatory caste system and at the disabling poverty – the two great obstacles in India’s way (K.C. Vasanth Kumar and another vs. State of Karnataka 1985).

The National Commission to review the working of the Constitution (2002) points out, “Reservation was intended to be part of a comprehensive package of an entire gamut of economic, educational and social measures. This comprehensive package has not been provided in its fullness. Consequently, reservation alone by itself has not been able to bring about the total social transformation envisaged in the Constitution.” The commission therefore recommended that the government set up residential schools for students from the Other Backward Class, Scheduled Castes and Tribes, separately for boys and girls, in every district. Similarly, the commission also recommended, as Ambedkar had recommended pre-independence as a member of the Franchise Commission, that the state sponsor economically backward, promising students for education in private schools and colleges in India and abroad. The Commission also recommends that the government offer students from the Scheduled groups and Other Backward Classes the incentive to study further in vo-

educational and technical fields. The Commission’s report exhorts: “Social policy should aim at enabling the SC, ST and BC (including BC minorities and especially the More and Most Backward Classes among BCs) and with particular attention to the girls in each of these categories to compete on equal terms with the general category.” Preparation for competition on equal terms, not reduction of standards to fit in – is obviously the emphasis.

Quotas are not the most transparent way of making sure that the really deprived are compensated for the loss that society, in the past, and government follies in the present, have caused them. The American model of affirmative action is the glittery red ball in the sky to most critics of reservation. However, Affirmative Action in the US is not without its faults. While it has helped a large number of Black Americans to rise from the vestigial legacy of slavery and segregation, AA in the US is as pro-creamy-layer as reservations in India. Though no formal quotas have been prescribed (courts in the US have consistently struck down formal and rigid quotas), in effect colleges do admit a certain quota of minorities (Blacks, Hispanics and Asians – though the Asians as the “model minority” are the least here) by AA. As these quotas are not prescribed, and as the colleges have to do no more than keep the 14th Amendment (in favour of equality for Blacks and Whites) in mind while they admit students, for example a rich Black from Exeter Academy, would be no different to them from a poor Black from Harlem.

No doubt Affirmative Action on the American Model has its share of benefits and has helped a number of Blacks. However, this cannot be applied to India as the circumstances here are very different. Firstly, there is no explicit census record, and making one is an extremely difficult task. Further, AA is far from being impeccable in its idea of offering the benefits of a developing society to its least advantaged and it does not make sense to adopt a model that is neither culturally suited, nor irreproachable in its approach, in place of one that is making unreasonable demands on the people. Most importantly, our Constitution explicitly requires that some form of protective discrimination be applied. Far more applicable to the Indian scene would be the model that the Jawaharlal Nehru University followed until the recent imposition of OBC quotas in centrally supported institutions. The JNU system takes account of disabilities of all kinds – gender, economic status, background and environment. A total of ten deprivation points were awarded to students based on the following.

- Gender and caste (10 points for an OBC woman, 5 for an OBC man). This excludes the creamy layer as listed in the Department of Personnel and Training’s lists, as well as all income tax payers

- District of origin. For this the districts of each state are classified into two Quartiles (excluding the well-developed districts) based on average literacy in the district, number of agricultural labourers and the average agricultural produce. Quartile 1 is given five points and Quartile 2, three points
- All Kashmiri Immigrants receive five points
- All dependents on military personnel, killed or injured during military service receive five points.

The Scheduled Castes and Tribes are given reservation as per the constitution. This system is preferable to the existing policy because it not only successfully removes the creamy layer and takes account of inequality of all kinds, but also is not a quota system. It does not disregard merit, in that there are only ten deprivation points. No one who has done badly may unfairly benefit out of this policy, but those who have had to struggle to make it to college are duly compensated. Similar policies have been designed by others, notably Professor Prushottam Agrawal of JNU who formulated the Multiple Index Related Affirmative Action (MIRAA). He asks, “Can we say that a pupil from a panchayat school in Bihar is equipped to compete with an alumnus of Doon School on an equal footing even if both of them belong to the same caste group?” As Prof. Agrawal sees it, MIRAA is not a substitute for entrance tests or interviews but only the final step in selection. It regards caste/tribe, gender, place of schooling, type of schooling, and status as first generation learner as valid criteria and gives them, an aggregate of 30 points. This policy is, again, a much more transparent and competitive alternative to reservations. It does not, for one, endorse quotas at all. Secondly, it takes into account type of schooling (which could be for instance under a Government Educational Scheme, in which case the candidate would receive points) and status as first generation learner, thereby effectively eliminating “creamy layer” complications. Thirdly, all deserving candidates, irrespective of caste or religion are considered. Though caste is a factor, it is not the be all and end all of the system, nor even the one dominant criterion. Religion is not mentioned at all. The place of schooling, as well, could be important. Agrawal cites the example of a Brahmin student of his who had swum to school all his life, with students of all other castes.

Satish Deshpande and Yogendra Yadav wrote of a similar plan in *The Hindu*. They, however, included religious minority status as a criterion. The great advantage these plans have over caste-based reservations is that, while they do consider group disadvantage, the benefit centres on the condition of the individual. It is the individual’s ability or otherwise to earn, his/her income, gender, place of origin and type of schooling that are taken into consideration. Further, the removal of quotas makes

these schemes more compatible with various degrees of various forms of discrimination. Their disadvantage lies in the fact that in India, income certificates are some of the most easily forged documents for the politically powerful. Therefore, the economic criterion might turn entirely into a sham and a farce. Caste certificates have also, of course, known to have been forged. However, it does not make good sense to replace one corruptible system with another. Still, the Deshpande-Yadav model, MIRAA and JNU’s former test of backwardness are far more comprehensive and to some degree more progressive (they do not consider purely cultural features) than the system that exists.

Sneha Krishnan
III BA History

Excerpted from “Rationalizing Reservations”, a paper presented by Sneha at the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations On-Campus Conference on 20th February 2009. The Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) is a programme organized by the student community at Harvard University and brings together academic minds from around the world every year, in three conferences, two in Asia and one on the Harvard Campus. Sneha was the only Indian undergraduate who was selected for this programme.

Stella Maris and The Eastern Iowa Community College District

"After a long time a college course has affected my life in a significant way. I have started carrying a cloth bag with me all the time to avoid using plastic bags. I'll never regret putting in those extra hours for this course. It has been fun filled as well as enriching".

Janani Ganesan (II BA Economics)

March 2009 marked the completion of the third successful year of the of the project "Towards a More Connected World: Piloting an Innovative Professional Exchange Programme" between Stella Maris College and EICCD, USA, funded by the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges.

'Contemporary Issues' is an innovative, interdisciplinary course offered by the Economics Department of Stella Maris College to students of both Stella Maris and EICCD. The course was designed to sharpen understanding and open up dialogue between various segments such as Religion and Politics, Environment, Family and Society and Economics. The teachers were in the role of moderators. The floor belonged to the students. As Janani Ganesan comments, " We could fling in new ideas, twist the old ones, borrow some great ones, and at the end of the day we would have put our brains to good use."

Video conferencing became a matter of necessity. The video conferences with Jeff Armstrong (Dean, Muscatine Community College and International Education Director, EICCD), the architect of the course, and also with the students of the Muscatine Community College (MCC), Iowa,

United States, indeed raised the bar of learning. The amount of reading and listening the Iowa students had done, caught Stella Maris students off-guard. As one of the students remarked, "we learnt a lot from them that day, to mention one - being prepared by simply updating oneself." The topic of discussion was global warming. The topic had been decided in the beginning of the semester. Classes had begun discussions, and points of view, thoughts and ideas were posted on the website <http://www.mcc-india.blogspot.com/> well before the conference. This was a different kind of academic experience and students seemed to enjoy it.

Even the students, who kept to themselves in class, seemed to have saved up all the energy for a war of written words. Blogging provided a comfort level, in a way, readying the ground for serious discussions. Al Gore's 'An Inconvenient Truth' was the text/film that students viewed and analysed. Together with their observations, they also submitted answers to questions on Climate Change already posted on the blog. A counterpoint exercise by the students at Muscatine set in motion a lively and interesting exchange of ideas. Students calculated carbon footprints and analysed the variations with their counterparts on the other side of the globe. It was 7 am at Stella Maris and 9 pm at Muscatine. Across time and distance neighborhoods were connecting. Simple beginnings with complex possibilities.

Benita Marian
Faculty, Department of Social Work
Coordinator, SMC-EICCD Project

Education: The Reality of the Learner

We arrive at college with expectations about classes and what we should get out of them, anxious about our skills and abilities and the environment we are about to enter into. We know that we need to eventually create our own lives, and we hope that whatever we pick up in college will help us to do this. The world, we know, needs credentials: university degrees do promise better opportunities. No doubt acquiring skills and knowledge is a necessary part of college education, but it seems to me that this is not the only thing that matters.

The classes I enjoy are those that require me to think, to work out texts for myself. When classes are done it's rewarding to know that I have understood texts in my own way—that I have, in a way, made them relevant to me. Referring to critical materials will no doubt supplement understanding of a text, but to do that without first figuring out our own responses means missing out on the process that so often makes a text engaging and meaningful. To impress on a class the necessity to stick to a particular reading of a text sometimes does remove the possibility of class discussions since, if one reading is already put forward as authoritative, other readings automatically become insignificant.

So often, classes are a matter of passive listening to lectures, writing down notes and reproducing the same for exams. Of course theoretical knowledge is necessary, but I don't personally see any point in memorizing concepts without being able to make sense of them. Accumulating information will probably result in good grades, perhaps in better work opportunities, but nothing more. I don't know what method of learning ensures good results in examinations; then again, maybe exams shouldn't be used as a yardstick to measure how much we have learnt.

Why not make the most of having forty something very different people with very different ways of thinking sitting together in a classroom? Once during a lunchtime conversation, I noticed that Dalrymple's "At The

Court of the Fish-Eyed Goddess" prompted different responses. Many factors seemed to have shaped our responses to the text: familiarity with the location that the text describes, our sense of belonging and, for some of us, the awareness of being an outsider. We couldn't settle on one reading because every response seemed to always exclude some people while including others. At the same time—although we didn't talk about it—it was equally difficult to recognize that there were different points of view that coexisted and that no point of view could be any more or any less accurate than another.

I could tell that nearly all of us were uneasy at the time, but we didn't talk about our fears. It was an uncomfortable conversation to have; it was a pleasant lunch and we didn't want any argument. Is it possible to have the same conversation in a classroom? Perhaps then we could really talk about it—if only because the classroom has the potential to turn a conversation like that into an occasion for learning. Not that we would find solutions—I don't think there is any—but it would be good to just be able to talk about it, to make sense of differences, to know that it is okay to be different and to think differently.

Come to think of it, perhaps we were afraid—afraid that by acknowledging alternatives to our point of view, we would lose control over our reality. Certainly it makes sense to feel threatened by points of view and ways of living that differ from those we are used to. Unfamiliar ways of thinking and being are very much an unknown world: we feel intimidated and vulnerable because we are unaccustomed to its ways. Expressions of hatred and violence so often develop from our reluctance to recognize and to understand things and people we don't know.

The fact is, though, despite our apprehensions, other worlds must nevertheless exist. We can choose to avoid them but the way I see it, in doing this we will only continue to feel threatened by and be suspicious of those worlds we do not understand. We can alternatively try

to understand them—a little at a time. If we can't talk to one another, the odds are that disagreements and feelings of distrust will end in aggressive confrontations.

Being part of a class and a college community gives us access to worlds outside our own. There is therefore potential for conversations. It seems necessary, as Amartya Sen argues, to recognize diversities as part of our learning process and that it is possible to “use our reasoning to decide how to see ourselves” (Outlook), because education cannot in the end isolate itself from social realities. For it to be meaningful education has to take in the reality of the learner; what it teaches must, in some way, help the learner cope with that reality. Our freedom as individuals accommodates our comprehension of the world, dreams of the world, and judgment of the world (Freire 47), so that reality is always made up of conflicts between needs, dreams, and freedoms. Freire maintains that effective education needs to consider these tensions that persist between individual demands and social reality, such that it can enable students to deal well with them (48-49).

I need education—in whatever form—to help me figure out ways to fit into the many forms of belonging; to figure out what compromises to make and if I should make them. I also need to know that my thinking matters and that I can rely on it to make my choices. Because sometimes skills, knowledge and credentials fail to give us the assurance we need, and when they do, something must remain of education to pull us through.

Nirmala Iswari
II MA English

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THREE LITTLE QUESTIONS

Three Little Questions: What is Education? Who is Educating? Who is Being Educated?

As I wander through the myriad books and libraries lodged in the passages of my mind, I am trying to trace some semblance of a pattern, an evolution of academia, if you will. I find that most of my early memories, from the day I first opened my Sociology textbook in school and fell in love, are filled with Europe, America and the enigma of India. I also remember feeling great awe at the European intelligentsia, a little smug condescension at the Americans, and a mad rush of delight and pride, every time I read about the inexplicable contradictions and beauty of India. My India, an India that I realise now, has almost totally eluded me. I want to delve a little deeper into these memories, and predictably, I burrow deep into my cocoon of Social Theory, looking for an answer, and of course, as ever, I find none.

I am haunted by that old demon of cool objectivity and academic distance. But I have also come to realise that if we are to make any sort of dent in the way we teach and learn things, we have to unlearn this exalted “objectivity”. I am not suggesting a delirious rush into polemical paradise, neither am I undermining the value of objectivity in social research or our lives. What I am suggesting is the reformulation of an ethical commitment to learning, to understand and advocate learning as change—a sometimes chaotic and wonderfully unsettling change. As students and academics alike—people who have been through the conventional academic system—most of our ideas, perceptions and information are strongly rooted within it; whether one is supporting it or critiquing it. Our notions of elite and proletarian, access to education, national and cultural pride, and authority per se are very often coded within a rationalist, inevitably colonial context. How then does power operate within pedagogy?

Gayathri Spivak, postcolonial and literary theorist, in her book “Outside, in the Teaching Machine”, speaks of how constructing the “margin” is a dangerous task. It runs the risk of being created within the cast of the coloniser or indeed, the colonised. Academia speaks for the subaltern and the Third World, thus placing themselves in the realm of the privileged.

She goes on to state that decolonised regions appropriate “concept- metaphors” of Europe’s narrative which are often misplaced or are irrelevant to a postcolonial space. Language in this context becomes particularly problematic. It is no longer a unifying agent of transmission as Pierre Bourdieu, a French sociologist envisions it. Language and discourse are in fact, central to pedagogic authority.

For Michel Foucault, “Discourse is structured by assumptions within which any speaker must operate in order to be heard as meaningful”. The violence of jargon and “expert” knowledge constitute the basis of pathologising the working classes. Bourdieu emphasises the importance of what he terms “linguistic capital” which is transmitted in the early years of a child’s life and is a key factor in his or her admittance into a societal niche and categorises him/her: “language can ultimately cease to be an instrument of communication and serve instead as an instrument of incantation . . . to attest and impose the pedagogic authority of the communication and the content communicated”. Thus, it is not so much the actual content of what is communicated or transmitted, but the legitimacy of the authority enforced. Pedagogic Authority overshadows content to the point where people accept the content irrespective of its implications or relevance, so long as it travels through the legitimate channels.

It seems to me, that this legitimacy has become increasingly significant and problematic, especially in recent years. In a virulently capitalist system like ours, success mantras are the most important things in our lives. So much so that issues of argument, criticality and knowledge for knowledge’s sake—“non-useful” knowledge, if there is such a thing, are all swiftly going out of style. In my own field of social science, Social Theory came as a method of critique, enquiry and dissection. The constant thrill of newness, the fear of old mistakes, that one, perfect moment as we listen to a lecturer, when everything falls into place, only to disappear the next instant leaving us dazzled. The value of critique and deconstruction lies in these places, where we find ourselves renewed and replenished, throughout our lives. The decay of criticality in academia has been perpetrated by the patriarchal authority of the “right” knowledge, the “right” critique and the “right” names. We have effectively destroyed its spirit.

Indeed, it is the lack of the one answer that makes the human condition and education with it, so challenging and refreshing.

Power lies at the heart of this process, what Bourdieu refers to as “Pedagogic Violence”. This violence inhabits all our worlds, as teachers, students, parents and ‘outsiders’ who stand at the hallowed gates of legitimate knowledge, and gaze at it with wistful eyes, unable to actually touch it. In the last fifty years, the world has become smaller, but its rifts have become deeper and wider. We have touched the lofty spires of a thousand cloud castles, and continue to do so. If my thoughts have read like a lament, I must apologise. It is only because I love what I do, and truly believe that learning and education are the last bastions of a revolution, if one can occur, that I feel compelled to say these things.

Ultimately, as Apple points out in his book, “Cultural Politics and Education”, curriculum is never neutral. “It is always part of a selective tradition, someone’s education, . . . some group’s vision of legitimate knowledge”. In trying to reach everyone, and provide education to all, one cannot lose sight of what one is trying to “teach”. Neither a “mosaic” pattern of assimilation nor a “melting pot” pattern of integration can fully address the multiplicity of issues concerning the right to knowledge; as indeed, no single approach can.

Three little questions that Peter Trifonas poses in his book, well worth asking and trying to answer to our own selves, echo through the consecrated halls of ancient universities, down the corridors of good schools in respectable neighbourhoods, through thatched roofs of dingy night-schools in tiny villages of developing nations; within the vast spectrum oscillating between classical knowledge, techno-scientific skills, the pledge to bring basic literacy to all peoples and the infinite battles that are fought over accolades, autonomy and access. These questions may just lead us down braver, albeit harder paths:

“What is Education, Who is Educating and Who is being Educated?”

Anjana Raghavan

Faculty, Department of Sociology



NCC Cadets in Delhi

The NCC with its visionary aim of empowering the youth of the nation has since inception inspired the cadets of Stella Maris 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 have won laurels for this great institution.

The air wing cadets had a splendid vacation in the month of May trekking in the Nilgiris at the Ooty Trekking camp from 7-21 May 2008. The first year cadets were enrolled in the month of June and were initiated into NCC life at the Annual Inaugural Camp at the Beasant Scouting camp. It is the second year cadets of the college who compete for the main State and National level competitions leading to Thal Sainik Camp (TSC) at New Delhi, the Vayu Sainik Camp (VSC) at Bangalore and the Republic Day Camp at New Delhi. The Combined Annual Training Camp for

the army wing cadets was from 4-14 June 2008 where our second year cadets excelled. Cdt Christable Edwin of the Commerce department won the silver medal in the Best Cadet competitions, gold medal in Individual Drill and gold medal in the Oratorical Competitions. Cdt Reema Singhi of the Zoology department won the gold medal as Best Thal Sainik cadet and Cdt Shantini of the Chemistry department won the silver medal as Best Thal Sainik cadet. The Stella Maris contingent also won the medal in Contingent Drill and the cultural competitions.

The Combined Annual Training Camp was followed by intensive training in obstacles and firing for the Thal Sainik cadets which culminated in the pre IGC at Avadi from 22 June-1 July and the Inter Group Competitions at Trichy from 3-14 July 2008. At this prestigious state level competition, Cdt Reema Singhi, won a gold medal in the exam on health and hygiene. Cdt Shantini won the gold medal in firing. The Thal Sainik launch camps were from 8-16 August and then again from 9-19 September 2008. The TSC Delhi was from 2 September - 5 October. Cdt Reema Singhi was selected as the state representative for the written exams. She won one gold medal and three silver medals in the individual category in Delhi. The senior wing of the girls contingent won the first place in Delhi.

The Inter Group Competitions - IGC RDC training camps commenced in the month of July with the Annual Training Camp (ATC) at Avadi. This was followed by three more training camps leading to the Republic Day Inter Group competitions held in Madurai from 4-14 September. The cadets selected for this state level competition were Cdt Christable, Cdt Satyalakshmi, Cdt Margaret Dorothy of the Commerce department, Cdt Surekha and Cdt Anitha Nancy of the Zoology department, Cdt Lavanya of the Chemistry department, Cdt Chandran Ravi Priya and Cdt Jenny of the Sociology department. At the Inter Group competition Cdt Christable won the silver medal as Best Cadet.

The air wing cadets had their Combined Annual Training Camp from 14-23 June. F/C Sissy Augustine and F/C Leema were selected for the Vayu

Sainik Training camps leading to the IGC VSC at Salem from 8-17 August. During this camp F/C Leema won the gold medal for firing. The Vayu Sainik launch camps were held in Coimbatore from 23 September–11 October. The All India Vayu Sainik competition was held in Bangalore from 12-24 October. F/C Leema of the History department was selected as the state representative for the firing competition. She was adjudged the best firer. F/C Meghna was the only flight cadet of our college to be selected for the Republic Day training camps. At the Ms. and Mr. NCC personality development competitions conducted by the NCC Directorate, CUO Arunima of the BCA department and F/C Meghna Mukesh were among the finalists. F/C Meghna won the silver medal in this competition.

In keeping with the motto of the NCC to be socially responsive, the Cadets of Stella Maris also participated in several rallies and awareness programmes conducted by the State Government. They also participated in the 'Save the Girl Child' campaign conducted by the Madras Group A of the NCC. The social service activities organized by our cadets were 'Anand Marg' on the 22 September 2008 for the little children at Shanti Bhavan. It was baby's day out with good food, games and gifts. 'Aasha' was organized on 18 November to spread awareness about organ donation, and conducted with assistance from the Multi Organ Donation and Harvesting Aid Network. 'Upahaar' was organized on 10 December, during which the cadets helped the Ashok Nagar District library in labeling, indexing and ordering over 3000 books. The cadets also donated books to the library. 'Dhrithi' was organized on 17 December to share the joy of Christmas with the children and other inmates of Udhavum Karangal.

At the A. L. Mudaliar Annual sports meet held in October 2008 the Stella Maris NCC contingent won the second place in the march past competition. December is the month for the Inter-Company competitions and camp during which the four companies Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta earnestly begin to compete for the Best Company of the year banner. Bravo Company won the banner for the year 2008-09.

The Republic Day training camps commenced in the month of November and Cdt Surekha of the Zoology department, Cdt Satyalakshmi and Cdt Christable of the Commerce department and Cdt Chandran Ravi Priya and Cdt Jenny of the Sociology department were selected. The cadets were part of several competitions including NIAP, Contingent Drill and cultural competitions. Three cadets were eventually selected for the Republic Day Camp at New Delhi – Cdt Surekha, Cdt Satyalakshmi and Cdt Chandran Ravi Priya. Cdt Surekha was selected to march on the Rajpath on 26 January and Cdt Satyalakshi was selected for the Prime Minister's

Rally. Cadets of the college were also selected to participate in the Madras Republic Day parade. SUO Divya Ajith and Cdt Reema Singhi were among the four cadets chosen from the state of Tamil Nadu for the special SSB training camp at Gwalior in the month of January. Cadets also participated in National Integration Camps held in New Delhi, Haryana, Assam, and Jaipur. Several among them were selected to attend the Army Attachment Camp at Secunderabad.

Stella Maris NCC Company hosted its Inter Collegiate NCC championship 'CADOSTAR' on the 21 and 22 February 2009. Commodore Sartaj Imam, Deputy Director General NCC inaugurated the event. A total of 15 colleges participated. The various competitions included contingent drill, individual drill, cross country, obstacles, guards, quiz, communication, first aid, map reading, best cadet competitions, best Thal Sainik competition, GK, GSK, IQ and cultural competitions. The F/C of the college competed as part of the Tamil Nadu Air Squadron. F/C Geraldine Smith of the Economics department won the gold medal in the Best Cadet competition and F/C Janet Vidya of the Physics department won the silver medal. Geraldine also won the Cherry Blossom award for best turn-out and F/C Leema of the History department won the best Parade Commander award. The air squadron was adjudged the best girls contingent.

The first year cadets of the college appeared for the B certificate examination on 1 March 2009 and the second and third year cadets appeared for the C certificate examination on 15 March. The cadets of the college participated in the Intercollegiate NCC competition Cadofest in March 2009 and were awarded several medals. F/C Janet Vidya won the first place as Best Cadet. Other prizes were won in Debate, Acolyte, Maitri, Flag Area and the Cultural events.

Ex Senior Under Officer Meera Rajan was commissioned as an Army Officer from the Officers Training Academy in March 2009. She was awarded for her academic excellence during the Course and has been posted to Kargil.

NCC Day, the grand finale of the year's activities was celebrated on 27 February 2009. Group Captain S R Gharpure was the Chief Guest. The events on the day included the Ceremonial Guard of Honour and the Platoon drill marched to the tune of the Officers Training Academy anthem. Meritorious cadets received awards on the occasion.

Jai Hind!

Dolly Thomas
Faculty, Department of History
NCC Officer

The National Service Scheme (NSS) has been an integral part of the academic programme at Stella Maris College since 1969. The NSS Unit provides each of its members with a significant context in which she can arrive at a deeper understanding of social reality as part of university education. The NSS unit has three officers from the faculty – Millie Nihila, Department of Economics, Anne Samuel, Department of Fine Arts and Sr. Lourthu Mary, fmm, Department of Social Work. There are totally 325 registered NSS volunteers who volunteer with 22 NGOs. The NSS collaborates with various Government and Non-Government, National and International agencies like UNICEF, Action AID, TANSAC, APAC,

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Department of Police, Tamil Nadu Tourism and Culture, Sports Development and Youth Welfare, Lions and Rotaract club. Camps serve to provide valuable learning experience to the volunteers. This year's camp, attended by 86 volunteers, offered sessions on gender equity and personality development, and provided the opportunity for an interface with victims of the Bhopal Gas tragedy.

Stella Maris College hosted the State Award Function for the best NSS volunteers, programme officers and programme coordinators for the year 2006–07 and 2007–08 in collaboration with the NSS cell of Tamil Nadu and Department Collegiate Education. Dr. Poppy Kannan, NSS Coordinator, Reader and Head Department of Social Work received the Best NSS Programme Officer Award for the year 2006–07.

In September the NSS Cultural extravaganza, 'Spica 08' was organized in collaboration with the NSS unit of the University of Madras and Lions Club International District 324-A5. More than 2000 students from 50 colleges came together and showcased their talent and potential. Ethiraj College emerged the overall winner.

Catherine Usha, from the department of Commerce represented the University of Madras at the National Integration Camp at Rani Durga Devi University, Madhya Pradesh where she won third place. T. Sindhu and N. Suriya from the Department of Sociology, and S. Muthukumari from the Department of History represented Madras University at the National Integration camp for girl volunteers at Tanku, Andhra Pradesh, and won the first prize in the quiz competition. Diana Tressa Mary, senior volunteer from the Department of Zoology has been nominated by the University of Madras to participate in Training Programme for Young Leaders in Japan this year. Nandhini from the Department of Fine Arts participated in the Camp at Calicut. She was also selected to represent the south zone at the inter university cultural held at Calicut. Our volun-

Host performance - Spica 2008



teers took part in the NSS cultural and academic events at Loyola College, Ethiraj College, MOP Vaishnav, Queen Mary's College, University of Madras and the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development and won prizes at various events. Nandhini from the Department of Fine Arts won first prize in collage and R. Nimija won the first prize for the poster presentation and received a cash award of Rs.500 at the Indian Society for Cultural Cooperation and Friendship. Students participated in the tree planting and Green Awareness programme organized by the Department of Tamil Nadu Tourism Development at the Island grounds.

A large contingent of NSS volunteers observed World Disability Day, World HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women. The contingent also took part in the candle vigil rally against terrorism, Chennai Marathon Walkathon to support the physically challenged and the elderly, Palliative Care Peace March, Run for a Cause organized by Chennai Sangamam and International Day Against Drug Abuse. Students and Programme Officers participated in the aware-

Students in action



ness campaigns in the cause of Adolescent Diabetics, Clean Marina, and Safety of Pedestrians. NSS was part of Independence Day celebration, Children's Day celebration, Conference on Entrepreneurship, HIV/AIDS Workshop, state level seminar on Human Rights, training on gender issues, youth leadership and Friends of Police. Students participated in a one week pilot training on gender equity and a workshop on youth and climate change for action organized by the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development. The NSS students assisted in the organization of elections for the Visually Challenged Association. NSS volunteers scribe on a regular basis for the visually challenged in Little Flower Convent, Lotus Blind and Good Will Foundation. They were involved in the programme organized by the Leo Club Handi Park to conduct various sports events for special children from Chennai city. The NSS also conducted a one day eye camp with professional and technical support extended by Uma Eye Clinic, Anna Nagar. 200 students and staff benefited through the programme.

A day was dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi and a workshop organized to educate the students about the need for peace in collaboration with the Gandhi Peace Foundation, Chennai. On 2 October, 2008 students participated in a prayer service organized by Gandhi Peace Foundation. Five senior volunteers had an opportunity to interview the Madras High Court Judge Mr. Rathinavel on constitutional rights, which was broadcast by Doordharshan on 2 March, 2009.

We specially thank the management, Secretary Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, Principal Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras, fmm, Sr. Susan, fmm, the Superior of the Convent and the Vice President of the Society of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, for their support and encouragement. We take this opportunity to thank the Vice Principals, Academic Deans, Deans of Students Affairs, Head and Faculty of all the Departments, Sr. Hilda, fmm, and her team, Sr. Ann Mathew, fmm, Sr. Flavia, fmm, Dr. Margaret Clarence, the Controller of Examinations and the Administrative and Supportive staff for being with us in our mission to provide a conducive environment for the youth to grow with maturity and integrity.

Sr. Lourthu Mary, fmm
Faculty, Department of Social Work
NSS Coordinator

March past on Sports Day



Major Sports and Games Activities : 2008-2009

Stella Maris College has a rich tradition of winning prizes in sports and games thanks to the active support and encouragement of the Management and their assistance to the students to hone their athletic skills.

Mridula Rajiv, III B.A. Economics, was selected to represent the country in Swimming in the 'Rescue Games 2008' held at Berlin between 18 and 27 July 2008. The event is recognized by the International Olympic Committee. At the National Level and the University Intercollegiate Swimming

Tournament, Mridula won Gold medals in 50 metres Free Style and 50 m Backstroke and Silver medals in Breast Stroke and Butterfly Stroke.

The College Lawn Tennis team, comprising O. Tabussum Fathima, II B.C.A, and J. Rithika, II B.Com, won first prize and received a Rs.10,000 cash award in the National Level Inter collegiate Tournament conducted by VIT, Vellore. The team also secured second place in the CMC Vellore National Level Inter Collegiate Tournament. Tabussum Fathima was selected to represent Tamil Nadu State in Lawn Tennis and she secured second place at the National Sports Festival for Women held at Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh. In the Madras University B. Zone Tennis Inter Collegiate as well as the Inter Zone Tournament, our College team won the first place. O. Tabussum Fathima, J. Rithika, Shahin Ansari and Prarthana Pattabhi were the members of the team.

Shahin Ansari, I B.A. Economics, and Prarthana Pattabhi, I. B.A. Fine Arts, were selected to represent Madras University at the South Zone Tournament at Gwalior and they qualified to participate in the All India Inter University tennis tournament held at New Delhi from 4 March 2009 – 7 March 2009. Our College team won the First place in the State Level Inter Collegiate Tennis Tournament conducted by St. Joseph's College of Engineering held on 14 and 15 March 2009. Our team also won first place in the Ethiraj College Intercollegiate tournament held on 25 February 2009.

The Table Tennis team comprising J. Swarna, II M.Sc Biotechnology, M. Antony Mary Steffina, III. B.Com, Aswita Srinivas, III BCA, and R. Addithree, I BCA, secured the Runners Up position in the National Level Table Tennis tournament conducted by CMC Vellore from 16–19 July 2008. The team also secured the Runners Up position in the VESPO National Level Inter Collegiate TT Tournament held on 28 July 2008 and the State Level Inter collegiate TT Tournament held on 6–7 August 2008. In the IIT Sports Fest 2008, N. Sathybhama, II B. Com, won the Gold Medal. The team won first place in the following tournaments: the JBAS State Level Tournament held on 5–6 January 2009, the Millennium Trophy TT Tournament



conducted by Dr. MGR Janaki College on 7 January 2009, the State Level Inter collegiate TT Tournament conducted by St. Josephs College of Engineering held on 14–15 March 2009, the Madras University B. Zone Inter Collegiate TT Tournament, and the South West TT Tournament held at Kuvempu University. J. Swarana and N. Sathyabhama of II B.Com were selected to represent the Madras University. They won the First Place in the All India Inter University Tournament held in December 2008 at Ranchi.

We have performed well in Hockey too. In the Bhatt Memorial Inter collegiate tournament at SDNB Vaishnav College held on 31 July 2008, our College team won first place after 10 years. In the Inter Collegiate Hockey tournament held at Nazareth College on 1 September 2008, our college team won the second place. Nine students from our college were selected to participate in the Madras University Inter Zone Tournament. In the Inter Zone tournament, our college secured second place. Five students from our college: V. Abinaya, III B.Com, Jagadeswari, III B.Com, V. Shanthi, II B.Com, R. Nishanthi, II. B.Sc Maths and M. Menaka, II B.Com were selected to represent Madras University. Jagadeswari, Santhi, Menaka and Abinyaya were selected to represent the Tamil Nadu State as well. Their team won the third place in the South Zone Junior Championship held at Thiruvananthapuram.

In Basket Ball, in the Madras University Inter Collegiate Tournament on 26 November 2008, our college secured third place. The following players have been selected to represent the Madras University B.

Zone: S.V. Ananya, II B.Com, V. Deepika, II. B.Com, D. George Anitha, II B.A. Literature, S. Kavitha I B.Com, Monica Devassy I B.A. Literature and Chitradevi, I BCA. S. Kavitha was selected to represent the Madras University and the team won first place in South Zone tournament held at Amaravathi. We were Runners Up in the All India Inter University Basket Ball Tournament held at Amritsar, in the IIT Sports Fest 2008 held at IIT, in the State Level Basket Ball Tournament conducted by JBAS College in January 2009. In the Rivera National Level tournament conducted by VIT, our college team secured third place and received a cash award of Rs.10,000.

In the Inter Collegiate Volley Ball Tournament held at Ethiraj College on 25 September 2008, our college team secured the Runners Up position. J. Rithika, II B.Com, S. Monika, I B.Com, D. Karuna, I B.Sc. Zoology and J. Evenjeline, III B.Com were selected to represent the Madras University B Zone. In the State Level ESPO tournament conducted by Ethiraj College on 9 January 2009, our college team secured third place.

In Chess we have to our credit very impressive wins this year. In the Madras University B. Zone Inter Collegiate tournament held on 21 and 22 August 2008, our college team secured first place, and in the Inter Zone tournament our college team secured second place. Our chess players are K. Pavithra, III. B.Com, Rajakumari Dona, III B.A. Sociology, S. Sangeetha, III B.Sc. Maths, C. Alagu, III B.Sc. Maths, Oasis Kalai, I B.Sc. Maths and Afreen Naushad, I B.Com. In the state level Inter Collegiate chess tournament conducted by D.G. Vaishnava College on 7 and 8 August 2008, our college secured the Runners Up position. In the National Level Inter Collegiate tournament conducted by CMC Vellore, 16–19 July 2008, our college team secured the Runners Up position. In the JBAS State Level Inter Collegiate tournament held on 5–6 January 2009, our college team won first place.



In Cricket, our college team participated in the Madras University Inter Collegiate tournament and secured third position. The following students were selected to represent the Madras University B. Zone: J. Rithika, II BCA, O. Tabussum Fathima, II B.Com, V.S. Saranya, I. B.Com and Millania, I B.Com.

We have also made our mark in Athletics. In the A.L. Mudaliar Athletic meet organized by Madras University on 15 October 2008, our college relay team secured third place in 4x400 meters relay. The following players formed the team: Tanya Marian Mc Farlane, II M.A. International Studies, Rosy Merlin, II B.Sc Maths, M. Divya I BCA and C. Shruthy, II BCA. Tanya secured third place in 100m hurdles. In the Madras University B. Zone Athletics meet held at Madras University Union, Tanya secured first place in 100m hurdles, second place in Triple Jump and second place in Long Jump; Divya secured second place in High Jump. Our students were impressive not just in Sports & Games, but in other disciplines such as Karate, Shooting, Archery and Golf as well. In the first Tamil Nadu State Open Archery Championship held on 17 November 2008 at J.J. Stadium, S. Bhagyalakshmi, I BSW, secured first place in the Junior Girls Category. She was also selected to represent Tamil Nadu for the National Archery Championship held at Jamshedpur, 24 November–4 December 2008. In the Tamil Nadu State Shooting Championship conducted by the Tamil Nadu Shooting Association, 5–7 September 2008, R. Radha Niranjini, III B.A. English, secured the following prizes: Skeet: first place; Double Trap Junior Women: second place and Double Trap Women: second place.

In Golf, Narayani Samyuktha, II B.Com, secured first place in the Cosmo Club Golf match conducted by Golf Club, Chennai. In the Invitation Mixed Doubles Golf Tournament conducted by Gymkhana Golf Club, she secured the second place. In the Rinex Cup Golf Tournament conducted by the Gymkhana Club, she secured the Winner's Title.

Our achievements in Sports and Games have been remarkable this year. We could significantly improve our positions in many more games and could secure more medals and more awards in various events. This year we had one International player, 11 University players, 11 State Players and 41 students representing the Madras University B. Zone. Our College also organized the Madras University Inter Collegiate and Inter Zone matches in Tennis. We hope to scale new heights in the coming years with our efforts to set up teams in new events, to improve infrastructure and to attract new talents.

Ancy Immanuel
Physical Directress

EDC REPORT

Empowerment of Rural Women Training Rural Women on Preparation of Herbal Products

Stella Maris College has set up an Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC) with the support of the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The main objective of the EDC is to promote Entrepreneurial Skills in women and motivate them to undergo skill development training to enhance self employment opportunities.

The college has conducted several programmes for the socio economic uplift of the rural women. With the support of NABARD, the college had earlier conducted Skill Development Training Programme for rural women of Thirupassur village on Fruit Processing and Preservation from 7-13 March 2007. Of the 27 women who underwent the training it is heartening to see that around 14 women have enhanced their economic status by self employment. The women are engaged in preparing and marketing juice, jam and pickles in a small way. The success of this programme motivated the faculty of the EDC of the college to impart training on the preparation of herbal products to the rural women belonging to various Women Self Help Groups of Tiruvallur District. The door-to-door campaign and personal interaction with the women of Tiruvallur district showed that the women were keen on attending such programmes to improve their quality of life. With the support of NABARD, the training programme was conducted for a batch of 25 rural women from 12-21 March 2009 at Thirupassur, Tiruvallur District.

The training was imparted by Dr. Prince Mohan, Indian Herbal Training and Research Institute, and Dr. Geetha Swaminathan, Vice Principal, Stella Maris College ably assisted by Ms. Ida Pakkia Seeli of the EDC. Other resource persons included Ms. Nirmala Alex, Faculty, Department of Social Work, Stella Maris College. The 25 trainees, who were members of Women Self Help Groups were given intensive skill development training with preparation of Herbal products like Herbal shampoo, pain balm, Axe oil, foot care cream, hair oil, hair conditioner, fairness

cream and anti-dandruff oil. The trainees were motivated to become quality entrepreneurs. The technical input sessions have helped them to work towards high income generation through self employment.

The trainees were exposed to motivational sessions to build self confidence and enhance self esteem. They were given inputs on goal setting, working to a plan and identifying skills which would enhance output. The importance of entrepreneurship and economic development was discussed in detail.

The trainees were first given Skill Development Training in the preparation of pain balm and Axe oil. They were trained to understand the importance of herbal products and the packaging techniques. They were also given the scientific knowledge to preserve the product. They were then motivated to start the trial production of Axe oil and pain balm. After preparation, the products were packed and labelled. They were then given training in the preparation of herbal shampoo. They were also informed about the various business opportunities that are available and were introduced to the concept of Market Analysis which would allow them to become quality entrepreneurs. The participants were also informed about the various loan schemes that are available for women to set up micro enterprises. The women were given hands-on training in the preparation of hair oil, anti-dandruff oil and hair conditioner. This training was welcomed by the trainees who immediately prepared herbal shampoo at home during the week end. The feedback from the trainees showed that the participants were thrilled to prepare the herbal products.

The trainees were then exposed to the methodology involved in the preparation of foot care cream and the importance of foot care and the use of

herbal ingredients in health care. The participants were trained in cost benefit analysis and the methods involved in working out the income-expenditure details and the resulting net income per month. Skill development training in the preparation of fairness cream was imparted to the women. The women were trained in the preparation of bath powder and anti-dandruff oil. They also had sessions on women's health and empowerment.

The Valedictory function saw Mr. Narayanan, Asst. General Manager, NABARD Tamil Nadu Regional Office, and Mr. Parameswaran, Lead District Manager, Indian Bank interacting with the trainees and motivating them to set up micro enterprises. They explained to them the role of NABARD and Indian Bank in working towards the upliftment of rural women. They gave the reassurance that a special branch would be set up to assist the women in taking loans.

Outcome of the Programme:

- The trainees have gained thorough knowledge in the Preparation of Herbal Products like herbal shampoo, hair conditioner, hair oil, foot care cream, fairness cream, axe oil and pain balm.
- The women have been motivated to set up units for the preparation of herbal products
- The rural women have been motivated to start trial production. The trainees have motivated the other women of the same village and adjoining villages to undergo similar training
- The community is interested in attending similar programmes and has requested the college to conduct programmes for the preparation of detergent powder, cleaning powder, paper conversion products, etc.

The trained rural women have already started preparing pain balm, Axe oil, herbal shampoo and foot care cream which are being marketed in the area and has helped in enhancing the economic status of these women. Special mention must be made of the leader Ms. Adhisakthi who is motivating and assisting other women to start the micro enterprise.

It has been a rewarding experience. The college thanks NABARD for supporting this project and looks forward to conducting similar programmes that will work towards the empowerment of rural women.

Geetha Swaminathan
Vice Principal; Faculty, Department of Chemistry
Coordinator, EDC



Women being taught to make herbal products

SMC – FAEA Collaboration

Stella Maris College has been an associate college of the Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access, an organisation funded by Ford Foundation, USA. Stella Maris has collaborated with FAEA since August 2005, with the mission to assist students from disadvantaged section to become competent individuals academically and socially. Students selected for the Pathways Programme are those who enter the college with deprivation of some sort or the other, and they have bloomed into confident and capable young women.

Summer Training

The Pathways programmes for the year 2008–2009 began during the summer vacation itself. A 30 hour training in computer skills was conducted by NIIT from 22-26 April 2008, in which 84 I year undergraduate students took part. During the same vacation, from 9-14 June, Career Guidance and Training in Employability skills was offered to 55 III year students, 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 10-14 November 2008, in preparation for campus recruitment.

Training during the semester break

During the semester break, from 7-12 November 2008, with the objective of helping students realise their own potential, a training programme in Life Skills was organised, in which 160 students participated. At the Valedictory function of the workshop, pocket dictionaries (OED) were distributed to the participants. The enthusiasm and the confidence with which they shared their views and the optimism with which they were looking forward to future programmes were signs of the transformation that FAEA has built up in the campus, among the disadvantaged groups. During the same period, 62 students of the II UG were trained in language and presentation skills in the Multimedia Language Lab.

Training during Christmas holidays

To train students who have no prior knowledge of Computer Science, a workshop was conducted from 26-28 December, 2008, by the II BCA students, supervised by two faculty members of the Department of Computer Science.

Weekend Programmes

One Saturday each month, about 150 Pathway students participate in various sessions focusing on time management, team work, story telling, communication games, public speaking, etc.

Entrepreneurship Development

For the II year Pathway students, the Entrepreneurship Development Cell of the college organised a course in Jewellery Designing and Herbal Cosmetics on 28 February 2009, and 95 students attended the course.

FAEA Scholars State Level Workshop: 'Be A Leader'

FAEA Scholars of Tamil Nadu, from Arts and Science, Engineering and Medical Colleges spent four days on our campus from 14-17 January 2009, and these 38 budding leaders had an enriching experience during their stay.

The workshop was inaugurated on Pongal Day by Dr. Pratheep Philip, IG of Police who delivered the inaugural address on 'Be at it, Beat it'. Each day of the workshop began with Yoga at 7.30 am and went on till 9.00 pm, with various sessions focusing on different aspects of leadership.

Training in Life Skills was given by the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development, and sessions on Human Rights were conducted by the International Justice Mission. Career Guidance was offered by Don Bosco Vazhighati. Besides these, the scholars had training in presentation techniques, and in the four skills of language in the multi media language lab.

A talent show was conducted for the participants to bring out their histrionic skills in demonstrating the thematic concerns of the workshop. The Valedictory function of the workshop was held on 17 January 2009 with Dr. Mohini Giri, member of the FAEA Governing Body, as the chief guest.

Internet Browsing

FAEA Pathway students were given the privilege of browsing the internet free of cost. A total number of 78 students have browsed for a duration of 500 hours, during the whole year.

Special Assistance

Besides helping the students in their overall development, the FAEA financial assistance has also been helpful in awarding fee concessions to 45 financially weak Pathway students.

The JAWS and the Open Book Software installed with the help of FAEA continues to be a learning aid for the visually challenged students of the college. One more language practice software 'Business English' from Clarity UK, has been installed in the multimedia language lab. This project has helped Stella Maris to realize its mission of empowering students from the disadvantaged sections of society and envision a bright future for them.

Thilagavathi G. Joseph
Faculty, Department of English
FAEA Coordinator

STUDENTS' UNION REPORT

The College Students' Union organized cultural and extra-curricular programmes to encourage students to explore their creative potential, preserve an environment of cordiality within campus and raise consciousness about students' role in society at large. A year of exciting learning experiences and progressive student leadership commenced with a special OAT on 25 June, 2008, to welcome the freshers and acquaint them with life on campus. This was followed by the Fresher's Talent Hunt, Sparkle 2008. The investiture of the office bearers on 13 August, 2008 formally inaugurated a series of Union activities. To further sensitise students and foster in them a respect for society and the environment, Green Day, Enviro Week, Workers' Day and MTC Day were celebrated. The Annual Fund Raiser, Nakshatra, was open to the public and drew large crowds.

Distinctive to the Annual Intercollegiate Cultural, Aquilae 2008, was a wide range of innovative events that included short film making, clay modeling, photo scavenger hunt, duo adaptune, spoof it all and miming. Besides bringing out the latent talents in the students and providing a forum for interactions, the Students' Union also collates student feedback. The General Body Meeting convened from 13-14 March, 2009 provided space for an open and candid student response on various issues related to campus life.

Students' Union Office Bearers with the Principal and Deans of Student Affairs Megha Vinod (President); Nisha Rajendra Prasad (Vice-President); Vidyaa M (General Secretary); Preetha Ramachandran (Treasurer); Nrithya Maria Andrews and Ramya B.R (Cultural Secretaries)



Black and Blue and other Hues

A Student Production directed by V. Balakrishnan

In keeping with the theatrical trend of dramatising short fiction, the college play, “Black and Blue and Other Hues” was a collage of narratives. It was a dramatisation of six short stories, all Asian, dealing with political exile, communal conflicts, experiences of old people forced into homes for the aged, the metamorphosis of a turbulent love affair into a bitter marital experience and the transformation that occurs in an aged Bengali matriarch in a moment of conflation of values from the East and the West. The stories from Iran, Pakistan and India reiterated the fragility of geographical boundaries in any understanding of women’s lives. The play explored the resilience of women that is unrestricted by the compulsions of cartography.

With no script, except for the slightly edited version of the original stories, the different narratives intersected in a dialogic relationship. From the



A scene from the College play



A scene from the College play

humorous opening monologue, ‘Mayadevi’s London Yatra’, the psychological thriller, ‘Tempest in Autumn’, Ambai’s ‘A Movement, a Folder and Some Tears’ that made for effective drama to Amtul Rahman Khatun’s ‘Grandmother’s Tale’ that was an attempt at dramatizing a story consistently using the ironic mode, the play combined a multiplicity of genres. The long opening monologue, the flavour of Hindustani music, skilful performances by students and rich drama in snatches were the play’s strong points.

A display of paintings and installations by the students of the Fine Arts Department related to women’s issues attempted to thematically connect with the play. Short talks prior to the performance, in which Shoba Gwalani, Proprietor, Krispy Kream, Savithri Vaithi, Founder Chairperson, Vishranthi, Swarna Rajagopalan, Scholar, South Asian studies and Maithili Sivaraman, feminist and activist, shared their personal experiences, sought to set up commonalities between life and stage.

ORYCTOLAGUS CUNICULUS

Far from the purple plains and the shadowy mountains, was a land so green, the air so fresh and the water so sweet. A place I called home. A place I called Paradise.

I am *Oryctolagus Cuniculus* a.k.a. Bunny. I was born on 26 January 2007, along with eight of my brothers and sisters. At birth we were furless and blind, and also very tiny, so my mother kept us warm and fuzzy. My siblings and I had occasional fights to get the best place and I always seem to have won. Twelve days later we all grew fur and we were able to see. We were tiny but had reasonably long ears, a soft fluffy tail and twitching nostrils. My siblings were born either black or white or had a mixture of the two, but I was special. I was born brown with a tinge of white. I knew that I looked different from my siblings but I was proud of my colour and that's why I was my family's favorite. We all seemed to be happy but what we didn't know was that great evil threatened to destroy our world. A week later something tragic happened. A group of strange creatures walking on their hind legs called humans invaded our land and captured us. I tried escaping but in vain. I was put in a huge cage with my three brothers. My family was torn apart. I wondered if I would meet them again. I cried out for them but it didn't work. They couldn't hear me because they were long gone.

Sometime later we were transported to a strange place. My brothers and I had no clue as to where we were and I was bewildered to see strange creatures that I had never seen before. Some of them had limbs which could make them fly while some had limbs which could make them swim. One of the two legged creatures lifted our cage and put it on the glass counter. Now my brothers and I realized that we could never see our family again. My brothers had lost hope but I wouldn't give up. I was determined to find my family and my home. A week later two humans came to take my three brothers. I believe they were from a place called a restaurant. We were helpless and could do nothing. I had no idea what they were going to do to them. All I could do was hope and pray that they would be well. Two weeks passed and I lay alone in my cage. My so called master had given me a piece of rotten banana which I would occasionally nibble on.



Oryctolagus Cuniculus a.k.a. Bunny

Trust me... it was the worst thing I had eaten but I was hungry so I ate it all. I was beginning to give up hope.

Then one day a human couple adopted me. They took me to their home. I didn't know what they were going to do to me but I knew that they were going to be my new masters. When we reached our destination they handed me to a girl. It was strange—she took me out of my cage and kissed me. I was reserved and shy at first but as days passed I began to mingle with them. My mistress named me Bunny, probably because she found my name hard to pronounce.

I have been with these humans for two years now. I don't know why or how, but in these two years I have come to be part of their lives, and they part of mine. Its almost like we're family. They have a strange ceremony that they call birthday—27 February is Bunny's day. Time plays tricks with memory. Maybe this is my home, and these humans my family. I am beginning to believe that I am in Paradise—the Paradise I had feared I would never see when my family was torn apart.

Oryctolagus Cuniculus a.k.a "Bunny"

Snita James
I Commerce

Man, you will not believe the sort of day I'm having! First I get into an argument with my best friend about her new obsession for nature photography, which to me looks like a unidirectional highway to acne, tetanus and a tan worse than the witches burnt at Salem. Then I forget my watch at home and totally lose track of time and tasks. And this scorching heat! I feel like my bones are being stewed in my boiling blood. Now amidst all this I need to hail a blessed autorickshaw. Ah! Here comes one.

"Auto! Auto!"

Just you wait; he's going to quote an exorbitant amount that'll raise both my eyebrows and my blood pressure. Lord, I don't have the patience to bicker with this man now.

"Anna Nagar. 80 Rupees."

Come on fella. I dare you to ask me for 90 or even 100! Hell, why don't you ask me for a laptop and an I-pod while you're at it. Waitablessedminute! He's nodding! Oh glory be to public transport, that was easy . . . almost too easy. I knew it! 80 was too much wasn't it? I should've asked him for 60! 80 bucks! What was I thinking? Ah well it's too late now. He's pulled on that motorized sceptre of his and my yellow chariot has already embarked on it's jolting journey. Owwww! Did you feel that? Like any devoted auto-guy, our man has carefully chosen a route that ensures that we hit every single pothole on the streets of Chennai. I can't believe I'm paying 80 rupees just so gravity can make an accordion of my ribs and play sweet notes of pain on it.

Why does he have to take this bumpalicious road? Holdonablessedminute! Where the – hell, heaven and all that's sandwiched between – ARE we anyway? Oh no no NO! I've been kidnapped, haven't I? No wonder he agreed to 80 rupees without the ceremonial argument. I've seen it in movies. They kidnap pretty girls like me and gang rape them in some lonely street... O.K., darling, stop flipping out. Just take deep breaths. I'm gonna take my cell phone out and calmly talk into it so he knows I can call for help anytime I want to.

"Hello Ma? Yeah, I'm on my way there. Yeah I'm somewhere near... Thiru-murthy Street. How should I know where that is? I'm just reading off signboards. O.K. fine then. Bye! "

What does she mean by 'So what'? Doesn't she even care that I'm traveling at this unearthly hour in an unknown street? Mothers, I tell you! They're never paranoid when you want them to be.

Well this seems to be a recognizable main road. Oh god! Don't tell me Anna Nagar was just fifteen minutes away. Lord let it be around 8 or 9 kilometres away at the very least, just to get me my money's worth! Why can't he just have flipped the metre? It would've saved me all this heartburn. I'm pretty sure I can find a correlation between metres in working condition and lessened stress levels in the city. Wow it's weird how intelligent one sounds just because of usage of terms like 'correlation.' Or in fact how eloquent one sounds when you refer to the general public as 'one.'

"Take this right. Then second left."

Ah finally! We're here. Sigh, here goes my 80 rupees. Take it greedy-man. Take all of it. Rob me of my hard-earned pocket money that took weeks of skimping on shoes and bags to save up.

"What? NO! No! Not 90 rupees! You said 80!"

Argh! The audacity of this fellow. He thinks he can sweet talk me into paying extra? "Who cares about traffic? You should've thought of that before fixing the price. 80 rupees is 80 rupees!"

There! That ought to show him. That trip cost 80 rupees and not a paise more. Like I'm gonna pay him the extra ten rupees so that he can go spend it on cigarettes and alcohol, get drunk and go beat up his wife.

Hmm that felt good. Thank god I'm not the kind to get swindled. Although it's weird... wonder why that auto-guy looked kinda relieved himself.

Sophia Ashraf
II MA Fine Arts

The dhristhi melon's belly is bloated.
He has chomped on enough evil eyes -
juicy dark presences
marinated in a selection of bitter sauces
served with a sprig of piety -
just the way he likes it.
His yellow tongue flickers -
smacking and drooling bits of camphor
dancing between the pageants of delicacies.
Soon he would be so stuffed with
malicious curses and vicious spirits
that he will be able to eat no more.
Then they will escort him outside
like an honored guest and
splatter his yellow guts across the pavement
for street urchins to pick through.
Crows fight over the melon seeds.

Chitrlekha. D.R.
II BA English

சிலம்பு - ஒரு தமிழ் வரலாற்றுக் காப்பியம்

‘எ’ந்த ஒரு காவியமும் நீண்ட நெடிய நாள் மக்கள் மத்தியில் ஒரு கதையாடலாக விளங்கிய பின் ஒரு புலவனால் காப்பியமாக்கப்படுகிறது’ என்பார் பேராசிரியர் கைலாசபதி அவர்கள். சிலம்பு தமிழ் நிலத்தின் கதை, தமிழ்ப்பெண்ணின் கதை, தமிழ்ப் பத்தினியின் கதை. இக்கதையே பின்னர் காப்பியமாக மாறியது என்பதற்குச் சிலப்பதிகாரத்தின் பாயிரமே சான்றாக விளங்குகிறது. சிலப்பதிகாரம் இயற்றப்படுவதற்கு நீண்ட நாட்களுக்கு முன்னரே கண்ணகியின் வரலாறு நிகழ்ந்திருக்க வேண்டும்.

‘ஏதிலாளன் கவலை கவற்ற
ஒரு முலையறுத்த திருமா வுண்ணி’

என்ற தொடர் நற்றிணை 216ம் பாடலில் வருகிறது. ஒரு மாம்பகத்தை அறுத்தவளுக்கு ஊரே ஆறுதல் கூறுகிறது. ஆனால் அது அவளுக்கு ஆறுதல் தருமா? தன் கணவனை அன்றி வேறொருவர் பத்தினி ஒருத்திக்கு ஆறுதல் ஆவார்களா என்ற கேள்வியை மருளிள நாகனார் முன்வைக்கிறார். அவர் மதுலைக்காரர். தன் நிலத்தில் நடந்த ஒரு தமிழ் வரலாற்றை முதன்முதலாக ஆவணப்படுத்தியிருக்கிறார்.

‘கண்டகம் பற்றிக் கடக மணிதுளங்க
ஒண்ணெங் குருதியின் ஒஓ கிடந்ததே - கெண்டிக்
கெழுதகை இல்லேன் கிடந்து ஊடப் பன்னாள்
அழுதகண் ணீர் துடைத்த கை’

என்ற ஒரு பாடல் தமிழ் இலக்கணமான யாப்பருங்கல விருத்தியில் காட்டப்படுகிறது. இச்செய்யுள் வகையை ‘ஆரிடப்போலி’ என்று அவ்விலக்கண நூல் அழைக்கிறது. இதன் பொருள் என்ன தெரியுமா? வெண்பாவின் இரண்டாம் அடியிலே தனிச் சொல் வரலாம். ஆனால் நான்கு சீர்கள்தாம் வரவேண்டும். மேற்கூறிய பாடலிலே ஐந்து சீர்கள் வருகின்றன. இவ்வாறு வருவது பிழை. என்றாலும் ஓளவையார், பரணர், கபிலர் போன்ற சங்கப் புலவர்கள் பாடலாம். யாப்பின்படி தவறு என்றாலும் பெரும்புலவர்கள் பாடினால் அது தவறாகாது. தவிர அது ஆரிடப் போலி என்று கூறி அவர்களை உயர்வுபடுத்துகிறது தமிழ் இலக்கணம். மேற்கூறிய பாடலிலே உள்ள பொருள்

‘தன்னுடைய இன்னுயிர் கணவன் வெட்டுண்டு குருதியில் வீழ்ந்து கிடக்கின்றான், “என்னுடைய கண்ணீரைத் துடைத்த கை இன்று குருதியில் வீழ்ந்து கிடக்கிறதே”’ என்று புலம்புகிறார் பெண்ணொருத்தி. கணவனை இழந்து புலம்புவதன் கண்ணகியைத் தவிர யாராக இருக்க முடியும்

ஓளவை, கபிலர், பரணர் போல இப்பாடலைப் பாடியது யாரென்றால் ‘பத்தினிச் செய்யுள்’ என்று கூறுகிறது யாப்பருங்கல விருத்தி. சங்ககாலத்திலே பத்தினிச் செய்யுள் ஒன்று இருந்திருக்கிறது. அது சிலப்பதிகாரம் தோன்றியபின்- அதன் பெருமைக்குப் பின்- பரவலாகப் பாடப்படாது மறைந்து இருக்கிறது என்பதை நாம் அறிய முடிகிறது.

ஆக சிலம்பு தமிழ் நிலத்தின் நீண்ட நாளைய கதை. சிலம்புக்கு ஒரு தனிச்சிறப்பு உண்டு. சிலம்பு கண்ணகியைத் தெய்வமாக்கி இருக்கிறது. கண்ணகியைக் காளியாக்குகிறது.

சிலப்பதிகாரத்திலே ஒரு காட்சி, பொருளை இழந்து, விடியாத பொழுதில் கண்ணகியை அழைத்துக்கொண்டு மதுரை நோக்கி வருவான் கோவலன். இடை வழியில், ஒரு வேட்டுவ ஊரில் சாலினி என்ற பெண்மீது தெய்வம் இறங்கிப் பேசும்,

இவளோ, கொங்கர்ச் செல்வி குடமலையாட்டி
தென்றமிழ்ப் பாவை செய்தவக் கொழுந்து
ஒருமா மணியா யுலகிற் வோங்கிய
திருமாமணி

என்பாள். அவள் ஒரு வேட்டுவப் பெண். கண்ணகியை இந்த நிலத்தில் தோன்றிய தெய்வம் என்று கூறுகின்றாள் என்றால் கண்ணகி காளிதானே! 'வெற்றிவேற் தடக்கை கொற்றவை யல்லள்'

என்று வாயில்காவலன் அலறும்போது அவள் காளி என்றுதானே உருவகம் ஆகிறாள். மு.வ. அவர்கள் கூறுவார்கள் கண்ணகி வழிபாடே மாரியம்மாள் வழிபாடு என்று கண்ணகி மதுரையை அழித்த பிறகு நாடு மழையின்றி தவித்து உயிர்ப்பலி கொடுத்த பின்பு மழைபெய்ததால் அவள் மாரியானாள் (மாரி - மழை). திருவொற்றியூரில் பல்லாண்டுகள் வட்டபுரி அம்மனுக்குக் கம்மாள் இனத்தவர்கள் பலியிடப்பட்டார்கள் என்று கோவலன் கதை என்ற நாட்டுப்புறக்கதை கூறுகிறது. கேரளாவில் ஒற்றை முலைச்சியம்மன் வழிபாடு இன்றும் நடைபெறுகிறது. இலங்கையில் பல்லாண்டுகளாகக் கண்ணகி வழிபாடு நடைபெற்றதாக மயிலை சீனி வேங்கடசாமி என்ற தமிழ் அறிஞர் கூறியுள்ளார். மங்கலாதேவிக் கோட்டம் மேற்குத் தொடர்ச்சி மலையில் இருப்பதாக பவ்ரா என்ற மேலை நாட்டறிஞர் கூறியுள்ளார். ஒரு கதை இந்த நிலத்தில் நடந்து எண்ணற்ற தமிழ் மக்களின் இதயங்களில் புகுந்தது இளங்கோ என்ற இதயம் அதைக் காப்பியமாக்கி அழகு சேர்த்திருக்கிறது.

கம்பராமாயணத்திலே சீதை என்ற பத்தினிப்பெண் இராவணன் என்ற அரசனைப் பார்த்துச் சொல்வாள்,

கடிக்கும்வல் அரவும் கேட்கும் மந்திரம் களிக்கின்றோயை
அடுக்கும் ஈ(து) அடா(து) என்று ஆன்ற ஏதுவோடு அறிவு காட்டி
இடிக்குநர் இல்லை; உள்ளார் எண்ணியது எண்ணி உன்னை
முடிக்குநர் என்ற போது முடிவன்றி முடிவது உண்டோ ?

என்பாள். இந்த வீரம் தமிழ் வீரம், தமிழ்ப் பத்தினி வீரம் என்பார் பி.பூரீ. என்ற பேரறிஞர் கம்பன் இந்தப் பத்தினி வீரத்தைச் சிலம்பிலிருந்தே எடுத்தாண்டு இருக்கிறான் என்றால் மிகையில்லை.

சிலப்பதிகாரம் ஆவணப் படுத்திய தமிழ் வரலாறும் தமிழ்ப்பண்பாடும் ஏராளம்.

‘பஹுளி ஆற்றுடன் பன்மலை யடுக்கத்துக்
குமரிக் கோடுங் கொடுங்கடல் கொள்ள’

என்ற வரியைச் சிலப்பதிகாரம் கூறாவிட்டால் கொடுங்கடல் ஒன்று இன்று இருக்கும் கன்னியாகுமரிக்குத் தெற்கே தமிழ் நிலம் கொடுங்கடலால் கையகப்படுத்தப்பட்டது தெரியாமலே போயிருக்கும்.

‘தென்தமிழ் நாடானும் வேந்தர் செருவேட்டுப் புகன் நெழுந்து
மின்தவழும் இமயநெற்றியில் விளங்கு வில்புலி கயல் பொறித்த நான்
எம்போலும் முடிமன்னர் ஈங்கு இல்லை போலும்’

என்று வடநாட்டு ஆசிரியர் கூறுவதாகச் சிலம்பில் ஒரு செய்தி வருகிறது. கனக விசயரை வென்று அவனோடு துணைக்கு வந்த உத்தரன், விசித்திரன், உருத்திரன், பைரவன், சித்திரன், சிங்கன், தனுத்திரன், சிவேதன் என்ற துணைநாட்டு மன்னர்களை அடித்து விரட்டி வில்கொடியை இமயத்தில் நட்டு, இமயமலைக் கல்லை கனகவிசயர் தலையில் ஏற்றி, கங்கையில் நீராட்டி, கண்ணகிச் சிலை வடித்த சேரன் செங்குட்டுவனுக்கு முன்பே தமிழ் வேந்தர்களது வில்கொடியும், புலிக்கொடியும், மீன்கொடியும் இமயத்தில் பறந்தன. அந்த வெற்றி வடநாட்டு ஆரிய மன்னர்களது நெஞ்சில் ஆறாத ரணமாக இருந்தது என்பதைச் சிலம்பு சொல்லாவிட்டால் எப்படி இந்தத் தமிழ் உலகம் அறிந்திருக்கும். இந்த மகத்தான செய்தியை,

‘முற்பகல் செய்தான் பிறன்கேடு தன்கேடு
பிற்பகல் காண் குறுஉம்’

‘அல்லவை செய்தார்க்கு அறம் கூற்றம்ஆம் என்னும்
பல்லவையோர் சொல்லும்’

‘தெய்வம் தொழாஅள் தொழுநர் தொழுதெழுவாளைத்
தெய்வம் தொழும் தகைமை திண்ணமால்’

போன்ற கருத்துகள் வள்ளுவப் பேராசான் கூறியது போன்ற அறக்கருத்துகள். தமிழ் நிலம் இரண்டாயிரம் வருடங்களுக்கு முன்னால் அறத்தில் சிறந்து இருந்தது, மறத்தில் சிறந்து இருந்தது, பெண் திறத்தில் சிறந்திருந்தது என்பதைச் சிலப்பதிகாரம் மிகத் தெளிவாகத் தமிழ்ப்படுத்தியிருக்கிறது என்பதைப் படிப்பவர் புரிந்துகொள்வார்கள்.

எஸ். ஸ்னேகா

07/MT/514

QUIZ À THÈME

Quiz à Thème : Musique

Chacun des points indique la valeur d'une lettre, toujours la même pour une lettre donnée, sans tenir compte de sa position dans le mot considéré.

A partir de ces éléments, trouvez trois noms de compositeurs correspondant aux séries de chiffres du bas de la grille.

1	4	13	12	11	10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01
CITHARE			.	.		.	.	.		.			.
LUTH	.	.								.		.
TAMBOUR	.		.	.			.			.	.			.
TUBA	.						.	.				.
CLAIRON	.			.	.		.	.		.			.
CORNEMUSE			.	.	.	.			.	.	.			.

A

14	11	07	12	01	06

B

14	07	08	12

C

06	08	12	03	14	09	11	05

Solution
A : Brahms

B : Bach

C : Schubert

Remplissez les cases blanches de manière à avoir, horizontalement, les noms d'instruments de musique et, verticalement, dans la colonne indiquée, le nom d'un compositeur.



	L		V			N								
					A		M					C		
			R			B		N						
						A		O						
			U				R							
	I		L											



				A			O	L	I		E			
			A		P									
							A	S		O				
		P	I			A								
							A	X	O			O		E
	A	U		B	O									
					C				A		E			

Bilkhis B. Sait
Faculty, Department of French

B : Debussy

A : Chopin
Solution

ऑस्कर अवार्ड

जय हो जय हो, मिले हमें आठ ऑस्कर अवार्ड
गरीबी का दर्शन कराकर बनाया अमीर
अंग्रेज़ी फिल्म, विदेशी रचनाकार, देशी कलाकार
जय हो जय हो, मिले हमें आठ ऑस्कर अवार्ड
फटेहाल को दिखाकर नहीं कराया भारत दर्शन,
कान फोड़ू संगीत बजा, गायन शास्त्रीय संगीत
श्रवण,
गली का कुत्ता बताकर बढ़ायी हमारी शान,
जय हो मिला ऑस्कर अवार्ड बनी रहेगी हमारी
आन बान ।।

श्वेता जैन
07/FA/29

चाँद के पार चलो

चाँद के पार चलो
चाँद को पाने की चाह मैंने थी
उसकी चाँदनी में खो जाने की चाह मैंने की थी
कुछ ऐसे थे मेरे सपने
जिन्हें संभव करना मुश्किल था
हज़ारों मील की इस दूरी को
पार कर पाना बड़ा मुश्किल था ।
पर भारत ने फिर से कर दिखाया
एक चमत्कार
चन्द्रयान को जन्म देकर पहुँचा
दिया मानव को चाँद-पार

श्रुति गर्ग
07/ZL/31

तकनीक का विकास

हुआ विकास तकनीक का सारे विश्व में
लाया खुशहाली विश्व के सभी लोगों में
मानव श्रम की कमी हुई सारे विश्व में
हुआ सारा काम चटपट मशीन द्वारा
तकनीक के नये-नये साधनों का हुआ उदय

किस चीज़ की कमी है आज के मानव कोड !
घर बैठे पहुँचा वह दुनिया के कोने-कोने में
कम्प्यूटर आया इन्टरनेट आया और न जाने क्या
पाँच मिनट पर चट करने वाली मशीनों आयी

सेल फोन द्वारा क्या उत्तर क्या दक्षिण
क्या पूर्व क्या पश्चिम हर सीमा पर है पहुँच
बच्चा हो या बूढ़ा हो ज्ञान है सबको इसका
पर प्रभाव भी है इसका, पर भाता भी है ये

अमेरिका, रूस, इरान, ईराक चल रहा हंगामा लेकर
तकनीक को, होड़ लगी दिन प्रतिदिन
सभी ने कोशिश की निपटाने की
पर कोई न हुई सफल इसमें

सबने पायी सफलता सबने पायी संतुष्टि
पर किसी देश में न आई खुशहाली
सबने पाया स्पर्धा का जीवन है ।
कहाँ रही शांति विश्व में ?

संगीता
07/SC/43

स्वर्ग जाकर क्या करेंगे?

भला स्वर्ग जाकर हम क्या करेंगे
न आते वहाँ चाँद सूरज सितारे
न चलती हवा, न फूटते फव्वारे
न सागर के तट हैं न गंगा किनारे
कहाँ सुबह शाम टहला करेंगे ?

निकलता वहाँ से न अखबार कोई
न कोई आता है न जाता है पत्रकार कोई
आता न जाता है तार भी कोई
तो क्या पढ़कर दिन को बिताया करेंगे
भला स्वर्ग जाकर हम क्या करेंगे ?

सुना है वहाँ डाकघर भी नहीं है
लिफाफा पोस्टकार्ड मिलता नहीं है ।
न कागद निभ कलम दुकान ही है
तो लिख चिट्ठियाँ कहाँ भेजा करेंगे
भला स्वर्ग जाकर हम क्या करेंगे
भला स्वर्ग जाकर हम क्या करेंगे ।

सोनम. पी.
07/FA/12

शून्य का अनुभव

आँखें बंद खड़ी थी ईश्वर के साम्राज्य में,
मन में था सपनों का भंडार,
चंचल मन पड़ा रहा निर्जीव होकर,
संसारिक मोह में धिर,
हर बुरे कर्म का विश्लेषण कर,
न्याय के कणों के खोज में मग्न थी,
स्वार्थ न होते भी स्वार्थी बनी रही ।
मासूमियत का ढोंग कर
शिक्षाओं के विमुक्ति के विश्वास में
ईश्वर के साम्राज्य में मुग्ध थी मैं
आडंबरों से दूर सत्राटों से जब मेरी आँखें खुली
तो ईश्वर की मूर्ति से निकलती रोशनी ने,

मेरे इस छोटे संसार को घेर लिया ।
अब जब मैंने छोटे दिल में झाँका,
तब केवल स्वर्णिम प्रकाश फैला था,
कहाँ है मोह का भंडार
कहाँ है मोह का भंडार ?
मैं चकित होकर शून्यता की ओर देखती रही ।

कृष्ण
07/EC/35

गरीबी

गरीबी है हमारे देश की सबसे बड़ी कमजोरी
इससे न होती लोगों की बुनियादी जरूरतें पूरी
खाने, कपड़े के लिए गरीब हैं तरसते
फिर भी वे अमीरों की आँखों में खटकते
अमीरों के पास होते हैं दो-दो मोबाईल फोन
पर गरीबों के पास न होता एक रुपया करने को लोकल फोन
गरीबी है हमारे देश में 75 प्रतिशत से भी ज्यादा
इस कारण सरकार की आँखों के सामने अंधेरा छा जाता
शुरू की हा सरकार ने कई नई नीतियाँ
पर अच्छा नतीजा मिला नहीं कहीं
गरीब आज भी अमीरों से पैसा माँगते गिड़गिड़ाते हैं ।
पर अमीर उनको लात मार कर भगाते रुलाते हैं ।
स्कूल में बच्चे सीखते गरीबी कम करो, कम करो
बड़े होकर वही कहते भी माँगने आगे जाओ, आगे जाओ,
गरीबी हटाओ, लोग भाषण देते हैं
पर वे ऐसे बहाने करते कि उनकी कुछ समझ में ही न आता
गरीबी है हमारे देश की सबसे बड़ी कमजोरी
क्योंकि इससे न होती लोगों की बुनियादी जरूरतें पूरी ।

दिव्या फर्नांडिस
07 / EL / 20

प्रकृति प्रकोप

सूर्य से प्रकाशित थी यह धरती,
स्वर्ग-सी उज्ज्वल दीप्तिमान यह धरती ।
यह हकीकत था नहीं कोई ख्वाब
इसका तो हमें मिल ही गया जवाब ॥
'वह दिन' आज भी लोग भूलते नहीं,
'वह दिन' जहाँ करोड़ों की ज़िन्दगी रही नहीं ।
'वह दिन' जब समुद्र ने अपना क्रोध प्रकट किया,
मनुष्य को कठपुतली सम बना दिया ।

लाखों लोग घायल हुए,
लाखों लोग बेघर हुए ।
किसकी यह बुरी नज़र थी
जो हम सबको लग गई ?

प्रातः काल के सूर्य का जादू गायब हुआ,
लग गई किसकी बद्दुआ ?
यह जादू नहीं था,
यह प्रकृति का क्रुद्ध रूप था ।

क्यों हुआ यह सब ?
क्यों प्रकृति ने किया यह सब ?
शायद प्रकृति इसकी वजह नहीं,
वजह मनुष्य तो नहीं ?

सुनयना
07/EC/13

स्वर्ग अरक्षण

प्रताप ने जैसे-तैसे कर खूब धन कमाया । देखते-
देखते वह कई कई करोड़ों का मालिक बन बैठा ।
प्रताप से वह सेठ प्रतापसिंह कहलाते लगा । उसकी
आलीशान कोठी के आगे पाँच-पाँच लम्बी चमकती
कारें खड़ी होती । घर के सदस्यों से ज्यादा नौकर-
चाकरों की संख्या थी । आजकल उसने अपने जीवन
का रवेया बदल डाला है । बड़े-बड़े आश्रमों के पहुँचे
हुए सन्यासियों को सादर बुलाया । सत्संग का

नया जमाना

ज़माना बदल गया है
हर क्षेत्र में उन्नति कर रहा है ।

मोबाइल पर मैसेज कैमरा
रेडियो और इन्टरनेट
घर बैठे देखी टी वी सेट
हर बात में आगे बढ़ रहा है
जमाना बदल रहा है ।

जहाँ चाहो लैप-टॉप ले जाओ
पर्स को क्रेडिट कार्ड से सजाओ
किसी भी वक्त जा कर
ए.टी.एम. से पैसे ले आओ
विज्ञान क्या-क्या कर रहा है
ज़माना बदल रहा है ।

बाप से बेटा दस कदम आगे है
वक्त की रफतार से तेज़ भागे है
सपने पूरे करने के लिए रातों के जागे हैं
हर घड़ी वह मेहनत कर रहा है
ज़माना बदल रहा है ।

आपस में बढ़े हैं व्यापार
मानों छोटा हो गयी है दुनिया
बाहर के देशों में भी
हिन्दुस्तान अपना रंग भर रहा है
ज़माना बदल रहा है ।

स्वाप्रिल
07/FA/24

आयोजन करना, प्याऊ बिठाना आदि, उसकी कोठी
के एक भाग में याचकों का जमघट लगा रहता है ।
उसके मित्र को उसका यह बदलाव अखरा । उसने
पूछा, "प्रताप, यह क्या है ? नौ सौ चूहे खाके
बिल्ली चली हज़ करने ।"

प्रतापसिंह ने हंसते हुए कहा-हज़ नहीं भाई, ... यह
हज़ नहीं है यह तो स्वर्ग-आरक्षण है स्वर्ग-
आरक्षण ।

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI - 600 086
 LIST OF OVERALL PERCENTAGE OF PASSES
 UG - 2005-06 BATCH
 PG - 2006-07 BATCH
 April 2008

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

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