





TRUTH

CHARITY

# STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

(AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI - INDIA





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# PRAYER OF SAINT 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;  
and 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.  
Amen



# EDITORIAL

India, it has long been recognised, is a multicultural space; a space that allows the co-existence of a number of religions, languages, ethnicities, costumes, festivals, customs and even cuisines. Despite onslaughts from various sources – the media, self-serving ideologues, ethnic cleansers among them – this diversity remains the defining feature of the Indian subcontinent.

This macrocosmic pluralism is played out on a microcosmic scale on the campus of Stella Maris College. The students and staff of the college, hailing as they do from across the length and breadth of the country, truly represent the multicultural society that is India. Celebrations and programmes such as ethnic day, interfaith dialogue, and various festivals such as Onam, Christmas and Pongal bring out the miscellany of

cultures, languages, religions and ethnicities that make up the college.

The conducive environment in the college allows for an open interaction among individuals from diverse backgrounds. Such interactions often reflect the multiple identities and ideas that are rooted in their languages, cultures and experiences thereby rendering the entire campus and all its activities truly multicultural.

Wherever possible the departments endeavour to incorporate elements of and ideas drawn from diverse cultures and systems into the curriculum. This sensitizes the students and faculty to the need to respect and accept differences, and makes the overall learning experience an enriching one.

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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Dr Padma V Mckertich

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Dr Gayathri

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## DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Poornima Ranjit (II MA Fine Arts)

Adeline Ashok (II MA Fine Arts)



The theme of multiculturalism has been manifested in the design and layout of this magazine through the use of various scripts and numerals from different Indian languages.





“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**  
Helene de Chappotin (1839 - 1904)  
Foundress, Franciscan missionaries of Mary  
(Beatified on October 20, 2002)

# THE COLLEGE

Stella Maris College, a Catholic institution of higher education for women, is under the management of the Society of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. Begun in a small one-storey building on 15 August 1947, with an enrolment of 32 students, the college has at present over 3600 students in its magnificent campus "The Cloisters" on Cathedral Road, Chennai.

The college became autonomous in 1987 and has 14 undergraduate and 12 postgraduate programmes. MPhil, PhD and postgraduate diploma courses also form a part of the academic programmes.

Stella Maris College is a minority institution that provides Higher Education in a Christian atmosphere for deserving students, especially those belonging to the Catholic community. Others are also admitted irrespective of caste and creed and their rights of conscience are respected. Besides, the college commits itself to serve the economically weak, socially backward and needy students.

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

The Vision of the college is to build a vibrant and inclusive learning community in a culture of excellence sustained by a sound value system that promotes responsible citizenship and 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 a 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 has been awarded A grade with the CGPA of 3.57 on a 4 point scale.





*Dr Sr Jasintha Quadras, fmm, Principal*





Good evening and welcome to Stella Maris. His Grace, Dr George Anthonysamy, Archbishop of Madras Mylapore, Sr Leena D'Souza, fmm, Provincial Superior, Chennai Province of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary and Chairperson, Governing Body of the College, Sr Susan, Secretary, members of the Governing Body, Academic Council, Dr Sr Helen Vincent, fmm, former Principal of the College, Dr Christina Rajkumar Director Shift II, Vice Principals, retired faculty, parents, family members of our students, friends, benefactors, well-wishers, distinguished guests, alumnae, faculty, administrative and supporting staff, FMM sisters and dear students: a warm welcome to our College Day celebrations 2013. We are deeply honoured by the presence of His Grace the Archbishop of Madras - Mylapore with us this evening, and we thank him for taking time off to be here at our 66th College Day celebrations. I thank Sr Leena D'Souza fmm, for gracing this occasion with her presence and for her continued support and keen interest in the development and growth of the College. Sr Leena D'Souza will now greet His Grace with the traditional gesture of presenting him with a ponnadai. Sr Susan will now greet our Provincial with a bouquet of flowers.

Before I present the report of our activities over the past year, I would like to place on record the passing away of three members of our Stella Maris family. Sr Juliana fmm, of the Department of Mathematics passed away on 3 August 2012. She was a much loved teacher, who always had a kind word for everyone who met her. Sr Gertrude fmm, who was in charge of the DTP Centre also passed away on 31 March 2012. Ms M Rukmini, former Head of the Department of Economics passed away on 18 December 2012. May their souls rest in peace.

Another academic year has almost drawn to a close, and it is time to look back on what we have been doing over the past year, assess our work in relation to successes and





shortcomings, and prepare for future change. What is readily apparent is that our educational processes have achieved a fine balance between knowledge acquisition and skills development, and that our students are more prepared than before to compete in the information loaded world that we live in today. The far-reaching impact of technological advances and increasingly complex socio-economic realities has mandated the embracing of change in every aspect of life. As a higher education institution of national repute, Stella Maris has kept pace with these changes, and has responded to the needs of the community and of the larger society. The life-changing effects of education must reach the farthest corners of the country and we, as participants in the ongoing process of nation building, are keenly involved in efforts to encourage our students to be advocates of social change and development.

I would like to acknowledge with profound gratitude the contribution of the faculty who will be retiring this year. Dr Alamelu N. Associate Professor and Head, Department of Fine Arts who will be retiring after 34 years, Dr Neeraja Rao, Associate Professor, and Head, Department of Sociology who retires after 33 years and Dr Leema Francis Associate Professor and Vice Principal who retires after 27 years of service. They have been exemplary teachers and academicians, carrying out their many responsibilities with utmost dedication and diligence. I thank you for your life's work

in Stella Maris, and wish you all the very best in all that you do in the future. I thank Mr Alex, member of our supporting staff who retired earlier this year. Thank you Mr Alex for your dedicated and selfless service to our College.


Our work as an institution of higher education involves a multi-pronged approach to educational processes. Our five part curriculum ensures that students receive a "whole person" education. In our commitment to quality in education we strive to complement classroom learning by conducting conferences, workshops, seminars, holding guest lectures by experts, taking students on field-trips and encouraging other out-of-classroom activities. Students also participate in academic and cultural events at collegiate and inter-collegiate levels and have won prizes, awards and recognition for their abilities and talent. Faculty members on their part, keep up with advances in their disciplines by presenting research papers at conferences and seminars, participating in workshops, serving as experts, consultants and resource persons in both educational institutions and the corporate sector.

As Principal of Stella Maris College, Dr Sr Jasinthia Quadras was selected to represent Catholic Universities in India, among 15 other universities across the globe, by the International Federation of Catholic Universities, for an action-based programme titled "Leading Catholic Universities in the 21st Century". The programme is conducted in three phases:



*Sr Leena D'Souza welcoming the Archbishop of Madras  
His Grace Dr George Anthony Samy*





the first phase was held in Assumption University, Bangkok, in April 2012, the second phase was in Rome in October – November 2012 and the last meeting is scheduled to be held in London in April 2013. The programme has enabled the college to rework and revision its strategic plans in the areas of administration and research. Dr Sr Jasintha was also appointed by the Kerala Higher Education Council of the Government of Kerala as a member of the Committee of experts to explore the possibility of granting of autonomy to institutions of higher learning.

Stella Maris has acquired national repute as an autonomous institution that sets high benchmarks in every aspect of education. Representatives of several institutions have visited the College in order to study the working of autonomy here. On 24 September 2012, a team of management representatives of Moolji Jaitha College, Jalgaon, Maharashtra visited the College to study the functioning of autonomy. On 18 December 2012, a team of professors from St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad visited the institution. On 2 April 2013 a ten-member team from Kerala comprising former bureaucrats, academics and Government officials will visit the College to gather information on the system of academic autonomy, as a follow-up of the meeting held with the Principal Dr Sr Jasintha Quadras fmm on 26 February 2013.

A critical aspect of education here at Stella Maris is the thrust towards inclusiveness, acceptance of difference, and creating a culture of dialogue and understanding between various religions. These areas of national significance are part of our core courses in Value Education, and the Department of Value Education, under the stewardship of Sr Maria Sundari fmm has been busy through the year organising additional lectures and programmes to continue the process of sensitising students to the importance of personal values, social responsibility and the need for spiritual awareness and growth. The Inaugural Mass held at the beginning of every academic year is attended by all the students, faculty members and staff of the college and serves to bring the College community together in prayer. Retreats were conducted in English and Tamil for Catholic students. For the non-Catholic students, workshops on topics such as 'Relationships', 'Legal Rights of Women', 'Values and Conflicts' and meditation were held. Eminent lawyers from the High Court delivered lectures to the II year Undergraduate and Postgraduate students on subjects such as 'Protective Laws and Supportive Systems for Women'. All final year students attended lectures on 'Family Life'.

The Department also initiated and carried through a year long project titled “Inter-faith Education and Peace Building: Towards a United World”, sponsored by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. The project was developed with the conviction that a sound understanding of one’s own and other religions would help enhance inter-religious and inter-cultural tolerance and acceptance. As part of the project, panel discussions, talks by experts on various religions and workshops were conducted for faculty and first year undergraduate class representatives and assistant class representatives. These helped the participants to correct misconceptions about various religious practices in India, thereby enabling them to come to a better understanding of these different faiths.

The two-day National Conference titled “Inter-faith Dialogue and Peace Building” held on 8 and 9 February 2013 also highlighted and reinforced the belief that a deeper knowledge of various faiths would help in understanding one’s own faith and help create a more peaceful world. In keeping with the College’s mission of creating a humane and just society through education, this Conference aimed at providing students with the knowledge, skills, outlook and frame of mind to deal with

issues and problems that arise as a result of the conflicting dynamics of a society that professes religious pluralism and cultural diversity, thereby creating an environment on campus that would move from tolerance to acceptance of various religions. This would be the first step towards creating a culture of peace and understanding of diversity and difference on campus.

Resource development is another area of focus. The Stella Maris College Library has a vast collection of books, journals, databases and other online resources to cater to the growing needs of the student community. Recently, in order to help students prepare for competitive exams like Civil Services, UGC-NET, a separate collection of relevant books has been added to the library. The number of journals available in the library has also been increased this year. The “Meet the Author” interactive session hosted by the library staff this year saw Ms Mansi Soni, former student of the Commerce Department discuss her book *The Inevitable Bond* on 21 February 2013.

Stellarchives: Stellarchives, a pioneering effort to preserve the rich heritage of Stella Maris College, has been fully



functional since June 2012. The archives house a wide range of original documents and memorabilia. The collection includes newspaper clippings dating back to 1947, autographed books (of faculty, students and eminent personalities), artifacts, ephemerals and manuscripts. Work has already begun on the digitisation of college magazines, departmental journals and doctoral theses of the faculty. The collection has been increased and updated after Stellarchives was launched on Facebook in February 2013. This project of the college is partly funded by the National Archives of India.

Spring Board for Leadership, a joint endeavour of Stella Maris College and Loyola College, conducted programmes for the students who had enrolled. Resource persons from both industry and academia held interactive sessions with the students and gave them inputs on a range of topics that would serve to hone their skills and help them emerge as confident leaders.

The IAS coaching classes held in collaboration with Manidhaneyam Civil Services Coaching Academy, continued successfully this academic year under the guidance of Dr Sr Colleen North fmm.

Student mentoring and advising is an important aspect of our work as educators. Faculty members meet their mentees at least twice a semester, and ensure that their mentees are on track in her academic programme, and is given additional assistance by way of counselling if needed. There are three counsellors available for students and they are free to avail of their services whenever needed.

Our concern for the disadvantaged sections of society is also reflected in the number of scholarships that we offer students. This year, a total of 1226 students benefited from college instituted scholarships and fee concessions as well as from government scholarships and private scholarships amounting to Rs. 48,85,066 this year.

A workshop on “Student-centered Learning” by Ms Cynthia Dettman, Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Lecturer was organised on campus in collaboration with the United States-India Educational Foundation on 11 October 2012. A talk on “The Use of Media in the Election Process with special Reference to the Last American Elections” by Mr David Gainer, Public Affairs Officer, US Consulate General was held in College on 12 October 2012. Several faculty members received their Doctoral degrees this year: Dr Leema Francis, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce and Vice Principal;

Dr Subashree, Assistant Professor of Sanskrit; Dr Ancy, Physical Director; Dr Prabha and Dr Annapoorani, Assistant Professors of the Department of English and Dr Satyabama of the Department of Botany. Dr Alamelu N, Dr Neeraja Rao, Dr Chitralekha Ramachandran, Dr Leema Francis and Ms A Stella were nominated by Stella Maris College to receive ‘My Guru’ award given by Rotaract Clubs of Presidency College & Ethiraj College, Chennai.

Many faculty members have attended training sessions over the year as part of development and quality sustenance initiatives. A session on mentoring was held for all faculty members on 14 & 15 June 2012. The resource persons were Dr Srinivasa Raghavan, Professor, LIBA and Ms Sudha Naryanan, Senior Manager, People Enablement, IBM India.


The US Consulate General, Chennai in association with the Green Chronicle Team of the Deccan Chronicle and Stella Maris College held a discussion on “Electronic Waste Management” via Digital Video Conference in August. The panel discussion included an interaction with the participants. We are in the process of finalising our Self Study Report for NAAC re-accreditation for the third cycle. We will be submitting the report in a few months’ time.

The 15 major departments of the College offer undergraduate, postgraduate and research programmes leading to M Phil and Doctoral degrees. In addition to a strong focus on knowledge enhancement, the courses offered by these departments also emphasise skills development and experiential learning. Industry-academe collaboration and tie-ups with the corporate sector and research institutions have ensured that students obtain the best possible exposure to multiple learning experiences. All departments conduct workshops, organise seminars, conferences, guest lectures, scholar-in-residence programmes and several additional input sessions for students. These have had very positive outcomes in terms of introducing students to contemporary developments in their disciplines, opening up new areas for research and encouraging exchange of ideas between experts and students.

I will now move on to a presentation of the highlights of the activities of the various departments of the College.

The Department of Mathematics: In January 2013 Dr Sr Jasintha Quadras fmm was awarded the Distinguished Alumnae of the Institution at Christ University, Bangalore. The department conducted an intercollegiate competition in





Mathematics called MATH ZOOM for students of city colleges on 14 September 2012. The student forum of the Department of Mathematics, INTEGRA, organised a series of workshops, lectures and competitions throughout the year. Workshops on Graph Theory and MathCad, lectures on Operations Research, Astronomy and Linear Algebra and inter year competitions were some of the activities conducted by the forum. INTEGRA enabled the students to understand some of the latest innovations in technological software operations, gain in-depth knowledge in key areas of their discipline and also identify areas for research.

Three workshops for doctoral students were held as part of the UGC Major Research Project of Dr Sr Jasintha Quadras. A workshop on Cheminformatics was held on 5 & 6 September 2012. From November 17-19, 2012, a Workshop on Nanotechnology was conducted for the students. A Workshop on Interconnection Networks was held from January 21-24, 2013. Nearly 21 Ph. D scholars from various institutions in Chennai attended the workshop. The research students also presented papers at national and international forums.

The Department of History conducted the annual Indira Gandhi Memorial Endowment Lecture on 6 September 2012. Ms Jennifer McIntyre, the American Consul, graced the occasion and spoke on the range and depth of Indo-US relations. The annual cultural event 'BC to AD', received an overwhelming response from other colleges in the city and was held on 17 September 2012.

The Department of Sociology: The Sr Christine Endowment Lecture was delivered by Dr Sriranjini Sivasubramanian, Head, Department of Human Rights and Duties Education, Ethiraj College, Chennai on the topic "Intersection of Gender Justice and Law" on 22 February 2013. A talk on "The Catastrophe of Child Marriage in Tamil Nadu" was delivered by Dr Sujata Ramanathan, former Head of the department and UNICEF Documentation Consultant. The students of the department organised and participated in the Department's Meads Meet 2012, the Intra-year Socio Fest.

The Department of Economics: The Dr Sr Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture was held on 10 August 2012. The lecture titled "The Growth Story – How 'Inclusive' has it Been?" was delivered by Prof. S. Subramanian, of the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai. D Samhita of III BA Economics was judged the winner for 'The Best Summary of the Lecture Award' for the lecture on "Foreign Direct Investments in

Retail” conducted by the Scientific Research Association for Economics & Finance, Chennai. Amritha Vivek of II MA Economics was awarded a scholarship to do a one month course in business engineering, science and technology at the University of Dayton, USA. She has also been selected to represent the Republic of India from the Asian States Regional Bloc at the high level Youth Summit on the Millennium Development Goals Committee in Melbourne, Australia.

The Department of Fine Arts: The Department of Fine Arts organised a national textile seminar titled “Thari: Tradition in the Modern” on 12 & 13 February 2013. The seminar brought together textile researchers, experts, activists and enthusiasts on an academic platform to address key issues in textile craft practice. Dr Razia Tony as Principal Investigator and Ms Anne Samuel and Ms Lakshmi Priya as co- investigators

have completed a UGC Minor Research Project titled ‘Gendered Spaces’. The annual Dr Sr Edith Tomory Endowment lecture was held on 24 July 2012 by artist, writer and curator Pushpamala N from Bangalore. Titled ‘The Pseudo-Archivist’, the lecture gave students valuable insights into the contemporary art scene.



Ms Lakshmi Priya Daniel participated in a Regional Young Artists of Chennai-Group Painting Exhibition held at Dhyanaashram in November- December 2012. Dr Razia Tony took part in a National Exhibition commemorating ‘Compassion of Mother Theresa’ in Art and Soul Gallery Chennai in December and January 2013. Dr Razia Tony was part of the Muziris Biennale Exhibition organised in Kochi in December 2012 and also participated in an artists’ camp of 65 artists titled ‘Born to Win’ in February at Chennai.

The Department of English: A Minor Research Project titled “Reclaiming Green Presences: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Plant Subjectivity in Literature and Botanical Sciences” with Assistant Professors of the Department of English Dr Padma Alistair as Principal Investigator and Ms V. Shilpa

as Co-investigator has been approved by the UGC. As a departmental initiative towards inclusive experiential activities, a production titled “Mauna k Kuram: Silenced Prophecies” was staged on campus. Dr V. Padma directed a cast and crew consisting of students from various departments of the College. The three shows were witnessed by a packed house and were greatly appreciated. The students’ cultural event Novella was held in October and 224 students from 13 city colleges participated. In December, as part of the Poetry Festival of the Prakriti Foundation, an independent organisation which hosts cultural events that relate to Indian heritage and traditions, held two poetry panel readings for students and faculty of the department. In February 2013, a “Meet the Author” session was held during which renowned writers Vaidehi and Sara Aboobacker addressed the students. B Abirami, III BA English participated in a national level essay competition in French

conducted by the French Embassy and the Institut Français and won a 10 day trip to Paris and Strasbourg.

The Department of Commerce: This year, the Department was awarded two Minor Research Projects by the UGC. The projects are titled: “A Comparative Study of Work-life Balance

of Female Nurses in Government and Private Hospitals in Chennai, Tamil Nadu” with Ms Rashida Banu Associate Professor as Principal Investigator and Ms Zonita Mason and Ms Shanti Selvanayagam, Associate Professors of the Department as Co-investigators, and “A Study on Distribution Network Adopted by Women Entrepreneurs in Un-organised Sectors in Chennai and Neighbouring Districts” with Dr Agnes Rozario, Associate Professor as Principal Investigator and Ms Shanti Stanley and Ms Vidya Srinivasan, Associate Professors of the Department as Co-investigators. A H.R. Summit, sponsored by the Central Bank of India was conducted in January 2013 in collaboration with The Hindu Business Line Club, to enlighten the students on current industry practices. The department organised “Combat 2013” an inter-collegiate competition and ‘Nishka’ an inter-class competition.

Two III BCom students attended the Swearing-in Ceremony of the U.S. President Mr Barack Obama and the five-day Collegiate Presidential Conference at Washington D.C. in January 2013.

The Department of Physics: A regional level Workshop on 'Analytical Instrumentation Techniques' - A Study of Scientific Research on Analytical Instrumentation Techniques by Dr S Jayakumar, Associate Professor, RKM Vivekananda College was held in October 2012. The Department's annual cultural event titled ELECTRA 2012 was held on 7 September 2012. Professors from IGCAR, Kalpakkam delivered lectures on nuclear energy and opportunities for careers in higher education at IGCAR. About 100 participants from various colleges took part in the events. The annual event "Popular Lectures in Physics" was held on 9 March 2013. Professors Dr Subramanian and Dr Bhuvshwari, Department of Physics from V.I.T. Vellore delivered lectures on nano science followed by a demonstration. The Physics magazine PHYSIK was released on the same day. Dr K.H. Rajini as Principal Investigator and Dr Gana Sangeetha as Co-investigator were awarded a UGC Minor Research Project. Krithika Raman of the department was selected for an internship at Saha Institute at Kolkata.

The Department of Chemistry: The Department of Chemistry organised a two day National Conference on New Frontiers in Organic Chemistry and Process Research in collaboration with Shasun Pharmaceuticals Limited on 24 & 25 January 2013. The Conference was funded by the University Grants Commission and the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India. The Chemistry Fest "REACTIONS -2012" the annual intercollegiate programme was held on 28 September.

The Dr Sr Annamma Philip Endowment Lecture by Professor P Selvam an eminent scientist from IIT-Madras, focused on nanostructured materials for sustainable chemistry. Dr Mary George as Principal Investigator and Ms Avila Josephine and Ms Mary Teresita as Co-investigators were awarded a UGC Minor Research Project titled "Antimicrobial and Cytotoxic Activity of Nanostructured Polymer Supported Complexes." Dr Mary Terry as Principal Investigator and Dr Revathy Rajagopal as Co-investigator have been sanctioned a UGC Major Research Project. Dr Revathy Rajagopal Assistant Professor of the department has been awarded a Summer Research Fellowship Programme at IISc Bangalore. Liz George of II BSc. Chemistry has been awarded a Summer

Research Fellowship Programme at the University of Kolkata. Ann Candice, also of the second year has been awarded a Summer Research Fellowship Programme at IISc Bangalore. Chriso Maria Thomas has obtained an internship position at the Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Kerala.

The Department of Botany: The Department of Botany in collaboration with CPR Environmental Education Centre organised a National Conference on the "Role of Traditional knowledge in Biodiversity Conservation, Livelihood and Sustainable Development" on 5 and 6 February 2013. A workshop was organised on "Mushroom Cultivation" for I year students of the Department of Botany. Another workshop on "Histochemical Tests for Phytoconstituents of Therapeutic Value, Organoleptic Study of Medicinal Herbs & Microscopic Analysis of Powdered Drugs" was held for the II year students of the department. Both workshops were supported by Department of Biotechnology under the Star College scheme. Students organised an Intercollegiate Botany Fest "ASTERA" 2012 on 3 October. Thirteen Colleges participated in various events. Dr Priscilla Jebakumari was named on the Scroll of Honour for Best Faculty Advisor for Rotaract Club, District Rotaract Council – Rotary International District 3230.

The Department of Zoology: The Department of Zoology organised a two day National Conference on "Perspectives in Ethology" on 30 November and 1 December 2012. Renowned primatologist Dr Anindya Sinha, Professor, Centre for Ecological Studies, IISc, Bangalore delivered the keynote address. The Wild-life Week 18 to 23 February 2013 organised by the department was a call to the student community to join hands to protect our biodiversity. The Dr Meera Paul and Dr Hannah John Endowment Lecture on "Perspectives on Cancer" was delivered by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Winner, Dr V Shanta, Chairperson, Cancer Institute, Adyar in October 2012. The world renowned oncologist emphasised that early detection of this much dreaded disease was the key to cancer cure.

The annual inter collegiate ZOOFEEST "Synapse 2012" was organised by the Department. Suneha Jaganathan of II BSc Zoology and Ratna Kartagi of III BFSc Zoology participated in a survey of Star Tortoises conducted by the Wildlife Trust of India. Danita Kripa Daniel of II BSc Zoology was selected for the Project Oriented Biological Education 2012 at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, for three weeks.



*His Grace Dr. George Anthonsamy, Archbishop of Madras addressing the gathering*

The Department of Social Work: The Department celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2012. Dr Elizabeth Fernandes, Associate Professor, School of Social Sciences, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, a student of the first batch, honoured the department with her presence and delivered the annual Sr Thecla Endowment Lecture titled ‘International Social Work: Current Realities and Future Challenges.’ For the first time, an Intra Departmental Fest ‘Carnivesta’ on the theme ‘75 years of Professional Social Work in India’ was organised by Unnathi, the Students’ Forum. The fest was a great opportunity for students to display their talent and creativity. An International Conference –“Voices, Innovations and Directions: Empowering People for Sustainable and Equitable Communities” was organised in collaboration with Assisi Community Development Alternatives, India, a counterpart of Assisi Aid Projects Inc, Australia, and a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development. The conference was well attended with representation from academia, NGOs, field personnel as well as the government. As a response to the Delhi rape incident that shocked the country, “Unnathi” conducted “Gender Sensitisation” programmes through puppet shows, mimes, skits, songs, etc. in several schools in the city.

The programmes will be extended to other schools in and around the city of Chennai.

Liverpool Hope University UK, continues the academic partnership with the department by way of guidance and supervision of field placements of their students through Sangamam, the extension project.

The UGC Major Research Project titled “Creating Sustainable Livelihoods for Rural Women” at Tirupassur draws to a close this academic year. A budget tracking analysis on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and available employment generation programmes for women were conducted in the panchayat. Based on the needs of the women several livelihood training programmes, awareness generation programmes on reproductive health, hygiene, child rights, legal literacy for women were organised over a period of two years. The three year international Research Project titled, “Studies on Policies and Practices in the field of Drugs Use/ Abuse – The Catholic University in Dialogue with Political and Social Actors” is in its final phase. The research study was carried out in four locations in India focusing on the current



implications of the social issue in the Indian sub-continent. A cross-cultural interaction with the faculty and Students of Social Work from Avila University, Kansas City, Missouri, USA took place in the department on 12 March 2013.

The Department of Languages: Bharathi Mandram run by the students of Tamil, celebrated Pongal Vizha on 7 January 2013. Dr Ulaganayaki Palani, Associate Professor of Tamil received several awards testifying to her excellence as a teacher, and her commitment to the promotion of the Tamil language. She published a book titled “ Bharathi Endroru Tamil Nathi” by Kolumbu Thamil Sangam in May 2012.

Dr I Nanthamil Nangai, Assistant Professor of Tamil published a book of poetry “Mayilirakaai Varudum Nirvaanam” in December 2012.

A national seminar on “Career Options in Hindi Media” was conducted on 30 and 31 August 2012. The Anubhuti Club run by the students of Hindi organised a workshop on ‘Basic Theatre Skills’ for students. The workshop was conducted by renowned theatre artiste Ms Revathy Shankaran.

The Department of Computer Science: Third year BCA students of the Department, Ms Arwa Feroze and Ms Neha Shetty developed a unique user-friendly software, which after extensive testing was used for the election process of the Students’ Union for the academic year 2013-14, making the process faster and the technology more user-friendly. A scholar-in-residence programme was organised for the final year UG and PG students in July. Dr Ramanujam from IMSC, Taramani was the resource person. Mr Ankit Fadia a best-selling author on Computer Security and a Digital Intelligence consultant with definitive experience in the field of internet security based out of Silicon Valley in California, USA addressed the faculty and students of the Department

on “Cyber Security and its Threats” on 28 November 2012. WIZIT ‘12, an Inter-Collegiate fest of the Department was organised on 13 September.

PG Department of Bioinformatics: A five day workshop on “Interdisciplinary Applications of Bioinformatics was conducted from 18-23 January 2013 for the students of all science departments.

PG Department of International Studies: The Department of International Studies organised a one-day seminar on the theme “Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region” in collaboration with the Centre for Asian Studies in August 2012. The Dr Kamala Aravind Endowment lecture was delivered by Professor R Venkat Rao, Vice Chancellor of The National Law School of India University, Bangalore on the theme “Relevance of the UN in the Contemporary International System” on 27 November 2012. This year as a part of the annual Scholar-in-Residence programme of the department, Dr D Suba Chandran, Director of the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi delivered a series of lectures on Kashmir, South Asia Nuclearisation, India-Pakistan and India-China Relations from 6-11 December 2012.

‘Kriya’ the annual student seminar was organised on the theme “Environment the Web of Life” on 30 January 2013 and the student organising committee was successful in inviting papers from students from all over the city of Chennai. As part of the tenth year celebrations the Department organised an International Conference in collaboration with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi and the South Asia East Asia Group Research, Singapore, on: “Asia Pacific 2013: Looking Beyond South East Asia” on 4 March 2013. Eminent resource persons from Singapore, Australia, New Delhi and Chennai participated in the Conference.

On 5 March 2013 the Department organised a workshop on "Nuclear Asia: Issues of Contemporary Debate" in collaboration with IPCS, New Delhi and had students from Chennai, Bangalore and other regions participating and presenting well researched papers on the theme.

PG Department of Public Relations: The second year postgraduate students of the department launched a campaign "Minsar: A Pledge to Save Electricity". The aim of the campaign was to foreground what the students, as individuals and citizens, could do to conserve energy. A stall at the Youth Health Mela that was set up for four days between 24 and 27 January 2013 at Valluvar Kottam, emphasising the importance to save electricity, kick-started the campaign. The department was also awarded "Star Stall" of the day for 26 January 2013.

Sruthi Vijayachandran of the 2010 batch of PR won the first prize in the 2012 Best Young Speaker from Asia Competition at Cambridge University UK. She was one of nine English language students from across Asia who took part in the final. For winning the competition, Sruthi was awarded the first prize of an MBA scholarship at the London School of Business Finance – one of the event's sponsors.

PG Department of Biotechnology: A workshop on "Latest Biotechnology Techniques in Clinical Diagnosis" was held in July 2012 for the PG students of Stanley Medical College and UG students of Stella Maris College. Our activities on campus extend well beyond disciplinary and academic boundaries. Faculty members have also been involved in a number of programmes that have been extensions of our commitment to ensuring that students have access to education beyond the classroom. Entrepreneurship, research, extension activities, leadership development programmes and English language enhancement programmes, are some of the areas in which

our faculty members extend their services. For students, membership in any one of the following programmes, NCC, NSS and participation in Sports and Games is mandatory.

National Service Scheme and Youth Red Cross: The National Service Scheme and Youth Red Cross units provide each of its members with a significant context in which a volunteer can arrive at an in-depth understanding of herself and the social realities around her. The three programme officers, Dr Nirmala Alex, Assistant Professor of Social Work and Co-ordinator, Dr Nanthamil Nangai, Assistant Professor of Tamil and Ms Harriet Sathyavathi, S.A.P Co-ordinator work with 320 registered NSS volunteers and around 200 YRC volunteers who render service in 15 reputed Non-Governmental Organisations.

Two blood donation camps were held on 17 July 2012 and 4 February 2013 in collaboration with the Voluntary Action Bureau and the Indian Red Cross Society. It was significant to note that we had 260 student donors for the first camp and 220 students for the second camp. Stella Maris College won the Dr Radhakrishnan shield for mobilising the maximum number of donors among women's colleges in the city.

Our YRC volunteers served at the Egmore Eye Hospital to address the needs of the patients and the medical personnel. They rendered valuable service to a number of Non Governmental Organisations such as Green Peace India, Help Age India and the Tamil Nadu Kidney Research Foundation to name a few. The mega event of the year was the zonal level cultural competition where our volunteers won the first place in mime and in the singing competitions.

National Cadet Corps: The National Cadet Corps plays a vital role in moulding the characters of young women and helping them acquire qualities of leadership, discipline and courage.

Many of our Cadets have participated in prestigious events across the country and have demonstrated high levels of commitment, discipline and motivation. They have attended camps, participated in competitions in various events at inter-collegiate, state and national levels.

Six Thal Sainik cadets were selected to represent Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Directorate at New Delhi for the All India Thal Sainik Camp in October. L/Cpl. D.J. Jenifer of II BSc Mathematics secured the silver medal in Field Signal, Cpl. Mary Steffi of II BSc. Mathematics and L/Cpl. Mencya Daisyla of II BA History & Tourism were awarded the bronze medal in Map Reading. L/Cpl D.J. Jenifer and L/Cpl Edel Ancy Queen of II BSc. Mathematics obtained the gold medal in tent pitching. L/Cpl. A. Sherlin secured second place in the All India Shooting Competition. F/Cdt. Shardha Soni of II BA History & Tourism was awarded the Gold medal for flying at the Inter-Group Competition for Vayu Sainik Camp held at Coimbatore in the month of August. F/Cdt. Shardha Soni of II BA History & Tourism represented Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Andaman and Nicobar Directorate for the flying competition and won the Silver medal. Her achievement placed Tamil Nadu Puducherry & Andaman and Nicobar Directorate in the first position at the All India level.

Six cadets (4 Army, 1 Air & 1 Navy) were selected for the Inter-Group Competitions for the Republic Day Camp held at Trichy in the months of September and October. Cpl. Padmaroopa and Naval Cadet Oliver Drishilla of II BSc Mathematics were nominated to represent Madras Group A and Madras Group B respectively.

Two cadets were selected for the Republic Day Camp held at New Delhi in January 2013. Cpl. Akshaya of II BSc Mathematics was part of the parade on Rajpath in the Contingent Drill. Naval Cadet Oliver Drishilla of II BSc Mathematics was selected for Line area briefing and Best Cadet in the Naval Wing. Cadets actively participated in CADOFEST – the intercollegiate NCC Competitions conducted by D. G. Vaishnav College in January 2013. Cadets are also encouraged to be actively engaged in the college's mission to effect social change and to develop in them a sense of responsible citizenship. Several cadets visited Shanti Bhavan pre-school, Little Sisters of the Poor, an old age home, and

Adyar Cancer Institute in order to understand social realities and thereby to reflect on ways in which they can participate in social transformation. On 23 & 24 February 2013, CADOSTAR the inter-collegiate competition was conducted by the Stella Maris NCC Company.



On 26 July 2012, under Direct Commission, Ms Fancy V F, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics was awarded the rank of Lieutenant and became the Associate NCC Officer of Stella Maris NCC Company.

Sports: Our College has always been at the forefront of Sports and Games. This year too we have excelled in various events and bettered our positions in some of them. The following are the highlights of our many achievements in the field. The



basketball team of our college continued their winning streak by winning the first position in almost all tournaments in which they participated. At the Madras University B Zone Inter Collegiate Tournament our college secured the Winners title. S Sanghavi and Sri Vidya S Shekar, both of I BCom were selected to represent Madras University at the All India Inter University

tournament held on 11 October 2012 at Loyola College, our College team secured the Winners title after 15 years. The team players were K Jennie Tresa, II BCom, R Keerthana, M Ashvitha, Saranya and Kavya Narayanan all of I BCom.



At the intercollegiate Table Tennis tournament conducted by Madras University B Zone our college team won the first place. Harshitha Ravi and N Vidya were selected to represent the Madras University and their team emerged as the Winners in the South Zone tournament. They participated in the All India Inter University Tournament in January 2013 and again secured the winners title. N Vidya was also selected to represent Tamil Nadu.

Our dominance in the game of Badminton was demonstrated this year too. Our College team won the first place at the Madras University B Zone Inter-collegiate tournament. The team players were Maithily Madhusudhanan, III BCom, M Preteeshita of II BCom and Swetha Chandrashekar, I BVA. Maithily Madhusudhanan and M Preteeshita were selected to represent Madras University.

In Athletics, Christina Mary Ann Durant of II BCom secured first place in the 200 metres and 400 metres race in the Madras University B Zone Inter-collegiate Athletics Meet held at Madras University Union. D Monica, III BCom secured Second place in Triple Jump in the same tournament. In the Junior State Athletics Meet held at Coimbatore, Christina Mary Ann secured the Gold Medal in 200 metres. In Shooting, T Valli, of II BA. Sociology represented Tamil Nadu in the Junior Category in National Shooting Championship and won the Bronze medal. This year, our College organised the Madras University Inter-collegiate tournaments in Basketball and Tennis and Inter-zone tournaments in Volleyball and Tennis. This year 49 students of our College were selected to represent the

Tournament held at Bhuvaneshwar in December 2012. Their team emerged victorious. Srividya S Shekar was selected to represent Tamil Nadu for the Federation Cup Basketball tournament. The team also won the Basketball event at the Sports Fest 2012 conducted by IIT Madras.

Madras University B Zone. Nine students were selected to represent the Madras University and nine students represented Tamil Nadu.

In Chess, we scaled new heights. Our college team won the Madras University B Zone Inter-collegiate Tournament held at Shasun Jain College in September 2012. In the Inter-zone

DST: The College has been sanctioned three lakh and thirty five thousand rupees for a DST project to conduct training programmes on 'The Role of Chemistry in Food Safety'. As part of the project, a four-day state level training programme was conducted at Stella Maris College in November 2012 and

two-day training programmes in five districts of Tamil Nadu for school teachers. The programmes were coordinated by Dr Geetha Swaminathan and Dr Mary George, of the Department of Chemistry.

DBT: The Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, has extended the Star College Scheme for a period of three years from 2012 at Stella Maris for strengthening the basic sciences.

CRIST: The Centre for Research in Science and Technology, in collaboration with the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai organised a two- day National Workshop on “Micro scale Experiments in Physical Chemistry” for faculty members from colleges all over India. Dr Mary Terry, Coordinator of the Workshop and Dr Revathy Rajagopal designed a special electrode kit, keeping in mind the need for environmental care and also taking into consideration the requirement to bring down the total cost of the chemicals. The lab has been upgraded with the installation of additional state-of-the-art equipment.

The Centre for Women’s Studies of Stella Maris College organised a two-day seminar on ‘The Girl Child’ in September 2012. The Centre, in collaboration with the US Consular

Services, conducted a Digital Video Conference on 16 October 2012 with Massachusetts Women’s Political Caucus Executive Director Priti Rao at Boston on the theme ‘The Role of Women in Elections’. On March 8, International Women’s Day, the faculty of the Centre in collaboration with ActionAid organised the launch of the international campaign One Billion Rising on campus. The Centre in collaboration with the Forum of Anglo-Indian Women also organised a White Ribbon pledge for students of city colleges on that day.

Sangamam, the extension project of Stella Maris College involves working with the fishing communities in North Chennai. The project involves community based organisations such as differently-abled groups, transgender groups, youth groups, groups comprising elderly persons, children’s groups and women’s self-help groups.

Communicative English Programme: A special programme on English Communication Skills for first year undergraduate students who needed to enhance their competency in English was launched this academic year. The programme is peer-taught, and is conducted thrice a week for about two hundred students. The programme is coordinated by Dr Thilagavathi Joseph and Dr S Sujitha of the Department of English.



The Stella Maris Pathway Programme, with its goal 'Pathways to Opportunities', helps students from less privileged backgrounds to develop their competencies through training in soft skills, computer applications, and employability skills. IBM collaborates with Stella Maris as a part of their CSR initiative in training these students.

The Students' Union: The Students' Union 2012 – 2013 of Stella Maris College, worked as an efficient team of six, with the motto 'I choose to be'. The theme for the year was Go Green, Go Blue, Go Red – Green representing Environment Security, Blue for Water Security and Red for Food Security. A three day campaign was conducted on 12, 13 and 14 February 2013, with a rally flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ms Sonal Chandra, IPS. Various programmes and competitions were conducted to create awareness among students on environmental issues. This is a continuation of our commitment towards the Franciscan vision of Care of Mother Earth. The Students' Union also conducted collegiate, intercollegiate and interdepartmental cultural events during the year, the most significant one being Aquilae 2013, with about 1000 competitors from 21 colleges in the city participating in various events.

The students of Stella Maris organised their first edition of a nationwide Parliamentary Debate (SMCPD) competition from November 30 to December 2 this year. More than a hundred students from prestigious universities across the country and overseas such as IIT Madras, NLS Bangalore, IIT Bombay, National University of Singapore, Christ University, Bangalore, RV College of Engineering, Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, Loyola College, MOP-Vaishnav to mention a few, participated.

The annual College play titled "Twelve Angry Jurors", produced by the Dramatics Club of Stella Maris College, drew large audiences at Museum Theatre, Egmore, on 2 and 3 February 2013. A completely student-organised venture, the cast and production team consisted of over 60 students from 13 departments. With witty dialogues and impeccable rendition, it turned out to be a mature piece of dramatic art that kept audiences on the edge of their seats.

The Alumnae Association is an integral part of our College. In addition to bringing former students together to celebrate special events, the Association reaches out to the underprivileged and marginalised sections of society in many

ways. The AASMC also helps students through its Student Support Fund by which deserving students of all departments are assisted in paying examination fees. A popular activity is Kalanjiam at which people from different fields of fine arts and professionals share their experiences with the Association members at interactive sessions.

As part of a drive to enroll past students in the AASMC, all departments of the college invited former students to special meetings on campus. The response from them was overwhelming, and the coming together of past and present of student memories was an exciting and fulfilling experience. The main objective was to bring them back to their Alma Mater, so that they continue to be an integral part of the institution's growth and development.

Career Guidance Cell: Members of the Career Guidance Cell have been very active in scouting for well-established companies in the corporate sector for recruitment and placement of students. Campus recruitment started mid-September with Google, Mckinsey, Goldman Sachs, RBS along with other prominent companies such as CTS, Wipro, HCL, Infosys, Deloitte, Accenture, Mahindra Sathyam, Tata Capital and Sutherland recruited our students. About 200 UG students and 20 PG students from various departments were recruited in this year's campus drive. In November a workshop titled 'Employability Skills' was conducted by IBM to enhance skills in resumé writing, group discussion, interview skills, aptitude test and presentation skills. Around 200 students attended this workshop to prepare for the campus recruitment drive.

The Christmas Carol Concert "Christmas Melodies" was held this year on 14 December 2012 on campus with several leading choirs of Chennai participating.

Internal Quality Assurance Cell: The IQAC of the College launched its Students' Wing in February 2012. The number of members totals 103. Their role is to liaison between the Cell and the student community and includes strategising for quality enhancement, acting as student teachers and guides for students of the Pathway Programme and other activities of the College. The Cell also conducted several training programmes for both faculty and administrative staff this year. The Entrepreneurship Development Cell: The EDC has helped in bringing a new dimension to the curriculum by opening up an inter-disciplinary approach to various projects



and imparting skills to students for starting micro enterprises. This year the EDC conducted four Entrepreneurship Awareness Camps for the first year undergraduates to introduce them to the importance of entrepreneurship, the qualities of the successful entrepreneurship and provided them with guidelines for starting a small scale industry. About 320 students participated in the EACs. The EDC also conducted Skill Development Training programmes on the preparation of herbal products like herbal shampoos, pain balm and jewellery design.

The English Language and Life Skills Certificate Course under the guidance of Dr Sr Helen Vincent fmm, Director, continues to cater to the special needs of the disadvantaged students of our society. First generation learners who need to strengthen their mastery of the language – both speaking and writing skills – enroll in the course. The course also has students from Burma, Thailand, Korea and the Congo.

These highlights foreground the range of activities that the faculty and students have been involved in through the academic year 2012-2013. As we look ahead to the coming year, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission of empowering young women to be leaders and motivating them to be active participants in the process of societal transformation. It is incumbent on us as educators and administrators to ensure our students' success, and to this end, we will continue to develop innovative programmes and courses, invest in infrastructure and state-of-the-art facilities, hire well qualified and highly competent faculty members and continue to build up our resources.

As I conclude this report, I thank the Almighty for His infinite wisdom that has guided us and for the gift of persons who have enriched our lives. I 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, and the International Federation

of Catholic Universities, for supporting us in our mission by their involvement and generous grants for various projects. To the several public sector undertakings, NGOs and generous benefactors who have continued to support us we extend our gratitude.

It is now my pleasant duty to express my gratitude to all those who with their support, guidance and commitment have made these achievements possible. To every member of the faculty, and to those who hold additional responsibilities - the Vice-Principals, Controller of Examinations, Deans of Academic Affairs and Deans of Student Affairs - I offer my profound thanks. It has been your hard work, generosity and commitment that has helped us carry on in the midst of multiple challenges.

My grateful thanks to Sr Maria Sundari, Dr Sr Flavia, Sr Veera, Sr Philo, Sr Arockiamary, and Sr Hilda for their efficient and meticulous work. My gratitude goes to every member of the administrative and supportive staff for their contribution to the smooth functioning of the institution. My deep gratitude goes to the hostel wardens Sr Christine, Sr Hilda, Sr Leonie, Sr Leema, Ms Alice Rani for their committed and dedicated work with the hundreds of residents on campus. I thank Sr Mary Mathew who looks after the health needs of students, specially the hostel residents, Sr Mary Ann and all my sisters of the Stella Maris Community for their constant support and cooperation.

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. Thank you all for coming here today. Your presence is a source of encouragement and we look forward to continuing bonds of friendship and mutual understanding as we continue our journey of discovery.

May the Star of the Sea, be our constant guide as we sail the stormy seas of life. Thank You and God Bless. Jai Hind.



**INDEPENDENCE DAY  
AND STELLA BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATIONS**





*Mr R K Raghavan former CBI Director and Chairman of SIT addressing the students on Independence Day*









## MR ALEXANDER



Mr Alexander has been an integral part of the Stella Maris community since 1966, when he came to Chennai from Burma. A gentle, soft-spoken and humble person, he has tirelessly worked for the maintenance of the campus.

He served in the Department of Fine Arts as attender for several years and in the last few years, he has been instrumental in the upkeep of the vermicomposting unit of the college. He has taken keen interest in the process and has ensured a constant supply of vermicompost to the college.


A god fearing person, Mr Alexander is blessed with two daughters and a happy family. Though he has retired from service he continues to remain committed to the cause of the college maintenance.

We wish him a healthy and peaceful life ahead.

Sr Susan, fmm  
Secretary




## DR ALAMELU N



Dr Alamelu N has retired from the Department of Fine Arts after 34 years of teaching. Though she began her career with a singular interest in sculpture, she has grown to love all art forms. She has been one of the best teachers of Art History and Drawing. She has made every effort to make art history interesting, drawing easy and design challenging. Her growth from strength to strength was under the able guidance of the great stalwart of the Fine Arts department, Sr Edith Tömöry.

Dr Alamelu's area of research for her PhD was "Narration in Nayaka Art Based on Select Temples in Tamil Nadu". Her research interests have been in Indian Art History, Modern Art, Art Criticism, Drawing and Design. She has presented papers on Textile Traditions, Indian Art, Modern Indian Art and Cartoons at national and international seminars.



She has served as the Head of the Undergraduate Department from 2004 to 2009 and the Postgraduate Department from 2009 to 2013. She has contributed significantly to the structuring of the BA syllabus in Fine Arts, as well as to the restructuring of the BVA and MA programmes. She has been on the Board of Studies and an important member of several committees in college. Presently she is a member of the governing body of the college.



Her work has been versatile in nature; she designed the Art Quiz for Madras Doordarshan. She was a coordinator of the Dynamics of Design, a UBCHEA sponsored project for III year Non-Fine Arts Students. She has also served as a guest faculty for Art History, Drawing, Clay & Plaster Modeling in reputed institutions such as the Visual Communication Department of Loyola College, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Chennai, Engineering Design Department of the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai and St. Joseph's Engineering College, Chennai.

Dr Alamelu cherishes all that she has received from the college, always committed and loyal to her alma mater, and values the traditions of the institution. A humane person, she goes out of her way to reach out wherever and whenever help is required. As the Head of the Department, her efficiency and commitment have been commendable. Quiet, simple and unassuming, with a lovely sense of humour, Dr Alamelu is a highly intelligent person with phenomenal language skills. We wish her the very best for her future, and hope that her years of retirement are filled with peace and fulfillment.

**Dr Sr Colleen North, fmm**





## DR LEEMA VANITHAKUMARI FRANCIS

Dr Leema Vanithakumari Francis is retiring as an academican after 36 years of service. From 1977 to 1987, she worked in PSG College, Coimbatore and from 1987 she has been part of the Commerce department of Stella Maris College. She has an MCom with Finance and Taxation as specialization. She also has a degree in Law. Her area of research for her PhD was the adoption of technology-enabled banking services, with specific focus on internet and mobile banking. She was the Head of Department of Commerce for 12 years in total – the Head of the Undergraduate Department from 1997-2004 and Head of the Postgraduate Department from 2004-2009. She has made an outstanding contribution to the growth and development of the department, nurturing it from its initial stages with just one section in the undergraduate course to its present status with four sections of commerce together in the undergraduate course, along with a post graduate programme.

She has held many important posts in college. She was one of the first Academic Deans when college adopted the credit based system in 1997. She was Chief Superintendent of Exams, Core Committee Member of IQAC and a Member of the Governing Body.

Her academic contributions are extensive. She is a member of the Review Committee of books on Advanced Accounting and Taxation. She is a member of the Board of Studies of Madras University and Bharathiyar University. She is a University Nominee and Subject Expert in the Board of Studies in autonomous institutions such as Women's Christian College, Madras Christian College and Queen Mary's College



in Chennai, PSG College, Coimbatore and Lady Doak College, Madurai. Over the past ten years, she has been Convenor and Member of the Inspection Commission to grant affiliation for BCom and allied courses for several colleges affiliated to the University of Madras. She was also instrumental in introducing specialization and certificate courses at the UG level in collaboration with ICAI and Standard Chartered Bank. Dr Leema Francis is a confident and capable individual, mature in her outlook and in her manner of dealing with people. She is an excellent teacher and has always done justice to her teaching. She has been a role model for thousands of students who have passed through the department. She is systematic, well organised, diligent and sincere, who always leads by example. She has powerful leadership qualities. She is open to new ideas and willing to experiment and also supports the implementation of new projects.

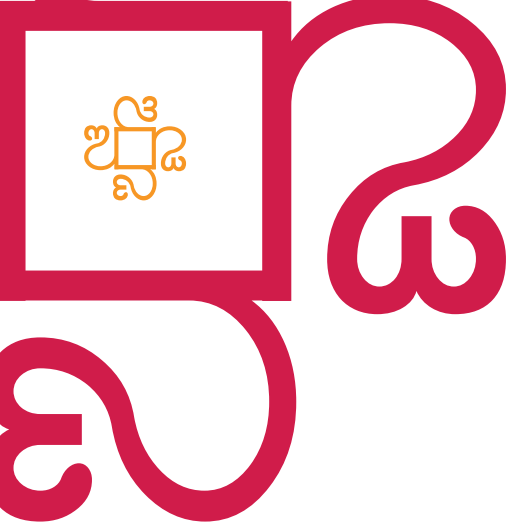
She is humane and one of the first to respond to an emergency. She is magnanimous with her time and resources, and often goes out of her way to reach out to people. When faculty and students need her help, she is always there.

We wish her a bright, fruitful and meaningful future.

**Dr Sr Colleen North, fmm**







## DR NEERAJA RAO

Dr Neeraja Rao, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, has more than three decades of teaching experience. She began her teaching career at Osmania University in 1977 and after teaching there for two years, she came to Stella Maris College in 1979. She had a six year stint in the University of Akron, USA, between 1990 and 1996.

She is a distinguished alumna of Osmania University, a Gold medalist in MA who secured the second rank in MPhil. She holds a doctorate from the University of Akron. During her stay there, she assisted in several projects at the University. She has wide experience in fields such as Social Anthropology, Urban Sociology, Social Thought and Social Statistics.

She has great passion for research and academic writing. Her research skills include designing instruments of data collection, along with the processes of data collection, coding and editing data. She has been involved in several research projects such as “Food Security Atlas of Rural India”, sponsored by the United Nations, and the UBCHEA funded project on “Impact of Higher Education on Empowerment of Women”.

She has been actively participating in seminars and conferences at both the National and the International levels. She has presented nearly 20 research papers. Apart from these, she also has other publications to her credit such as, a chapter on “Gender and Food Security in India”, a publication of M S Swaminathan Research Foundation and a review of the book, “Siva and her Sisters: Gender, Caste and Class in Rural South India”.

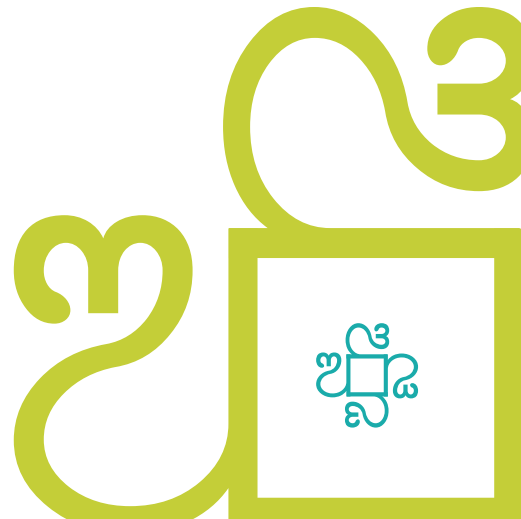




She has been a member of the Board of Studies of several colleges in the city and was also nominated to the Academic Council of the University of Madras for a period of two years. She has been teaching postgraduate courses offered by the Department of International Studies since 2003. She has also been a resource person for courses under the Distance Education programme of the Madurai Kamaraj University. Apart from her teaching responsibilities, she has also held important administrative posts in our institution. She was the Associate Controller of Examinations from 2005 to 2008 and one of the Academic Deans from 2009 to 2011. She was also the Coordinator of the team that is involved in setting up a research cell in our college.

She has always been appreciated for her professionalism and excellent work ethics. Her colleagues respect her for her leadership skills. She is democratic, delegates work, supervises and guides her colleagues in all the activities of the department. She is a friendly and approachable person and has friends across the departments. As a teacher she is very dedicated and is student-friendly. She is also a fun-loving person and is generous with her time and resources. We thank you, Dr Neeraja Rao, for all that you have been to the college. We wish you well in all that you take up post-retirement and we are sure that you have much more to contribute to the academic world. We beseech God's abundant blessings on you and His Guidance in all your endeavors.

**Dr Juliana Joe, Vice Principal**





## **ACTIVITIES OF THE COLLEGE**

# STUDENTS' UNION 2012 – 2013

The Students' Union chose the theme "I CHOOSE TO BE..." "for the academic year 2012-13. The logo represented a woman with a well-defined identity, who embodied strength, confidence, courage and truth. Each colour in the logo represented a quality that every woman possesses. Blue represented inspiration and truth, yellow symbolised wisdom, the dynamic orange colour denoted curiosity and red, the warmest of all colours, symbolised life and vitality.

The main objective of the Union was to sensitise the students to the need for mutual respect and positive change. The activities of the Union were directed towards enabling the empowerment of students in all spheres. Some of these objectives were achieved by their active participation in the Pathway Programme and by being representatives of the IQAC Student Wing in College.

A 'Club Week' was organised from 26 June 2012 to 3 July 2012. This was a new initiative to promote the various club activities in College. Every club was allotted a day in which they had to make a presentation of their activities.

'Madrasapattinam' was the Freshers' Talent Hunt Day which was held on 18 July 2012. Each event was named keeping in mind the heritage sites of the city. From filter coffee to jasmine flowers, the freshers got a feel of Madras as they performed various events like Madras Marina and Chennai Live. This event was aimed at showcasing the hidden talents of the first year undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The Students' Union also conducted the Inter-collegiate Cultural event 'Aquilae 2012' on 18 August. This event was a big success with more than 1100 students from 21 colleges participating in a spirited, healthy competition. Madras Christian College emerged the overall winners.

The Union, along with the Quiz, Debate and Current Affairs Club, conducted the first edition of Parliamentary Debate; on 30 November and 1 and 2 December 2012. More than a hundred students from prestigious universities across the country and overseas such as IIT Madras, NLS Bangalore, IIT Bombay, NUS Singapore, Christ University, RV College of Engineering, Asian College of Journalism, Loyola College and MOP-Vaishnav College came together to debate on issues of

current significance and relevance. The Parliamentary Debate encouraged the free flow of thoughts and ideas by encouraging spontaneity and creative thinking and emboldened the students to speak their minds.

The Inter-departmental Culturals 'AMUZA 2012' was held on 7 and 8 December 2012. The Students' Union put forth twenty five intellectual and creative events to increase participation and to promote healthy competition. BCom (Shift II) emerged overall winners in this event.

The social theme for this year was 'Go Green. Go Blue. Go Red'. 'Go Green' stands for Environment Security, 'Go Blue' for Water Security and 'Go Red' for Food Security. This theme was chosen to spread awareness among the youth about the rapid depletion of limited natural resources and the need to conserve them. An awareness campaign was held in college on 12, 13 and 14 February 2013. The campaign included competitions like Healthy Cooking, in which 67 students participated, Poster Designing, Poetry Writing, Tee- shirt Designing and Junk Art. The campaign was inaugurated by Dr Sultan Ismail and was followed by a rally to raise awareness about the issue. This rally was flagged off by Ms Sonal Chandra, Assistant Commissioner of Police. An exhibition was held in college where departments displayed eco-friendly items. The Departments of Fine Arts, Botany, Chemistry and Zoology contributed their time and ideas to make this campaign successful. The students and faculty came to college dressed in green, red and blue to express their solidarity.



The Students' Union, along with the Dramatics Club, were proud to present '12 Angry Jurors,' an adaptation of 'Twelve Angry Men,' as this year's college play on 2 and 3 February 2013 at the Museum Theatre. The play was well received and lauded by both the student audience and eminent theatre personalities.

Apart from these new initiatives, the Union conducted break-time presentations on Mix and Match Day, Retro Day, Friendship Day, Ethnic Day and Onam, with great zeal and vigour. There was enthusiastic participation from the students. Teachers' Day was also organised with much grandeur, to make each teacher feel special. Language week was conducted in the first week of December. French, Sanskrit, Hindi and Tamil were each allotted a day during the week to celebrate the language and the culture associated with the it.

In a move that was much appreciated, the Students' Union Election procedure – both nomination and voting – was completely computerised with help from students of the Computer Science department.

On 8 March 2013, the Union, along with the Centre for Women's Studies, celebrated Women's Day by taking an oath to end violence against women and girls, which was also the theme for the day. Reputed speakers were invited to talk to the student body and faculty on the increasing violence towards women, while also discussing individual rights and duties.

The Supportive Staff Day and the Administrative Staff Day were celebrated to express gratitude to all those who toil through the year to maintain a green and friendly campus.



*Aquilae '12*



*Students' Union Logo unveiling*



*Madrasapattinam*



The Union Day and the handing-over ceremony was both a celebration and a farewell. The current Union, with a deep sense of fulfilment, completed the cherished responsibility of representing the student body. Ms Angela Reddy, the Chief Guest of the day, praised the work done in the past year and appreciated the innumerable events that had been organised. Each member of the Union has learnt a lot, from the other, from the people they have worked with and most importantly from the student body whom they represent. None of the events and activities would have been possible without the help of the Deans of Student Affairs, who have guided and supported the Union throughout the year.

As this year draws to a close each one of us feel proud to have represented the college for this academic year. We hope that the women of our generation act with responsibility in all

the choices that they make. We can accomplish anything we choose to accomplish. We can create anything we choose to create. We can experience anything we choose to experience. There is no end. There is no beginning. There is only the passion for life.



*Aquillae '12*



*Oath on Go Green Go Blue Go Red*

# NATIONAL CADET CORPS

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) plays a vital role in molding the character of young women, honing qualities of leadership, discipline and courage. This year too, the cadets underwent training and brought many laurels to the Directorate and college, with awards at the National level.

First year cadets were enrolled in the month of June and the official parades started from July. Five cadets were enrolled in the Naval Wing and fifteen were enrolled in the Air Wing. After the enrollment of cadets, an orientation program was organised for parents on 14 July 2012. The aim was to give the parents an insight into the activities of the NCC, including its benefits and the training procedure involved. Lt. Col. T.J Zacharia, SM, Commanding Officer, 1 Tamil Nadu Girls Battalion NCC, spoke to the parents about the personal growth, benefits and accolades that the student achieves as a part of the NCC.

On 21 July 2012 cadets were taken to the Officer's Training Academy in St. Thomas Mount. The cadets watched a presentation that informed them about the selection procedure of the Defence Force. Cadets were then taken to the training area, class rooms, art gallery and museum. They also interacted with Ex-Senior Under Officer Mini, who is currently undergoing training for SSB. She was the All India Reserve Best Cadet in the Republic Day Camp held at New Delhi in 2010 and went to Singapore for the Youth Exchange program.

In the second year, 11 cadets started their training by attending the Combined Annual Training Camp held at J R K Mat. Hr. Sec. School, Katankulathur. Cpl. Mary Steffi S and Cpl. Akshaya S, from the Department of Mathematics, were given the award for Best Firing and Best Solo Dance respectively. Cpl. K Padmaroopa, also from the Department of Mathematics, won the award for the Best Disciplined Cadet and the Stella Maris NCC Company bagged the first place in Tent Pitching and Group Song.

Naval cadet Swetha, from the Department of Commerce, participated in the Scuba Diving Camp held at Anna Square. She also secured the first place in Firing and Swimming and II in Semaphore. Five Naval cadets participated in the Combined Annual Training Camp held at Vel Tech., Avadi during the month of August.



*Dr C Sylendra Babu, IPS takes the salute by cadets during the inauguration of CADOSTAR'13*

On 26 July 2012, Lt. Fancy VF , Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, attended the selection board interview which was held at Tamil Nadu, Puduchery and Andaman & Nicobar (TN,P&AN) Directorate. Under Direct Commission, she was awarded the rank of Lieutenant and became the Associate NCC Officer of Stella Maris NCC Company on 27 July 2012.

For the first time in the history of Stella Maris NCC, an Alumnae Meet was organised on 28 July 2012. Ex-cadets of the past 20 years actively participated and shared their experience and reminisced. Lt. Meera Rajan who has joined the defence through SSB inspired us with her presence.

All the cadets in the three wings were divided into four companies – Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. Each company was guided by the able leadership of a Cadet Under Officer and Sergeant. On 17 and 18, August 2012, an Inaugural Camp was organised at Besant Theosophical Society, Besant Nagar. Competitions like Culturals, Quiz, Line Area and Flag Area were conducted, in which cadets from all four companies participated.

The Inter-Group Competition for Thal Sainik Cadet was held at P S G Technology, Coimbatore, in which six cadets participated. Cpl. Mary Steffi and L/Cpl. D J Jenifer, II BSc Mathematics, secured the first place in Map Reading in Health and Hygiene respectively, while Cpl. A Sherlin secured the place in Snap Shooting.



Following a series of Training and Launch Camps, all the six Thal Sainik cadets were selected in all the camps and represented Tamil Nadu, Puduchery and Andaman & Nicobar (TN,P&AN) Directorate at New Delhi for the All India Thal Sainik Camp in the month of October. L/Cpl. D J Jenifer won the silver medal in Field Signal, Cpl. Mary Steffi and L/Cpl. Mencya Daisyla won the bronze medal in Map Reading, L/Cpl. D J Jenifer and L/Cpl. Edel Ancy Queen won the gold medal in Tent Pitching. Cpl. A Sherlin secured the second place in All India Shooting Competition. In Line Area, TN,P&AN Directorate secured the second place. The TN,P&AN Directorate was the overall second among the 17 Directorates, at the national level. Two cadets were trained and were selected for the Inter-Group Competition for Vayu Sainik Cadet held at Coimbatore in the month of August. F/Cdt. Shardha Soni, I BA History, won the gold medal for flying. Followed by series of selection camps, F/Cdt. Shardha Soni and F/Cdt. Salvius were selected for the All India Vayu Sainik Camp held at Bangalore in the month of October. F/Cdt. Shardha Soni represented TN,P&AN Directorate in the flying competition and won the silver medal for flying. Her achievement placed TN, P&AN Directorate in the first position at the All India level.



*The Thal Sainik Cadets: Cpl. Mary Steffi & L/Cpl. D J Jennifer receiving the trophy in Inter-group competition*



*Cadets showcasing pyramids during NCC Day celebrations*

Six cadets (four from the Army Wing, one from the Air Wing and one from the Navy Wing) were trained for the Republic day camp from June 2012, by the Combined Annual Training Camp. All six cadets were selected for Inter-Group Competition for Republic Day Camp held at Trichy in the month of September and October. Cpl. Padmaroopa and Naval cadet Oliver Drishilla, from the Department of Mathematics, were nominated as the main Best Cadet to represent Madras Group A and Madras Group B respectively.

Two cadets were selected for the Republic Day Camp held at New Delhi in January 2013. Cpl. Akshaya, II BSc Mathematics, was part of Rajpath March in Contingent Drill. Naval cadet Oliver Drishilla was selected for Line Area Briefing and as the Best Cadet in the Naval Wing. She was also selected for the Youth Exchange Program for the next year. At the all India level, the TN,P&AN Directorate won the third place. Naval cadet Anu Roy, II BA English, Naval cadet Jaya Arokia Silvia, II BSc Mathematics, Cdt. Aswinah Zeenath, I BA Sociology and Cdt. Gayathri, I BSc Mathematics, participated in the Contingent drill for the Madras Republic Day parade held at Marina.

Cadet Under Officer Thaatcher, from the Department of History, and Cadet Warrant Officer Preyanka, from the Department of Chemistry, attended the SSB interview for Air Wing held at Mysore in November.

The National Integration Camp brings together the youth of the nation to establish friendly relationships, which will transcend differences in region, culture and language. Cadet Under Officer Elsy Wilson, III BA English, participated in the Special National Integration Camp held at Nagaland in the month of July–August. Naval cadet Swathi, II BSc Chemistry, attended the National Integration Camp at Rajasthan and she secured the second place in Drill competition. Four Naval cadets attended NSC–IUC Camp held at Puduchery in the month of September. Naval cadet Swetha, III BCom, participated in the All India Yatching Ryatta held at Orissa in the month of November.

The cadets have always been encouraged to take up a career in the armed forces. The Army Attachment Camp plays a vital role in training the cadets who want to join the army. L/Cpl. Ramya, II BCA, participated in the Army Attachment Camp in Wellington, Ooty, in the month of July and August.



*Lt. Fancy V F; Chief Guest: Col. Ajay Dabral, Group Commander, Madras Group 'A' & Vice-Principal: Dr Sr Colleen North, fmm, at the Valedictory function*



L/Cpl. Agalya Ranjani V, II BA History, and L/Cpl. Ramya, II B.C.A, were thrilled to participate in the Trekking Camp held at Ooty in May 2012. Along with L/Cpl. Nirmala P.R, II B.Com, they also actively participated in the Trekking Camp held at Darjeeling in October.

In January, Cpl. Sherlin, Cpl. Mary Steffi and L/Cpl. Edel Ancy Queen were selected for the Shooting Capsule Camp in Salem. These cadets are likely to attend the Maulankar Firing Camp, which is one step closer to participation in the shooting competition in the Olympics.

F/Cdt. Ancy Medona, Arunima Iyer and Shivani attended Combined Annual Training Camp held at Kelambakkam in October.

Cadets actively participated in CADOFEST – the intercollegiate NCC Competition conducted by D G Vaishnav College – on 18, 19 and 20 January 2013. Senior Under Officer Angeline Archana, a third-year Zoology student, secured second place in Samavir, and Cdt. Sudha, a first-year Botany student secured the second place in the Thal Sainik Competition.

Cadets were also trained to face social realities and to be responsible. Cadets visited Shanti Bhavan – a pre-school for the marginalized, Little Sisters for the Poor – a home for the elderly and Adyar Cancer Institute. Cadets also took part in rallies, the Marathon, and seminars related to social issues. The cadets also helped in controlling the traffic, along with the Traffic Police, at Gemini during peak hours.

NCC Day was celebrated in college on 16 February 2013. Group Capt. M Chandramouli, Group Commander, Madras Group 'B' was the Chief Guest and Lt. Col. T.J. Zacharia, SM, Commanding Officer, 1 (TN) Girls Bn NCC was the Guest of Honour for the programme. Cadets were awarded with medals and trophies for their achievements in Inaugural Camp and Inter-companies. Charlie Company emerged the overall winners and the Competing Company went to Bravo. The best Cadet Under Officer was Anuja Priya S, III BA Sociology, Best Sergeant was Cadet Under Officer Thaatcher Missier G., III BA History, Best Cado-Leader was Senior Under Officer Divya E, III BCA, and Best Out-going Cadet for the academic year was Senior Under Officer Angelin Archana AR, III BSc Zoology. On 23 and 24 February 2013, CADOSTAR – an Inter-Collegiate NCC Competition – was conducted by Stella Maris NCC Company. Dr C Sylendra Babu, IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Coastal Security Group, Tamil Nadu inaugurated CADOSTAR'13. About 21 Colleges actively participated in all events conducted. Col. Ajay Dabral, Group Commander, NCC Group Headquarters Madras 'A' presided over the valedictory function and gave the awards to the winning cadets in various events. JBAS College was the overall winner of CADOSTAR'13.



*Ex-cadets with ANO's in Alumnae meet*



# NSS AND YRC ANNUAL REPORT

The National Service Scheme and the Youth Red Cross have been an integral part of the academic programme at Stella Maris College. To enhance the overall development of the students, the NSS/YRC Unit plays a vital role in the paradigm of higher education. The NSS/YRC unit provides each of its members with a significant context in which a volunteer can arrive at an in-depth understanding of herself and the social reality around her.

The NSS Unit has one Coordinator – Dr Nirmala Alex, Faculty Member, Department of Social work – and 2 programme officers – Dr Nanthamil Nangai, Faculty Member, Department of Tamil and Ms Harriet Sathyavathi, SAP Coordinator. There are totally 320 registered NSS volunteers and around 200 YRC volunteers who are rendering their services in 15 reputed Non-Governmental Organisations such as Montfort Community Development Society, St.Louis Institute for the Blind and Little Flower School for the Visually Challenged, as part of the continued partnership with various governmental, non-governmental, national, international organisations and corporate sectors.

The academic year started with an orientation programme which helped the first-year students understand the crucial role of NSS/YRC in enabling the overall development of the individual. The first event for the year was a mime that was aimed at to promoting awareness regarding environmental protection.

A blood donation camp was organised in collaboration with Voluntary Action Bureau and Indian Red Cross Society, to enable the entire student community to understand the importance of blood donation to save lives. It was significant to note that we had 260 student donors for the first camp and 220 students for the second camp. Stella Maris College won the Dr Radhakrishnan Shield for mobilizing the maximum number of donors among the women's city colleges.

On 5 September, as part of the Madras University celebration of Founder's day a cultural competition was held in which

our students won the second place. Ms Ali Fathima, of the Department of History, was selected to represent the Pre-Republic Day Camp held in Bangalore. She was highly appreciated for her cultural talents. The mega event of the year was the Zonal Level Cultural Competition, in which our students won the first place in mime and the singing competition. Our students also worked as volunteers in the Income Tax Mela organised by the IT department and they were highly appreciated by the public as well as by the Income Tax Department.

To mark the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Geneva Convention of the International Red Cross Society on 4 August 2012, the YRC volunteers participated in a number of events and won the second place.

The YRC volunteers served as volunteers in the Egmore Eye Hospital, to help the patients and the medical personnel. Our volunteers rendered their valuable service to a number of Non - Governmental Organisations such as Green Peace India, Help Age India and Tamil Nadu Kidney Research Foundation to name a few.

The NSS Volunteers participated in a three-day workshop organised by Gandhi Peace Foundation on 2 October 2012 at Gandhi Peace Foundation, at which Dr Nirmala Alex was a resource person.

To commemorate World AIDS day, YRG an NGO organised a programme in which the YRC volunteers performed a thematic dance on communal harmony and a skit on AIDS awareness

for about 500 children studying in the Chennai corporation schools. The NSS and YRC volunteers were an integral part of WIPRO Chennai Marathon where they served as volunteers; our volunteers also participated in World Food Day programme as part of eco kitchen, a YRG initiative besides participating in the District Level Study camp organised by Women's Christian College and Indian Red Cross.

The Annual Rural Camp, organised in Tirupassur, Thiruvallur District, was co-ordinated by Dr Nirmala Alex for a week from 26-31 December 2012. About 120 NSS volunteers, including the senior volunteers and the Programme officers Dr Nirmala Alex, Dr Nanthamil Nangai and Ms Madhavi, assisted in the camp. The volunteers had an enriching experience of rural life and of the issues and the problems faced by the Irular community. A survey was undertaken by the volunteers about the Irular Community and in-depth study was done to assess the needs of the tribal community. Sessions were conducted for the volunteers on various issues concerning the society, especially on violence against women. The camp sensitized the students and reminded them of their crucial role in bringing about a just, humane society.

A significant event of the of the year was the Tree Planting Ceremony on 24 February 2013, which was organised by the NSS Unit of the University of Madras, in collaboration with the Forest Department, Tamil Nadu, along with the NSS Unit of our college. Our Principal Dr Sr Jasintha Quadras, welcomed the gathering; Dr R Thandavan, Vice Chancellor, University of Madras, gave the keynote address, which was followed by the tree planting ceremony.



*Mime on social concerns*



*Chief Guest Dr R Thandavan, Vice Chancellor, University of Madras, planting a tree*

# ANNUAL SPORTS REPORT

Stressing as it does on holistic growth of the students, Stella Maris College has always paid special attention to sports and games which form an integral part of the curriculum. The students are given coaching in a number of games by professional coaches and many of our students participate at intercollegiate, zonal and national level sports meets. This year too, our college has won a number of prizes at such events.

At the Madras University B Zone Inter Collegiate Basketball Tournament held on 14 August 2012, our college emerged winners; all the 12 players of the team were selected to represent the Madras University Inter Zone where our College team secured the runners-up position. S Sanghavi and Sri Vidya S Shekar, both of I BCom were selected to represent the Madras University for the South Zone Inter University Basketball Tournament held at Chidambaram from 7 November 2012 to 11 November 2012 and their team emerged the winners. In the All India Inter University Tournament held at Bhubaneswar from 2 December 2012 to 7 December 2012, our team emerged victorious. Srividya S Shekar was selected to represent the Tamil Nadu State for the Federation Cup Basketball tournament held from 28 January to 3 February 2013; the team won the title. Our College team also won the Basketball event at the Sports Fest 2012 conducted by IIT Madras from 3 October to 5 October 2012. Also, in the National Level Intercollegiate tournament conducted by Sree Raghavendra Basket Ball Club from 7 to 11 August 2012, our College team secured the third place. At the State Level Basketball Tournament conducted by JBAS College on 13 December 2012, our College team won the Runners Up position. Wrapping up their winning streak this year, in the Sporten 13 tournament conducted by Anna Adharsh College on 14 February 2013, our College basketball team emerged winners.

In Chess we scaled new heights last year. Our College team won the Madras University B Zone Inter Collegiate Tournament held at Shasun Jain College on 18 September 2012. We won this tournament after 3 years. In the Inter Zone tournament held on 11 October 2012 at Loyola College, our College team

emerged winners after 15 years. The team players were K Jennie Tresa, II BCom, R Keerthana, M Ashvitha, Saranya and Kavya Narayanan all of I BCom. In the Sporten 13 tournament conducted by Anna Adharsh College on 14 February 2013, our College team won the title and K Jennie Tresa, II BCom secured the second place in the Singles.

The Table Tennis team of our College also continued its winning streak this year. The team players were Harshitha Ravi, III BCom, N Vidya, II Bcom, J P Roshini, I BCom Anu Nisha, I BCom and R Shruthi, I BCom CS. The college team were the Runners Up in the National Level inter collegiate tournament conducted by SSN Engineering College from 21 August 2012 to 24 August 2012. In the State Level Inter Collegiate tournament conducted by DG Vaishnav College from 6 August 2012 to 8 August 2012, our team were the Runners Up. It is indeed noteworthy that in the IIT Sports Fest 2012 from 25 September 2012 to 27 September 2012, our College secured the first, second and third positions in table tennis, Harshitha Ravi, R Shruthi and J P Roshini being the players respectively. At the inter collegiate table tennis tournament conducted by Madras University B Zone on 1 October 2012 at Shasun Jain College, our college team won the first place while in the Inter Zone tournament conducted on 22 October 2012, our team secured the position of Runners Up. Harshitha Ravi and N Vidya were selected to represent the Madras University and their team emerged as the winners in the South Zone tournament held at Kannur, Kerala during 28 and 29 of December 2012. They participated in the All India Inter University Tournament from 24 Jan 2013 to 26 Jan 2013 too and again secured the winners title. N Vidya was also selected to represent the Tamil Nadu State.



*Olympic Torch*

In Lawn Tennis too, we did well. At the All India Inter Collegiate tournament conducted by SSN College from 21 August 2012 to 25 August 2012, our team won the Runners Up title. The team members were Nivetha Srinivasan, II BA Economics and Neena Reddy of III BVA, H Madhumitha I BCom CS and Madhavi, I BA Economics. At the Madras University B Zone Tennis inter collegiate held on 18 September 2012 as well as at the Inter Zone Tournament held on 16 November 2012 held at Stella Maris College, our College team emerged Runners Up. At the State Level Inter Collegiate tournament conducted by JBAS College on 13th December 2012 also, our College team secured the Runners Up position.

Our dominance in the game of Shuttle Badminton was demonstrated this year too. Our College team won the first place at the Madras University B Zone Inter Collegiate tournament held on 13 September 2012. In the Inter Zone tournament held on 20 September 2012 at Anna Adharsh, our team secured the Runner Up position. The team players were Maithily Madhusudhanan of III BCom, M Preteeshita II BCom and Swetha Chandraskehar, I BVA Maithily Madhusudhanan and M Preteeshita were selected to represent Madras University. In the IIT Sports Fest 2012 conducted by IIT Madras from 25 to 27 September 2012 the shuttle badminton team of our college secured the winners title. In the Sporten 13 tournament conducted by Anna Adharsh College on 14 February 2013, our College team secured the winner's title in the Team Event and M Preteeshita won the Singles title. At the National level inter collegiate tournament conducted by SSN Engineering College from 21 August to 24 August 2012, our college team won the third place.



*Chess team - Intercollegiate winners & Interzone winners  
(after 15 years)*



In hockey too our performance this year was impressive. At the Madras University B Zone Inter collegiate Hockey tournament conducted by Madras University at YMCA College on 4 September 2012, our College team won the third place. Six players from our team were selected to participate at the Madras University Inter Zone Tournament and in the Inter Zone tournament their team won the Runners Up position. The players were Kanimozhi R, III BCom, V S Amala, II BA Sociology, Gayathri V, II BSc Mathematics, T Jayashree, II BCom, Ramadevi, I BCom, and Catherine Jayanthi, I BCom. Catherine Jayanthi was selected to represent the Madras University for South Zone Inter University tournament held at Alwaye, Kerala from 26 November 2012 to 29 November 2012. V S Amala and Gayathri V were selected to represent the Tamil Nadu State for the Senior National Women Hockey Championship held at Bhopal from 14 October 2012 to 23 October 2012. Ramadevi of I BCom was selected to represent the Tamil Nadu State in the second Hockey India Junior National Tournament held at Haryana from 17 September 2012 to 27 September 2012.

This year we have greatly improved our tally in cricket too. The college team secured the second place at the Madras University Inter Collegiate tournament held from 27 August to 1 September 2012. Four players, namely, Maithily Madhusudhanan of III BCom, Vishnupriya III BCom, Nikkitha Jose III BCom CS and Nivetha Kumar I BSc Mathematics were selected to represent the Madras University B Zone.

In volleyball, our College team secured the third place in the Madras University B Zone inter collegiate tournament held on 24 September 2012 at Ethiraj College. S Monica, II MCom, Namritha Lingesan I MA Literature, R Sukaniya II BCom and Ashtalakshmi I BCom CS, were selected to represent



the Madras University B Zone and Namratha Lingesan was selected to represent the Madras University.

In the National Level Inter Collegiate Swimming competition conducted by VIT University on 5 January 2013 S Sukanya Sankaran II BCom secured the second place in 100 m Freestyle, third place in 100 m Butterfly and third place in 50 m Butterfly. In the State Level Inter Collegiate Tournament conducted by JBAS College on 24 November 2012, she secured Silver in four events, namely, 50 m Freestyle, 50 m Backstroke, 50 m Butterfly and 100 Breaststroke.

In the Madras University B Zone intercollegiate, the ball badminton team secured the second place. Four players, namely G E Philomina, MPhil Maths, M. Vanitha, II BSc Zoology, R Priyanka, II BCA and M Sreeja II BCA were selected to represent the Madras University B Zone. M Vanitha was selected to represent the Madras University in the All India Inter University Ball Badminton Tournament held at Warangal.

In Athletics, Christina Mary Ann Durant II BCom secured first place in 200 mts and 400 mts race in the Madras University B Zone Inter Collegiate Athletics Meet held at Madras University Union and D Monica, III BCom secured second place in Triple Jump in the same tournament. In the Junior State Athletics Meet held at Coimbatore from 5 to 7 October 2012, Christina Mary Ann secured the Gold Medal in 200 mts and she also secured third place in 400 mts in A L Mudhaliyar Athletic Meet held at Nehru Stadium from 8 October 2012 to 10 October 2012.

In Shooting, T Valli, of II BA Sociology represented the Tamil Nadu State in Junior Category in National Shooting Championship held from 19 December 2012 to 23 December 2012 at New Delhi and she secured the Bronze medal.

To summarize, our achievements in Sports and Games were quite remarkable this year too. We improved our positions in many games and secured more medals and awards in various events. We hope to scale new heights in the coming years.

This year, our college organised Madras University Inter Collegiate in Basketball and Tennis and Inter Zone tournaments in Volleyball and Tennis. 49 students of our college were selected to represent the Madras University B Zone, nine students were selected to represent the Madras University and nine students represented Tamil Nadu.



*Annual Sports Day Winners (11 years)*



*Basketball team*



*SSN Trophy (Table Tennis and Tennis)*



*March Past*



# A STELLAR PERFORMANCE



*A scene from the play 12 Angry Jurors*

Twenty minutes before show-time, and the excitement backstage is palpable. Last minute touch ups, hair straighteners being flung across the room, stage directions being yelled out frantically, a checklist in the hand of every sets and props member and a clock whose functioning/ malfunctioning made our hearts stop; 12 Angry Jurors was more than just another production put up by the Stella Players, it was a class act in itself. Staged at the Museum Theatre, Egmore, Stella Maris College's Annual Play took a huge leap from its tried and tested stage of the Michelin Auditorium at Alliance Francaise, thereby firmly putting the college on the map for the city's theatre aficionados. Directed by Nayantara Nayar and Tanvi Patel and backed by an all-women's cast and crew, the play would not have been the success it was without the support of our Directorial Guide Dushyanth

Gunasekhar and the team at Crea-Shakthi. 12 Angry Jurors opened the My Theatre Festival, and what an opening it was!

Spread across two days and three shows, the play was a huge success in terms of how well it was received and in terms of production value. This year, the cast and crew actively took part in building their own sets under the guidance of veteran stage designer Mr Victor Paulraj. Watching the sheets of plywood transform into the walls and door of the room that was to become the setting of the play was an enriching experience. The days leading up to 12 Angry Jurors will not be forgotten very easily. Weeks of rehearsal, publicity, sourcing out props by every means possible and selling tickets for the play finally paid off when we saw the seats on opening night filled to capacity.



# A PARLIAMENT WITH A DIFFERENCE AT STELLA MARIS

If college was equated with academics alone, it would be quite a boring place to live in. Education in its true sense needs to go beyond the four walls of a classroom. Such exposure not only adds another dimension to acquired knowledge but also facilitates healthy interaction.

Keeping the above in mind, Stella Maris College organised their first edition of a nationwide British Parliamentary Debate tournament from 30 November to 2 December this year. It would be apt to call this an initiative as this was the first national level BP tournament to be held in the city.

“We wanted to try something new and parliamentary debates seemed fitting as the city had already seen a fair share of Model United Nations conferences”, says Prerna Gupta, III BA Economics, the Convenor of the tournament who initiated the entire process. She adds, “Such a format is very popular in the debating circuits of Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai. We wanted Chennai to be a part of this as well”.

A Parliamentary Debate (PD) can easily be confused with a Mock Parliament. However both are entirely different. While a Mock Parliament deals with the functioning of a country's Parliament, a Parliamentary Debate is a style of debating. Unlike Model United Nations Conferences which require adequate knowledge in current affairs and foreign policies, one's success in a PD depends mainly on two things – wit and good debating skills.

In a Parliamentary Debate, there are two entities which the participants represent. The Governing body speaks in favour of the motion passed, while the Opposition speaks against it. The motion is declared just prior to the debate. Four teams participate in each debate, two teams represent the Government, and two teams, the Opposition. Each participant is given seven minutes to speak, in which, his or her argument is introduced, explained and a conclusion is drawn. Points of Information (POIs) are allowed within this time frame. POIs are questions asked by team members to the opposing speaker on the floor. POIs permit the concluding participants to put forth their views early in the debate, allowing them to be involved throughout, and similarly, the early participants to remain



*The Final Debate*



engaged even after their speeches. However, the speaker has the authority to accept the question, reject the question, or simply listen to the question raised but choose not to offer an explanation. The speakers are judged by a chairperson and two independent adjudicators.

SMCPD or Stella Maris College Parliamentary Debate saw a participation of more than a hundred students from prestigious universities across the country and overseas such as IIT Madras, NLS Bangalore, IIT Bombay, NUS Singapore, Christ University, R.V College of Engineering, Asian College of Journalism, Loyola, MOP-Vaishnav and so on.

The speakers battled one another to convince the judges that their approach to the given motion, and their opinions and beliefs were better and more suitable. The topics included controversial issues such as the circumcision of minors for non-medical reasons, whether tax deductions must be made to amounts donated to charity, the privatisation of law enforcement, the deregulation of genetic modification of animals, whether constitutions of democratic nations should have provisions for the secession of the nation's states and religions, whether States should exercise control over the internet, etc. The topics highlighted the contrasting differences in thought that gave way to an enriching debate, filled with wit, humour, harmless jibes, and of course, good substance.

Two teams from NLS Bangalore, one team from RVCE and the IIT Madras-NUS cross team competed in the final round of the tournament. The duo from IITM-NUS went on to win the tournament, with the team from RVCE coming in a close second.

The success of any event, particularly such a grand one, depends on the team that organizes it. The core committee of SMCPD consisted of 8 members; Prerna Gupta was the Convenor while Anjana Logan and Nayantara Nayar were deputy conveners. Shilpa Sajeev, Aditi Parakh, Swetha Viswanathan, Varsha Thomas and Mahima Sashank headed Hospitality, Sponsorship, Student Affairs, Internal Affairs and Publicity Design respectively.

Two of the finalists, Diboyojyoti Mainak and Vinodhini, of National Law School of India, Bangalore say "Great debate. Lots of effort put in by the organising team. Extremely hospitable too! SMC might just have started a much needed BP tradition in Chennai".



*Parliamentary Debate organising committee*

"We have a lot to take back from this experience as it has taught us what meticulous planning is all about. Each of us is talented in our own way and a melange of that collective talent along with team work helped us pull it off really well", says Varsha Thomas, one of the organisers.

"This event provided a meeting point where young people with varied backgrounds and interests from different parts of the country came together to engage in meaningful and enriching interaction and dialogue," says Dr Sr Jasinthra Quadras fmm, Principal of Stella Maris College.

Stella Maris set the trend of Model United Nations Conferences in the city and their idea of trying something new has not stopped with that. SMCPD is a good example of what perhaps could be another trend that the city needs to be ready for.

# COLLEGE BAZAAR



*Honourable Ministers Mr K P Munusamy, Ms P Valarmathi of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai Corporation at the College Bazaar*

The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd. (TNCDW) is an organisation that seeks to empower women in order to promote and develop a strong, modern and egalitarian society. Chosen as an institution with similar goals and mission, a 'College Bazaar' was held from the 3 to 5 October 2012 on the college premises.

The bazaar was an exhibition cum sale of products of the Self- Help Groups (SHG) of Tamil Nadu and the TNCDW involved with the younger generation in an attempt to eradicate poverty. Such an initiative also helped provide a new perspective to the SHG members to bring out a range of products to suit the changing tastes and requirements of the new generation and also helped in standardizing quality and service.

The inauguration of this exhibition cum sale was held on 3 October 2012 at Stella Maris College. Honourable Ministers Mr K P Munusamy and Ms P Valarmathi of the Government of Tamil Nadu, along with the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai Corporation Mr Saidai Duraisamy inaugurated the sale and launched the exhibition. Held for three days, the College Bazaar was a grand success, with the staff and students pitching in to help the cause of women's empowerment by generously buying and encouraging the sale of the products.





# MOUNA K KURAM: SILENCED PROPHECIES



Namma Theatre, an initiative of the Department of English, staged a Tamil play Mouna K Kuram, meaning Silenced Prophecies, on 13, 14 and 15 September 2012, in the college auditorium, and on all three days, the enthralled audience kept cheering the performers who presented a vibrant and colourful spectacle on stage.

The protagonist of the play is a gypsy woman, a *kurathi*, who lives a life which is in consonance with nature. From her perspective, the puranic heroines Chandramati, Draupadi, and Seetha are women who have lost their sense of identity and have been devalued.

An amalgam of song, dance and acting, the play had the energy of Tamil folk forms, following the Indian theatrical tradition. The cast exuded such energy and exhilaration that transformed the theatre space into diverse settings, that of hills and woods, of everyday scenes from villages and cities and of puranic palaces. The amazing feature is that all these were done with simple props - brooms, mops, stick, ropes and items drawn from domestic space. The *kuravan* goes searching for the *kurathi* in the railway station and there is a chugging train made of sticks and baskets coming to life with the hand movement of the actors; the scene quickly changes into a ration shop made up of similar props. Draupadi swings happily on a hand held swing, complete with grandeur

and style. The performers with a few steps and movements seamlessly managed the scenic changes, as they played their assigned roles with song and dance.

The *kurathi* visualises the life of the women whose future she had prophesied – to be sold as Chandramati was, to be humiliated as Draupadi was, to be pushed into a trial by fire as Seetha was – and there is a powerful message that reaches the audience. As the *kurathi* sits with these women to read their palms, the scene goes back to the puranic times, again managed with a few steps and props. Such is the originality and efficient stage management of Mangai, (Dr V Padma of the Department of English), the Director, who has revived the play after a gap of 18 years, a play produced in 1994 by *Maunak Kural* (Voicing Silence), a project of M S Swaminathan Research Foundation.

Karen Savarirayan as *kurathi* and Annie Kuriakose as *kuravan* endeared themselves to the audience by their lively performance. Panchali did her role with a natural sense of humour and was the audience's favourite.

Namma Theatre has created a renewed interest in Indian theatre among the student community of Stella Maris College and of other colleges who were entranced by the play, thanks to the English Department.



Scenes from the play





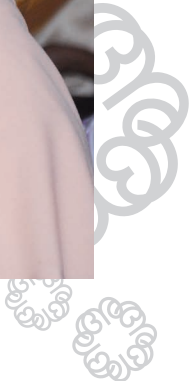
# CELEBRATING DECADES OF COMMITMENT





# JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

SR ROSAMMA fmm  
SR SUSAN fmm  
SR PRAKASIAL fmm  
SR JAYASEELI fmm



# LIBRARY

*Everything you need for a better future and success has already been written. And guess what? All you have to do is go to the library.*

*- Henri Frederic Amiel (1821-1881)*

The academic year 2012 began with the induction of new students and newly appointed faculty. This year the library has established a separate section of books to help the students face competitive exams like the Civil Services, UGC NET etc. Accessioning of the books belonging to the Public Relations Department into the main library has been completed, while integration of those belonging to the Computer Science Department is in progress. Provision has been made to stack these newly acquired books in the postgraduate library.

The number of journals available in the library has been increased this year in order to cater to the growing demands of the students and the faculty.

Dr S Abdul Maliq, Principal, New College, Chennai, paid a visit to the library on 21 September 2012 and was impressed with the facilities and resources available. He visited the library again on 29 October 2012, accompanied by the Chairman, the Secretary of his college and the staff of the Computer Science department, to have a detailed tour.

A new service namely 'Journal TOCs' is being introduced in the library, a Current Awareness Service (CAS), which facilitates easy access to recently published papers online.

Ms C S Sathya Priya joined the library as the Assistant Librarian and has been instrumental in the process of cataloguing and acquisition of new books, while also serving as a liaison between the departments and publishers to acquire the latest literature in various domains.

Several measures have been introduced to maintain and upgrade the library. Considering the need for data protection in view of increasing number of users, the servers in the library are protected with anti-virus software, while the capacity of the servers has also been upgraded. To maintain a dust-free environment in the library, vacuum cleaners have replaced cloth dusters.





On 12 October 2012, Mr David J Gainer, Public Affairs Officer of the US Consulate, came to visit our college library and said "It was a delight to visit Stella Maris and its wonderful library. We look forward to future cooperation". On 29 October, 2012 Mr Edizon Fermin, Principal of Miriam College, Philippines, paid a visit to the library and said "Cheers to the staff of this learning resource! There are wonderful opportunities towards discovery and empowerment in this center".

On 18 December 2012, Dr VA Sebastian, Head, Department of Biochemistry, St.Xavier's College, Ahmedabad, on his visit appreciated the facilities of the library, and the efficiency of its staff.

Ms Mansi Soni, an alumna of the Commerce department, was invited on 21 February 2013, as part of the "Meet the

Author" programme, to discuss her book *The Inevitable Bond* with the students.

The librarian, Ms Mahalakshmi, attended a National Seminar on "Information Management System: Strategies on E-Resources Management in Higher Education" at Christ University, Bangalore from 26 to 28 February 2013.

The library staff attended sessions on "Time Management" and "Motivation and Team Building" on 8 and 9 March 2013. The sessions were useful and effective.

The academic year ended with a session for the faculty on "E-Resources in American Library" organised by the library on 25 March 2013. Ms Meena Reddy, Director of American Library, Chennai, and her team, made a presentation and also offered membership cards to the faculty.



*An orientation on the e-resources in the American Library organised by the USIS*

# A TREASURE TROVE OF PRECIOUS OLD THINGS

As the years roll by and remarkable events tumble into the vortex of time becoming milestones in the history of an institution, the urge to preserve the events for posterity intensifies. It was this urge that launched the Stellarchives a couple of years ago; and today we could say that it has truly come of age. It is constantly adding to its already existing collection of books published a hundred years ago, books autographed by the authors (students/faculty of the College and visitors to the College), photographs and ephemerals from the inception of the college (such as invitations, programme sheets, brochures and posters for various occasions), magazines and departmental journals printed and published through the years, doctoral theses of students and faculty members, sundry artifacts and many more valuable souvenirs of yesteryears. This year Stellarchives received an impetus when a twinning fund was sanctioned by the Director General of Archives, Government of India to help the College in its pioneering endeavor of setting up the College Archives using state-of-the-art technology.

In keeping with the digital era, the Stellarchives has digitised most of its holdings. It has widened its reach by joining the Facebook social networking site and now many past students are signing up on Facebook to connect with their Alma Mater. The Archivist, Ms Gita Balachandran has carried out research on several aspects of College life, like the evolution of the College Logo and the College Song. This, along with the College magazines, departmental journals and synopsis of doctoral theses have been uploaded not only on DSpace but also on the Stella Maris College website. The contents of these magazines have been bookmarked and highlighted. Newspaper clippings from various newspapers about the activities of the College, dating from its inauguration in 1947, have been collected in the form of original prints or photocopies. This material was obtained from the archives of The Hindu, various databases in the American Library, Chennai, and from the web archives of other newspapers. The digital version of these news items has been posted on the College DSpace.

Some handwritten documents (such as appointment letters written and signed by former Principals, and handwritten books





by Sr Sylvestra, fmm) also form part of the archival collection. Furniture and equipment used by the Founding Sisters and by the various departments of the College (for example the slide projector, the library catalogue cabinet, movable typewriter and a rolling top rosewood desk used by Sr Lillian fmm, the first Principal of the College) are some of the precious items that are preserved in the archives.

As part of its outreach programme, the Stellarchives engages in consultancy to help other institutions.. The Archivist, Ms Gita Balachandran, accompanied by Dr Agnes Fernando a member of the Stellarchives Committee who was a former Vice Principal of the College and retired as a faculty member of the English Department, visited the Xavier Centre of Historical Research Library, Goa for a few days last year; and gave them some valuable advice regarding the preventive conservation of books and newspapers of Portuguese India. They also made several very important recommendations for infrastructural changes to the archives.

A second visit was made by the same team to St Mary's Church in Fort St George, one of the oldest Churches in Chennai dating back to the 17th century, in response to the invitation of the Pastor, Re. Kiruba, who needed help in restoring and preserving the rich heritage of artefacts from Pre-Independence India that is housed in the Church. The visit was very helpful and was followed by a visit of Rev. Kiruba to the Stellarchives to see exactly how things are collected and preserved.

The Stellarchives is a dream come true for the College and would not have been possible if not for the unswerving faith and support of the Management, especially Dr Sr Jacintha Quadras, fmm, the Principal and Sr Susan, fmm, the Secretary, besides the encouragement and support of Dr Sr Helen Vincent, fmm, former Principal and Secretary. The Archivist is helped by a Custodian, Ms Metilda who receives professional training periodically. The Stellarchives is strongly supported by a Committee of Members, namely the Archivist Ms Gita Balachandran, Dr Agnes Fernando and Sr Nirmala, Faculty of the Physics department, who meet periodically and contribute to the growth of the Archives.



*A rolling top rosewood desk*



*The Archives*



# STELLA MARIS PATHWAY AND LANGUAGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES

The Stella Maris Pathway Programme aims at inclusive education by equipping students from less privileged backgrounds with a range of skills to increase their confidence and competence as individuals. IBM India, as a part of its CSR initiative, has been collaborating with Stella Maris since 2011, conducting capacity building programmes for students in order to enhance their employability.

The Language Partnership Programme helps the I year students improve their proficiency in English through consistent training by student - teachers as helpers, and student-learners as seekers.

The I Year students who require a bridge- programme to help in their smooth transition from school to college had sessions in communication, and inter-personal skills from 12 to 16 June 2012, even before they began their degree programme. The members of the Students' Union, along with the IQAC

student wing members took up the task of teaching English through singing and games. Professional trainers from outside college conducted sessions in interpersonal skills, and the professionals from IBM conducted sessions in goal setting.

Students who lack proficiency in English need intensive coaching in English Communication Skills. This need is addressed through LPP – the Language Partnership Programme. A target group of about 170 students were identified from the I year Undergraduates and from 3 to 26 July 2012, training in English communication was conducted 2 hours per day, from 9 am to 11 am for shift II and from 1.30 to 3.30 pm for shift I students. From July onwards, during the entire academic year, this training was conducted 3 hours per week.

The unique feature of this programme is that the teachers are not teachers but senior student volunteers from the II



*Interpersonal Skills Development Programme*



and the III year UG or from the PG classes of any discipline – Economics, Commerce, Sociology, Mathematics, Zoology, Botany, International Studies, Public relations, English Literature etc. These volunteers were trained by the faculty members of the Department of English. Informal, interactive teaching methods were adopted by these students-turned-teachers and the enthusiasm which they radiated in the class room made them an instant success with the learners.

The approach was interactive and the lessons were activity based, integrating all the four skills of language, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing, though the primary focus was on speaking. Lessons varied from simple conversations to be used in day to day situations, to storytelling. The teachers used every conceivable method to get the learners to communicate – they drew pictures on the board, enacted or mimed the given situations or showed them downloaded pictures on their laptops. The teaching took place in an atmosphere that is conducive to learning and the senior friends succeeded in improving the communicative competence of their juniors.

For the II and III year UG students the Pathway Programmes were conducted on Saturdays, on varied topics such as Time Management, Career Options, Group Discussion and Interview Techniques, by IBM trainers and other trainers. Mr Prince Nehemiah, Programme Manager, Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs, Mr Sankara Narayanan, Vice-President, Strategic Project Outsourcing, Manish Jagannathan, HR Partner and Mr Ganesan Ramanan, IT consultant were involved in the training sessions and their inputs were of great value to our students aspiring to reach great heights.

Training in Effective Communication and Presentation was given to the Pathway students in the Multi-media Language Lab which has interactive software to learn the four skills of language.

With the Pathway Programme and the Language Partnership Programme students get an opportunity to empower themselves, to forge ahead with courage and confidence and be a part of the collaborative high quality educational process which leads to holistic growth.



*Language Partnership Programme class in progress*

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LIFE SKILLS CERTIFICATE COURSE



Under the Directorship of Dr Sr Helen Vincent, fmm, the English Language and Life Skills Certificate Course has completed its third successful year with dedicated staff and enthusiastic students. The course began on 4 July with 28 students including six graduates and six teacher candidates. The inauguration and conduct of the course were ably handled by Ms Gita Balachandran and Dr Agnes Fernando. Ms Vatsala and Sr Leema extended their support and ensured the progress of the classes.

Two Vietnamese sisters, along with other teacher candidates Ms Devanayagi and Ms Buvaneshwari joined the course in September to improve their Spoken English Skills.

Through the course the students not only improved their language skills but also learnt to be hardworking, regular, prayerful and punctual which in turn boosted their self confidence.

As part of their training, the students visited the Semozhi Poonga, Planetarium, Anna Centenary Library and Vandalur Zoo. The Bridge course Staff Coordinator and teachers, Ms Mridula Jose, Ms Uma David and Ms Prema Masilamani along with others were responsible for the success of the programme. Dr Thilagavathi Joseph of the English department arranged classes by PG (ELT) students, once a week, during the second semester. The students attended sessions in the multi media language lab to improve their English Language Skills. The enthusiasm of the students coming from troubled homes and difficult circumstances has been the driving force for the continuation of this programme.

The Director, Dr Sr Helen Vincent, fmm, Staff Coordinator and beneficiaries wish to acknowledge the generous help and contribution of Ms Varalakshmi, Ms Akila Balu, Ms Devasi, Ms U Jeyalakshmi and Ms Hema Nair.



*English Language and Life Skills 2012-2013*



# CRIST

The Centre for Research in Science and Technology (CRIST), the science research wing of Stella Maris College, in collaboration with Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai organised a two-day National Workshop entitled "Workshop on Microscale Experiments in Physical Chemistry" on 23 and 24 November 2012 for faculty from all over India.

Microscale Experiments in Physical Chemistry aims to minimize the quantity of chemicals used in experiments, thus bringing benefits in terms of cost, time, safety and protection of the environment.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr Mary N L and Dr Revathy Rajagopal, faculty of the department of Chemistry. The workshop was also facilitated by four eminent resource persons Dr S Kelkar, Dr Jeevan Chadwakar, Dr Latesh Nigam and Dr Abijit, all from the University of Pune.

The workshop used a special electrode kit which was a mini electrochemical cell designed with an in-built salt bridge. The kit was devised by the coordinators of the workshop keeping in mind the requirement of our environment and the need to bring down the total cost of research. The workshop was well received by the participants.



*Microanalytical Electrode designed by the Co-ordinators of the National workshop*



# CHRISTMAS MELODIES







# CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

The spate of violence and crimes against women and girls and the wide attention given to it by the media in recent years has made this a primary concern of The Centre for Women's Studies (CWS) of the College, in addition to addressing other contemporary issues affecting women in India and globally. The CWS organised a two day Seminar on the 'Girl Child' to sensitize the students on the violence against the girl child, the declining child sex ratio, the status of the girl child and protection and empowerment of the girl child.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence between 25 November and 10 December was observed for the third consecutive year in 2012. Recognizing the need for women to be able to defend themselves in the face of assault the CWS organised a workshop on 'Prevention of Violence against Women through Self-Defense' by Survival Instincts. Several techniques were demonstrated and taught to the students to combat and disengage attackers. Another workshop on 'Prevention of Trafficking of Women and Children' was organised in collaboration with the Madras Christian Council for Social Service in which the students actively participated. The gruesome rape, valiant struggle and death of Nirbhaya, the deaths of acid attack victims Vinodhini and Vidya in Tamil Nadu created shockwaves across the country and the world that further strengthened our resolve to draw attention to the violence against women. Students were encouraged to express themselves on this issue through posters, poems in English, Tamil, and Hindi on the theme 'Sexual Violence against Women and Girls'. The students of the Department of Fine Arts guided by their faculty created meaningful posters on the theme.

The drive grew stronger and culminated in the 'One Billion Rising Campaign' (a global campaign to end violence against women and for justice and gender equality) as part of International Women's Day on 8 March 2013 in collaboration with ActionAid. A minute's silence was observed in honour of all the victims of violence. The Chief Guests for the day – Ms Sheila Jayaprakash, Senior Advocate, Madras High Court and Ms Esther Mariaselvam, Regional Director, ActionAid, Chennai,- highlighted the plight of the victims and gave inspiring messages on the theme of the campaign.





The students performed a dance depicting the Anthem of the campaign 'Break the Chain'. The Principal Dr Sr Jasintha Quadras, fmm, reiterated the UN Theme for International Women's Day 'A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women'. The Principal then led the college body in a pledge to end violence against women and the entire college symbolically wore badges with the message 'I RISE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN'. Staff and students expressed their solidarity by signing on a banner vowing to end violence against women.

Stella Maris hosted the White Ribbon Campaign on Women's Day in collaboration with the Forum of Anglo-Indian Women. The campaign aims at zero tolerance towards any form of violence against women. A pledge to end violence against women was administered by the Chief Guest Dr Prateep Philip ADGP Crime, Tamil Nadu Police and was taken by a group of young male student leaders from different city colleges. Dr Beatrix D'Souza, former MLA and MP and President of The Forum of Anglo-Indian Women in her Keynote Address stressed the need for men and women to be part of the solution to end violence and Prof Eugenie Pinto, Advisory Committee Member of the CWS, Stella Maris and Vice President of the Forum stressed the setting up of 'Rape Crisis Centres' in All Women's Police Stations. The presence of such distinguished guests and participants made the Women's Day celebrations at Stella Maris a memorable and meaningful one.

The Presidential Elections in the USA brought to the fore 'The Role of Women in Elections' which was highlighted by the



*International Women's Day – One Billion Rising Campaign  
Faculty & students taking the oath to end violence*

Digital Video Conference organised by Stella Maris College and The US Consulate, Chennai on 16 October 2012. The US Consul General Ms Jennifer A McIntyre and the Principal Dr Sr Jasintha Quadras, fmm, encouraged women to participate in governance to make a positive difference to the lives of people and especially women. The panelists included Ms Lalitha Kumaramangalam, National Executive Member & National Vice President Women's Wing BJP, Ms Jyothimani Sennimalai, National Secretary, Indian Youth Congress and Ms Priti Rao Executive Director, Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus, Boston who shared their experiences and challenges as women in politics. The session was chaired by Mr David Gainer Public Affairs Officer from the US Consulate. The programme was coordinated by the Centre for Women's Studies.

The general elective on Women's Studies was offered by the Department of Economics in the Fifth semester in which 70 students enrolled. The CWS organised guest lectures and involved the students in its programmes on violence against women. The members of the Centre have been invited as resource persons and presented papers within and outside college for programmes and conferences on women's issues. The CWS was pleased to have published its maiden newsletter, which was widely circulated to the other Centers for Women's Studies and colleges.

On the completion of its fourth year of functioning, the Centre is happy that the college has once again been part of the local and global initiatives for a violence-free and gender-just society. Conscious that this momentum has to strengthen further the Centre will strive to be one more voice to highlight the progress towards women's rights, to bridge gaps that exist in gender inequality and to access justice and empowerment for all.



*White Ribbon campaign*

# DST PROJECT – ROLE OF CHEMISTRY IN FOOD SAFETY

The college has been sanctioned Rs 3.35 lakhs for a Department of Science and Technology (DST) project, to conduct training programmes on 'Role of Chemistry in Food Safety'. The programme was coordinated by Dr Geetha Swaminathan and Dr Mary George, faculty members of the Department of Chemistry. The resource persons included Dr Shyamala, Dr Priscilla, Ms Immaculate and Dr Rita Jeyaraj, faculty from Stella Maris College, as well as officials from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Food Safety and Standards Authorities of India (FSSAI) and faculty from Periyar College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trichy.

As part of the project, a four-day State-Level Training Programme was conducted at Stella Maris College from 5 to 8 November 2012. Two-day training programmes were conducted for school teachers in five districts of Tamil Nadu – in Trichy on 3 and 4 August, in Madurai on 14 and 15 September, in Thiruvannamalai on 24 and 25 September, in Cuddalore on 16 and 17 November and in Kancheepuram on 1 and 2 February. Around 50 teachers attended these programmes.

Food safety is an important issue that needs to be addressed. When the quality of food consumed is poor, it leads to a deterioration of health. It is therefore necessary to sensitize the consumer about the quality of food. With this in view, the training programmes focused on educating the school



*Release of CD of proceedings of training programme at SMC*

teachers about food chemistry, its nutritional aspects, food laws, health hazards due to adulterants and contaminants, food packaging, food toxicology and on how to buy safe food. The participants were also given hands-on training in the laboratory. The programmes highlighted the scientific aspects of food analysis and helped the schools in working towards food safety as a science club activity.

The sessions also emphasized the need to prevent malnutrition. The effects of malnutrition were dealt with in detail, to stress the importance of a balanced nutritional diet. The adverse effects of food additives like food colours, antioxidants, food preservatives, artificial sweeteners and anticaking agents were also discussed. The different types of food packaging, such as earthenware, glassware, steel, cans, and cartons were enumerated, while highlighting the importance of food packaging in preventing food spoilage and facilitating safe transport of food. The qualities of different plastics and their effective usage were also discussed in this context.

The participants were given an insight into the food laws in India, such as the PFA Act, AGMARK, FPO, MPO, Consumer Protection Act, along with the role of FSSAI in working towards safe food. They were urged to evaluate the label and check the nutritional content, date of manufacture or packaging, date of expiry, safety warnings, food additives, storage and certification.

Through the interactive lab sessions, the participants were given hands-on training to detect food adulteration in about 25 essential food commodities like coffee powder, tea, dhal, oils, jaggery, and turmeric powder. Tests were conducted on water analysis, focusing on its pH, TDS, chloride content, hardness,  $\text{NH}_3$  and sulphide content. Bacterial analysis in vegetables and cereals, along with fermentation techniques, were also taught as part of the laboratory sessions. Discussions and demonstrations about food poisoning and food microbiology clarified the difference between pathogenic and beneficial microbes. The highlight of the laboratory sessions was the involvement of the teacher-participants, who brought samples from their homes for analysis. The results of the experiments were then passed on to the others in their neighbourhood, as well as to their students, in a bid to increase awareness. The training of teachers from schools of different parts of Tamil Nadu will effect change by increasing awareness in the society, especially in the younger generation, about the importance of food safety and food security, in a move towards a healthy younger India.



*Detecting food adulteration - a testing session in progress*





# INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) aims to develop quality parameters to ensure efficient performance in the various academic and administrative activities of the institution. The IQAC team is chaired by the Principal, Dr Sr Jasinthha Quadras, fmm, and the members include the teaching staff, the management and nominees from local society. The activities are coordinated by Dr Geetha Swaminathan, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry.

This year, the members of IQAC were involved in guiding other colleges regarding autonomy, credit system and also served as members of academic audit for various colleges. Members from colleges such as Moolji Jaitha College, Jalgaon; St Xavier's College, Ahmedabad and New College, Chennai visited Stella Maris College and interacted with the IQAC members to understand the functioning of an autonomous college.

Dr Sr Jasinthha Quadras, fmm, has been appointed by the Kerala State Higher Education Council of the Government of Kerala as member of the committee of experts to explore the possibility of granting autonomy to institutions of higher learning in that state. As part of this process, a team of teaching faculty and committee members from Kerala visited the college.

Dr Geetha Swaminathan, also participated in discussions with staff and students representatives of colleges from Kerala; she was also part of a consultative meeting with Vice Chancellors at Trivandrum, to assist in the preparation of the draft report. The report submitted to the Kerala State Higher Education Council featured the case study of Stella Maris College as an annexure.

Dr Geetha Swaminathan was invited as a resource person at the National Conference on "Indian Higher Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - Five Decades Ahead" at Kristu Jayanthi College, Bangalore to speak on "Sustaining and Enhancing Quality through Autonomy - A Case Study".

The IQAC also made presentations about the different activities of the institution in seminars and conferences, while interacting

with IQACs of other institutions. The discussion with other IQAC coordinators and Principals/Vice Principals helped in working towards the raising of quality benchmarks in Higher Education. The IQAC has been involved in preparing a number of reports: among them the Annual Quality Assurance Report, the Annual Report that is submitted to the University of Madras, the report submitted to Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu and other reports highlighting the activities of the college. These reports are based on the data submitted by the departments and the offices in the college.

This year, various committees have been formed to prepare the Self Study Report (SSR) that is to be submitted to NAAC for the third cycle of accreditation in 2013. Periodical meetings and sessions are held with representatives from each department for the same.



*Training session for faculty*





A College Development Committee has been formed, comprising faculty, alumnae, parents and well-wishers, to address financial issues related to infrastructure, building up of a corpus fund and overall institutional development.

Training and development programmes are regularly conducted for faculty members and administrative staff. Sessions have been conducted for faculty members on various topics such as “Teaching Effectiveness and Accountability”, “Professional Ethics”, “Teaching-Learning-Evaluation Processes”, “Mentoring and Roles and Functions of Mentors”, “NAAC- Accreditation: Guidelines for preparation of Self Study Report” and “Learning Strategies, Research Initiatives”. The IQAC also conducted sessions for the administrative staff on “Time Management and Team Building”.

Realizing the importance of the role of students in enhancing quality assurance in the campus, the IQAC launched its Students Wing in February 2012 with 43 members; more than 60 members were enrolled in 2013. These students act as the liaison between the IQAC and the student community. The members of the Student Wing of the IQAC, who have been awarded badges with the IQAC logo,

have contributed greatly to the enhancement of the quality of student life on campus. They played an active role in guiding other students in the Pathway Programme. This initiative was highly appreciated by the students. These student representatives also participated in brainstorming sessions and gave suggestions regarding introduction of new Certificate Courses, creation of part-time jobs besides publicizing campus activities in the media and conducting programmes for students who had studied in the vernacular medium in school.

The college has various student-support programmes which aim at empowering students to face the challenges of higher education. A number of programmes like Civil Services Coaching Classes, NET/SLET Coaching Classes, Spring Board for Leadership Programmes and Language Partnership Programme are conducted to ensure overall development of the students and provide an inclusive education.

The IQAC thus facilitates internalization and institutionalization of quality and endeavours to ensure continuous quality enhancement.



*IQAC Student Wing*

# ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

The Alumnae Association of Stella Maris College (AASMC) was formed in 1994, to foster fellowship among alumnae, as well as among the alumnae, present students and serving faculty. The Association also seeks to encourage creative involvement of the alumnae in the activities of the college. The four wings of AASMC are the Career Guidance Cell (CGC), Kalanjiam, Newsletter and the Student Support Fund.

The activities of the CGC include placement service, arranging workshops and programmes for life-skills development and communication. The CGC enjoys good patronage from the media.

Kalanjiam is a forum of the AASMC that organises regular sessions on a variety of topics ranging from cookery, travel, book discussions to psychiatry. This year, as part of the Kalanjiam initiative, there was an interesting conversation with the well-known Tamil writer Ms Lakshmi Ramanan.

Stellar News is the official voice of the AASMC and is a regular feature brought out twice a year.

The Student Support Fund is a contribution from the members to support needy and deserving students from all departments in paying examination fees. This magnanimous gesture exemplifies the continued involvement of the members of the AASMC in the education of the students of the college.

The Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) and Reunion of AASMC was held on 15 September 2012 and saw a good turnout. Nearly 300 Stella Maris alumnae gathered in St. Francis Hall in a spirit of fellowship and love for their Alma Mater. The Rolling Shield for the department with maximum members who attended the reunion went to the Departments of English and Economics. The highlight of this year's AGBM was the inauguration of the Youth Wing of the AASMC by the President of AASMC, Dr Sr Jasintha Quadras, fmm. The Youth Wing which comprises faculty who are alumnae, is the brainchild of Dr Sr Flavia Mariapragasam, fmm. The Youth Wing has representatives from every department who operate as liaison between the Alumnae Association and the college.



*AASMC Christmas 2012*



*A joyous reunion, batch of '85-'88*



# CAREER GUIDANCE CELL

The Career Guidance Cell (CGC) is dedicated to providing opportunities for comprehensive and quality career development and employment, including internship programs and resources that equip a diverse student-alumnae community to deal with professional challenges.

The CGC maintains records of the information received from employing agencies, programmes conducted and the students' efforts in seeking jobs. A data bank of the educational qualification of students, including details about their financial background, residential address and training, is created. Necessary information from the data bank can be retrieved and provided to employing agencies that seek it.

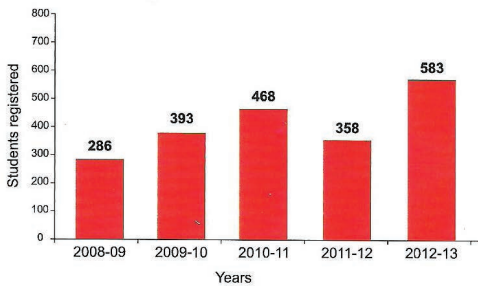
Career talks for the second year students on teaching, banking, e-publishing, retail management, logistics and insurance

were planned. A one-day career fair, "Beyond Horizons", was organised by the CGC on 12 September 2012.

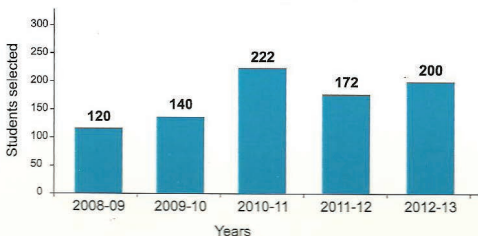
A week-long workshop on "Employability Skills" was conducted on 23 November 2012. Some of the topics discussed were "CV Writing", "Group Discussion" and "Interview Skills". This workshop was aimed at students entering their final semester, prior to the campus recruitment process.

Placement officers of the CGC attended meetings organised by Wipro, Cognizant Technology Solutions, Goldman Sachs and American Chamber of Commerce. These meetings highlighted the skills needed by the students to perform well in the campus recruitment drives, the importance of training programs to make the transition from campus to corporate and the need for the students to focus on their career goals.

**Students Registered with CGC for Recruitment**



**Students Selected in Campus Recruitment**



*At the Career Fair*





# INTER-FAITH EDUCATION FOR PEACE BUILDING: TOWARDS A UNITED WORLD

The project titled *Inter-faith Education for Peace Building: Towards a United World* sponsored by The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA) was launched with a workshop on Inter-faith Understanding on 13 July 2012 for the first year undergraduate class representatives and assistant representatives of both Shift I and Shift II. The resource person for the workshop was Dr Gladston Xavier of the Department of Social Work, Loyola College.

The workshop focussed on self-awareness, knowing your neighbour, acceptance of differences and conducting peaceful negotiations, and served to build a strong rapport among the students while making them aware of the need to understand, accept and celebrate differences for a more peaceful world.

On 28 August 2012, competitions were held for students in singing and creative writing (English, Hindi and Tamil) on the themes "Voices in Harmony" and "Channels of Peace". Held in collaboration with the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, the competitions were collectively titled "Communal Harmony Fortnight" and prizes were awarded for both categories.

On 21 September 2012, an introductory session was held on Inter-faith Dialogue and Peace Building for some of the faculty members. Fr Jerry; Dr Priyadarshana Jain, Head of the Department of Jainology and Department of Buddhist Studies, University of Madras; Fr Patrick, Head, Department of Christian Studies, University of Madras; Dr Lalitha Ramamurthy of the Gandhi Peace Foundation; Ms Nihaya from the Center for Islamic Studies spoke on how Christianity, Jainism, Hinduism and Islam encouraged dialogue between different faiths.

On 29 October 2012 a follow-up session on religions was held for faculty. Ms Zarine Mistry, President of Zoroastrian Association spoke on the origin, history and tenets of Zoroastrianism and stressed that man had been given the freedom to choose between good and evil. Sardar Harbhajan Singh spoke on Sikhism which he defined as one of the youngest modern religions in the world. Speaking about the fundamental principles of the religion he touched upon the fact that the Guru Granth Saheb contained compositions of



*The lighting of the lamp at the Inaugural of the National Conference*



*His Highness the Nawab of Arcot with Dr Rekha Shetty and other dignitaries at the Valedictory of the Conference*





Hindus as well as of untouchables. Sikhism, he said, promoted equality of the sexes in every aspect of daily life.

A panel discussion on “The Scope for Inter-faith Dialogue within Religious Traditions” was held on 17 Nov 2012 for the faculty and students of the college, as well as parents, representatives of NGOs and the alumnae of the college. The discussion was moderated by Dr Gladston Xavier from Loyola College. The discussion began with a welcome address by Dr Sr Colleen North, followed by some introductory remarks by Dr Gladston. He emphasized the need for such discussions given the atmosphere of communal violence prevailing in the country and spoke about the importance of understanding one’s own religion as well as being open to other religious traditions. The resource persons for the discussions included Fr Anthonysamy, Dr Abdul Rahiman, Head, Department of Islamic Studies, University of Madras, who spoke about a “rainbow Islam” which addresses multi-cultural and multi-ethnic communities. He traced this accommodative form of Islam back to the Prophet who had held dialogues with the Jews of Medina with whom he entered into a covenant for peaceful co-existence. Dr Priyadarshana Jain spoke about Jainism as being inherently open-minded because it believes that the principle of non-violence binds all human beings together. She pointed out that Jainism exhorted people to enter into an engagement with one’s own passions and senses rather than an external confrontation with people of other faiths. Dr Sivaraman from Presidency College, who represented Hinduism, traced the trajectory of dialogue within the Hindu spiritual tradition. He identified questioning,

desire to understand Dharma, intellectual quest leading through turbidity back to clarity as the stages involved in this journey. Ms Zarine Mistry, a practicing Parsi, spoke of Cyrus, the Zoroastrian king as epitomizing tolerance and acceptance, because he allowed the people of the lands conquered by him to practice their own religion. The Parsis, she pointed out, maintain their own identity while accepting other influences. Ms Ishleen, Assistant Professor in English, Stella Maris College spoke on how Sikhism is a confluence of the Islamic Sufi tradition and the Hindu Bhakti tradition. She spoke about the practice of ‘langar’ which is an inclusive practice, where food is prepared in a community kitchen and served to all irrespective of caste, creed, religion and social status. The audience’s questions on the links between religion and politics and the growth of an individual religion with reference to the dialogue it holds with other religions initiated interesting discussions.

A follow-up session for 55 students along with an orientation for the next session on “Sharing your Spiritual Journey” was conducted by Dr Gladston Xavier on 19 November 2012.

The activities which formed part of the session made students aware of the differences between them as well as the similarities they shared. One representative from each religion was asked to form a panel and students were encouraged to ask questions to them. Many students asked relevant questions and made pertinent observations such as the need to become God loving rather than God fearing. On 24 November 2012, a panel discussion was held with



*The organising committee of the National Conference along with the student volunteers*

student representatives of Catholicism, Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Jainism and atheism. Each student spoke briefly on certain aspects of her religion and engaged in a dialogue with members of the audience on popular misconceptions about different religions and the significance of rituals and practices.

On 14 December 2012, when Stella Maris College celebrated the Christmas fete (when students and staff set up stalls to sell food items or conduct games), the group involved in this project set up a stall called *Maitri*. The stall, named after the Sanskrit word for friendship and harmony, aimed at furthering the objectives of the year-long project, namely to make the students of the college familiar with various aspects of different religions practiced in India. To this end, the stall sold food items that were specific to various religions, displayed charts explaining the significance of some aspects of various religions and displayed religious artefacts of different religions.

The food sold in the stall was testimony to the variety of religions that are practiced in India. There was *Sundal*, the peanut-based snack that is a staple at Hindu festivals such as *Navaratri*, *Ravo*, the semolina based sweet milk dish which is prepared during Parsi festivals, *Kalkals*, the egg-containing sweet that is a part of every Anglo-Indian Christmas and *Sukhi Semiya*, a typical Sikh sweet. Apart from these, the stall also had lentil *payasam*, traditionally a Hindu dish, but one that has become a part of most Indian festivals today. The charts displayed in the stall explained various aspects of religions such as Islam, Jainism and Buddhism, and the significance of Christmas.

It was the display of artefacts associated with various religions that drew the attention of most of the people. The Benedict Cross, the statuettes of Mother Mary and of Jesus Christ, the *Dasavataram* set were among the articles that most of the visitors to the stall already knew of. The five Ks of Sikhism or the *kakar* (the symbols that a Sikh is always expected to carry) seemed fascinating for the visitors as did the various Jaina artefacts. Most of the visitors were also keen to try out the Buddhist meditation bowl and hear the Buddhist gong calling the followers for prayer. The visitors were also fascinated with the Buddhist prayer wheel which, it is believed, spreads a prayer around it as it spins.

The interest shown by the members of the college community and by visitors on that day to *Maitri* is testimony to the interest that the youth of the country have in understanding different faiths.

A national level Conference titled “Inter-faith Dialogue and Peace Building” was held on campus on 8 and 9 February 2013. Major events of the Conference included talks, panel discussions, and paper presentations. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Dr Noel Sheth from Jnana-Deepa Vidhyapeeth Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion, Pune. The topics for the talks which were delivered by representatives of different religions included “Relevance of Dialogue in Peace Building”, “Religion and Spirituality: A Confluence (Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Jainism)”. A panel discussion on “Understanding Inter-faith Issues” was chaired by Dr Noel Sheth. The panelists were representatives from Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism.

Students, researchers and faculty members from Stella Maris and other institutions also presented papers on different aspects of interfaith dialogue. The session was chaired by Dr Fr Francis Gonzalves Principal of Vidyajyoti College of Theology, New Delhi.

The valedictory function was held on the 8 February 2013 with His Highness Muhammad Abdul Ali, the Prince of Arcot as the Guest of Honour. As Founder-President of Harmony India, an NGO dedicated to the cause of communal harmony, he spoke on the need for educational institutions to carry forward the message of peace and harmony.

The Chief Guest, Dr Rekha Shetty, Managing Director of Farstar Distribution Network Ltd. and an alumna of the College spoke about the sameness of the message of all religions, and exhorted the students to consciously avoid conflict and to create a culture of understanding and peace.

The response of the students and faculty of the college to the various activities conducted as part of this project stands testimony to the importance of and interest in interfaith dialogue as an important activity in building a peaceful, harmonious world. The college hopes to continue activities to this end in the years to follow.



# HOSTEL



*A home away from home*

On-campus accommodation is something that is extremely sought after, as one is barely a stone's throw away from the college and would have maximum access to all the facilities. As security and discipline are ensured on the college campus, the hostel becomes a safe home to students. Hostelites have the luxury of seeing the campus after class-hours, the serenity and the beauty of the flora and fauna inside is in stark contrast to the traffic, noise and bustle outside

Though the hostel brings together girls from varying backgrounds, lifestyles and cultures, friendships made here could last a lifetime. The love and camaraderie that one experiences when living together, sharing the ups and downs of academic pursuits and life in general, truly makes the hostel, as the wardens often remark, "a home away from home". The love and concern of the wardens themselves, extends to the students from all hostels on campus. Each of these hostels has its own set of traditions, from catechism classes to new ways of celebrating holidays, welcoming new entrants and honouring wardens. Each such situation becomes an opportunity for the students to be creative in using their talents.

The experience of staying in the hostel is one that needs to be understood first-hand, as it truly is an experience like no other.





# SMART

In a sense, teaching involves a kind of second birth, in which teachers assist their wards to give birth to themselves. Having perfected that art over the years, the retired teachers of SMC felt the need to bond and interact with the 'family members' - the familiar and warm faces, in order to continue the relationships built in the best periods of their life – hence, SMART (Stella Maris Association of Retired Teachers) was born in 2010.

The Principal and the Management were supportive: they continue to carry Stella Maris ID card and the right to use the treasured library too. The first team of office bearers – Geetha Balachandran (President), Mridula Jose (Secretary), Agnes Fernando (treasurer) proved to be dynamic by providing interesting programmes as the SMARTies met once in two months. These provided a platform for re-vitalising contacts between members and keep learning new skills. There were interesting activities, useful information and tips through email, workshops, fun, talks and so on, which were compiled as a Newsletter.

After a period of two years, there was a change of guard, with Sr Christine Antony, fmm taking over as the President, Dr Jesurieta Sathian as the secretary and Dr Christina Rajkumar as the treasurer. During the past year, based on the feedback from members, programmes were designed to draw inputs from within and to cultivate a deeper camaraderie. Several members came forward to share their expertise. They also draw from external resources and have had interactions with experts like Padmashree Dr Natarajan, the noted Geriatric Specialist .

The highlight was the Christmas celebration, timed alongside Christmas Fete of the college, paving the members to enjoy the vibrancy of the mainstream. Individual handcrafted cards and decorations added a personal touch. Based on request, a small group also managed to venture out for a short trip to Chettinad. The able guidance and hospitality of Dr Poppy Kannan and her husband made the trip thoroughly enjoyable. The team is bringing out its Newsletter this year too, totally sponsored by the enthusiastic Dr Madhu Dawan.

SMART thanks the Management and the members of the Stella Maris community for their cooperation and support.



*Christmas Celebrations of the Stella Maris Association of Retired Teachers*



*Members of SMART on a trip to Chettinad*







## ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENTS

## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

The completion of sixty four years of an institution is a time to celebrate, to look back with nostalgia and look ahead with vision. The Department of History is as old as the college itself and has a history equally exciting and interesting. Under the guidance of able and committed faculty, the department has evolved into a premier one, with a very challenging syllabus. The students learn the major aspects of Indian and World History, including Ancient, Medieval and Modern India, International Relations, World Civilisations, Museology, Women Studies, European Studies, Human Rights, the histories of China, Japan and USA etc. They also learn about the practical aspects of tourism, as a significant part of the curriculum deals with Business Tourism, Tourism Marketing and Management, Global Tourism, Hotel Management and Catering and Airport Customer Services.

The Archaeological Survey of India and the Department of Archaeology of the Tamil Nadu Government have always been supportive of the Department of History. Our students got to see the historic rock carved temples at Mahabalipuram more than once. In addition to this, the students themselves work in the conservation of historically important pieces. At the Government Museum, they learnt preservation techniques and have helped clean up ancient stone and bronze sculptures and treat old manuscripts.

A certificate course in Travel and Career Counselling, approved by the IATA, is conducted for the third year undergraduate students. The course includes theory and practical classes, with an internship in the Travel Industry.

The Smt Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture was instituted 14 years ago, in memory of the first woman Prime Minister of India. This year, Ms Jennifer McIntyre, US Consul General in Chennai delivered a lecture on 'Indo-US Relations' on 6 September 2012.

At the annual Inter-Collegiate History Fest 'BC-AD 2013' which was held on 17 September 2012, Loyola College emerged the winner and received the overall championship trophy. A talk on 'Travel and Hospitality Management' was also delivered on that day by the Chief Guest, Mr S Rajamohan, Principal, Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Taramani.

World Tourism Day was celebrated on 27 September 2012, in collaboration with India Tourism, Government of India.





*Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture*

The Chennai Regional Office conducted quiz, debate and painting contests in which the students participated and won prizes. The students also underwent an Internship-cum-Certificate course at the Regional Office for 15 days.

As a part of the Tourism and Hospitality Management course, the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition conducted a thirty-six day Certificate-cum-Internship programme from 17 November 2012 to 16 January 2013. The students who participated in the programme were exposed to practical sessions on catering and hotel management followed by a viva-voce exam. They were also given industrial training at the Chennai Trade Center.

The Department of History had its first department Alumnae Meet on 1 December 2012. 44 old students and four retired Heads of the Department attended this programme. We were also delighted to have Ms A K Janaki, who was part of the very first batch of the History Department. The programme began with an invocation dance by two students, followed by a prayer after which the current Head of the Department, Prof Vimala Stephen, welcomed the guests. The highlight of the evening was the formation of an association for the alumnae of the History Department. Elections were held and Ms B Uma Maheshwari (Batch of 1990-93) was elected President, Ms Vaidehi Satish (Batch of 1998-2001) Vice President and Ms Sreemathy Swaminathan (Batch of 1982-85) Treasurer. It was decided that the alumnae of the History Department would meet on the first Saturday of every December.

In February this year, as part of the World Civilizations course, the students put up an exhibition with displays representing various world civilisations. Also, as part of the Appreciation of Performing Arts course, the students of the PR Department conducted a puppetry workshop for our students, who showed their creativity by making puppets on their own.

As part of the Social Awareness Program on “Heritage Awareness” the first year students of the department undertook a project on heritage sites in and around Chennai and an exhibition was conducted on 6 March 2013. The students displayed models of various monuments and also put on a power point presentation on the techniques of preservation and conservation of old monuments.



*History Department Alumnae Meet 2012*



*World Tourism Day Celebrations 2012*

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



The academic year 2012-2013 began with a talk titled 'The Catastrophe of Child Marriage in Tamil Nadu' by Dr Sujata Ramanathan, former Head of the Sociology department. As a UNICEF Documentation Consultant, Dr Sujatha had studied the problem of child marriages in the industrial towns of Salem and Dharmapuri. The session was very interactive and many cases of child marriages were discussed.

The department has been actively involved in all major college events and bustles with energy when it is time for department activities. An even higher degree of enthusiasm could be palpably felt when organising and participating in the department's very own MEADS MEET 2012, the Intra-year Socio-fest. MEADS MEET has been a perfect platform not just to showcase the students' talents but also to bring alive the little sociologist in every student. There were a total of eight events related to various courses offered by the department. The idea behind organising an inter-year conclave was to test the students' knowledge of sociological concepts, their level of awareness on current global social issues, their ability to discuss social agendas and to provide them with a platform to display their creative and innovative ideas. The ultimate objective was to make this event fun while ensuring a memorable learning experience. The competitions were an amalgam of off-stage (Creative writing, Bag Designing and Collage) and on-stage events. The second years were the overall winners, with the first years emerging as the first runners up and the third years the second runners up.

The department was more than delighted to host the Alumnae Meet and welcome the members of the Stella Maris Sociology family. The Alumnae Meet brought together old batch mates, who recollected the good old college days and share personal and professional experiences. Several past pupils shared their experiences of learning and having had fun in this institution. Notable among those who spoke at the meeting were Ms Sumathi Iyer, a cricket player, Manager at Canara Bank; Dr Sumathi, faculty of the Department of Psychology, Women's Christian College; Dr Sujata Ramanathan and Dr Leila Narayan, retired faculty of the Department of Sociology. The present students of the department put together a short narrative skit on 'Emancipation of Women' for the alumnae while students from the North-East performed a Naga dance. Both these programmes were greatly appreciated by the audience. As the session came to an end, the President and Secretary of the Sociology Department Alumnae were elected.

The Sister Christine Endowment Lecture was delivered by Dr Sriranjini Sivasubramanian, Head, Department of Human Rights and Duties Education of Ethiraj College, Chennai on the topic "Intersection of Gender Justice and Law". The lecture was delivered on 22 February 2013. Dr Sriranjini highlighted the relationship between the terms 'gender', 'gender justice' and 'law' and explained the growing significance of gender justice and law in the world at large and specifically in India. A change in the mindset of people, she maintained, while being





*Alumnae Meet*

the most important element, is only a very gradual process and hence not a foolproof option to bringing about change. She suggested that as citizens and makers of the constitution, we could rather help formulate better laws and work for their execution in real terms. She described laws as 'wheels of social change' and discussed several laws that are based on the three principles of "patriarchy, protectionism and equality". Dr Sriranjini largely focused on "gender equality" by citing several true legal cases where gender equality was carried out.

Dr Sasitha was the advisor for the college play titled "12 Angry Jurors". Nayantara Nayar, a third year BA Sociology student directed the play which drew excellent reviews.

Dr Sasitha and Ms Shantha were an integral part of the team that co-ordinated the seminar on 'Inter-faith Dialogue and Peace Building' on 8 and 9 February 2013.

Dr Neeraja Rao was felicitated by the Rotaract Club of Ethiraj College and awarded with a citation of 'My Guru' on Teacher's day.



*Faculty with the winners of MEADS MEET 2012*

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

The new academic year started off well for the Department of Economics with new students joining the department at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Despite their initial apprehensions, they settled down soon and became a part of all the academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities of the department.

In August, the department hosted the Dr Sr Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture. The lecture entitled 'The Growth Story – How 'Inclusive' has it been?' was delivered by Prof S Subramanian, Professor at Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai.

A one-day workshop on Data Analysis was organised for the postgraduate and M.Phil students on 7 September 2012. The resource person was Dr D Sathiyavan, Assistant Professor, Department of Econometrics, University of Madras, Chennai.

The Inter PG Seminar on 'Foreign Direct Investments' was extremely interesting with the first year PG students emerging as winners.

The Department Festival – Eco Centric – was held in September; various colleges from the city participated in economics-based events such as Paper Presentations, Debate, Treasure Hunt, Essay Writing, If you Know it Prove it, Every Day Economics, Quiz and Ship Wreck. Eco Centric began with a welcome address followed by a prayer song and the lighting of the lamp. The Head of the Department and the Chief Guest, Dr T Lakshmanaswamy, Head-in-charge, Department of Economics, University of Madras, addressed the audience. The fest ended with the Valedictory Function.

Ankur the department journal, had an overwhelming number of contributions from all over the world this year with social media and the internet have helping connect with past and present students and the department received close to 50 contributors to Ankur.

The first-year undergraduate students, as part of the Social Awareness Programme, were taken for a village visit and study to Rettaipalayam village in the Uthiramerur Panchayat in Kancheepuram District, on 15 February 2013. They actively interacted with the students of the primary school and conducted various activities for the children besides interacting with the villagers. The entire trip proved to be an enriching and learning experience for the students.

The Department of Economics is working on a project entitled 'Cost of Health Care among Urban Poor in Chennai - A Survey.' The project is sponsored by Scientific Research Association for Economics & Finance (SRAEF), Chennai. The experience of the students of I BA, II BA, and I MA Economics, in the process of data collection, is certainly educational. They understand the intensity of poverty as they collect data from vendors, domestics, scavengers, and migrant construction workers.

The Department of Economics has recently started a blog entitled 'Economics Matters', which can be accessed at <<http://economics-matters.blogspot.in/p/about.html>>.



*A participant in the Inter PG Seminar*



*Dr Sr Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture, Prof S Subramanian, Professor at Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai*

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

2012-2013 was an eventful year for the English department at academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular levels. The department conducted a number of activities that showcased the multifarious talents of the students while introducing them to acclaimed writers and academics in the field.

In an effort to involve students from varied cultural backgrounds in college activities, the department staged a Tamil play titled *Mouna k Kuram – Silenced Prophecies*. The play, directed by A Mangai, faculty of the Department of English, dramatized the plight of women from Indian mythology – Chandramathi, Sita and Draupadi – exposing their subordinate position behind a façade of affluence and power. Narrated through the eyes of a gypsy fortune-teller, the production portrayed the gypsy worldview as one that respected women and their individuality. Students from different departments participated in this performance that ran to a full house from 13 to 15 September 2012.

The department hosted its annual inter-collegiate cultural competitions *Novella* in October 2012. The various events in the programme were a fine blend of academics and extra-curriculars. 224 students from across 13 city colleges participated in the programme which was won – for the second time in a row – by Madras Christian College.

In an effort to re-establish old ties and encourage former students to become involved in college and departmental activities, the department organised an alumnae meet on 30 November 2012. 52 ex-students of the department – including a mother-daughter duo – attended the meet.

As part of the Poetry Festival of Prakriti Foundation, two poetry panels were invited in December 2012 – one on Eezham





poetry and another on resistance poetry. Readings of poems was followed by an interactive session with the students. In February 2013, the department conducted a 'Meet the Author' session in which the students and staff of the department interacted with Sara Aboobacker and Vaidehi, two important women writers from Karnataka.

The students of the department participated in a number of collegiate and intercollegiate competitions and won awards and prizes. They also emerged overall winners in *Coffeehouse*, the intercollegiate cultural event of Loyola College.

Ms Abirami of III BA was one of the three Indian students whose essay was selected from a national level writing competition on the theme "Human Rights in 20<sup>th</sup> century: New challenges?" conducted by the French Embassy in India, Institut Français and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She won a 10-day trip to Paris and Strasbourg from 6 to 16 July 2012.

The faculty of the English department were also actively involved in college activities and in research. A number of the faculty members of the department were part of the core committee of the year-long initiative UBCHEA sponsored project titled "Interfaith Education: Towards a United World".

The national conference titled "Interfaith Dialogue and Peace Building" conducted in February 2013 was coordinated by Dr Bernadine Joseph, Head of the English department.

Two members of the Department of English – Dr G Prabha and Dr S Annapoorni – were awarded their PhD degrees this year. Also, Dr Padma V Mckertich and Ms V Shilpa were sanctioned a Minor Research Project titled "Reclaiming Green Presences: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Plant Subjectivity in Literature and the Botanical Sciences" by the UGC.



Mouna k Kuram



Novella '12

## DEPARTMENT OF **FINE ARTS**



Every day is a special day in the Fine Arts department as the course work itself is set afire with creative challenges demanding creative solutions. The icing on the cake is the long list of special inputs and workshops all through the year.

Art is often understood as a painting on canvas or a sculpture in three dimensions. The young students of the department were exposed to alternative practices of art this year through the annual Dr Sr Edith Tomory Endowment Lecture titled “The Pseudo-Archivist”. Delivered in July 2012 by artist, writer, curator Pushpamala N from Bangalore, it gave the students valuable insights into the current trends in the contemporary art scene in India. Ms Pushpamala highlighted the use of still photographs in art to virtually create an intriguing story. She also shared her experience in terms of her performance art statements where she herself had ‘posed’ as the various characters in her art. She followed this with a workshop titled ‘Graphic Novels and Art’ for the final year undergraduate students. Through the interactive workshop she urged students to think out of the box and create spontaneous and original works derived from the graphic novel form. Including text in art expressions was a different experience altogether for the students.

The department organised a National Textile Seminar titled “Thari: Tradition in the Modern” in February 2013. The seminar brought together textile researchers, experts, activists and enthusiasts on an academic platform to address key concerns in textile craft practice. It focussed on handloom textiles, an important and often challenged area of Indian craft tradition. Papers on crucial matters like design intervention and impact of technology on artisans were thought provoking. Writer and social activist Jaya Jaitly set the tone with her brilliant keynote address that questioned the state of India’s textile tradition. The seminar took the participants through meaningful and absorbing academic sessions titled “Organic and Artisanal Textiles”, “Tradition and Culture”, “Weaver and Interventions”, “Fashion and Tradition” and culminated in an insightful panel discussion.

The textile seminar was followed by a traditional Nagaland Backstrap Weaving workshop for the postgraduate students specialising in Textile Design conducted by academician and textile specialist Preeti Nartiang from Nagaland. It was a hands-on experience for the students, who were taught the setting of the loom, the warp and creation of the final fabric.

The simple tribal traditional process bereft of any machinery was an eye opener, enhanced by the rare opportunity of being trained by a Naga.

A workshop on three dimensional art was conducted over three days in August 2012 by Mr Sasikumar, artist and faculty at Pearl Academy of Fashion, Chennai, to enable the Painting Specialisation students to explore and experiment with carving and casting techniques using the medium of Plaster of Paris. French sculptor James Chedburn's workshop on Kinetik wire sculptures, also in August 2012, foregrounded the fundamental qualities of wire and the possibilities of movement in three dimensions. He motivated students to create their own little wire-mobiles. Being the first workshop in three dimensions, it was definitely inspirational.

German illustration artist Nadia Budde conducted a workshop on 'Illustration' for the postgraduate students specializing in Graphic Design to time-travel into their past and create their own biography.

Six story books to be used as teaching-learning material by Balavidyalaya, the school for hearing-impaired children, were fully illustrated by the third year undergraduate students on a voluntary basis. This was to directly serve the school in its quest to create original stories to suit the special requirements of the children. They also painted the four walls of a school for slum children built by Ford Foundation at Kannagi Nagar based on the theme "Ecosystems of the Earth". The work was highly appreciated by the beneficiaries and the sponsors.



Artist Pushpamala N conducting a graphic novel illustration workshop



Artist Pushpamala N delivering the Endowment Lecture



Thari- Panel discussion



The final year postgraduate students collaborated with Nalanda Way, an organisation that has launched an 'Achieve through Art' initiative in education. The students helped reinforce the art curriculum being implemented in corporation schools.

Study tours go beyond the walls of the class room and extend the boundaries of learning. This year too all the mandatory tours were undertaken by the students with great fervor and enthusiasm. The final year undergraduate students went on a trip to study the historical monuments and art at Mt Abu, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Aurangabad, Ajanta and Ellora in December 2012. The third year undergraduate students went on a trip to Sri Aurobindo Paper Factory, Pondicherry to study the manufacture of paper and various possibilities it offers for art. The second year undergraduate students went on a trip to Thanjavur, Chidambaram and Madurai to study temple architecture. The postgraduate students specializing in Textile Design went on a trip to Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Delhi to study the textile traditions there.

At the close of the academic year 2012-13, it can be said that this spate of learner-centric experiential teaching has powered the department and has given the students a multi-dimensional, holistic learning experience.



*Artist Sasi K from Pearl Academy conducting plaster cast workshop*







Paintings based on the eco system of the earth



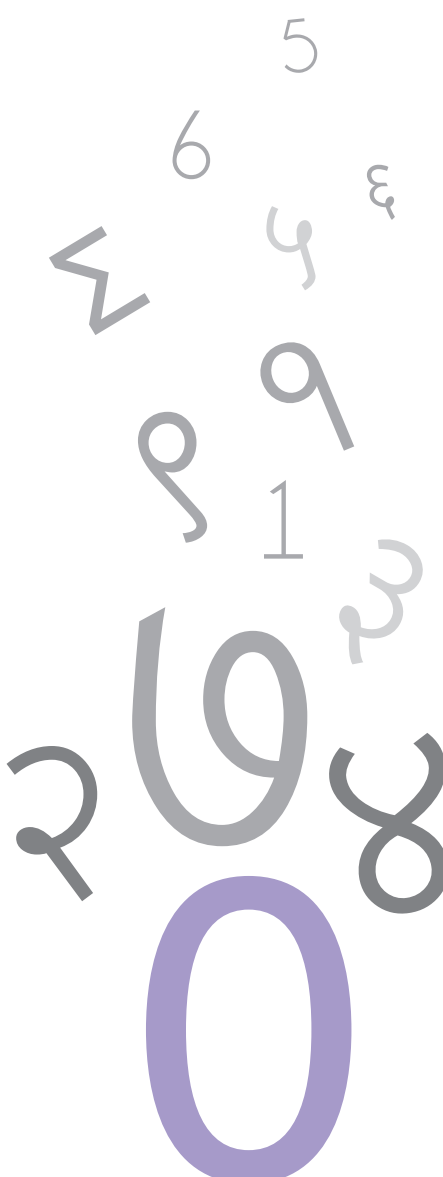
A II PG student's work that was displayed at Vinyaasa Art Gallery



Priti Nartiang's Backstrap Weaving Workshop



## DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS



The Department of Mathematics conducted a series of events throughout the academic year 2012-13. A number of workshops, seminars and guest lectures ensured continual academic activity in the department.

Dr Sr Jasintha Quadras, fmm, Principal of the College and Head, Research Department of Mathematics, Stella Maris College, was adjudged Distinguished Alumna of the Institution by Christ University, Bangalore on 25 January 2013. She was also appointed as a member of the committee of the Kerala Higher Education Council of the government of Kerala. Dr Felbin C Kennedy, Associate Professor of the department, was elected as a member of the Academic Council, University of Madras for a period of 3 years from September 2012. She was also elected Joint-Secretary of the Governing Council of FIM (Forum for Interdisciplinary Mathematics) for two years (2013-2015).

The events of the department began with a memorial service in remembrance of Sr Juliana Xavier fmm (15 June 1933 to 03 August 2012), former Head of the department on 14 August 2012 at 2.00 pm.

Dr Sr Jasintha Quadras, fmm, also organised a series of workshops this academic year: a workshop on "Interconnection Networks" was organised from 21 to 24 January 2013, workshops on Nanotechnology and Cheminformatics were organised from 17 to 19 November 2012 while on 5 and 6 September 2012 workshops were organised for research scholars in and around the city.

The activities of the Integra Forums began with a chain of workshops, off-stage events and seminars. A workshop on Graph Theory was coordinated on 17 August 2012 by Dr V Jude Annie Cynthia, Assistant Professor in the department. Dr Indira Rajasingh, Former Head, Department of Mathematics, Loyola College and Professor, School of Advanced Sciences, VIT University, Chennai Campus and Dr R. Bharati, Professor Emeritus, Department of Mathematics, Loyola College and Conjoint Professor, University of New Castle, Australia,

were the resource persons. As part of the workshop, a crossword contest on Graph Theory was also conducted. At the seminar on Operation Research that was coordinated by Ms A Josephine Lissie on 23 November 2012, Prof Veeramani, faculty of the Department of Mathematics, IITM Chennai, delivered a lecture.

A workshop on Astronomy was organised by Ms Teresa Arockiamary at Periyar Science and Technology Centre, Chennai on 4 February 2013. As a part of the workshop, Prof Narasimhan, eminent mathematician, conducted two sessions at this workshop; a short film was also screened at the theatre to the students. A workshop on MathCad was conducted on 7 February 2013 by Ms V Dhanalakshmi, Assistant Professor in the department. Participants in the workshop were given hands-on experience in solving basic matrix, integration and calculus problems using the mathematical software MathCad.

The twelfth intercollegiate Mathfest MATH ZOOM 2012 was conducted on 14 September 2012, and was inaugurated by Dr Sr Jasintha Quadras, fmm. On this occasion, three endowment scholarships, namely, Dr J Thangamani Endowment Scholarship, C.M. Lakshmi path Endowment Scholarship and Ponpathirkootam Pankajamma Endowment Scholarship, were awarded to the postgraduate students by Sr Susan, fmm, Secretary, Stella Maris College. Seventeen Engineering and Arts & Science Colleges

in and around the city participated in the competitions. The programme was organised by the co-ordinators of Integra forum, Dr Mercy Soruparani, Associate Professor, and Ms A Dhanalakshmi, Assistant Professor of the department. Individual events were co-ordinated by various faculty members of the department with the assistance of students from the Integra forum. Madras Christian College emerged the overall winner of MATH ZOOM 2012 and won the Rolling Trophy.

Math-O-Match is the culmination of the yearlong inter-year competitions. It was organised by the Integra forum and M Phil students on 19 February 2013. Dr Sr Rosy Joseph fmm, Dean of Students Affairs, delivered the valedictory address on the "Concepts and Applications of Linear Algebra". Her presentation encouraged the students to have a wider approach to applications of linear algebra in Number Theory and Cryptography. The first year postgraduate students emerged as winners Math-O-Match 2013. Dr Sr Jasintha Quadras, fmm, distributed the prizes to the students.

To bridge the gap between the alumnae of the department and the college, the department conducted its alumnae meet on 19 January 2013 between 3 and 6 pm. The reunion was graced by the retired faculty of the department and received an overwhelming response; around 100 alumnae attended the meet and nearly all of them were eager to become life members of the department and interested in involving themselves in the activities of the department.



The Principal with the winners of Math-o-Match



Workshop on Cheminfomatics



## DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

The physics department has grown from strength to strength to become the versatile entity it is today, only because of the perseverance, sincerity and dedication of staff and students. The Department of Physics creates a forum for the students to think beyond their books. A series of workshops was conducted to equip the students with technical knowledge and enlighten them about the growth of science in different fields.

A guest lecture on Analog Digital Circuit for the third-year undergraduate students was delivered by Dr Kumar Sathian, Retired Professor of Physics, Madras Christian College Chennai on 7 February 2012; Prof Sathian also conducted a workshop on “Microprocessors and Microcontrollers” for the final year students on 6 October 2012. Dr S Jayakumar, Associate Professor, R K M Vivekananda College conducted a Regional Workshop on “Analytical Instrumentation Techniques - Study of Scientific Research on Analytical Instrumentation Techniques” on 12 October 2012. Another workshop on “Electronics Minor Research Projects” by Dr Kumar Sathian was organised for first year undergraduate students on 15 October 2012. Workshops, guest lectures and demonstrations were conducted on “Solar Energy” by Mr Sabarish R C and Mr Suresh Anantha Rao from Aeon Renewable Energy Solution Pvt. Ltd. for the second-year undergraduate students on 19 February 2013.

The annual Physics Culturals titled ‘ELECTRA 2012’ was held on 7 September 2012. Professors from IGCAR, Kalpakkam delivered lectures on nuclear energy and the opportunities for career and higher education in Kalpakkam. About 100 participants from various colleges took part in the various events like Paper Presentation, Debate, Collage, Quiz, Junk Art and Experimental Physics.

The annual event “Popular Lectures” in Physics was held on 9 March 2013. Dr C K Subramanian and Dr Bhuveshwari G



from the Department of Material Sciences from VIT, Vellore delivered lectures on Renewable Energy followed by a demonstration on the same.

The Physics magazine PHYSIK was released on 9 March 2013. Like always, this year too the magazine served as a platform for exhibiting the writing skills of the students in the form of both technical and non-technical articles.

The department's Alumnae Meet was held on 10 December 2012. 30 alumnae participated and shared their experiences. The department provides opportunities for the faculty to actively participate in academic and research activities. Dr K H Rajini conducted the Academic Audit for JBAS College on 12 December 2012. Sr Francisco Nirmala was a resource person for the Entrepreneurship Programme, Entrepreneurship Development Cell, Stella Maris College, Chennai. Dr G Gnanasangeetha, attended the Awareness Workshop on "National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning" (NPTEL) LICET and CLASSLE on 3 December 2012 at Loyola College. Sr Francisco Nirmala attended the National Conference on Nanomaterials at Karunya University of Engineering on 3 and 4 December 2012. She has also attended the National Conference on Advanced Materials at Sacred Heart College, Thirupathur on 28 September 2012, as well as the National Conference on Nanomaterials and their Application at Anna University, Madurai on 23 and 24 August 2012. Ms Belina Xavier published two papers – "A Modified Solvothermal Approach For Developing Au/SnO<sub>2</sub> Nanocomposites" and "Investigation Of A Facile One-Pot Rapid Synthesis Approach For Developing Modestly Monodispersed And Stable Spherical Gold Nanoparticles" in the international journal *Der Pharma Chemical*. Dr K H Rajini and Dr Gnanasangeetha are working on a Minor Research Project on "Theoretical studies on P waves superconductivity in two coupled chains of Spinless Fermions."

The department organised field visits as part of which the third-year undergraduate students were taken to The Life Line Hospital to study and understand the various medical instruments. They were also taken to Anna Centenary Library and Birla Planetarium.

The students have also shown enthusiasm and dedication in academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. About 30 students from the department wrote the NGPE – 2013 (National Graduate Physics Examination) conducted by Indian Association of Physics Teachers on 20 January 2013.

Ms Krithika Raman was selected to attend the internship at Saha Institute at Kolkata. NCC cadet Ms Rachel Dorthy R won overall championship in the Thal Sainik Camp held at DG Vaishnav College, Chennai. Ms Magdalene Lycia raised four lakh rupees for Fetal Research on Birth Defects at Egmore Museum. Ms Magdalene Lycia and Ms Merlin raised sixty thousand rupees towards the Operation School Renovation (Vandalur). Ms Rudhra Nathan was a part of the cast of a play "Scandal In Fairyland" and performed in the Indo-German Mela 2012. She is also a member of a college student organisation named Ayanmara which manages events for charity and cultural activities. The students also took part in inter and intra-college cultural events and won a number of prizes.



*Electra 2012 Inauguration*



*Solar Energy Workshop*

## DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

2012-2013 proved to be a very eventful academic year for the Department of Chemistry. The active involvement of both teachers and students of the department helped to bring together people from various backgrounds to share their knowledge and expertise and contribute to the growth of the basic sciences.

A significant milestone for the department was the organisation of a two day National Conference on "New Frontiers Inorganic Chemistry and Process Research (NFOCPR- 2013)" in collaboration with Shasun Pharmaceuticals Ltd. on 24 and 25 of January 2013. The Conference, funded by the UGC and the Department of Science and Technology brought together nationally renowned senior scientists, young researchers, faculty and students from various academic and research institutions, and industries for a comprehensive programme about latest developments in Organic Chemistry and Process Research. Dr Sr Jasinthu Quadras, fmm, Convener & Principal, welcomed the gathering. Dr Shiny John Vairamon, Head, Department of Chemistry gave an overview of the Conference. Dr Sivaramakrishnan, President, R&D, Piramal Life Sciences, Mumbai delivered an interesting and informative Inaugural Address on "Drug Discovery – A Chemist Perspective" and released the Proceedings. Ms V Mary Teresita, Organising Secretary proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Several other conferences, workshops and guest lectures by eminent scholars and scientists were also organised throughout the year. The most notable was the 'Dr Sr Annamma Philip Endowment Lecture' delivered by Prof P Selvam of IIT- Madras on "Nanostructured Materials for Sustainable Chemistry". In addition, an intercollegiate seminar on "Chemistry Without Glassware: Computational Approaches to Chemical Problems" by Dr Krishnan Ragavachari, Indiana University, USA; a workshop on "Clinical Biochemistry Practicals" by Dr Raja, Stella Maris College; a lecture cum demonstration on "Cosmetics and Personal Care" by Cavin Care and Ms Asha Vargheese, WCC; "Introduction of Micro Scale Experiments in Organic, Inorganic and Physical Chemistry" by the department; lectures on "NMR Spectral Studies" by Dr Narasimhaswamy and on "Polymeric Materials" by Dr Roop Singh, Presidency college & Dr Jaisankar, CLRI.

The Intercollegiate chemistry cultural festival "Reactions 2012", the annual intercollegiate programme of the department, served as a platform for the students to enhance and showcase their talents and enhance their organisational skills and

creativity. As a part of this programme, an inspiring lecture on 'Lithium Ion Batteries' was delivered by Dr U V Varadaraju, Professor, IIT- Madras and a compilation of the Post Graduate Projects was presented to him. Students from several colleges enthusiastically participated in various events such as Chemtunes, Dumb Charades Adzap, JAM, Collage, Cross Word, Rangoli, Debate Quiz- UG & PG. A quiz competition for the postgraduate students was newly introduced this year and proved to be a great success. The overall championship was bagged by the students of Loyola College. The Sunila Thomas Salgar Award for 1 MSc students was awarded to Ms Beatriceveena TV and Ms Vidhya S. This year as a result of the motivation of the faculty and tireless efforts of the students, the Department of Chemistry emerged as the overall winners of the intercollegiate culturals in three colleges – Loyola College, Madras Christian College and DG Vaishnav College.

To kindle research interests in the students, internships were arranged for all the postgraduate students and a few undergraduate students at various prestigious institutions such as Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Kerala; Diet Aqua, Kumaran Hospitals, Akshaya Aqua farms, Anabond, CPCL, University of Madras, Anna University, VasiBala Resins Pvt. Ltd., Indu Remedies, IIT-M and CLRI, Chennai.

Dr Revathy Rajagopal and three II BSc students Liz George, Chriso Maria Thomas and Ann Candice were the recipients of INSA Summer Research Fellowship this year. In addition, Priyadarshini K and K S Mathu Midhaa were recruited through CGC as IT trainees at Wipro and Mahindra Satyam; they also got an opportunity to complete their MS at VIT and BITS Pilani respectively.



*Environmental awareness campaign*





*Sr Annamma Phillip Endowment Lecture*

An elective course on Cosmetics and Personal Care and an Independent Elective course in Forensic Chemistry were also introduced successfully to enable students to acquire extra credits through guided study. Industrial visits to CLRI, IIT and Anabond were organised for experiential learning. MoUs with IGCAR and CLRI have also been signed by the department to support the research endeavors of the students and faculty. The Alumnae Meet of the Department of Chemistry was organised this year with Dr Sr Annamma Philip, fmm, Former Principal, Stella Maris College as the guest of honour. There was an overwhelming response to renew the sense of belonging with the Alma Mater and strengthen old bonds.

The faculty of the Department of Chemistry presented and published a number of research papers. Dr Mary Terry presented a paper at Chennai Chemistry Conference(CCC-2013) and Ms Mary Teresita at the 4 International conference on 'Recent Advances in Composite Materials (IGRACM- 2013)'. Ms Mary Teresita and Ms Avila Josephine published a paper in *Sensors and Transducers Journal*, Dr Revathy Rajagopal and Tharani A in *IOSR Journal of Applied Chemistry* and Dr Mary George in *Journal of Experimental Nanoscience*; two second year postgraduate students, Ms Anuradha Govindarajan and Ms Jayanthi Erusappan, published a scientific paper in *Nanoletters*. The faculty and students of the department have also participated in national and international conferences,







*Biochemistry Workshop by Dr Raja*

seminars and workshops. Many members of the faculty have also served as resource persons in activities outside college. Dr S Geetha was appointed as a member of the National Expert Advisory Committee on Entrepreneurship Education by DST, Government of India and also received the Best Teacher Award from the Tamizhaga Kalvi Valarchi Aaraychi Niruvanam.

Under the Star College Scheme Dr Shiny John Vairamon co-ordinated a number of workshops, guest lectures, seminars and visits funded by DBT, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. These were organised periodically by the department to create awareness about the latest trends in various fields of chemistry. The department also has many ongoing projects notably a UGC Major Research Project "Syntheses of Novel Polymer Metal Nanocomposites and its Application in Optoelectronics" by Dr Mary Terry and Dr Revathy Rajagopal, a UGC-Minor Research Project on "Synthesis and Characterisation of Mixed Metal Oxides as Humidity Sensor" and a UGC-DAE Project by Dr Mary George, Ms Avila Josephine and Ms Mary Teresita. In addition to this, a College project on "Role of Chemistry in Food Safety" funded by NTSTC, DST has been undertaken by Dr S Geetha and Dr Mary George.



*National Conference on New frontiers in Organic Chemistry and Process Research*



*Faculty Training on Microscale Techniques in Organic and Inorganic Chemistry*

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANT BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Department of Botany, in collaboration with CPR Environmental Education Centre, organised a two-day National Conference on “Role of Traditional knowledge in Biodiversity Conservation, Livelihood and Sustainable Development” on 5 and 6 February 2013. The conference was inaugurated by the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai, Mr Saidai Duraisamy, and his speech on healthy, traditional food evoked a commendable response from the 120 participants that included renowned resource persons and experts. The proceedings of the conference were released and simultaneously published online. An extensive array of topics were discussed at the conference. These included the use of traditional herbs in beauty care and the role of traditional knowledge in the conservation of biodiversity and medicinal plants, with particular focus on patenting, livelihood and sustainable development. Three final year undergraduate students presented papers at this prestigious National Conference. The valedictory address was given by Dr S Balaji IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu.

“Astera”, the inter-collegiate Botany fest was held on 3 October 2012. Several colleges participated in this one-day extravaganza. The fest was an enjoyable experience for both the participants and the audience. The overall trophy was bagged by Madras Christian College.

Tree Census, an initiative of the Forest Department, was carried out by the second year undergraduate students as part of their Service Learning Programme. Around 750 trees in Adyar, Indra Nagar and on TTK Road were identified, measured and assessed for their stress factor and heritage value. The students had an enriching learning experience, extending beyond their syllabus and outside their classroom. A series of workshops were conducted for the students under





*Algal collection trip to Kovalam on August 10, 2012*

the Star College Scheme in order to enhance their practical skills and inculcate scientific thinking. The topics included Mushroom Cultivation, Histochemical Tests of Medicinal Plants, Fermentation Technology and Wine-Making, techniques in Food Preservation and Mycological and Molecular Biology.

Field visits were organised to the Irula's Tribal Welfare Society at Thandarai, to Kovalam for algal collection and to the Central Food Technology and Research Institute at Mysore. Eco-industrial visits were made to the Green Building at the Larsen and Toubro Campus at Manapakkam to increase environmental awareness. The final year undergraduate students also visited reputed institutions of higher education like Sri Ramachandra Medical University and Sathyabama Deemed University and interacted with the faculty and research scholars of the Department of Biotechnology in these institutions. The students of the department benefited from this academic interaction, motivating them to pursue higher studies.



*National Conference on "Role of Traditional knowledge in Biodiversity Conservation, Livelihood and Sustainable Development"*

## DEPARTMENT OF ADVANCED ZOOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

*“Today more than ever before  
life must be characterized  
by a sense of Universal  
Responsibility, not only  
nation to nation and human  
to human, but also human to  
other forms of life”.*

*His Holiness, the Dalai Lama*

The Department of Zoology has endeavored to instill in its students the values of compassion and commitment to one's fellow creatures. This has been the hallmark of the activities organised by the department during the academic year 2012-13. Workshops, a National Conference, Wildlife Week, Exzooibition, Synapse and lectures by renowned biologists from various parts of India and from abroad have been the highlight of this year's activities.

The department organised a two day National Conference on 'Perspectives in Ethology' on 30 November and 1 December 2012. Renowned primatologist Dr Anindya Sinha, Professor, Centre for Ecological Studies, IISc, Bangalore, delivered the keynote address and Dr Ravi Chellam, Director, Madras Crocodile Bank, delivered the special address during the inaugural session. The conference that had a large gathering of eminent ethologists working in various fields of Animal Behaviour served as a forum where experts from all over India elucidated the significance of the various facets of ethology, focusing on how an understanding of animal behavior could help conserve threatened species.

The Wild Life Week was a call to the student community to join hands with the department in protecting our biodiversity. The programme created awareness among the college and school students about the impact of environmental destruction on our animals. As part of this programme, the department organised a 'Save Our Animals Rally', which was also a part of the "Go Green, Go Blue and Go Red" drive organised by the Students' Union. The students caught the attention of the public with their attractive posters which called for conservation of wild life and compassion for animals. A documentary titled "Truth About Tigers" by Shekhar Dattatri was screened for the students and faculty of the college. Awareness campaigns were also held at Montford Community Development Service Schools, Pattinapakkam; St. Ann's Matriculation School, Madhavaram; Rosary Matriculation School, Santhome and Assumption Higher Secondary School, Nungambakkam.

A drawing competition was conducted as part of this campaign. Six hundred school students between the ages 6 and 15 participated in this competition; their drawings were displayed in the college premises.

A lecture by noted naturalist Dr Murugavel, Head, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sri Venkateswara College





*The Exzoobition*

of Engineering, on “Biodiversity of Chennai” discussed the rich reptilian, avian and mammalian fauna in and around Chennai, besides highlighting the threats posed to them by human inhabitants.

Exhibits highlighting causes and concerns of wildlife depletion were displayed by the students of the department to create awareness about overexploitation of our natural resources and their implications on our wildlife.

A workshop on Herpetology was organised for the first-year undergraduate students in collaboration with the Madras Crocodile Bank, Mamallapuram. The workshop enhanced the knowledge of the students on reptiles, while also highlighting the ecological status of the various reptiles.

The ‘Save the Ridleys’ campaign culminated in the turtle walk, which was organised by the department in collaboration with TREE Foundation. At the beginning of the walk, there was a lecture on “Conservation of Olive Ridley turtles” followed by a documentary on the dwindling Ridleys. The students

and faculty from different departments participated in this 7 km walk from Neelankarai to Akkarai along the East Coast shore. The participants had the opportunity to witness the rehabilitation of injured turtles at the TREE foundation and this experience reinforced the nature and extent of the dangers faced by these reptiles.

The first year undergraduate students participated in a nature walk at the Guindy National Park. The walk enabled students to appreciate the richness of local biodiversity in the heart of the city.

The first year students, along with the students of the General Elective Course on Pet Care, made a trip to the Zoological Survey of India and were enthralled by the deep sea exhibits there.

An exhibition on the various facets of Zoology – titled Exzoobition – was put up by the undergraduate students. This event provided a platform for students to display their creativity and was an experiential learning process.



*At the Zoological Survey of India*

The exhibits depicted aspects of treatment of industrial wastes, balanced diet, biomining, human diseases, microbes in everyday life and vertebrate fauna.

The students of the department are constantly accompanied by the faculty on field trips that enrich the teaching-learning process. Visits to premier institutions and organisations such as TANUVAS, Sri Ramachandra University and ScansWorld help them gain insight into the different aspects of life sciences.

With the department trying its best to inculcate a thirst for information, compassion and a sense of duty towards caring for the Earth, the students have made us proud by doing their very best in activities they are passionate about. Ms Farzana, Ms Arthi and Ms Hemavathy all second year undergraduate students, participated in the “Innovation” competition during the programme on “International Biodiversity for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity” conducted by Loyola College on 11 May 2012 and secured the third place. Ms Ratna, Ms Rizza, Ms Sanjana and Ms Bertina, final year undergraduates, participated in the Exhibition in the same programme and their exhibit won the first place. Ms Rizza and Ms Jeyapreeta also won the first place in the Marine Biodiversity Quiz.







*Rallying for conservation*

Ms Suneha Jagannathan and Ms Ratna K participated in a survey of Star Tortoises conducted by the Wildlife Trust of India. Ms Suneha was part of the team that surveyed the forests in Vellore district and Ms Ratna helped survey the Valparai area. Ms Rukmini Shekhar of I year, Ms Suneha and Ms Sri Vaishnavi of II year and Ms Ratna of III year are all weekend volunteers at the Madras Crocodile Bank. Ms Vaishnavi of II year participated in a Sparrow Survey conducted at Ooty. Students of the department also participated in the intercollegiate Zoo fest and emerged overall winners at Madras University, Madras Christian College and Loyola College. They also brought laurels to the department from JBAS and Meenakshi College.



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The academic year 2012–13 was ushered in on an enthusiastic note. The first semester's activities began with the Freshers' Day held during the first week of July 2012 for both the undergraduates and postgraduates respectively.

In order to expand the career options of the students, a number of add-on Programmes were launched, incorporating frontier professional areas like E-Banking, Investors Awareness and Opportunities, Importance of Management Education and Preparations for entry level competitive examinations and Entrepreneurship Development.

The session on E-Banking for second-year undergraduate students was conducted by Ms Kousalya Venkatraman, Assistant General Manager, Mr B Appavoo, Chief Manager (Training) and Mr Bhavani Shankar, Training Officer, all from State Bank of India.

Mr R Balasubramaniam, Director of VISTA MIND addressed the first-year students to make them aware of the importance of management education. The emphasis of these sessions was also on the skills required to compete for entry level qualifying examinations for management courses such as CAT, GMAT and XAT. A guest lecture was held for the third-year finance students on "Investors' Awareness and Opportunities Available for Investors" by Mr Naveen Kumar and Ms Radha Motam, Assistant Managers, National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. Ms G Sree Vidhya, Managing Director, Ravindra Services Pvt. Ltd. delivered a guest lecture for the final year students on "Entrepreneurship Development". A Social Awareness workshop – "SAVE – Student Action for Value Education" – conducted for third year undergraduate students was an initiative of Help Age India in association with Commerce Department to spread awareness about the need and the importance of geriatric care.

The department, in association with the Business Line Club, organised a HR Summit titled "Business Line HR Conclave". The programme was sponsored by the Central Bank of India and was aimed at bridging the gap between the academia and the industry by making the participants more familiar with the current practices of the industry. Nearly 300 students who are pursuing management related programmes from various colleges participated.

The project work of the undergraduate and postgraduate students has also been effectively linked with the professional,





personnel and financial sections of modern industry, enabling the students to gain experience in these spheres. where new career prospects and challenges await them.

The much awaited Annual Commerce Fest COMBAT 2012, the Intercollegiate Commerce Cultural, was conducted on 4 September 2012, with an overwhelming response and participation of ten of the leading city colleges in twelve events. The students of Loyola College Shift II emerged the overall winners.

Alumnae Day, initiated this year, was well attended by the alumnae from batches as far back as 1985. The alumnae members enjoyed a trip down memory lane with the alumnae sharing their experiences, their fun moments on the college campus and meeting their beloved teachers. A video showcasing the highlights of the 27 years of the department was well appreciated by all. The current batch of students also entertained the audience with their performance.

In keeping with the research initiative of the department, the faculty members of the department presented numerous research papers at state, national and international level seminars and conferences.

The department has also been awarded two minor research projects with funding from the UGC to be executed within the next 18 months. The two research projects to be undertaken are titled “A Comparative Study of Work-Life Balance of Female Nurses in Government and Private Hospitals in Chennai” and “A Study on Distribution Network Adopted by Women Entrepreneurs of the Unorganised Sector in Chennai and Neighbouring Districts”, with Ms Rashida Tajuddin and Dr Agnes Rozario acting as Principal Investigators.



*Alumnae Members*



*Combat - Core Organising Committee*

## DEPARTMENT OF **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

The Department of Computer Science seeks to ensure the holistic development of the students, to equip them to succeed in their workplace. Apart from providing an in-depth knowledge of the subject, the department has also consistently endeavoured to provide its students and faculty with opportunities to effectively bridge the cultural differences that are an integral part of any corporate or industrial workplace. In keeping with these aims, the department was involved in a number of exciting activities in the academic year 2012-2013.

The department was proud to be a part of the election process of the college. To make the nomination and election process of the College Student Union Election easier and error free, final year undergraduate students Arwa Feroze and Neha Shetty developed an application that was tested extensively and finally implemented for the College Student Union Election 2013-14. The students found the software user-friendly as it simplified the counting of votes and enabled quick declaration of results. The college community appreciated this as a significant technical innovation and considered it a breakthrough in the conduct of student body elections.

Final year postgraduate students Ann Maria and Krishnaveni developed a software application to automate and help the Alumnae Association handle the alumnae details efficiently and effectively. The development of such software was an excellent real-time learning experience for the students.

A number of seminars, demonstrations and scholar-in-residence programmes were conducted to help the students gain a wholesome understanding of their field and to widen their experience through interactions with subject experts.



While seminars and demonstrations elucidated the main concern of securing data, the scholar-in-residence program impelled the students to further their interests in research. Competitions were also conducted through the departmental club, *Links..*

Students were also taken on an industrial visit to view at first hand the practical applications of many concepts taught in the class room.

The students were given an opportunity to organise the intercollegiate technical fest of the department – WIZIT '12. This event is conducted for and by the students, and allows them to showcase and hone their organisational skills. The event was successful both in assessing the technical knowledge of the students as well as in allowing them to work as a team to coordinate and manage the event. The department also conducted certificate courses on designing.



*The Principal addressing the Alumnae*



*Alumnae Meet*

In addition to these, the department also offered elective courses for students from other departments.

The department organised an alumnae meet, in which alumnae from the 2002 batch onwards participated and shared their experiences. Many of our alumna proved worthy of emulation and inspired the students to aspire and work towards their goals.

In keeping with the mission and vision of the college, the department believes in imparting education with values. The students are thus encouraged to reach out to the less privileged sections of the society through their social awareness program. This academic year the students taught and interacted with the underprivileged students of schools. The school students were happy to interact with our students who taught them much-needed computer skills. This program benefited our students too, as it gave them a glimpse of the harsh realities of the world outside college.



*Inauguration of Wizit '12*

## DEPARTMENT OF **SOCIAL WORK**



The Department of Social Work takes great pride in completing sixty years of dedicated teaching and learning in the academic year 2012-2013. Initiated in 1953, the college was one of the first institutions under the University of Madras to offer a Diploma in Social Service which was later upgraded, 50 years ago in 1962, to a Postgraduate Degree in Social Work.

Six decades of professional training in the discipline of Social Work has borne much fruit, evident in the rapid growth of the department. Over the years, it has strived to impart to its students a deep sense of conviction to bring about a positive transformation in their own lives, as well as in the society they serve. One of the main aims of teaching-learning in this course is to enable students to critically think and evaluate policies, plans, government programmes and approaches pertaining to different fields of Social Work Practice. The department has had long standing partnerships with governmental, non-governmental and international organisations and has earned a great reputation for shaping committed professionals and for offering one of the best Social Work programmes in India.

To mark this special year the department organised several events. A Thanksgiving Mass was conducted by Rev Fr Joseph Xavier, former Head of Social Work and Principal of Loyola College, Chennai, Rev Fr Kurien Thomas, Founder Director, Asha Nivas, Chennai and Fr Jacob, Director, Madras Social Service Society, Chennai. The Thanksgiving Mass gave the faculty, students, retired faculty, alumnae of the department, NGO representatives and friends of the department an opportunity to come together and celebrate this milestone.

An International Conference titled “Voices, Innovations and Directions: Empowering People for Sustainable and Equitable Communities” was organised in collaboration with Assisi



Community Development Alternatives, India, a counterpart of Assisi Aid Projects Inc, Australia, and a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development. The conference was well attended with representation from the academia, NGOs, field personnel as well as the government.

A special Alumnae Meet was organised to celebrate and appreciate the contributions of outstanding alumnae – Dr Bhuvana, (Retd) Community Development Officer of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board; Dr Rohini Krisnan, Senior Social Worker, Stanley Hospital, Government of Tamil Nadu and Dr Udaya Mahadevan, Professor Emeritus, Loyola College, Chennai were felicitated for their meritorious services rendered in the field of Social Work education and practice.

To mark the completion of fifty years of the postgraduate programme in the year 2012, it was a great honour to have an alumna of the first batch of students, Dr Elizabeth Fernandes, Associate Professor, School of Social Sciences, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia to deliver the annual Sr Thecla Endowment Lecture. She spoke on the topic "International Social Work: Current Realities and Future Challenges".

Special programmes were organised on International Human Rights Day for students of all departments. Speakers on the occasion were Dr V Vijaykumar, Vice- Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Ambedkar Law University, Chennai and Dr Bernard D'Sami, Professor, Loyola College.

For the first time, an Intra Departmental Fest 'Carnivesta' on the theme "75 years of Professional Social Work in India" was organised by Unnathi, the students' forum. The fest was a great opportunity for students to identify and bring out their latent potential. As a response to the Delhi rape incident that shook the country, Unnathi also conducted programmes on gender sensitization through puppet shows, mime, skits and song, in several schools in Chennai such as Don Bosco, Egmore, Dominic Savio, St. Michaels, St. Patricks and St. Colombans. The programmes focused on sensitizing young boys and girls in order to help them develop the attitude of treating women and girls with equality, dignity and respect.

The students attended several workshops and training programmes this academic year. The undergraduate students participated in training workshops on street theatre and coping with suicide stress and depression among youth, organised by the State Disability Commission and the Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF). The students also actively participated in the workshops on Learning Disabilities by Dr Prasanna, Kingdom Learning Centre, on "Trafficking of Women" by Ms Isabel, Executive Director, Madras Christian Council for Social Service, and on "Role of Youth in the Care of the Elderly" by Dr Indrani Rajadurai, Former Director, Helpage India, Chennai.

The postgraduate students attended a workshop organised by SCARF on 'Health and Gender Violence'. They also had the opportunity to interact with women members of the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group from Australia, India and America in collaboration with TTK Ranganathan Clinical Foundation, Chennai. The students also benefitted from sessions on "Congenital Disorders", organised by a team of doctors and social workers from Stanley Medical College and Hospital, Royapuram, on "Awareness on Tuberculosis" by the NGO REACH, and on "Cognitive Behaviour Therapy" by Dr Thirumagal, TTK Ranganathan Clinical Foundation, Chennai. The first year postgraduate students attended a five day workshop on Alternate Media from 23 to 28 July 2012. The students were taught Paraiattam, Aruvadai Oyillatam and Street theatre, with which they performed a community



*Sr Thecla Endowment Lecture by Dr Elizabeth Fernandes*



*International Human Rights Day*

programme in Kasimedu through Sangamam, an NGO in Kasimedu. Ill effects of alcoholism, women abuse, importance of cleanliness, food and nutrition were some issues which were reflected through their performance.

A workshop on “Health Education, Information and Communication” was organised for the postgraduate students on 11 and 12 January 2013. Guest lectures on Health Education, Nutrition Education, Awareness of Breast and Cervical Cancer, Communicable and Non-communicable diseases were also organised through the course of the academic year.

Rural camps for the academic year 2012-2013 were organised for first year postgraduate students to Dheenabandhupuram, R K Pet, through the Women in Development Trust (WID) and for second year undergraduate students to Thiruppachhur village, Tiruvallur district.

The study tour to Bangalore and Mysore for the second year postgraduate students, included visits to NIMHANS, VIMOCANA, NIPCCD, ISI and the Federation and Domestic Workers Union. The study tour for final year undergraduate students was organised in collaboration with Shreyas Social Service Society, Wayanad, Kerala. This included visits to NGOs working with tribal groups of people, like MIRROR, VOICE, Wayanad Social Service Society, Home for the Tribal Children, as well as visits to tribal hamlets of the Kattunaicker, Panniya, Ooral and Uruma tribes.

A special cultural programme was also organised for inmates of Puzhal Prison, Chennai, by the final year undergraduate students, along with volunteers from the NGO, iVolunteer.

The department, in association with East-West Centre for Counseling and Training, offers the postgraduate students a certificate course on Counseling for Social Workers. The training methodology includes participatory techniques such as group discussion, testimonials, games, exercises, case studies and role play presentation.

A faculty development programme for junior faculty of the department was conducted by Dr Udaya Mahadevan, Professor Emeritus, Loyola College on the theme “Environment and Social Work”. The faculty prepared a course for Social Workers on Environmental Social Work that is to be recommended by Dr Udaya Mahadavan to the UGC. A cross-cultural interaction with the faculty and students of





Golden Jubilee

Social Work from Avila University, Kansas City, Missouri, USA took place in the department on 12 March 2013.

The cusp of the Golden and Diamond Jubilee years is an opportune time for us in the department to reflect upon the past, the present and the future. We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of all former faculty members who have contributed to the growth of the department. Rev Sr Thecla Camacho, the foundress of the department, whose significant and unwavering contributions in the field of Social Work Practice keeps the department as one of the best institutions for training in Social Work Practice. The scholarship and dynamism of Dr Radha Paul, who took the department to greater heights, is highly commendable. Holding the flag high after her was Dr Mary John followed by Dr Sr Colleen North, fmm, Dr Cecilia Thangarajan and Dr Poppy Kannan. Their valued services and versatile leadership saw the department grow from strength to strength over the years.



International Conference on Voices, Innovations and Directions: Empowering People for Sustainable and Equitable Communities



## DEPARTMENT OF **INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

2012-2013 marked the tenth year since the inception of the Department of International Studies. In order to mark this momentous event, the department organised several programmes throughout the year. The one-day seminar on the theme “Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region” in collaboration with the Centre For Asian Studies on 8 August 2012, was a true eye-opener on various issues concerning the Indian Ocean Region and critical issues concerning the security of the sea lanes.

The fifth Dr Kamala Aravind Endowment Lecture was delivered by Prof R Venkat Rao, Vice Chancellor of The National Law School of India University, Bangalore, on the theme “Relevance of the UN in the Contemporary International System” on 27 November 2012. The scholarly exposition of Prof Rao was both very critical of the UN system and at the same time emphatic about the need for the continuation of a reformed and strengthened UN for global peace and stability.

Kashmir, Afghanistan, Insurgency in North East India, China and Pakistan were the topics chosen for this year’s annual Scholar-in-Residence programme. From 6-11 December 2012, Dr D Suba Chandran, Director of the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi, delivered a series of lectures on Kashmir, Islam, politics, terrorism, society and culture of South Asia, Nuclearisation, India Pakistan and India-China Relations. It was a truly multicultural, multi-dimensional study of the politics and society of South Asia and a very enriching experience for the staff and students of the department.

“Kriya,” the annual student seminar, was organised on the theme “Environment: the Web of Life” on 30 Jan 2013 and the Student Organizing Committee was successful in inviting papers from students from all over the city of Chennai. Cash prizes were awarded to the three best papers. Dr Sultan Ismail, eminent soil biotechnologist, inaugurated the seminar and Dr Sudhir Chella Rajan, head of the Department of Humanities



and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, delivered the Valedictory Address and gave away the prizes.

As a fitting conclusion to the celebrations the department organised an International Conference, in collaboration with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi and the South Asia East Asia Group Research, on "Asia Pacific 2013: Looking Beyond South East Asia" on 4 March 2013. The conference witnessed participation of eminent resource persons from Singapore, Australia, New Delhi and Chennai.

On 5 March 2013, the department organised a workshop on "Nuclear Asia: Issues of Contemporary Debate" in collaboration with IPCS, New Delhi and had students from Chennai, Bangalore and other regions participating and presenting well-researched papers on the theme.

Overall, the year was a very exciting and an academically stimulating, intellectually nourishing and fruitful one with abundant scope for learning and interaction with peers and renowned academia from India and abroad. The ten years that have flown by have given us deep insights into the realm of International Relations and imbued us with the confidence to innovate and the strength to keep exploring new areas to reach higher standards.



*Dr Kamala Aravind Endowment Lecture*



*Dr Sudhir Chella Rajan of IIT M giving away prizes to best paper presenters at Kriya 2013*

## DEPARTMENT OF **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Social awareness programmes aim at creating awareness about the problems that prevail in society, particularly in rural areas and try to bring about a change. As a part of the Social Awareness programme, the students of I MA Public Relations went on a village visit to understand the problems prevailing in the rural areas of Marakkanam near Puducherry. The purpose of the visit was to study the lifestyle and economic conditions of saltpan workers and the problems of sanitation in the village. Among many problems faced by the villagers, sanitation has been the most important one. The students carried out their field survey under the guidance of Mr R Rajasekar, Founder of MASS, an NGO for rural welfare. The survey report was released and certificates were distributed during Sahaviryam, the Sr Juliet M Irene Memorial Programme held in Stella Maris College, by Dr Shanmugavelayutham, Convener, Tamil Nadu Forces, a Chennai based NGO.

The II MA students launched a PR campaign named 'Minsar A pledge to save electricity', sponsored by Indian Oil Corporation, Ask Solar, Ever Green Solutions and Chennai Diamonds. The campaign aimed to increase the conscience and sensitivity to the growing scarcity of resources by creating awareness among the people and reinforcing the need to save electricity. This was an effort by the students to conceptualise, strategize, coordinate, execute and evaluate the communication tools of the campaign. A four day stall at the Youth Health Mela from 24 to 27 January 2013 at Valluvar Kottam, emphasizing on the importance to save electricity proved to be a great kick start for the campaign. The department was also awarded 'Star Stall' of the day for 26 January 2013. The students went campaigning to different schools like The Churk Park Convent, The Union Christian School and St Ebbas Matriculation Hr Sec School and colleges such as Anna University. The campaign ended with a Sky-Lantern event on March 17 2013 at the Besant Nagar beach titled "Light up the World" that targeted the general public. The event had prominent personalities like RJ Gopida, Tennis Player Vijay and others, taking the pledge to save electricity. The campaign won extensive media coverage from Moon TV, The Hindu, Deccan Chronicle, Dinakaran, and a 15 minute slot on Kalaignar Seithigal in a programme called Arivom Thelivom.



The Public Relations Society of India, Chennai Chapter and the Department of Public Relations jointly organised a lecture on “Best Practices in PR” in memory of Mr Gyan Haksar and Mr M Gopalakrishnan. The event was presided over by Mr T K M Sandeep, President, Deaf Enabled Foundation (DEF) and Ms M Ramya, Director – Communications, DEF. The focus of the memorial lecture was “Power of Communication in PR – CSR perspective – the twain shall meet and communicate” and it was demonstrated by Ms M Ramya. The demonstration provided the audience an insight into the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility and the significance of communication in successful CSR programmes. Another highlight of the lecture was the mime performance by the volunteers of Deaf Enabled Foundation followed by a video demonstration on communicating through sign language by Mr Shreyan. The Programme was also covered by News Today. The year 2012-13 proved to be true evidence of experiential learning for both staff and students. The action packed projects and the performance by the students both in academic and extracurricular activities this year could be considered as a benchmark in the growth of the department and an inspiration to reach higher goals.



*PRSI members*



*DEF Volunteers performing*



## DEPARTMENT OF **BIOINFORMATICS**



*Students at a Workshop*

The completion of the human genome project is a marvelous milestone in the field of Genetics and it is the starting point to understand and explore the problems in the forthcoming post-genomic era. The key areas for research are the integrated behavior of thousands of genes and signaling networks and their interactions with the drug molecules and this research will require information management. Bioinformatics – an amalgamation of molecular biology and mathematics – may therefore reveal the “wet” circuitry behind these networks.



We are just beginning to appreciate the power and limitations of the genomics revolution, as proteomics promises an even more radical transformation of biological and medical research. The department's research in Comparative Genomics, which includes a study of regulatory proteins, analysis of genes and their respective proteins, helps decipher their role in pharmacodynamics.

The renaissance of traditional use of medicinal plants as drugs for various human ailments has increased interest in the search for information on plant medicinal systems. Our work on the herb *Panax ginseng*, using bioinformatics tools to predict miRNAs, paves the way for the creation of a better and safer drug.

The application of IT to life sciences in bio-diversity data management is an area that requires application of database design techniques, planning for data warehousing and data-mining. Research is being conducted in chemical mining to

understand the biological properties of chemicals that facilitate the various processes of drug development. Our practical work in the laboratory is directed towards chemical compound mining for Alzheimer's disease.

Recent research aims at unraveling newer methods of information management and their applications. Building databases aimed at providing information for specific diseases is becoming increasingly useful; the database on Bronchiectasis, developed by the department, is a step towards that.

Regardless of how we classify bioinformatics, we are dealing with a fledgling enterprise that arose out of the human genome project and has become an interpreter of the genomic language of DNA. All fledglings learn how to discover, how to grow and adapt and how to live in a complex world. Bioinformatics is no exception. We will explore where we are on this learning curve, guided by our research.



Workshop on Interdisciplinary Applications of Bioinformatics



## DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

According to the UN convention on biological diversity, “Biotechnology or biotech is the use of living systems and organisms to develop or make useful products, or any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use”. The spectacular developments in science and technology, have expanded biotechnology into a field that encompasses varied areas like molecular biology, genetic engineering, microbiology, chemical engineering, bioprocess engineering, information technology and bio robotics. Biotechnology has had a profound impact on all the important spheres of human existence such as agriculture, food and beverage, medicine, environment and forestry. The true essence of biotechnology therefore lies in integrating and applying the various fields of science and technology to solve the conundrums of human existence. The Department of Biotechnology strives to train the students in this through course work and research activities.

There is a gamut of research activities in the department, focusing primarily on the areas of drug discovery, food biotechnology and environmental biotechnology. The secondary metabolites present in plants like tannins, alkaloids, terpenoids and flavonoids have been found to have anti-microbial activities. With the increasing resistance of microbes towards standard antibiotics, there is a compelling need to discover new antibiotics. It has been discovered that plant anti-microbials have the ability to treat a wide range of infections including Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Realizing the need of the hour, the department has been actively involved in projects aimed at identifying plant anti-microbials present in the flora of the Stella Maris College campus.

Biosurfactants solubilize hydrocarbon compounds by emulsifying them, thereby facilitating microbial degradation of these compounds. Biosurfactant producing microbes play an

important role for bioremediation of hydrocarbon contaminated areas. Petroleum hydrocarbons and pesticides in soil and water can be degraded by biosurfactant producing microbes. While dyes are inevitable contributors to the economy of the textile industry, the effluents from these industries containing these dyes are a huge environmental hazard. Bacteria that degrade these dyes have been identified, thereby having the potential to detoxify these effluents. There are ongoing projects in the department that attempt to isolate and characterize biosurfactant bacteria and dye degrading bacteria, thereby addressing these key areas of environmental biotechnology. Apart from this, research is also ongoing in the area of vermicomposting, the process of converting organic waste to nutrient rich compost which can be used as a fertilizer and soil conditioner is also being undertaken.



*Environmental Biotechnology Research*

Siderophores are iron chelating molecules that are produced by bacteria, fungi and grasses. Iron exists as insoluble  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ion in the environment which makes it less available. Siderophores bind and form soluble  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  complexes, making them useful in removing iron and aluminium overload, drug delivery, cancer therapy etc. Lantibiotics are a group of bacterially synthesized antimicrobial peptides produced by bacteria to protect themselves from their own lethal anti-microbial compound. The anti-microbial properties of lantibiotics can be exploited in the food and pharmaceutical industry. Considerable progress is being made in the areas of siderophore and lantibiotic research in the department.

The Department of Biotechnology continues to make small but confident strides in research in various areas. The students are being encouraged to present their research findings in national and international conferences and in the past year they have won numerous prizes and accolades in recognition of their innovative efforts.



*Phytochemical Isolation*

## DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

The French department of Stella Maris College, as old as the college itself, was started by native speakers of the language. With the revival of the Club, *Cercle des Francophiles* this academic year, the department has opened its doors to a multitude of activities.

On 4 December 2012, during the Language Week, the college dedicated a day to the French language. The French Club organised various activities and competitions which provided a forum for the students to showcase their talents. A French movie was also screened as part of this celebration to help students develop their phonetic and language skills.

The students of the French department also brought laurels to the college by participating and winning the overall rolling trophy in Loyola College's "Forlafest" and the runners-up trophy in the competitions organised by the Department of French in Ethiraj College.

The department is also one of the few language departments to offer a General Elective course, thus helping it to widen its base and strengths.

The department hopes to encourage students of various departments to participate in the activities in the coming years and glorify this rich language that stems from the culture that celebrates its food, wine, cheese, fashion and people – 'Pain, Vin et Fromage'.



*Face Painting Competition in progress*



*French melodies being rendered*



## DEPARTMENT OF TAMIL

தமிழ் இலக்கியத் துறை பாரதி மன்றம் சார்பில் 2012-13 ஆம் கல்வியாண்டில் மாணவரின் கலை ஈடுபாட்டை அதிகரிக்கும் வகையிலும் அறிவுத்தாகத்தைத் தீர்க்கும் வகையிலும் பல்வேறு நிகழ்வுகளை நடத்தியது வானவில் கலை இலக்கியப் பேரவையின் தலைவர். வழக்கறிஞர்.

வானவில் திரு. ரவி அவர்களின் தலைமையில் பாரதிமன்ற தொடக்கவிழா சீரும் சிறப்புமாக நிகழ்ந்தது. பாரதி தொண்டு செய்வதையே தன் வாழ்நாள் நோக்கமாகக் கொண்டு செயல்பட்டு வரும் திரு. ரவி அவர்கள் நிகழ்த்திய பாரதி குறித்த சிறந்த ஆய்வுரை மாணவியரின் அறிவுக்கு விருந்தாய் அமைந்ததோடு பாரதி பற்றிய புதிய சிந்தனையை ஏற்படுத்தியது.

2012 நவம்பர் மாதத்தில் கல்லூரி முழுவதும் உள்ள மாணவியரிடையே பேச்சு, கட்டுரை, புதுக்கவிதை, ஹைகூ, நாட்டுப்புறப்பாடல், நாட்டுப்புறக் குழு நடனம் போன்ற போட்டிகள் நடத்தப்பட்டன. எல்லா போட்டிகளிலுமே அதிக அளவில் மாணவியர் கலந்து கொண்டு தங்கள் கலைத் திறமையை வெளிப்படுத்தினர். மாணவியரின் ஆர்வமும் ஈடுபாடும் பாராட்டுக்குரியது. ஒவ்வொரு போட்டிக்கும் மூன்று பரிசுகள் வீதம் வழங்கப்பட்டன.

இவ்வருடத்தின் பொங்கல் விழா எல்லா நிகழ்வுகளுக்கும் மகுடம் வைத்தாற் போன்று அமைந்தது. கலைமாமணி திருமதி. ரேவதி சங்கரன் அவர்கள் தலைமையேற்று, பொங்கல் சிறப்புரை ஆற்றினார்கள். ஸ்டெல்லா

மாரிஸ் கல்லூரி பல்வேறு மொழி, இனம், சமயத்தை உள்ளடக்கியது. எத்தனையோ வேறுபாடுகள் இருந்தபோதும் அவ்வேற்றுமை ஒற்றுமையை எந்த வகையிலும் குறைத்ததில்லை. ரேவதி சங்கரனின் பேச்சு கலாச்சாரத்தால் வேறுபட்ட அனைவரையும் கலையால் ஒன்றிணைத்தது. மாணவியரை மட்டுமல்லாது அனைத்து தரப்பினரையும் கவரும் வகையில் அவருடைய பேச்சு அமைந்திருந்தது. மாணவியரின் நாட்டுப்புறக் கலைநிகழ்ச்சிகளும் கண்ணைக் கவர்ந்தன.

இக்கல்வியாண்டிற்கான பாரதி மன்ற நிறைவுவிழா பிப்ரவரி மாதத்தில் நடைபெற்றது.



Ms Revathy Shankaran addressing the audience during Pongal Celebrations

## DEPARTMENT OF **HINDI**

The Department of Hindi, in collaboration with the Anubhuti Club – the Hindi Club of the college – organised three successful events in the academic year 2012-13.

The first event of the year was the National Seminar on “Career Options in Hindi Media” held on 30 and 31 August 2012. The seminar was presided over by the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, Dr Iqbal Singh. The topic was discussed extensively over three days, with enthusiastic participation from several distinguished speakers, renowned writers, as well as students from various colleges all over the country. The first and second year undergraduate students worked together to make the seminar a grand success.

The second event was “Twisted Melodies”, which was organised as part of the Language Week celebrations. In this event, the participants had to select a Hindi song, translate it into English and sing the song to the original tune. The event, with about 20 teams of three participants each, was ably judged by Ms Kalpana and Ms Dolly. “Twisted Melodies” was an even bigger hit than the “Antakshari” organised the previous year.

A drama workshop on “Basic Theatre Skills” was conducted on 18 March 2013 by Ms Revathy Sankaran, who explored the subtle nuances of the performing arts. A vibrant persona, Ms Sankaran kept the audience engaged in her workshop throughout, using her vast knowledge of various languages. The workshop was a truly inspiring experience for all the participants. The department also organised a screening of the film “English Vinglish”, which was enjoyed by both teachers and students.

The Anubhuti Club, supported and guided by the faculty of the department, thus had an extremely enriching and fruitful year.



*The Principal felicitating His Excellency the Lt. Governor of Puducherry, Dr Iqbal Singh*



*Felicitating of eminent writers and academicians by the Chief Guest*

## DEPARTMENT OF SANSKRIT

The activities of the Department of Sanskrit for the year 2012-13 focussed on the importance of this classical language. As part of the Language Week organised by the college, *Kalakrithi* initiated programmes that showcased the extracurricular and co-curricular talents of students.

Sanskrit Day was celebrated by the students of the Department of Sanskrit on 5 December 2012. The programme, which began with an invocation that was followed by a dance 'Ganesha Vandana' by first year students, witnessed cultural programmes hosted by the students.

Sanskrit, the Mother of all Indo –European Languages, has been viewed by many scholars down the ages as a suitable language to compile information relating to various fields of knowledge such as science, astronomy, astrology, mathematics, atomic science, engineering, fine arts, architecture, medicine and cartography. Highlighting this aspect of the language, paper presentations were made by students. Krithika Raman presented an informative paper on "Ancient knowledge on Cartography" while Ambika Narayanan provided an insight into popular Atharva Vedic and Upanishadic verses. Both papers were well received by the audience.





*Bhagavad Gita*, the oft quoted and celebrated religious-spiritual text, was selected for recitation. The first year undergraduate students of the Economics and Fine Arts departments together chanted the sixteenth chapter of *The Gita*. The Sanskrit Day programme had a fitting finale that invoked world peace and harmony with a beautiful dance accompanied by a soulful rendition of the song 'Maitrim Bhajata', performed by first and second year students of the Department of Economics. The students of Sanskrit also participated in a number of inter-collegiate competitions and won many prizes. The paper of the students titled "Women in Ancient India" was adjudged the Best Paper in the Inter Collegiate Sanskrit Competition 'MADHULIHA - 2012' conducted by the Department of Sanskrit, Ethiraj College, Chennai. The students also won the overall Championship Trophy for the second consecutive year.



*Chanting of verses in progress*



*World Peace, Harmony and Universal Brotherhood depicted by a beautiful dance accompanied by the song- 'Maitrim Bhajata'*





## VALEDICTORY





## **MS M RUKMANI**

**AN EPITOME OF SIMPLICITY AND PATIENCE**

# **IN MEMORIAM**

Ms M Rukmani was born on 7 July 1915 in the Madras Presidency. She hails from the illustrious family of Rao Bahadur Mahadeva Iyer, the grandfather of Rev Father Lawrence Sundaram, SJ, former Principal of Loyola College, Chennai and St. Joseph's College, Trichy. On completion of her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics from Pachaiyappa's College, she started her career as faculty of Economics in Lady Doak College, Madurai.

She joined Stella Maris College in the early 60s and retired in 1975 as the Head of the Department of Economics. A very refined, gentle and soft spoken person, Ms Rukmani laboriously prepared voluminous notes from the original sources of great economists when books were rare. Her specialisations were Advanced Economic Theory and Indian Economics.

A petite, polite and self made person in her own quiet way, she has been instrumental in the education and upliftment of a number of girls during her lifetime. Her other accomplishments were a Diploma in Geography and in Music from the University of Madras. She received training in craftsmanship from the Madras Industries Department in skills like cane weaving, embroidery, tailoring etc. She also trained under Vidwan Parus Sundaram Iyer to learn to play the violin.

She spent the last eight years of her life with her close family in Bengaluru and she passed away peacefully on 18 December 2012. May her soul rest in peace.

Dr Sr Helen Vincent, fmm  
Former Principal and currently Director of the English Language and Life Skills Programme





## **SR ESTHER RANI fmm** **THE INIMITABLE SINGER**

I have always visualized the soft-spoken Sr Esther with a thumpura or a veena. Music to become a vital part of one's life demands dedication, persevering effort and total self-discipline. Sr Esther had these in abundance. Sr Esther was encouraged by no less a person than Mother Klemens, the much loved and revered fmm leader. Mother Klemens identified Sr Esther's fine and high quality of vocal singing at a time in the 70s when the fmm in India had not explored the rich avenues of music ministry through the Indian classical music, and sent her for training in Carnatic music to the Music College in Thanjavur. This was later followed by advanced training in the Music College in Chennai. Sr Esther seized every opportunity to learn the nuances of ragas from dedicated masters and improved her skills in music giving lively expression to the sense of the beautiful that God has implanted in the human soul through her devotional songs, bhajans and kirthanas.

Her rich and melodious voice, simple, humble and unassuming ways served to bring her closer to people of all ages and religions. The staff and students of several fmm educational institutions, beginning with Stella Maris College repeatedly invited her to begin or close important functions with soul stirring renditions of Vedanayagam Pillai's poetry or devotional bhajans or Bharathiar songs. Sr Esther won wide public acclaim as is evident from the titles Sangeetha Vidhwan and Sangeetha Sironmani which she was awarded in the 1990s. She was invited by other congregations of sisters and priests in India, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Indonesia, to conduct retreats, workshops on music ministry, as well as lead prayer groups with a contemplative dimension. Many of her devotional songs were broadcast by All India Radio.

Dr Sr Flavia Mariapragasam, fmm  
Retired Faculty, Department of English



## **SR MARIA ANGELES MASIP FONOLLOSA fmm**

### **EMBODIMENT OF COMPASSION**

Sr Maria Angeles Masip Fonollosa, a missionary from Catalana, Spain, spent 64 fruitful years in India. Born on 30 July 1924 she grew up in a good Catholic family. After her schooling, she worked for a year, teaching children of rice cultivators in a village. This was a good preparation for her missionary life in India later on.

At the age of nineteen, she decided to offer her life to God; she joined the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Pamplona, Spain, and after her First Religious Profession in 1949, she was sent to India.

As a missionary in India, she took care of more than 220 orphan children of "Anbin Illam" in St. Thomas Convent, Mylapore, did pastoral work in Mylapore, Ooty, Sathyamangalam, Tuticorin and Vippedu and took care of the sick in Ooty. Sr Maria Angeles spent five years at Stella Maris Convent from 1983, where she was an integral part of several activities in the college, in other Catholic institutions, and in other fmm provinces.

A truly prayerful person, she was an embodiment of compassion, creativity, dedication, forgiveness, joy, mercy, love and tenderness. On 18 June 2013, Sr Maria Angeles was called to her eternal rewards. May her soul rest in peace.

Sr Mary Rose Joseph Pulikottil, fmm



**SR SERGIUS fmm**  
**PEACE THROUGH SELFLESS SERVICE**

We remember Sr. Sergius née Mary Jesudasan fmm, with gratitude. In 1958, she came to “The Cloisters”, the present Stella Maris campus, where five sisters were living in the Bonaventure block with eight hostelites. She was then Sr. Thecla’s student in the Postgraduate Diploma Programme in Social Work. She helped in the Shanthi Bhavan Welfare Centre and specialized in child care and community work. In 1961, she was a student of one of the first batches of the BEd Course at Stella Matutina College with Sr John Haughton as Principal. As she was good in crafts and artwork, and decorative paper work, she was sent to teach in schools.

After her retirement, she came to help in the Stella Maris College library and then moved to the Shanthi Bhavan needlework section for some time. She had a talent for western music and taught children songs and hymns in a soft clear voice. Soft spoken, helpful and prayerful, she lived her call peacefully.

God called her for her eternal reward on 23 June 2013. She was gentle, quiet, very diligent in her work, calm and peace-loving. She found peace and fulfillment in doing her work religiously. She will always be remembered with love.

Dr Sr Helen Vincent, fmm  
Director, English Language and Life Skills Programme



**SR JULIANA XAVIER fmm**  
**IN UNION WITH GOD**

Sr Juliana Xavier fmm, joined Stella Maris College in the Department of Mathematics in June 1963. She has always considered it her duty and privilege to make everyone in the department feel at home. A postgraduate in Mathematics from Boston University, her passion for the subject was combined with a compassionate heart. She did not spare any effort in building up the Mathematics department. In all her tasks, she served as a role model, endearing herself to all people at all times.

Sr Juliana was a noble person, loving and lovable, a guide, a teacher, a motherly figure and above all a true friend, always admired for her unassuming ways. Everyone was inspired to imbibe her qualities of gentleness, goodness, compassion and patience. She had also internalised the Franciscan quality of love for nature and would even walk slowly so as to not disturb the small insects on the ground.

A seemingly fragile person, her angelic calm, inner strength and indomitable courage came from her union with God. She did everything for the love of God, who was the source of her strength. She left this temporary abode to join Him on 3 August 2012.



## SR PRAKASIAL fmm LOVE FOR THE POOR

Sr Prakasial spent about 18 years of her religious life in Stella Maris Convent at different times engaged in diverse kinds of work. From 1970-75 and 1977-82, she worked in Shanthy Bhavan; her primary concern was the well-being of the children.

Sr Prakasial was actively involved in the house administration of Stella Maris Convent. She would stop and talk to the students and the workers on her evening walks. She had a tremendous love for the poor and a great missionary zeal. In 2004 she suffered a stroke and a near death experience which brought her closer to God. She gradually recovered from the stroke while also being treated for acute diabetes and blood pressure. In September 2012, we at Stella Maris celebrated her Golden Jubilee as a cherished member of the FMM community. In April 2013, she had a fall and fractured her femur bone. After surgery on April 28, she had a massive heart attack and passed away. We miss her presence in the campus. May her soul rest in peace.

Sr Susan, fmm  
Secretary



## SARANYA ARUMUGAM THE UNFAIRNESS OF LIFE

Gaily I lived as ease and nature taught,  
And spent my little life without a thought,  
And am amazed that Death, that tyrant grim,  
Should think of me, who never thought of him.

~René Francois Regnier

Saranya (B.Com 2010-2013) was our beloved friend and was admired by all for her simple and pleasing personality. A native of Pollachi, she was a very kind hearted person much liked by her class and fellow hostelites. Teachers found Saranya to be a regular, gentle and studious girl.

Her sudden and unforeseen demise has shocked all of us and we miss her a lot. We deeply grieve this unexpected loss of a friend and companion. She will always be fondly remembered by all of us. May her soul rest in peace.

Students of BCom





## CREATIVE WRITING



## ஒற்றுமை

ஜாதி பேய் பிடித்த மக்களே !!  
மதம் வேறுபாடு என்ற எண்ணம் கொண்ட மக்களே !!  
பிரிவினை என்று பாகுபாடு எண்ணம் கொண்ட மக்களே !!  
நம் அனைவரும் ஒற்றுமையாக இருக்க வேண்டும் !!  
பள்ளி கல்லூரிக்கு வாருங்கள் !!  
ஒற்றுமையைக் கற்றுக்கொள்ளுங்கள் !!  
நாம் இந்திய மக்கள் !!  
எனவே ஒற்றுமையாக வாழ வேண்டும் !!  
ஒற்றுமை என்ற எண்ணம் நம் மனதில் நிலைத்து வாழ வேண்டும் !!  
ஒற்றுமை

வீட்டிற்கு !  
நாட்டிற்கு !  
நிம்ளயமதி தரும் !

செ. மா. ஒவியா  
ஆங்கில இலக்கியம் இரண்டாம் ஆண்டு



## உண்மைப் பொங்கல்

கிழக்கில் சிவந்த  
கதிரவன் ஆணையிட  
அதைக் கேட்ட காற்று  
மரங்களுக்கு உத்தரவிட  
மலர்கள் கேட்டுக்கொள்ள  
உவகையுடனே பிறந்தது  
தைத்திங்களில் பொங்கல்

பானையும் வந்தாச்சு  
சாப்பிட நாமும் வந்தாச்சு  
அரிசி வாங்கப்போன  
ஆளைத்தான் காணோம்

விதை நெல்லும் விளையலே  
விதை போட்டவரும்  
உசிரோட இல்லே  
கல்வியில் கரையேறிவிட்டதால்  
கழனியில் உமிழ்ந்தோமா

கம்ப்யூட்டர் சாம்பாரும்  
செல்போன் ரசமும்  
ஹெட்செட் கூட்டும்  
வேலைக்காகாது...  
வைக்கவும் முடியாது...  
உழவன் வேறு வேலைக்குப் போனா  
சோறு தேடுவதே நம்ம பொழப்பா போகும்  
உழவை, உழவனை வாழவைப்பதே  
உண்மைப் பொங்கல்

வாழ வைப்போம்  
உண்மைப் பொங்கல் நிச்சயம் பொங்கும்  
வெண் பொங்கலும்  
சர்க்கரைப் பொங்கலாய் இனிக்கும்

பா. அபிநயா  
ஆங்கில இலக்கியம் இரண்டாம் ஆண்டு

# MY VIEWS ON MULTICULTURALISM

G K Chesterton said in “What I Saw in America”, “We have never begun to understand people until we have found something we do not understand. So long as we find the character easy to read, we are reading into it our own character”. We must take efforts to understand and learn what we have not understood and attempt to do so without losing our uniqueness. Because in truth, we are as similar as we are different.

India is one of the most multicultural nations today. Considering Stella Maris to be a microcosm of our multicultural nation, I can say that my experience here has ascertained that cross-cultural contact does result in each group influencing the other, creating an atmosphere of tolerance and empathy. For instance, the co-creation of murals for the walls of The Hope Foundation School for the Underprivileged at Thoraipakkam, Chennai as part of our service learning requirement was an eye-opener, as we encountered people entirely different from ourselves.

With global temperatures rising, mountains, glaciers and islands diminishing and waters eating up our shores, the brevity of our human existence leads one to infer that our only means of survival is the celebration of differences amongst ourselves and in turn, revel and retain the diversity of our surroundings.

The experience also brought to light the fact that lack of inclusiveness and diversity would only lead to anarchy, as multicultural systems exist as food webs do, dependent on a complex weave of interdependencies.

Madhini N  
III BVA



# IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL!

We plead to each other,  
we all come from the same rock  
we all come from the same rock  
ignoring the fact that we bend  
at different temperatures..."

-Cherrie Moraga (The Welder)

Multiculturalism, simply put, refers to the ethnic society or cultural diversity prevalent in a place. Ideally it is a society at ease "with the rich tapestry of human life and the desire amongst people to express their own identity in a manner they see fit". A multicultural society should not be a 'melting pot' but a 'mosaic'. A melting pot phenomenon is when people of different cultural backgrounds are assimilated to the domineering, 'superior' culture at the cost of their own racial identity. An example would be the efforts made by society and family to 'white Americanize' the various ethnic groups so that they 'fit in better'. A cultural mosaic or a 'salad bowl', on the other hand would mean that cultural differences within society are valued and preserved; different cultures mix but remain distinct. Thus multiculturalism at its best should promote integrity and fraternity while celebrating differences. If the destruction of identity is one end of the problem, the other extreme seems to be 'stereotyping'. "Did you hear about the Jew, the Chinaman, the Catholic and the Pole who walked into a bar...?" or "A Scotsman, Irishman and an English man go to an inn..." or the infamous Sardarji jokes are common instances of ethnic stereotyping through caricatures, often considered offensive, though they may or may not be taken in good humour.

Multiculturalism in India is known for the striking variation in language, religion, caste and community. But past experiences of communal riots and religious strife have raised doubts and questions about India's claims to 'unity in diversity'. The prevalence of racism and hate crimes in multicultural societies all over the world can be attributed to the xenophobia intrinsic in humans – the common fear of anything 'alien' that might threaten one's own beliefs, cultural values or identity. Like any other fear, it provokes hatred and violence making peaceful co-existence in the midst of differences seem like social utopia. But the chances of attaining such a state get

better when people are taught, right from when they are children, to respect and cherish others for who they are – like in the Disney ride featuring over 300 brightly costumed audio-animatronic dolls in the style of children of the world, frolicking in a spirit of international unity and global peace, and singing, "It's a small world after all....".

Catherine Shilpa X  
II BA ENGLISH





# INTER-RELIGIOUS AWARENESS TRAINING

The summer of 2012 turned out to be a very enlightening one for the 40 odd college kids who turned up at the Loyola Campus every Saturday afternoon. The Inter-Religious Awareness Training (IRAT) program was started by the Peace Rangers to reach out to and bring together people of different faiths. Every weekend saw us learning something new about a different religion, what it taught and how it was practised. One of the most significant things we learnt in our first session was that it wasn't enough to speak about "tolerance" alone. Tolerance meant putting up with something, even though you didn't really want to. We were told to focus on mutual respect instead, and to embrace and celebrate our differences.

Our sessions helped us learn about the main religions practised in India such as Christianity, Islam, Jainism and Hinduism. Each was taught to us by someone learned in the faith, like a priest or a university professor. We were also accompanied and guided by our guest lecturer, Ross, from Stanford University. We had questions and doubts about everything, right from the Trinity that Christians believed in, to misconceptions about Islam, and reincarnation in Hinduism. The last part of our sessions was one big field trip where we got to visit various places of worship throughout the city, and take part in the different rituals and customs. When you've got human chains and meditation and free ice cream and re-enactments of weddings, it's safe to say there really is no experience like IRAT.

Hafsa Fathima  
II BA ENGLISH

# THE MELTING POT

I am from the south of Kerala, but unlike most Malayalis, and to the eternal surprise of anyone who knows of the famed karimeen polichathu, I can't abide the taste or smell of fish. Humshi, from Sri Lanka, claims she can eat anything so long as it's edible (although, I've noticed she doesn't like chat all that well). Ji and Ili, who like their food really, really, really spicy, laugh themselves silly at us mere mortals who turn into water spouts when subjected to the food they cook. And poor Akila, who can't have any chili without crying her eyes out, is too nice to say no when they insist that we should share. Ji, Ili, Humshi, Akila and I are roommates and we get along just fine and agree on almost everything, except food.

While Akila and I subsist on hostel food (which, let me tell you, isn't all that great), Humshi disappears during suppertime. Ji makes strange smelling, concoctions with spices and a dark brown something, that she brought all the way from China, in her electric rice cooker, because she can't stomach Indian food. (Her given name is Ji Qianyu, but since she's tired of giving us lessons in Chinese pronunciation, everyone unanimously decided that Ji's the much prettier name. Also, she swears that donkey meat is the tastiest.) Ili, on the other hand, favours the local produce. In Humshi's words, she drops every vegetable she gets her hands on into the cooking pot, adds a lot of chili powder for colour, and boils the lot. Apart from the odd cravings for biriyani, none of us share a liking for similar kinds of food.

So, when Akila decided to move out and all of us declared we'd be eternally heartbroken for a while, it came as a surprise when Ili suggested that we cook our supper together on Akila's last night in the room. Chicken, it was decided, was acceptable to all. The girls returned with enough food to feed a small village. It being 'that time of the month' for me, I was ordered off to bed. All I did was scrape at a few carrots. Ili and Humshi took complete charge. I sat around and pretended to read a book on world politics while Ji squatted on her bed and tried to look like the smell of masala didn't make her nauseous and Akila went to sleep, having decided that she'd only get in the way if she tried to help.

Since we only had the one pot, we had to cook one thing at a time. The rice was cooked to perfection. The carrots, the lettuce and some other leafy green stuff were also boiled to Ili's satisfaction. Last came the chicken. I tried to act unconcerned, as if the sight of bloody flesh didn't put me off, while they cleaned it and put it into the pot. In went a bunch of potatoes, tomatoes and carrots, along with a considerably less amount of chili powder and the lid was closed. Our stomachs grumbling, we waited.

Finally, when it was close to midnight, and the steam made the lid dance, Humshi looked into the pot and declared the curry ready. Ravenous, we ladled great big helpings of rather thin chicken curry onto our plates. (Ji, unfortunately wasn't brave enough to try some.) Although it tasted nothing like what we were used to at home, we sat around and complimented the chefs on their ingenious cooking and fought over second and third helpings. We had discovered something in common, we had shared an experience, we had achieved something together.

Chennai is a multicultural city, and brimming with people from different lands. It is inevitable that we be exposed to different cultures when we decide to call this city home, even for a little while. My room is just one of many examples where there is a hotchpotch of cultures. Although there are, thankfully occasional, clashes between us (disagreements and unpleasantness are bound to occur, especially when one imagines one's heritage/culture/identity slighted), they are simply tiny hurdles that help us gain a better understanding of each other. The internet says that all culture is syncretic, and I agree. Ili already calls me afo, the Naga word for 'sister', and Humshi calls her thangachi. We're learning to write our names in Chinese, to use chopsticks and to pronounce Ji's name properly. Akila's discovered a liking for noodle soup and a fascination for Chinese currency notes. And none of us can get enough of Humshi's homemade murukku.

Rheanna Mathew  
I MA INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

# C'EST LA VIE

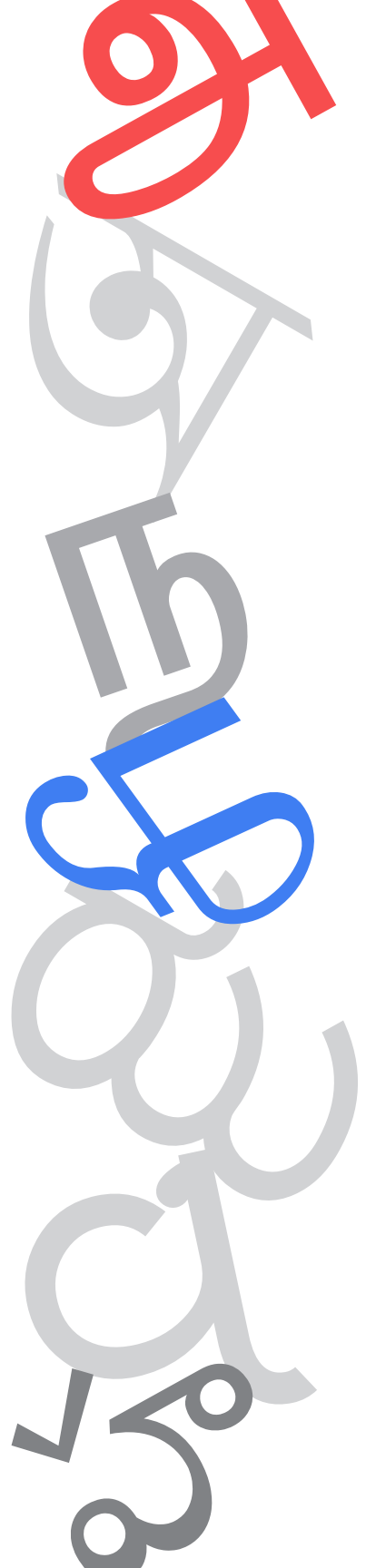
J'avais les yeux gonflés,  
J'ai connu les rages,  
J'ai parfois gagné, échoué, essayé ;  
La tête dans les nuages.  
Ils m'ont dit que j'étais doué,  
J'ai craqué, c'était trop pour moi,  
J'avais parfois le ventre noué,  
Je n'ai jamais su pourquoi.  
Je voulais le monde ;  
Et donc, j'ai lu, j'ai su, j'ai pu, j'ai du  
Mais j'étais seulement une partie de la ronde.  
J'ai eu un cœur secret, j'ai eu un cœur nu  
Parfois j'ai eu raison, parfois j'ai eu tort  
Ça ne vaut rien, maintenant je suis mort.

Catherine Shilpa.X  
II BA English

# LA CULTURE DIFFÉRENTE

Dans mon pays, dans votre pays, dans chaque pays  
Dans mon état, dans votre état, dans chaque état  
Dans mon ville, dans votre ville, dans chaque ville  
La culture c'est différente  
Dans ma religion, dans votre religion, dans chaque religion  
Dans ma famille, dans votre famille, dans chaque famille  
Dans ma langue, dans votre langue, dans chaque langue  
La culture, c'est différente  
Dans la culture française, Indienne ou Arabe  
Quelque vit la culture  
Qu'est-ce qui nous unit? -c'est L'Humanité  
Mais la culture, c'est différente.  
Les cultures dans le monde sont différentes, mais nous,  
Les Êtres humains, avec ces cultures  
différentes, partageons les mêmes émotions et les mêmes  
relations avec tout le monde - L'humanité!  
Parce que nous sommes créés par les mêmes mains  
du Dieu

Aatikah Akhtar  
II BSc ZOOLOGY



# POURQUOI LA LANGUE FRANÇAISE?

“Pourquoi pas la langue française?”, mon père m’a demandé quand mes parents regardaient mes notes pas trop brillantes de ma copie d’examen de Hindi. “Pourquoi la langue française?” a demandé ma mère. Mon père a répondu qu’on peut étudier moins et obtenir plus comme note dans les examens +2. Ça m’a semblé génial. Ma mère se souciait quand même un peu de notre choix de langue parce qu’aucun ancêtre même deux ou trois générations en arrière n’était français et que pour notre famille entière, le français était du grec. Mon père m’a rassurée que le français est facile. Pour illustrer ce point, il a dit “Jam + Apple+ Abi = Jamappleabi” qui veut dire “je m’appelle Abi”.

“J’ai essayé d’apprendre le français à l’Alliance Française et je l’ai trouvé facile. Mais j’ai dû abandonner à mi-chemin en raison de mon agenda chargé. Sinon, je serais devenu expert de la langue française”. a prétendu mon père. Bon, j’ai changé de langues après beaucoup de réflexion, dans ma neuvième classe. Passées quelques heures de cours de français, je me suis dit que j’ai fait une erreur GRAVE. Disons que la grammaire française me faisait tourner la tête! En plus, personne chez moi ne pouvait m’éclairer. Mon père, ayant peur de mes innombrables doutes, a commencé à rentrer chez nous tard. Ma mère était plus stressée que moi. Elle, elle a commencé à plaindre que j’aurais pu me coller au vieux beaux Hindi. Criant au secours, j’ai débarqué à l’Alliance Française de Madras. Là aussi, les enseignants ne parlaient que français dans les salles de classe. Tant pis, mes innombrables doutes. J’étais à deux doigts de pleurer.

Submergée dans une dépression, je me suis confortée en croquant les samosas de la cantine. Et un jour, je suis tombée sur une amie. Après avoir écouté mon histoire de malheur, elle a dit que la grammaire et la prononciation qui semblaient difficiles sont seulement un mirage. Avec un travail personnel plus appliqué et régulier, le français pourrait être une manne tombée du ciel. Alors, je me suis plongée dans les manuels, les magazines français de la bibliothèque de l’Alliance Française. Je me suis surprise quand j’ai répondu à la question du prof. Je travaillais sur la grammaire, le puzzle commençait à se résoudre - lentement. Je suis retournée dans la biblio. J’ai mémorisé les terminaisons des verbes. J’ai trouvé la mnémotechnique pour garder en tête les verbes “être”. Ça allait

mieux à l’école. J’arrivais première dans les tests. Mes parents étaient contents. Mon père a commencé à rentrer tôt. J’étais motivée de continuer avec le deuxième niveau. J’ai monté l’échelle pas à pas. Puis, j’ai réussi le DALF C1. Plus tard, j’ai participé à un concours organisé par l’Ambassade de France en Inde et je l’ai gagné avec trois autres participants d’Inde. Un voyage gratuit en France pour dix jours. Je me suis beaucoup beaucoup régalée.

Le point, c’est que tout est dans l’attitude. Si l’on se prépare assez pour le travail dur au début et se jette sur ça, après on trouvera que cela en vaudra la peine. C’est ce qui m’est arrivée. Ce qui avait commencé par être une ruse (pour s’échapper du Hindi) a fini par être un grand plaisir. Que ce soit le français ou autre chose, une bonne dose de motivation et d’encouragement peut changer beaucoup. Pendant que je tapais cet article, ma soeur a dit “Tu ne serais pas un peu vantarde, toi?” Je lui ai dit “Pour souligner la beauté du français, je dois me vanter. Je veux qu’ils disent tous “Pourquoi pas le français?” au lieu de “Pourquoi le français?”. Cela vous fera merveille.

B.Abirami  
III BA ENGLISH







## CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS



**MPhil FINE ARTS**



**MPhil ECONOMICS**







**II MA ECONOMICS**





II MA ENGLISH





**II MA FINE ARTS**





**II MA INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**





**II MA PUBLIC RELATIONS**





II M Com





**II MSc BIOINFORMATICS**





II MSc BIOTECHNOLOGY





**II MSc CHEMISTRY**





II MSC IT





**II MSc MATHEMATICS**





II MSW







III BSW





III BA ECONOMICS





III BA ENGLISH





### III BA HISTORY





III BA SOCIOLOGY





IV BVA





III BCA (SECTION A)





III BCA (SECTION B)







III BCom (SHIFT II - A)



III BCom (SHIFT II - B)







III BCom (SHIFT II - C)





III BCom (SHIFT II - CS)





III BCom (SHIFT I)





III BSc ADVANCED ZOOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY







III BSc CHEMISTRY



III BSc MATHEMATICS (SHIFT II)







III BSc MATHEMATICS (SHIFT I)





III BSc PHYSICS





III BSC PLANT BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY





DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES







**ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LIFE SKILLS CERTIFICATE COURSE**



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LIST OF OVERALL PERCENTAGE OF PASSES  
UG - 2010-11 BATCH & 2009 VISUAL ARTS  
PG - 2011-12 BATCH  
April - 2013

| CLASS |                                     | APPEARED | PASSED | % OF PASS |
|-------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| BA    | History                             | 44       | 35     | 79.55     |
|       | Sociology                           | 53       | 38     | 71.70     |
|       | Economics                           | 53       | 49     | 92.45     |
|       | English                             | 57       | 55     | 96.49     |
| BVA   | Visual Arts                         | 47       | 45     | 95.74     |
| BCom  | Section - A                         | 72       | 67     | 93.06     |
|       | Section - B                         | 207      | 204    | 98.55     |
|       | Corporate Secretaryship             | 58       | 52     | 89.66     |
| BSc   | Mathematics                         |          |        |           |
|       | Section - A                         | 64       | 58     | 90.63     |
|       | Section - B                         | 54       | 42     | 77.78     |
|       | Physics                             | 45       | 45     | 100.00    |
|       | Chemistry                           | 46       | 45     | 97.83     |
|       | Plant Biology & Plant Biotechnology | 34       | 26     | 76.47     |
|       | Advanced Zoology & Biotechnology    | 39       | 38     | 97.44     |
| BCA   |                                     | 97       | 86     | 88.66     |
| BSW   |                                     | 43       | 36     | 83.72     |
| MA    | International Studies               | 20       | 20     | 100.00    |
|       | Economics                           | 19       | 18     | 94.74     |
|       | English                             | 32       | 30     | 93.75     |
|       | Fine Arts                           | 12       | 10     | 83.33     |
|       | Public Relations                    | 14       | 14     | 100.00    |
| MSW   | Social Work                         | 34       | 34     | 100.00    |
| MCom  |                                     | 36       | 36     | 100.00    |
| MSc   | Mathematics                         | 32       | 27     | 84.38     |
|       | Information Technology              | 19       | 17     | 89.47     |
|       | Bioinformatics                      | 6        | 6      | 100.00    |
|       | Chemistry                           | 13       | 12     | 92.31     |
|       | Biotechnology                       | 13       | 10     | 76.92     |