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Education at a distance



Photo by M.A. Bengtson

A reception was held at Lee College for visiting educators Gita Balachandra and Kamala Aravind. They are from Stella Maris University in India. Pictured at the reception from left, are Sandy McNeely, chairwoman of the Lee College International Education Committee; Balachandra; Aravind; James C. Maroney, chairman of the Lee

Educators from India at Lee College

By M.A. BENGTON
Staff writer

Two educators from Stella Maris University in India have been at Lee College studying teaching methods and curriculum development.

Kamala Aravind, academic dean and head of the History Department, and Gita Balachandran, Stella Maris's head librarian, visited Lee's main campus in Baytown.

The educators were guests of former Stella Maris student Mary McWilliams, a member of the Lee College English faculty.

Stella Maris University is locat-

ed in Chennai, Madras, India.

In addition to observing classes, Balachandran also spent time at Sterling Municipal Library working with librarian Denise Fisher. The day in Baytown was followed by a visit to the University of Houston at Clear Lake.

"We have come as visiting scholars to study teaching methods," Aravind said. "We are also auditing courses at Davidson College in North Carolina, courses in international political economy and social analysis."

As part of their work, the educators are meeting faculty and community leaders in informal

discussions and exchanging cultural information at each site they visit around the United States.

At the library, Balachandran said she studied archives and information network designs. She said she wants to assist with the design of her university's Web site when she returns to India.

Sandy McNeely, chairwoman of the Lee College International Education Committee, handled arrangements for the visit. A reception was held for Aravind and Balachandran.

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