

COLLEGE DAY 2015

Good evening everyone and welcome to our College Day celebrations. This year marks the 68th year of our service in the cause of higher education of women. On this memorable occasion, I am pleased to welcome Dr. Nirmala Lakshman our Chief Guest, for today. Dr. Nirmala is an alumna of Stella Maris, and was one of the earliest Ph.D scholars of the Department of English. Thank you Nirmala for having consented to preside over this function. A warm welcome to Mrs. Latha Pandiarajan, Director Ma Foi Strategic Consultants Pvt. Ltd., our Guest of Honour. Thank you for taking time off from your work commitments to be with us this evening. I extend warm greetings to both of you. A warm welcome to Sr. Leena D'Souza, Provincial Superior, Chennai Province, Sr. Susan, Secretary of the College, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, former Principal, the Vice Principals, Deans, faculty, members of the Governing Body, the Academic Council, Fr. Kurien our Chaplain, administrative and supporting staff, retired faculty, parents, alumnae, benefactors, friends, Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, and you, my dear students.

As I begin reading the report of our activities of the year, I thank the Almighty for the immeasurable blessings He has bestowed upon this institution. His grace and mercy have seen us through difficult times, and given us strength to continue our mission.

I would like to place on record my gratitude, on behalf of the College community, for the dedicated work of those faculty members who will be retiring this year. Ms Raihana Sabir, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Controller of Examinations will be retiring after 35 years. Dr. Uma Mani, Associate Professor and Head, UG Department of Mathematics will be retiring after 22 years. We thank you both for your devoted service to this institution. Your hard work and sacrifice are much valued and will always be remembered. We will miss your presence on campus and pray that you continue to experience God's blessings and guidance in your lives. Our warm wishes also for good health and happiness in the years to come.

It is with deep sorrow that I record the passing away of three members of the Stella Maris community.

Mr Maria Francis, Lab Assistant, Department of Zoology, passed away on December 20, 2014. He joined the College in 1974. A Diploma holder in Museum Keeping from the Madras Museum, he was a meticulous and dedicated worker, whose involvement in the activities of the Department has been gratefully acknowledged by both the faculty and students.

Ms Maheswari Durairaj, Faculty, Department of Mathematics passed away on January 11, 2015. She will always be remembered as a young, intelligent, dedicated and much loved teacher. She was also an alumna of the College and was a sincere and bright student.

Mr D. Augustine, electrician of the College passed away on February 26 this year. He had been 'the man behind the scenes' at every single College function for the past 20 years. He was in charge of installing and maintenance of all electrical equipment on campus. Prompt in responding to problems and always courteous, he will be missed by all of us who knew him well.

We pray for the repose of their souls. May God grant their families strength and comfort to cope with the loss.

I have been privileged to lead this wonderful community at Stella Maris from May 2008. The College, well known throughout the country for its commitment to academic excellence and value based holistic education sought as its primary mission, to provide students with the kind of education that will enable them to participate fully in developmental and transformative actions which will benefit the community and society at large. Our faculty members represent some of the best minds available in various disciplines in which we offer programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate, and research levels. Their contribution to the intellectual growth of students and their involvement in encouraging students' "whole person" growth must be sincerely acknowledged. In their multiple roles in College, they have been the chief enablers of student achievement in various spheres of student engagement within the institution and outside.

Among the large number of visitors to the College this year were delegations and representatives from several colleges - Principals from 27 Colleges in Andhra Pradesh were sent by the Andhra Government to Stella Maris to study the functioning of autonomy. We had officials from

colleges in Goa, Bangalore, and Kerala visit us to interact with us on our educational programmes. Several teams from institutions abroad have also visited the College to explore possibility of networking and collaborating with the institution.

UB representatives visited the College to assess the effectiveness of their programmes. While the visit served to cement the close ties that we have with this international organisation, it also helped us to offer suggestions and recommendations that would enhance the efficacy of the programmes they support.

As part of the Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrators (FN-IEA) Program, a delegation of 10 American higher education administrators visited the College on 13th March. This visit is part of their two-week India tour to enable them to learn about our education system and make informed decisions on collaborations.

This year, an MoU was signed between the College and Liverpool Hope University, UK for the International MBA programme. The Post Graduate Certificate in International Business, a three month programme will start in the month of June 2015, successful completion of which will entitle students to pursue the second phase of the IMBA programme at LHU, Liverpool UK and earn a Master's degree.

Another MoU was also signed with Hochschule, Coburg, Germany to promote academic, scientific research collaboration and cultural cooperation between the two institutions.

This year has been an especially busy one on the academic front with all Departments involved in undertaking academic audits with a view to restructuring the curriculum. External experts were invited to conduct sessions for the faculty on a wide range of topics covering curriculum restructuring, examination reforms and networking of higher education institutions for institutional development and growth. The newly designed structure, will, I hope, enable students to focus on skills development in addition to academics, and give them better and greater choices in the job sector after graduation.

Faculty members have received recognition and awards for their exemplary work from various bodies. It is a testimony to their hard work and selfless service to the institution and society. Some have received scholarships and fellowships in recognition of their potential for research and leadership qualities from international organisations.

Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras received a number of awards for her outstanding services in the field of higher education from various academic bodies and other organisations: the Best Principal Award (College) by Education Today, the Rotary Excellence Award in the field of education for the Best Principal (South India) presented by Rotary Club of Trivandrum Royal, Deakin University, Australia and Education Matters, in recognition of ongoing commitment and dedicated service to education. Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras was also nominated as a member of the Board of Research Studies and member of the Senate, University of Madras and member of the Executive Board of AIACHE, New Delhi. She visited Dev Samaj College for Women, Chandigarh as a Member Coordinator of the NAAC Peer Team for reaccreditation of the institution.

Dr. Felbin C Kennedy was awarded the Bharat Shiksha Ratan Award by the Global Society for Health and Educational Growth and the Bharat Seva Ratan Gold Medal by the Global Economic Progress and Research Association for excellence in the field of education.

Dr. Ullaganayaki Palani was awarded the Tamil Chemmal Viruthu by the Kannada Tamil Sangam, the Best Teacher award by the Madurai Tamil Sangam, the Kamban Puyal Viruthu by the International Lions Club, the Tamil Cevai Chemmal Award and the Tholkappiar Viruthu Award by the City Tamil Sangam.

Dr. Swapna Sathish, Dr. Miruna George and Dr. Sr. Lourthu Mary presented papers at International and National Conferences and received Best Paper Awards for their respective paper presentations.

Two of our faculty members were recipients of fellowships from the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. As part of the first phase of the UB Fellows programme, Dr. Shiny

John Vairamon was placed for a semester at Mary Baldwin College, Virginia, USA between September and December 2014. She was initiated as a member of Iota Sigma Pi National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry - The Argentum Chapter held at the USA in December 2014.

Dr. Sr. Stella Mary has been selected by the UB for a three week research programme at the Institute for Advanced Study in Asian Cultures and Theologies (IASACT) at the Chung Chi College of the Chinese University of Hong Kong for the summer session.

Six of our faculty members have been awarded their doctoral degrees this year.

Dr. Belina Xavier, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, Dr. Nithya K, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Dr. Anne Samuel, Associate Professor, Department of Fine Arts, Dr. Teresa Arockiamary Santiago, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Dr. Sarah Surya, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and Dr. Punitha , Associate Professor, Department of Economics.

Dr. Sr. Stella Mary published her thesis titled Micro Finance and Women Development in 2014.

Four Tamil Plays, edited by the faculty of the Department of English was released in August. The book, an outcome of a United Board project, contains translations of four Tamil plays into English along with critical introductions on the plays and a critical history of modern Tamil Theatre.

Two books written by Dr. Shrabani Bhattacharyya and Dr. A. Fathima –‘Indradhanush’, a one act play and ‘Aadhunik Hindi Kahani- Ek Parichay’ were released.

The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India has extended the Star College Scheme for the next two years. Stella Maris College is among the few Colleges to receive a Non - Recurring Grant of Rs. 40, 00,000 in addition to the Recurring Grant of Rs.12, 00,000/- for this academic year.

The next part of my report focuses on significant activities of the Departments of the College, as well as outstanding achievements of students from these Departments.

Led by our Campus Minister Sr. Maria Sundari, the Department of Value Education has ensured that the education we offer promotes continuous improvement of the individual on the social, moral and spiritual fronts. The Department organises periodic talks and lectures by religious and spiritual leaders, motivational speakers and conducts workshops on several key themes to supplement course work in Value Education. All of these serve to bring students together to reflect and act on their learning, and eventually take responsibility for their lives. Retreats are conducted for Catholic students and inter-faith dialogues for all students form a critical part of their education. The Department also organises Inaugural and Thanksgiving Masses at the beginning and end of the academic year.

As part of the UBCHEA project the Department of History organised a National Seminar on “Heritage and Conservation”. The Department journal “Parivartana- Fostering Change” was released on this occasion.

The World Heritage Week was celebrated with an exhibition on heritage sites in India and the World and on World Museums in collaboration with the ASI and Fort Museum. Students were trained in “Techniques of Conservation of Structural Monuments” in the 32-day training programme initiated by the Government Museum (State Department of Archaeology).

Dr J. Sasitha, Head, Department of Sociology, led a four-member student delegation to the Philippines on a two-week service learning programme based on the theme “Disaster Response, Community Resilience and the Role of Asian Universities”. Sponsored by the UBCHEA, this programme was organised in the aftermath of the 2013 Typhoon Yolanda which devastated parts of the Philippines.

The Department introduced a Certificate course in Sociology of Media with specialisation in Print Journalism.

The Department of Economics initiated a Lecture Series as a new activity this year.

Dr. Crystal David John of the Department of Economics and Ms Mary Abraham of the Department of Social Work organised a workshop on “Women’s Health and Sustainable Development” as a follow up of the UBCHEA project.

Congratulations to the following students of the Department: Samyuktha Sunil, Advitha. T. A Jinnu Maria Anto for presenting papers at National Conferences. Jinnu Maria Anto has also several publications to her credit.

Subiksha Natrajan of II year B.A Economics was awarded the title of Ernst and Young Scholar of The Year 2014 by Ernst and Young, India scholarship programme with a 2 month internship at EY.

The Department of English, in collaboration with the Department of English, WCC put together a memorable theatrical performance, “Remembering Maya Angelou”. Dr. V. Padma of Stella Maris and Dr. Annie Kuriachen of WCC co-directed the play.

In collaboration with the Prakriti Foundation, the Department organised a series of poetry panels and “Literature and Ecology”, an intercollegiate student seminar.

Ms Anuja Sundar of II MA Literature won the second place in the Poetry Slam organised by Prakriti Foundation. She also won the national level poetry writing competition conducted by Prakriti.

Twelve students of the Department of Fine Arts accompanied by Ms. Mallika Madhavan, attended Summer School at Middlesex University, London from 23 July – 7 August 2014.

The Department was selected to be a part of the Street Art Festival titled “Conquer the Concrete” organised by the Goethe Institute. In addition to a street art performance on 4 February 2015, students designed and painted murals on the boundary walls abutting Cathedral Road.

Rekha Kasinathan of III BVA received the Dr. Barbara Srinivasan Award for Painting and V.R. Aishwarya of the III BVA received a cash award from the CVM National Exhibition of Art 2015, Gujarat.

MATHZOOM, of the Department of Mathematics has become increasingly popular in city colleges. This year there was an overwhelming participation of 32 colleges at various events. Ms. Sarah Surya's Ph.D award is a milestone for the Department of Mathematics as she is the first Ph.D awardee of the department.

The Department of Physics has made inroads in research into newly emergent areas such as Nano Science, in which area projects were undertaken by students. The Department also continued its Popular Lecture series with sessions by renowned scientists.

As part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, the Department of Chemistry organised a two day National Lecture Workshop on "Recent Trends in Chemistry" in collaboration with three science academies- IAS, INSA and IISc Bangalore. An interdisciplinary workshop on "Clinical Biochemistry" was organised in collaboration with Women's Christian College in the month of July.

I am happy to announce that in its Golden Jubilee Year, the Department of Chemistry has been upgraded to a Research Department. Dr. Shiny John Vairamon, Dr. Mary George, Dr. Mary.N.L and Dr. Revathy Rajagopal have been recognised as supervisors for the doctoral programme.

Retired faculty of the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Geeta Swaminathan, Dr. Jesurietta Sathian and Dr. Rukmani Sreenivas have instituted the Golden Jubilee Research Award in Chemistry in Appreciation and Recognition of 'The Best Contribution To Research in Chemistry' (Pure /applied/ Interdisciplinary).

Three students of the Department received the INSA 2015 Fellowship- Kezia Rebecca Thomas I PG at BARC Mumbai, Teny Tom I PG at the University of Kolkata, Jadavpur and H. Annapoorani II year UG, at the IIT, Mumbai.

As part of the UBCHEA Project, the Department of Botany held an exhibition on “Local Knowledge: Revisiting the Past for a Suitable Future - Parambariyam” from 27 January to 1 February, 2015, to disseminate the traditional importance of food and medicinal practices.

Three final year students, J. Pappa Alphi Judy, Suganya P.N. and Madhana Priya N. presented papers at the National Summit on “Recent trends in Biosciences” in October. Madhana Priya’s paper was adjudged the ‘Best Paper’.

The faculty and students of the Department of Zoology participated in the Campus Count for Birds in February as part of a worldwide survey of birds in different countries and school and college campuses across the country. The birders recorded 18 species of birds within the campus. Stella Maris College is recognised by ebird.org as a birding area.

In continuation of the conservation-oriented activities on the occasion of World Sparrow Day on March 20 this year, the first year students will be making bird feeders with waste plastic to attract more of our feathered friends.

Subiksha, a first year student and an ardent birder and photographer has had her pictures of butterflies published in the book on butterflies authored by Bhanumathi R, an environment educationist.

A seminar on “Investment is Planning” by Money Wizard was conducted by the Department of Commerce. A quiz on Investment Planning was conducted among the students as part of the National Olympiad competition.

The Scholar-in-Residence programme of the Department of Computer Science had Mr. Shankar from Cognizant Technology Solutions address the students on “Expanding the Realm of Analytics with Big Data.

A Certificate course on Developing Mobile Apps on the Android Application platform was organised in December.

The Department of Social Work hosted five undergraduate students from Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, UK. The students completed 35 days of field practicum.

Another student from the Hochschule Coburg University of Applied Science, Germany is currently pursuing her sixth semester of undergraduate study.

Stella Job Zip 2015, an Entrepreneurship and Intrapreneurship Programme and Career Fair was held in February. Another unique workshop on “Therapeutic Clowning for Education, Health Care & Business” by Fif Fernandes and Hamish Boyd of the Komali MeDi Clown Academy was also organised.

Seyed Ahamed Sarmila of II BSW has authored 3 books, 2 poetry collections titled ‘Siragu Mulaitha Pen’ and ‘Ovya’. ‘Ummath’ was awarded the best novel this year by the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association.

Suganya. G of I MSW received the Star of Rotaract Award in June from the Rotaract District 3230.

The Department of International Studies partnered with the Association of Asia Scholars, New Delhi and Pondicherry University in organising the National Conference on “Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean: Exploring the Great Power Partnerships” held at Puducherry in December.

The Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Alka Acharya, Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, spoke on the theme: “China’s evolving role in International System and International Relations”.

Mr. Mahadevan, Senior Journalist and Former Copy Editor, India Today (Tamil) and The New Indian Express, was the Scholar in Residence of the Department of Public Relations in October. He gave lectures on Positive Journalism – A New Thinking.

A campaign to Promote Litter-Free Zones - P.L.Z. - was carried out by the students of the Department of Public Relations. The team participated in the 41st Trade Fair organised by the Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Department of Bioinformatics organised a Workshop in “Bioinformatics – Applications and Current Approaches” in February.

II M.Sc student S. Preethi’s Summer internship work was selected for presentation at an International Conference on Intelligent Biology and Medicine 2014, San Antonio, Texas, USA.

B. Gowri Geetanjali I M.Sc was certified as a Personality Development & Memory Skills Trainer by Adhira-Life Skillz Academy, Chennai.

The Department of Biotechnology organised a Regional Conference on “Recent Advances in Nanobiotechnology” on January 28, 2015.

The Department of Tamil organised a workshop on public speaking skills in the month of December.

The intercollegiate cultural event of the Department of Hindi, FILMI-MELA was held in December. Nearly 25 colleges participated in the event.

Students of the Department of Sanskrit participated in the Inter-Collegiate Sanskrit Competitions “AKSHARAM 2014” and in “MADHULIHA 2014” and bagged the Overall Championship Trophy in both the cultural programmes.

On his visit to the College, the Director, Alliance Française of Madras at the time, Mr. Benoit Olivier spoke to the students of the Department of French on “French as an asset for career opportunities in France and other French speaking countries.”

The NSS and YRC unit has been an integral part of student involvement with the community at Stella Maris College. Ms. Bhuvaneshwari of the Department of Mathematics and Ms. Shanthini of the Department of Physics won the 'Best NSS Volunteer Award' from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the year 2011& 2013 respectively.

The Youth Red Cross Unit (YRC), of the College won the 'Best Performance Award' by the Indian Red Cross Society and the University of Madras in recognition of the commendable services rendered by the unit.

Once again the NSS and YRC unit of the College won the "Dr. Radhakrishnan Award", for mobilising the maximum number of donors among the women's colleges in Chennai.

Ashwini of the Department of Physics was selected to participate in the State Republic Day Parade.

V. Amala Roshini of the Department of Commerce participated in the 12 day mega National Camp organized by the University of Madras held in Ladnun, Rajasthan.

This year has been a glorious year for the Stella Maris NCC Unit. It is a matter of pride for us that our past student, Capt. Divya Ajith Kumar led the first all-women's army contingent at the Republic Day Parade in Delhi this year. Capt. Divya was also the first woman to be honoured with the Sword of Honour at the Passing-Out Parade of the Officers' Training Academy, Chennai.

Lt. Mini an ex-NCC cdt, All India Reserve Best Cadet during 2010 was also part of the Army women's contingent during Republic Day Parade 2015.

Cpl. Jessy Jennifer of second year Botany department was awarded 'All India Best Cadet Gold' during the Republic day camp 2015 held at New Delhi. She was also selected for the Youth Exchange programme. The following slide lists some of our achievers:

- *At the state level POC, Tamilarasi was awarded the gold medal in Boat Pulling and Group Dance Competitions*
- *L/Cpl. Samreen Wani of II year History Department was awarded the best Master of Ceremony during Republic day Camp held at New Delhi. She was also selected for the Youth Exchange Programme.*
- *L/Cpl. Benith Sowmya scored the highest among the cadets of TN, P & AN Directorate at the All India Thal Sainik Camp held at New Delhi during September 2014.*

Our Sports women have scaled new heights this year. In the Junior National Athletic Meet held at Vijayawada and State Athletic Championship held at Erode, Rochella Maria, I B.A. Economics secured Gold Medals in Triple Jump and Long Jump respectively.

Our College teams emerged winners in the Madras University B Zone Intercollegiate Tournaments in Basketball, Badminton, Chess and Lawn Tennis. Many of our players were selected to represent the Madras University for the year 2014 in various games.

A list of the games in which our students excelled follows in the next slide.

Basketball- Srividhya.S.Shekar, Princy Epshiba, S.Sanghavi and Akshara of the Department of Commerce

Badminton - R. Kausalya (II BCom), K. Sangeetha (I B.A.Economics)

Lawn Tennis - Madhumita. H (III B.Com CS), Binu Ravikumar

Fencing- K. Mohanalakshmi (I B.Com), M. R. Aishwarya (I B.Com), M. Lavanya (I B.A English)

At the IIT Sports Fest 2014, the College secured the Winners title in Basketball and Badminton. Thirty-one of our students were selected to represent the Madras University B Zone and out of which 13 represented the Madras University. Ten students represented the Tamil Nadu State in various categories.

Chandana. S of II B.A. Economics was awarded the Karnataka Rajvotsava Prize the “Youth Sports Icon” in recognition of her achievements in the field of Sports.

In keeping with the national educational goal for equity and inclusiveness, the College has established the Language Partnership Programme, a Peer Teaching-Learning programme where senior students teach their younger peers. This unique initiative aims at improving the English language proficiency of I year undergraduate students who find it difficult to communicate effectively in English. LPP classes are conducted throughout the month of July, after which they meet twice a week through the semester.

The Stella Maris College Pathway Programme aims to prepare selected groups of students acquire a range of life skills through experiential learning. They are given training through workshops on a range of skills which would serve to help them cope with the demands of life in college and prepare them for life outside the campus.

IAS Coaching Classes and NET Coaching Classes continue to be held in collaboration with Manidhaneyam Civil Services Coaching Academy. A total of 120 and 80 students respectively have registered for the programme.

The Student’s Union of the College truly lived up to their motto - Dream. Explore. Discover. The social theme adapted for the year was “Commit to Being Healthy”. The Campus was abuzz with programmes- COMICON’14, RANG TARANG’14 – Celebrating India, the Stella Maris annual inter-collegiate cultural event AQUILAE’14, Ethnic Day, Forgiveness day, Friendship Day and Retro Day. National events such as Independence Day, Teachers’ Day and Republic Day were also celebrated by the Union. The Union also organised a number of activities in keeping with the social theme.

Their initiatives saw the establishment of the “Farm to Home” - a stall selling organic food on campus. They also set up the Mime and Street Theatre Club. The newly formed club members had several performances this year and have been specially appreciated for their performance at the Mime Theatre Festival 2015, staged at the Narada Gana Sabha.

The other Clubs of the College have been extremely active this year. The Debate, Quiz and Current Affairs club conducted the third edition of the Stella Maris College Parliamentary Debate with participation by over 120 students from colleges across the country. The club conducted an intercollegiate debating tournament in association with the Guild of Service.

The Stella Maris Dramatics Club ‘Stella Players’ staged their annual play “Witness for the Prosecution” at the Museum Theatre, Egmore in February.

The Stella Maris College Extension Project Centre was inaugurated in November 2014 at Thirupachur village, Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu. This Centre will serve the needs of the local community. The facilities at the Project Centre will enable the students of the College and of the FMM schools in the city to visit the village for an exposure to rural realities and participate in the programmes conducted throughout the year. Many skill development programmes have been planned for the rural women and youth along with activities for children.

The Stella Maris Centre for Networking and Communications (SMCNC), headed by Dr. Sundari Krishnamurti, facilitates networking of the College with various organisations.

The Centre, in collaboration with the National Foundation of Corporate Social Responsibility (NFCSR) of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, (IICA), Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, initiated a 9 month certificate course in CSR (ICP-CSR). The first batch of ten students began their course in October 2014.

The SMCNC has been very active over the year. The Centre organised a Management Development Programme on “Career Opportunities in Corporate Social Responsibility at L & T’s Construction Skill Training Institute (C.S.T.I) in Ennathur village, Kanchipuram. The M.D.P was an education-corporate-government joint enterprise; 141 students and 12 faculty and staff benefited through this experience.

In response to the nation-wide call to improve research in institutions of higher education in the country, we have begun to focus our energies on establishing a strong research culture on campus. Major and Minor Research Projects funded by the UGC and other funding agencies are now part of the programmes of the College. I am happy to inform you that the college has 2 Major Research Projects which have just been completed and 5 Minor Research Projects which are in the final stages, under the sponsorship of the UGC. This academic year, 1 Major Research Project and 1 Minor Research Project has commenced.

A critical part of the endeavour to bring research to the forefront is to involve students and faculty in workshops and interactive sessions on research methods and make this skill an important component of learning.

The Stella Maris International Centre for Multidisciplinary Research, headed by Dr. Renuka Rajaratnam conducted a series of training programmes and workshops under its aegis. The resource persons were academics, scholars and corporate heads from India and abroad.

An International Conference on the theme “World Economy: Recent Developments & Challenges” was coordinated by the Departments of Commerce, Economics and International Studies in partnership with the Liverpool Hope University, UK.

The Center for Research in Science and Technology (CRIST), in collaboration with the DST unit of Nanoscience and Thematic Unit of Excellence, IIT-Madras conducted a Certificate course on “Exploring Nanoscience – Synthesis and Characterization of Nanoparticles” for a period of 3 months, from July 2014 to October 2014. It was attended by undergraduate students of the Science Departments. Students were given hands on training with the help of the facilities available at IIT, University of Madras. Currently, II & III year UG students of all Science Departments are doing a one month project on “Nano Synthesis” supported by DBT under the Star College Scheme.

The Librarian Ms. Mahalakshmi organised a motivational talk by Mr. K. Manivannan, author of the book “The Great Indian Democracy” for the students of the Department of History. A book exhibition was held with several reputed publishers participating.

The Librarian and students of the NSS participated in a rally “Vasippom Nesippom” held in Marina on November 15th to promote reading habits among the students.

Stellarchives, the archival repository of the College set up by Ms. Gita Balachandran hosted several visitors who were highly appreciative of the efforts to preserve the institution’s heritage.

This year almost 450 students registered for campus recruitment at the Career Guidance Cell. About 65% of students have been placed. The following are some of the multinational corporations which visited the college for recruitment.

Some of the companies that came forward to recruit students include KPMG, Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, EY, McKinsey, RBS and Tata Capital, Tech Mahindra, WIPRO, Cognizant Technologies, CNSI, Sutherland, Exeter Premedia, Mobius, Teach for India and Tapas India Foundation.

Beyond Horizons, the annual Career Fair was conducted in October, creating awareness on overseas education and postgraduate programmes.

Training and Internship programmes by Ntrust, were started this year, and promises to become a yearly activity. Special training to crack the Bank exams was also conducted this year.

Portfolio Management, Financial Planning, and Cartooning are certificate programmes organised by the CGC in collaboration with external trainers.

The Alumnae Association supported the College in various activities through the year. Two interesting Kalanjiam programmes on “Health is in our hands”, a Book Reading Session of the novel “It Happened Like This” and a poetry reading session by Ms. Anuja Ram, II MA student of the Department of English were organised. The Association also supports the institution by generously raising funds for examination fees for economically disadvantaged students. This year 24 students were the beneficiaries.

This academic year the English Language and Life Skills Programme had an enrolment of 22 students. Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent is the Director of the programme.

Women's Day was observed on campus with impassioned and inspiring talks by two guests, the Deputy High Commissioner for Britain in Chennai, Mr. Bharat Joshi and Ms. Malvika Iyer, well-known motivational speaker and a living example of how challenges can be overcome with courage and determination.

As I reach the end of this summary of our activities, it is my duty to thank the various individuals and organisations who have contributed in multiple ways to our growth and progress.

Many institutions and benefactors have collaborated with us in every aspect of our work. I express our gratitude to the UGC, DBT, UBCHEA, the Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, the University of Madras and the International Federation of Catholic Universities for partnering with us.

I express my gratitude to Sr. Leena D'Souza, Provincial, Sr. Susan, Secretary and Superior and to all Sisters at the Stella Maris Convent for their support and encouragement.

I thank the Vice Principals, Controller of Examinations, Academic and Student Deans, the IQAC Co-ordinator, NSS Programme Officers, NCC Officer, the Physical Director, Directors-SMCNC, SMICMR, the PRO, the Archivist, the Librarian, the Campus Minister, the Counsellors, Directors- CRIST, Coordinators- Star College Scheme, Pathway, LPP, IAS, NET and Remedial coaching programmes, Alumnae Association, faculty and Heads of Departments for their committed and dedicated services. My special thanks also to the administrative and support staff, wardens of the hostels – Sr. Christine, Sr. Kamala Philomena, Sr. Leony, Sr. Leema and Ms Alice Rani for effective management of all day to day affairs and the enthusiasm of our students all of which made this year a truly memorable one.

A special word of thanks to Dr. Shanti Stanley, Dr. Belina, Dr. Sasitha and to all organising committee members of College Day 2014-15.

You, my dear parents are our strength as we move ahead. Your daughters are the reason for our existence. Our shared future lies in their hands. We value your presence here, and hope for your continued support in all our endeavours.

Among society's many institutions, HEIs have the singular responsibility of shaping a nation's future through the young people who graduate from our colleges and universities. These are our future leaders and hopefully, change agents who will bring about social justice. As we progress and develop, it is our vision that will bring meaning and fulfilment to our work as educators.

Once again, welcome to our College Day Celebrations. May the Star of the Sea be our guide and strength.

Thank you and God bless!