

# C.S.I. EWART WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

MADRAS DIOCESE, CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

September 2007

Special Focus on Karate

## Madras University Gold Medalist

**Convocation 2007** recognized **Asha Mathura** who won the Gold Medal of Madras University for first rank in Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics. 50 students received their degrees and 36 awards were given on that joyous day.

The **new academic year** opened in June. 108 new students have joined the College this year; 20 of them are residential students. In total there are 315 students in the 5 departments of Microbiology, Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics, Mathematics, Computer Science, and Commerce. 6 new lecturers and a new librarian have begun their service at CSI Ewart College, bringing the total faculty to 28. Our new Chaplain is Rev. Dhavaseeli Selvaraj, Presbyter in Madras Diocese.



## Enriched by International Volunteers



Corinne with colleagues Lyda Solomon (Bursar) & Linta Josephine

**Mrs. Corinne** from London shared her administrative expertise and her first language French with the Ewart community throughout the academic year 2006-07. She shared her faith, her affection, her enthusiasm and her daughter Ines too! We thank SPG of England for sending her to serve Madras Diocese at Ewart College.

**Hanna Uebach** is an artist and University student in Germany. Now she has many new 'sisters of the heart' from Ewart College. We shared kolam, mehndhi, and she taught us how to observe and draw. We wrote interactive journals, spoke English endlessly, danced and sang together. She visited our homes and joined in hostel (dorm) life for 6 exciting weeks in Feb-March. She even joined our karate class. Together we became more powerful!



## May '07 SUMMER CAMP broadens horizons; develops leadership skills



**Journey to the cool Nilgiri Hills:** 19 of the 23 first year hostel students had never traveled by overnight train before. What an experience to visit Ootacamund, the famous hill station! We were fortunate to stay at CSI Gell Memorial Girls school again this year. We enjoyed exploring the gardens and hills, sunrise karate practices, daily English sessions and Bible studies, lots of games, night sky watching and campfire fun during 6 wonderful days. We learned how to explore and experience a new place and new environment—how to ask questions, work in small teams and how to present our discoveries in speeches.



Returning to College, we carefully planned and carried out a **2-day camp for 40 children** of Chithambur Village. What leadership training! What learning by doing! We shared our karate skills, drawing ability, taught the Lord's prayer and 3 new songs, guided them to enact Luke 13 'the bent-over woman', shared 5 new games, danced, and had a wonderful time together.



**Ms. Samantha** from the Uniting Church in Australia joined our summer camp and guided us in many activities. She has become part of all our special events at the hostel and we look forward to her extended stay with us later in the year.



With guidance from our leaders Rev. Belshiya Ruth and Rev. Dhavaseeli, we learned about **Human Rights** in our newspaper readings, discussions and Bible studies. We were moved by the documentary *Devadasi*. We now know 13 new strategies for life-long learning such as how to explore new words and use organizer diagrams. We worked hard in our daily karate class on new movements. In the evening we had lessons in tabla, keyboard and guitar. Then we settled down to watch English movies with English subtitles: *Fiddler on the Roof* and *E.T.* were the best! After evening devotions, we listened to bedtime stories. Everyday, we teamed up and worked together in all that we did. Our journals are full of our feelings and achievements, our hopes and goals for the coming year. What a time of transformation!

# Karate in July



"Karate teaches me how to be brave, courageous, gives peacefulness and helps overcome fears." (Ammu, final yr.)

"I was eager to learn karate but I didn't have a chance because I was in the village at the time. Now for me a miracle has happened because I am learning karate for the past one year. I want to continue and keep karate in my life." (Saritha, final yr.)

"Karate builds a very active mind. It gives psychological fitness as well as body fitness. I can go anywhere now that I know karate." (Gomathy, final yr.)

Bharathi, 2<sup>nd</sup> yr.

"Karate is useful for me because I travel by bus and train. If a man irritates me I will do karate." (Gnanamani, 2<sup>nd</sup> yr.)

## Public Speaking Made Easier



Julia Shahid, Beulah & Devarani

A group of 7 teachers from Texas, U.S. spent July 21<sup>st</sup> with us in a workshop on public speaking. Wow--what a special day we all had together! We practiced our speeches about karate and college, sang, and danced together and just talked. Then we showed our karate power in a special demo. An unforgettable time of sharing! Thank you, friends.



John Laine, Ammu, Vennila replay Ammu's speech



Demonstration: "Beautiful, beautiful" said Eges Egedigwe

**"I think hereafter I can face all the problems in my life because now I have karate techniques."**

*M. Punitha, final year*



Bishop Devasahayam confers belt on Sweetie, top scorer in belt exam

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Amudha delivers her speech at the Belt Ceremony in English: becoming bilingual!

Extra classes, new helmets and gloves (thanks, Texas friends!), 'The Next Karate Kid' movie, reading new books, writing speeches, poems and interviews about "Karate and Me". All worked to boost group morale and motivation for the belt exam. The grand finale: Orange Belt Ceremony & demonstration, including speeches. 43 students now proudly wear their **orange belts!**

Jenifer (red) and Amudha spar



**Alexandra Leonard** came from Michigan, U.S. in July and helped us write speeches about how we feel about karate and our college experience. She spoke English with us every day and gave us a special DVD: *The Next Karate Kid*, about a girl learning karate. Alexandra came with us to Mamallapuram and joined us frolicking in the waves of the Bay of Bengal! We spent good hours together—Come back soon, Alexandra!

#### **CSI Ewart Women's Christian College Mission Statement**

C.S.I. Ewart College is founded on faith in the **Triune God** and draws its inspiration from the Bible and the life and example of **Jesus Christ** for its ministry of education. Nurtured by eternal Christian values, the College aims to train young women to be serving, caring and sharing citizens of our great land and the world at large.

The **priority** of the College is the education of poor, oppressed and less privileged women, especially village women, to provide them opportunities for a fuller life. The College is committed to the liberation of women and training them to meet all challenges of gender and other discrimination.

The **College community** as a whole will be a new 'humanized' society where learning will transform, sensitize and inspire everyone to challenge the structures that divide people, and where truth will set free people from inhuman and superstitious beliefs.

The **College believes** that its commitment to these values is fully compatible with the maintenance of the highest academic standards and offering of courses and programs appropriate to the current needs of the society and the aspirations of the students.

**Founded 1997; Chairperson: Rt. Rev. Dr. V. Devasahayam, Bishop in Madras**

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