



The Gift of Education

A Newsletter of the
FRIENDS OF LADY DOAK COLLEGE
Madurai, India
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Message from the Editor

Jim Helm,
Editor



Message from the Principal

Dr. A. Mercy Pushpalatha,
Principal & Secretary



This is the 2010 edition of our *Gift of Education* Newsletter, providing you with news of what is happening on the campus of Lady Doak.

My wife Anne and I spent January and February on campus and can report that the College is thriving. New majors are being added and enrollment continues to grow, with Commerce, Computer Science, Mathematics, and English being the most popular majors. The physical campus is in excellent shape, and the faculty are as enthusiastic as ever. (Color is less dramatic, however, as you will find more students in western dress than before!) We continued our work in the Archives and with the Alumnae Association and greatly value our association with this distinguished College.

We report here on some of the campus events and developments of the past year and forward messages from alumnae.

Back issues of this Newsletter are available on request from Ladydoakcollege@oberlin.net.

[If you received this Newsletter by post, please save us some postage and send us your email address at ladydoakcollege@oberlin.net and be sure to add this address to your list of allowed senders and contacts to ensure that future mailings you receive from the College aren't mistakenly blocked by antisppam software.]

James J. Helm

Dear Friends and Alumnae,

I am delighted to share with you a few of the recent pleasant experiences of our college community.

New majors are being offered: MPhil in Physics, MPhil in Biotechnology (instead of MPhil in Zoology with spl. in Biotechnology), BCom in Banking and Insurance (instead of BCom.), a UG Diploma in Functional English, a PG Diploma in Bioinformatics, and a PG Diploma in Human Resource Development

Special grants have been received for Capacity Building and Coaching for students from less privileged backgrounds, a Star College Scheme for Strengthening UG Life Sciences, and a Business Incubator with a focus on developing Women Entrepreneurs (LDC is the only Arts and Science College in the country to be selected).

To make the campus more **eco-friendly**, we plan to take action on the recommendations of outside experts who recently did an Energy Audit. We have also installed a small Paper Recycling Unit at the initiative of the Department of Botany.

Nearly 400 alumnae attended the **Alumnae Meet** on 27th Feb. Dr. James Helm made a presentation on the Development of the College entitled "How some of the suggestions and dreams shared by the Alumnae in Feb. 2006, have become a reality at LDC today".



Jim Helm details how alumnae suggestions were implemented

The Principal presented the various needs of the college, and requested the alumnae to pledge funds, academic expertise, involvement in alumnae projects, and help with fund raising for the growth of the College. Mrs. Anne Helm inaugurated the renovated Miriam Hall for use by the Crèche (one of the projects of the Alumnae Association), now renamed “CRIB” (Caring Residence for Infants and Babies).



Anne Helm cuts the ribbon

This year the second **International Student Exchange Programme** was launched in collaboration with Pacific University, Oregon, USA. Two LDC students were selected to pursue a term of study, but only one was issued a VISA to attend.

Katie Wilcox Community College was started in 2008 in Kancharampettai, 36 acres in a beautiful natural setting about 15 kms from our College. That year 28 school dropouts completed a one-year diploma programme to empower them with employable skills. In July 2009, the location was shifted to the main campus, with three Diploma Programmes: Desk-Top Publishing, Medical Lab Technician, and Home Nursing Assistance. Friends, we now plan to develop the **Satellite Campus** further. Please share your dreams and suggestions for any innovative project or programme which can be launched there. Your input will be of great value to us, since you have a passion for the growth and development of our college.

My **Annual Report** is available in our College Website, www.ladydoak.org, detailing the various grants received by the Departments and faculty publications, programmes organized by the departments at the National, State and Regional levels, academic achievements, sports achievements by the students and details of various International Scholars who visited our College.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

A. Mercy Pushpalatha.

The College

In February 2009 an Autonomy Review Committee visited the College and approved continuance of autonomy. The Committee noted that the teaching and learning methods and tools adopted by the college are extremely good, catering to needs of the students, and in particular commended the e-library, the service learning programs, the flexibility of the interdisciplinary programs, and the commitment of the teachers. They rated the department facilities, staff capabilities, infrastructure built up, ambience and the involvement of staff and students all high.

Once again the College has been granted ISO 9001 certification. (The ISO 9001 standard describes the minimum requirements an organization needs to have in place for a Quality Management System - the responsibilities, processes, procedures, activities, capabilities, and resources that are needed to ensure that production and services satisfy requirements or implied needs.)

The Electronic Library has increased the number of books and journals available to students. Fourteen internet-

connected computers are housed in a separate room in the library, with a staff of consultants available to help.



E-Library

The new Pandita Ramabai Hostel for PG students serves the growing number of graduate students.



Pandita Ramabai Hostel

McLaren Hostel has been refurbished.



(See the complete up-dated campus plan at the end of this Newsletter.)

Faculty

The following faculty received the PhD degree:

- Ms. Christianna Singh** (Economics)
- Mrs. Geetha Kanagaraj** (English)
- Mrs. S. Vasantha** (Chemistry)
- Mrs. A. Mahalakshmi** (Zoology)
- Miss B. Sandhya Kiran** (Zoology)
- Mrs. Suka Joshua** (English)
- Mrs. Beatrice D' Couto** (English).

Faculty conducted a large number of workshops and seminars on campus and attended many off-campus, as well. Members of the faculty continue to receive research grants, and publish or present papers. Even students presented papers at conferences and several received prizes for their work.

College Book Publication

Dr. Nirmala Jeyaraj, former Principal & Secretary, has edited a new book, entitled *Introduction to Research Methodology – A Multidisciplinary Approach*.

Student Body

Here are just a sample of the many campus activities:

The English Department effectively produced two dramas, *Lady Windermere's Fan* by Oscar Wilde and Agatha Christie's amusing mystery, *Three Blind Mice*.



A scene from *Three Blind Mice*

Students from the History Department mounted an informative exhibition for 700 secondary school students:



Two History exhibits

Likewise, Physics students presented an exhibit on technology to 800 secondary school students:



Welcome Kolam

Students eager to see the exhibit

The NSS Camp held at Kathakinaru involved street theater.



Alumnae Day, 2010

The special Alumnae meeting was held, as usual, on the last Saturday in February.



Principal's Address



Historical Display



Alumnae Luncheon

An **Alumnae Meeting** was also held in August at the Women's Christian College Auditorium in Chennai. 17 Faculty & 2 non-teaching staff met with about 180

alumnae from Chennai. There were graduates from 1950 onwards. As a follow up to the Chennai Meet, a committee of 6 members was formed from among those who attended the Meet, to enable further action to be taken. Plans are also afoot to gather alumnae in Bangalore, Coimbatore, and elsewhere.



Chennai Alumnae Meet



Informal Alumnae Gathering

LDC Magazines Needed:

The College Archives is looking for copies of the following LDC Magazines to complete its collection: 1951, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1965, 1968-71. If you have any of these, please contact the Editor.

Friends of Lady Doak College

The US Friends of Lady Doak College took another trip to India in January, 2010. Focusing on the culture and social services of South India, the tour group spent a few days in Chennai, touring the city and Mamallapuram, then traveled to Madurai, where Lady Doak College was their base for excursions in the area. Then on to Kerala on the west coast and Kanyakumari at the southern tip. Participants were enthusiastic about the trip, particularly the stay at LDC, and were impressed with the work the College is doing.

Five LDC students were the recipients of scholarships from the LDC Endowment. They are second-year majors in Biotechnology, Business Administration, Information Technology, and Physics

(2). All are from needy families and making good progress in their studies.



Scholarship Students meet with Anne & Jim Helm

Alumnae Notes

Raziya Farook (English 1966-1969) wrote from Los Angeles: Thank you for your mail. I feel proud to be an Alumna of my beloved Lady Doak College and feel happy that I am being contacted! Thanks and regards, Raziya

Bhooma V G (Social Sciences 1983-1986): After LDC I passed the Government of India's Civil Services Exam and joined the Indian Railway Personnel Service. I earned an MA in Industrial Psychology from the University of Madras in 1988 and a Bachelor of Law from the University of Madras in 1997. Now with twenty years' experience in senior positions in Government of India handling varied portfolios I am the Chief Personnel Officer of South Eastern Railway.

In my career I have had the opportunity to work in all areas of HRM and have improved systems through pioneering innovation and change. Since I view learning as an intrinsic part of a career, I serve on the University of Madras Board of Studies in Psychology, facilitate various academic sessions, take part in training Institutes of Indian Railways and workshops on Personal Development and Skills, and teach in institutions like the Central Board of Workers' Education, University of Madras.

I was selected in 2000 for the Best School Correspondent by the Lions Club for my role as the ex-officio Correspondent of Railway Higher Secondary School in Chennai, in 2003 the British Chevening Scholarship for Women in Leadership and Management from the British Foreign office, in 2006 the Outstanding Woman Manager of the year by the Madras Management Association, and in 2008 the Director General's medal for the best performance in the Advanced Management Program for the senior managers of Indian Railways. I was the Project Leader for the project "e-Enabled Employee" which won the CSI Nihilent National e-Governance Award for the Year 2007-2008.

I am a member of the following organisations: All India Management Association, National Institute of Personnel Management, FICCI Ladies Organisation of Chennai, and am the Joint Secretary of the Chennai Chapter of the Association of British Scholars. My article on the "History of Indian Railways in Chennai" has recently been published in the Gazetteer of Madras.

I will be glad to be in touch and do what I can for the college. Regards, Bhooma

Augusty Flora (Physics 1991-1994): After my studies in LDC I finished my PG in MKU and now am in Canada working for GenesisCircle. Thanks for contacting me. Best Regards, Flora



Flora Chris

Anitha S (English Literature 1993-1996, PG 1996-1998): At present I'm working as an Asst. Professor of English in VVV college at Virudhunagar. Anitha

Bhuvana K P (Physics 1999-2002): After finishing my BSc, I obtained my MSc degree from IIT Madras, and Ph.D. at National Institute of Technology. Then I got married and settled at Chennai. I was working as a lecturer in SRM Valliammai Engineering College till March 2010. Presently I am working as a Technical Officer at Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, (CIPET), Chennai, (a central Government organization). Dr. K. P. Bhuvana (Technical Officer, Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Chennai)



Dr. K.P. Bhuvana

Faustina Sathishdas (ITM 2000-2004): Hi, I am really proud to say that I did my BSc in LDC. I stayed at James Doak for the 1st year and Wilcox Hostel for the next 2 years. After LDC, I was married in 2006 and I am currently working as an Administrative Director in my own software company [SGS GROUP PVT LTD] in Chennai for the past 3 years.

I am really thankful to LDC for all that I am today. I have to mention that it was only LDC that helped me grow spiritually also. Thanks for your updates. Please do keep on updating information regarding LDC. Regards, Faustina



Faustina and Satish

Sri Lakshmi Arundchand (Social Sciences 2000-2004): At present I am staying in London and have a 5 year old kid. I will be always glad to hear from you and recent happening in our college. Bye. Thank you.

With Regards, Sri Lakshmi

Anis Fathima (English 2001-2004, MA English 2004-2006) [**Inadvertently omitted from the 2008 Newsletter! Our apologies!**]: I finished my MPhil in MKU and currently am working as an executive secretary in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. Anis



Anis Fathima

Dafny Rajasekaran (ITM, 2001-2004): It was a great blessing to do my under graduation at LDC. I still cherish the wonderful days of college life over there. I would say it was one of the turning points of my life. Thanks to the inspiring staff and the amazing facilities. I loved going to the chapel everyday. In those three years, I not only gained knowledge but also confidence and faith in God. It was also wonderful to have my Mom (who is my best friend) in the campus. Later, I did my MCA at PSG Tech and I got placed in TCS. Now I got married and living with husband in WI, USA. I thank and appreciate your efforts towards our college. Dafny



Dafny & John

Devi Arunachalam (ITM 2001-2004, PG Diploma in Personnel Management and Public Relations 2004-2005): After graduating, I got married and moved to the US. I was at home for a couple of years and wanted to do something other than keeping a good home. I decided to study further and received a Diploma in IT project management at Boston University in 2008. Then I did my internship in a company called eEquilibrium in Boston. They were providing software as an energy saving solution. I then moved on to a full time job after my internship. I am now working for Humedica as a quality engineer, a health informatics company. I am hoping to carry over my diploma credits and get my masters in information systems as a part time student at Boston University this year. Wish you all the very best! Devi

Vishaliny (ITM 2001-2004, PGDPM & PR 2004-2005): Hi, got married, settled in Hyderabad, and have a 3 yr old daughter. Basically I am a Home maker, but do some free lancing on holiday planning, hotel booking, flight booking. Vishaliny

Brindha D (English 2002-2005) Thanks for your mail, dear LDC girls; we still feel proud to keep in touch with our college. I haven't received any newsletters yet and wish to get them. Regarding my life, recently I got

married and have settled in Bangalore. I was an English teacher for the past five years and enjoyed my profession a lot. For now I'm enjoying my marriage life with my new parents, brothers and sister, and specially my husband too. I wish to continue my teaching profession as well. This is all about me. Do send newsletters. I wish you all successes dear LDC. Brindha

[Editor's note: we did send her all the past Newsletters and will do the same for others – just let us know which ones you want.]

Josephine Gladys C (English 2002-2008) Now I'm in Tuticorin doing my PhD in Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.

Reena Ruby T S (Mathematics 2002-2007): Hi friends, Proud to be a Doakian. After my graduations from LDC, I continued my studies doing my BEd Degree and then my MEd. Qualified with JRF and SET in Education now I am working as a Lecturer in Education at Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal. Thank you so much for keeping mailing me since leaving LDC. With regards, Reena S

Abilasha (English 2003-06, PG English 2006-08): hi, dis is abilasha(2003-06,2006-08 ug.pg english). so happy 2 c smthing frm ldc.really happy coz its smthing like oasis. currently am working as a lecturer at kalasalingam university, srivilliputhur. two doakians jaya chithra (ug, pg eng) and suganya (pg eng) r here with me. plz do email d news letters 2 me. hw i miss rachel mam (botany dept) n principal mam (nirmala mam) n my dept! hw i miss international study centre! hostels! stone benches! chapel! street theatre! GJ auditorium! (street theatre n GJ r classy. am yet 2 find such nice places). i know am going out of syllabus. but d moment i c d name jim helm i m searching anne's name. i know u wil not remember me. but i do coz u were my guest for d hostel day i arranged as a JCAR. then i was juz a student office bearer organising things n u were so kind 2 me. thank u 4 being kind 2 me. with love, abilasha

Anitha R (Social Sciences 2003-2006): I'm very glad to read of our college's progress... Thanks for conveying the message... With regards, Anitha

Abirami (Commerce 2004-2007) writes, Hey Doakians, Last year's newsletter had told that I was a happy wife and now I'm a proud mother of a 4 month old son, Advaith. :) We live in Bangalore and I'm a stay-at-home

mom. Enclosed are a few more mail IDs of my batchmates. Cheers, Abirami

Preethi N (Commerce CA 2004-2007): I continued my studies by completing my MBA in The American College, in 2007-2009. At present I am seeking a job. I am very glad on receiving this mail. Preethi.N



Preethi

Subashini M (Commerce CA 2004-2007): Hello friends, After LDC I did my MBA and now I am working as an Administrative Officer in a good and reputed education institution that is Dr. Radhakrishnan Vidhyalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Sattur. I can happily say that Lady Doak College has given me a very good graduate base for the successful development of my career. I thank all the faculties of the Commerce Department, Principal, and other members of the college who have given me a chance to appear in this newsletter as an alumna. Best wishes to all the viewers of this newsletter. With thanks and regards, Subashini

Arifa C (Computer Science 2005-2008): Dear Doakians! Warm Greetings to LDC! I did my MSc (CS) from T.C.A. and am currently working as a Software Engineer in Kalsofte (in Ludhiana city). Wedding Bells arrived by 10-05-2009, and my Husband, Mr. H. Sulthan, is a Project Manager at Kalsofte. With God's Grace Life is going Well and Good. There will be some moments in life, for everyone, which would make them feel joy, great, for me it's absolutely my LDC days. Each and Every Moment is a valuable and golden moment for me. While our days we gangly named by "10 stars" of BCA, I am glad to list our names: Arifa, Shobana, Sreeja, Priya, Meena, Shalini, Shakila, Vidya, Vidya Raj, Gomathi. Really it's a gift days for me. My Hearty wishes for every Doakian.

Proud to be an Doakian!

Thank You For Remembering me. Keep in touch with all news, magazines which I wish to know. With Regards, Arifa Sulthan



Sulthan & Arifa

Kavitha Kumari B (Mathematics with Computer Applications 2005-2008): Dear All, Really I am very proud to be a Doakian and also very happy to receive all the updates about my College. After finishing my college life in July 2008 I joined Infosys Bhuvaneshwar. Now I am working in Infosys, Mysore, as a "Testing Executive" almost 2 years to complete. Meanwhile I am doing MBA in IGNOU correspondence.

Best Regards, Kavitha.



Kavitha Kumari

Meena S (Zoology - Biotech 2005-2008): I am now working as a Marketing Executive in Bharath Rubber (India) Limited, Madurai. Thanks and Regards, Meena

Shansi Fellows

Anna Carol Kingdon Dudley (1952-1954) writes: I taught fifth-form English at OCPM and directed plays and a women's chorus at Lady Doak College in Madurai. Also studied South Indian singing and jalantharangam (water bowls). And got acquainted with Dick Dudley. 1954-56: After two years back at Oberlin, got a Master's in the Conservatory (thesis on raga theory) and married Dick. 1957: moved to Berkeley, began a professional singing career and started a family (three sons, all

Oberlin graduates). I have continued singing and teaching, and recently gave a recital on my 77th birthday. 1969-71: We lived in Delhi, working for Joe Elder's College Year in India program. I also toured India and Afghanistan giving USIS-sponsored recitals, and produced our third son. The Shansi fellowship gave me, in addition to a husband, a lifelong connection to India - its people, its history and geography, its music and dance and food - and a reminder of how much music meant to me.

Cynthia Scherr (1982-1983) and her family were at Lady Doak in December, 2008. She addressed a group of faculty and students on 'Organizational Leadership' and gave a special number during the College Carol Service. Below are a couple of photos from her visit.



Dr. Mercy Pushpalatha, Dr. Jayamathy Frank, Cynthia Scherr, and Dr. Beulah Rajkumar



The LDC Chapel Choir (with Cynthia's daughter turning pages)

Remembering Miss George

As a Shansi Rep (Fellow still doesn't sound quite right) at Lady Doak College from October 1955 until May 1958, it was my privilege to know many outstanding women, among them Elizabeth George, Philosophy Professor and Vice Principal. Her character, her generosity of spirit and searching intellect won my heart.

During my third year at LDC I worked under Miss George, as a philosophy tutor teaching modern European philosophy to fourth-year majors. This close association was enriched by a philosophy-history excursion to her home state of Kerala.

My last trip in South India was to her beautiful home, "Chattannore," where I again met her younger sister,

who ran a nursery school, and her 80-year old mother—warm and dignified, still an active member of the household. In 1964, with my friend Susan Geiger, I stayed in the newly-built guest cottage and experienced anew the loving hospitality so typical of the family at “Chattannore.”

Perhaps apocryphal, but this is the story I heard: one day an English (or Scottish) philosophy teacher announced enthusiastically in the faculty room of Women’s Christian College in Madras, “I have found my successor!” Indeed she had. It was Elizabeth George, who would go on to study with Norman Kemp Smith and earn an M.A. at Edinburgh University and return to WCC to become its first Indian Principal.

That the climate in Madras aggravated Miss George’s asthma and forced her resignation resulted in an unexpected gift for Lady Doak College. All of us who knew Miss George gained immeasurably from her unstinting friendship and wisdom.

Gail Baker, August 2009

Our Donors

The Lady Doak College Endowment Fund is managed through the Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which is one of several groups that support Lady Doak. In the past 6 years, over \$200,000 has been contributed. Several endowed scholarships have been established:

Marie Helm Scholarship

James & Dorothy Holliday Cummings Scholarship

Robert & Frances Holmes Scholarship

Barbara Leonard Scholarship

Lindholm Scholarship

Ida Menzel Endowed Scholarship

All are still open for contributions, as is the general fund. Contributions can be made to Wider Church Ministries (with notation “Lady Doak College Endowment Fund”) and sent to WCM, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland OH 44115.

As usual, we like to thank those generous friends who have contributed to the Endowment Fund over the past year.

THANK YOU!

