The Gift of Education
A Newsletter of the
FRIENDS OF LADY DOAK COLLEGE
Madurai, India
Number 10: June, 2012

CONTACT INFORMATION
Lady Doak College: ldcpr@yahoo.com
Lady Doak College Alumnae Association: ldcalumnaae@yahoo.co.in
Newsletter: Ladydoakcollege@oberlin.net
Editor: J. Helm: 82 Kendal Drive, Oberlin OH 44074 USA
Web Address: http://www.ladydoak.org/

Message from the Editor
Jim Helm, Editor

This is the 2012 edition of our Gift of Education Newsletter, providing you friends of Lady Doak College with news about the College.

As usual 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.

Message from the Principal
Dr. A. Mercy Pushpalatha, Principal & Secretary

Dear Friends
I am pleased to get connected with you through this Newsletter. I invite you to open up the college website and read through the Annual Report of the College. [www.ladydoakcollege.edu.in/sites/default/files/Annual%20Report.pdf] You may see in the report that outstanding achievements of the alumnae are also included. Hence, I invite you to share your achievements with us, which we can upload in the college website and in the college Face Book.

The college has a video conferencing facility now, the objectives of which are
• To use it for academic purposes such as online courses, online discussions, online lectures, etc.
• To strengthen the alumnae network around the globe
If some of you plan for a gathering in your place, we can have a Virtual Alumnae Meet through this Video Conferencing facility!

You may be happy to know that we are planning for an alumnae meet at Singapore in August 2012. Dr. Nagammai, the HOD of the Commerce Department, is coordinating this trip to Singapore. If you know any of our alumnae residing at Singapore, please let us know. This is the first International LDC Alumnae Chapter that is going to be initiated. We are very much excited about this.

We are planning for some definite projects to be started in our Satellite Campus at Vellichanatham. The details of the projects, will be uploaded in the College Face Book.
If you visit Madurai or India, please do step into your alma mater. Your visit to the College campus, will definitely be of encouragement to us.

Be in touch! Wishing you all the best,
A. Mercy Pushpalatha.
The College

Infrastructure
During the past year, the following facilities have been added on campus:
- Multi Media Theatre II
- Sound Proof Recording Theatre & Media Lab
- Video Conferencing Facility
- Internet Facility upgrades
- Solar Street Lamps Installation
- Fresh Fruit Juice Corner
- 2nd floor of the Non-Teaching Staff quarters
- Fencing for the Satellite Campus

Art Museum
A grant has been received from the University Grants Commission to establish an Art Museum at the College. So far coins of different dynasties in India and photos of monuments have been purchased for the Museum.

Green Initiatives
Lady Doak College’s concern for protecting the environment has led to the initiation of the following “Go Green” initiatives:
- Paper Recycling Unit (Botany Department)
  Waste paper at the College is collected and recycled for printing invitations for all College programs. The Unit has also sold Christmas and New Year greetings made with this recycled paper.
- Waste Management on Campus (Chemistry Dept.)
  An Eco Project on Plastic Recycling emphasizes judicial usage, the segregation and safe disposal of plastic, and waste management through aerobic oxidation of waste to produce compost.
- Energy Conservation through Solar
  The College has installed 34 Solar Street Lamps to reduce electrical usage.

Curriculum
The following new courses of study have been introduced:
- BCom in Professional Accounting (Department of Commerce)
- PG Diploma in Counselling and Psychotherapy (Department of Social Sciences)
- MSc in Nanoscience as an interdisciplinary program, jointly offered by the Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Biotechnology.

A New Scholarship has been established by former Shansi Rep Gail Baker in honor of Elizabeth George, a former faculty member and Vice Principal of Lady Doak College. The four-year scholarship will be awarded alternately to an undergraduate student majoring in Tamil or English.

Faculty
The following faculty members have received the PhD degree:
- Mrs. Nirmala Mariappan, Mathematics
- Ms. M. K. Jayalakshmi, Social Sciences
- Mrs. P. Vanitha Malarvizhi, Commerce
- Mrs. Sangara Nachiar, Librarian
- Ms. Pappa, Tamil
- Mrs. Rosy, Tamil (part-time)
- Ms. Sayira Banu, Economics
- Ms. Shailaja, Chemistry

Five more faculty members have been recognized as research guides for the PhD degree by Madurai Kamaraj University. Faculty received five major research grants and one minor grant and published 19 research papers during 2011-2012, while 28 faculty are taking part in the Faculty Research Projects in the adopted village of Thondamanapatti and 18 are engaged in College-sponsored Projects on Environmental Research. One hundred and thirty-seven participated in seminars and conferences and eighty-eight presented papers.

Archives
The history of Lady Doak College is a fascinating story that deserves to be preserved. For this reason the J.X. Miller Library established an archives collection in 2003 that focuses on the College’s history and the biography of its founder, Miss Katie Wilcox.

The Mission Statement is this: “Lady Doak College systematically collects, organizes, describes, preserves, promotes, and makes available official records (textual and non-textual) and personal papers of enduring historical, legal, administrative, and fiscal value.”

Located in the library, the Archives includes the College Constitution, a history of the College, LDC magazines, handbooks, and other College publications, Principal’s reports, numerous other reports on academic matters, and records of departments and programs. Much of this material has been preserved in digital form.

Particularly important are 150 large group photos of the faculty and of the student body, taken annually from 1952 to 1970. An exhibition of some of these photos was presented on Alumnae Day 2006 for identification and recollection of sweet memories.

As Jim and Anne Helm were instrumental in starting the Archives and gathering and organizing the materials, the Archives Committee voted to name the collection “The Helm Archives” in appreciation of their service.
Further memorabilia, photos of the early years of the College, and certain issues of the College magazine are still needed and would be welcome additions to the collection. These LDC Magazines are missing: 1975, 1977, 1980, 1983, and 1986. If you have any of these or other materials, please contact the Editor: (jameshelm@oberlin.net). The story continues to unfold.

**Who was Lady Doak?**

Among the first donors to the College were Sir James and Lady Doak, the former Helen Gaylord. Helen was the daughter of a New England pastor who had taken his family on a trip visiting mission stations around the world after she graduated from Wellesley College in 1924. When they visited India, she found that a teaching position was vacant at the Capron Hall School and readily accepted it. A few months later she met and fell in love with James Doak, a Scottish manager of the Madura Mills in Madurai, and they were married in the Capron Hall Church. Later James Doak became head of the Mills and was knighted for his service to India during World War II; Helen thus became Lady Doak. The support of the Doaks was crucial to the development of the College and to keeping it afloat in its early years. Because of her friend’s constant support of the College, Katie Wilcox had the College named in her honor.

Meanwhile Lady Doak College Hall was rising, with the cornerstone for the first (south) half of the ground floor being laid on 2 March 1948, by Lady Doak herself:

This segment was completed in 1950, and in 1951 the science laboratories were moved into the building from Van Allen Hall. Within a few years the east and west wings were added:

Then in 1963 the north half was completed with a gift from the United Church Board for World Ministries. Thus it took 15 years to construct the building around a central court to form a harmonious structure.

At this point the entrance to the College was reoriented north and the front gate was constructed.

**History: Lady Doak College Hall**

The College first met in three open thatched sheds, (which led to students of other colleges nicknaming it “Thatti College”!) The largest of the sheds, “A” shed, was used as a chapel, classroom, auditorium and staff room.

In 1962 a central fountain was donated by Mohamed Hanif in memory of his wife, Kamunissa Hanif Karigar.
An extension was added in 1988, and a West annex in 2006.

Student Body

International Student Exchange for Academic Credit
- D. Abinaya of II Commerce studied for one semester at Mary Baldwin College, Virginia, from Jan.-May, 2012.
- The two cadets from Mary Baldwin College, Shekira Ramdass and Tyla Stormes, studied at Lady Doak College from 17 Dec. to 25 April.

Student Achievements

Four MSW students received a Fellowship for their project on “Women and PHCs in Madurai”, and two cadets have been awarded NCC Sahara Scholarships. Seven students undertook the 2011 Summer Research Programme of the National Science Academies. Finally, students from 4 departments won the “Overall Shield” at 14 different academic intercollegiate meets.

In debate, Roseline Victoria and S. Cynthia won the 1st and 2nd prize respectively at the university level. Debate Competition held at Madurai Kamaraj University and also participated in the 7th National Debate Competition at New Delhi. LDC students took part in a debate program conducted by Vijay TV and won the 1st prize, with the show telecast in Dec. 2011. They also won the 1st prize in the II Level competition held in March.

Lady Doak College has retained the MKU Aggregate Team Championship (“Champion of Champions”) Trophy which they have held for all but one of the last 20 years, winning in Athletics, Basketball, Kho-Kho, Ball-badminton, Hockey, Handball, Table Tennis, Weight Lifting, and being runner-up in Volleyball, Football, Swimming, and Kabbadi.

Alumnae Meet – Bengaluru Chapter

An Alumnae Meet was conducted at Bengaluru on 27th August 2011 at the United Mission Junior Degree College. 20 staff members from the College attended the meet with 55 alumnae of different age groups ranging from 77 years to 20 years and members of their family.

Alumnae Notes

Kalaivani M (Tamil, 1969-1972): Hi. I completed my BA in Tamil Literature in 1972. Mrs. Thiyyagarajan was our HOD. My classmates are Saraswathi, Kamala Akka, Vatsala, Margaretee. I forgot other my friends’ names, but I am so eager and curious to meet and share our happiest past. I want to know about my friends (any meet arranged at Madurai only).

I finished my BEd in 1989 and then worked at some private schools. Now I am settled at Chennai. OK. Bye, Kalaivani Jeyaraman

Latha Krishnan (MA English 1981-83): Thank you for your email. I am receiving the newsletters regularly and I hope it continues to do so. As a student I was 1st rank holder Best Student Prize Winner and then Assistant Professor of English (1984-85). Presently I am a freelance journalist and feature writer in Dubai. I left the job I loved at LDC, as I had married an engineer employed in Saudi Arabia and had to relocate. I taught English to high school students in Dammam for two years and then relocated to Dubai in 1990, where I taught high school and then undergraduates till 2004. I started contributing business, travel and other features to Gulf News publications from 1994 onwards and now write for several publications including Khaleej Times, Clean Middle East, Waste & Recycling Middle East, etc. I have one daughter, who is a corporate lawyer in Bangalore. Warm regards and best wishes, Latha Krishnan

Sharmila S.N.D.K. (Zoology 1983-1986): Hai, I am now Sharmila Chandrasekar, residing at Chennai from 2004. My husband is a doctor, Dr.T.S.Chandrasekar, gastroenterologist. We run MEDINDIA HOSPITALS at Chennai and Coimbatore meant specially for digestive diseases. I am the joint director for that and I look after the administration to a certain extent besides being a good housewife. I am blessed with a son who has completed MBBS in 2012 and a daughter who is doing her
second year B.E. in computer science. I am eager to know about my friends now. Sharmila

Chithra Sanathkumar (Chemistry 1986-1989): After LDC I did PG diploma in Computer Applications in Chennai and got married in 1990. I then moved to Mississauga, Canada, in 1998 with my husband and son. In 2001, once again we were blessed with twin boys. I pursued PCP–Payroll Compliance Practitioner–in Canada and currently work as a Payroll Administrator for Canada’s largest Cargo Airline company for past few years. My husband is a Program Manager for a leading Automotive industry. My eldest son is studying 3rd year Hons. Mechatronics and the twins are in Grade 4.

I enjoyed my short stay at LDC : ) I wish to visit our campus some time in the future!

All the best to the current Lady Doak students!

Chithra

Sureka Varalakshmi (Zoology spl. 1990-1993): Dr Rawlin was HOD in my time. I did my MSc in human physiology from Madras University(1993-1996). Then I took my doctorate in Medical Physiology from St.Johns Medical College, Bangalore (2001- 2005). At present I am working as Associate Professor in the Dept of Physiology in SUT Academy of Medical Sciences, Trivandrum. My contact no is 09895999463. It will be great pleasure if I can get in touch with all my friends. Thank you, Sureka.

J. Vasanthi (Commerce 1994-1997): Greetings! Thank you for contacting me. After LDC I did my post graduation MCom (Banking & Insurance Management), MPhil (Commerce), Bachelor of Library Information Science, and Master of Library Information Science from Madurai Kamaraj University, and I am planning to do PhD in Library Science.

I worked as a Librarian in ICFAI, Chennai, during 2006-2010. At present I am working as Senior. Librarian with Amity Global Business School, Chennai. I am married, and my husband V Wisdom Samraj is working as Controller of Examinations in the Institute of Technology and Management, Chennai, and we have a daughter, Irene studying 6th standard.

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. Convey my special regards to all in the Department of Commerce. Thank you.

Regards, J.Vasanthi


J. Jerlin Showmya (Biotechnology 2005-2008): I completed MSc Biotechnology in Women’s Christian College, Chennai, MPhil Biotechnology in Mother Teresa Women’s University, Kodaikanal, and am currently doing PhD in Mother Teresa Women’s University. Thank you. Jerlin Showmya

Santha Sorubini (Physics 2005-2008): I am a student at the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Kolkata, pursuing a Master of Fashion Management Degree. Please do send me the Newsletters.

Regards, Santha Sorubini
Shansi Reps/Fellows
Jazmin Guerrero (2011-2013) conducted a semester-long program this past year on “Learning Japanese“.

Our Donors
Lady Doak College is grateful for the many contributions made this past year to the Lady Doak College Endowment Fund. The balance of the fund is now $250,000, and in the past eight years over $31,000 has been sent to the College. The fund is still open for contributions, as are the specific scholarship funds. 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 since our last Newsletter:

THANK YOU!