Message from the Editor

Jim Helm, Editor

This is the 2011 edition of our Gift of Education Newsletter, providing you with news of what is happening on the campus of Lady Doak.

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.

[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 antispam software.]

Message from the Principal

Dr. A. Mercy Pushpalatha,
Principal & Secretary

Dear Friends and Alumnae,

I am immensely pleased to get in touch with you through this newsletter.

I request you to look into our present college website www.ladydoak.org for my annual report presented during the College Day Celebrations that gives you details about new courses to be offered from the next academic year, grants received, achievements of faculty and students, and highlights of all Departments and Centres. For more details you are welcome to contact me through email at ldcpr@yahoo.com

You may be happy to know that we are in the process of creating a new website: www.ladydoakcollege.edu.in which will have an exclusive alumnae portal. Once it’s ready for launching, all our alumnae contacts will be informed about it. We plan to have an alumnae meet at Bangalore in Aug. 2011. We plan to bring the college publication of our research, Journal ‘ASPIRE’ (Rs. 100) and our Students’ Music DVD ‘SPARK’ (Rs. 100) for the Bangalore meet.
Currently two of our students are in a one semester exchange programme at Mary Baldwin College, Virginia, USA: Ms. Jane Elsie Susan and Ms. Aarthy B.

One post-graduate student, Ms. Gayathri from Masters of Social Work, is in a summer internship at University of Waterloo, Canada.

Ms. Jaanu Surendran of II B.A. English has been selected by US Consulate for a 6-week exchange program titled “Study of the United Sates Institute (SUSI) for student leaders on Women’s Leadership”. She will be in the University of Kansas in the United States from 15th June to 26th July 2011.

The college is planning for an International Conference on Science, Society and Sustainability with a theme on “Many Species, One Planet for Prosperity” in Jan. 2012. Details are available in our college website. Those who are working in related areas are welcome to come and present papers.

Under the UGC Innovative programme, we have received grants for starting M.Sc. Nanoscience, which is an interdisciplinary Masters Programme offered by the Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Biotechnology. A separate lab is set up as a Nanoscience lab in the ground floor of the College Hall.

With the grants from UGC, a Centre for Media-Centric Teaching and Learning will be established, through which we plan to evolve e-content modules prepared by all departments.

Our Katie Wilcox Community College has been approved by the Indira Gandhi National Open University. This year 25 students are successfully completing their Diploma Programme this College.

To make the campus more eco-friendly, 32 12-watt solar street lights have been installed on campus. The kitchen garden (around Harilakshmi and Wilcox Halls) provides vegetables and greens to be sold for the college community.

The campus networking will be strengthened by rewiring and recabling during this summer. Three rooms are being built up in the 2nd floor behind Golden Jubilee Auditorium in which one room will be equipped for Video Conferencing.

The college is planning to strengthen Alumnae Networking around the globe. Suggestions from alumnae are invited in this regard. It’s our dream to organize virtual alumnae meets through the video conferencing facility. This year we plan to have honorary Institutional Advancement Associates, who will be in touch with the Alumnae constantly through email, assisting the management to get connected with the alumnae around the globe electronically.

The portals of Lady Doak College are always open to you. The Annual Alumnae Meet will be on the last Saturday of September every year. Plan your visit to Madurai during this time if possible.

Looking forward to hearing from you

A. Mercy Pushpalatha

The College

New courses of study have been introduced:

- MPhil Physics
- MPhil Biotechnology (instead of MPhil Zoology with spl. in Biotechnology)
- BCom Banking and Insurance (instead of BCom)
- PG Diploma in Human Resou8rce Development
- PG Diploma in Bioinformatics

A brainstorming session has been held to consider appropriate uses for the 36-acre Satellite Campus located at Vellichanatham, 20 km from Madurai. Many good ideas were brought forward.

See the 2010 Newsletter at ladydoak.org.
Faculty

The following faculty members have received the PhD degree:
- Mrs. Suka Joshua, English Department
- Mrs. Beatrice D’Couto, English Department
- Mrs. Beulah Jeyashree, English Department
- Mrs. Mary Sunithi Vijayan, Mathematics Department
- Mrs. Shanti Meena, Physical Education Department
- Ms. Kiruba Jeyaseeli, Physical Education Department
- Ms. Mageswari, Tamil Department

Seven more faculty members have been recognized as research guides for the PhD degree by Madurai Kamaraj University. Faculty received three major research grants and two minor grants and published 15 research papers during 2010-2011. 10 participated in international conferences.

Student Body

Two LDC PhD students have received their degrees:
- Mr. C. John Wesly Kirubakaran under the guidance of Dr. R. Dinakaran Michael
- Mr. K. Ramakrishnan under the guidance of Dr. R. Shenbagarathai

Students studying abroad in LDC exchange programs were at Pacific University in Oregon, USA, and Mary Baldwin College in Virginia, USA. Meanwhile, students from Waterloo University in Canada, Seoul Women’s University in South Korea, International Christian University in Japan, and Chung Chi College in Hong Kong spent time on the LDC campus for the service-learning program.

LDC students continue to excel in sports, receiving the intercollegiate championship trophy, called the “Champion of Champions Trophy”, which has belonged to Lady Doak College for all but one of the past 20 years!

Alumnae

In July 32 former students gathered to reminisce and celebrate at the first regional meeting of alumnae in Nagercoil. Then in September 250 enthusiastic alumnae gathered at the College for the Annual Alumnae Meet (now regularly scheduled in the fall).

Alumnae Notes

Maheswari Vijayakumar (History 1980-1982): Hai friends, now I am staying at Mumbai Anushakti Nagar. Anybody from this batch please contact me. Please inform me if there is any get-together in the Alumnae Association. Thanks. Maheswari

Angeline Thelma Paul (Economics 1981-1984): I am very grateful to all the Professors who were a source of encouragement during my time at the college and gave me opportunities to grow and develop various skills and also be part of co-curricular activities. While at the college I was in the Choir for three years. I thoroughly enjoyed being in the Choir and also thank Mrs. Beulah for her support and encouragement. I also had the privilege to be the President of the Student Christian Moment. Since leaving College I worked as a Primary School teacher in Chennai for a year and then got married and moved to Muscat (Sultanate of Oman) in 1986 as my Husband was working for the Government there. While in Muscat I worked as a secretary for a well-established company and gave birth to two Boys. In 2003 we migrated to Australia for our Son’s higher education, and since then I have been working for Children Services. With Kind Regards, Thelma Paul

Bhanu Murugan (Social Sciences 1981-84): After my graduation from LDC, I did my Masters in Social Work. We were in Hosur, Jakarta, and Singapore before moving to Sydney, Australia in 2003. My husband works in IBM. My son and daughter are in University. I am so proud to be a product of Lady Doak College. We had the best wonderful Professors who taught us the value of life and guided us to be more useful to the society where we belong.
Friends of Lady Doak College Newsletter, May 2011

With the latest technical developments, alumnae of LDC are able to reunite with ourselves through Orkut and Facebook. I have listed the Alumnae groups links of Facebook and Orkut:
http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/home.php?sk=group_116175121777362&ap=1
http://www.orkut.com/Main#Community?cmm=14828803
http://www.orkut.com/Main#Community?cmm=7669247

Hope there would be more participation from the alumnae for this year's newsletter. Once again thanks for your wonderful service to our college. Regards, Bhanu

Vijaya Muralidharan (English 1981-1984) Hai all, I joined as Vijaya Ananthanarayan in 1981 and got married in the 2nd year!! I have 2 sons in the US. I am working in Padma Seshadri, a reputed school in Chennai for the past 20 years. I learnt with my sons - completed BEd, MA and MPhil, and now teach English for 9, 10, 11, and 12. I owe a lot to this institution, i.e., LDC. for what I am now! As a proud LDCian I am happy to be a part of this great community! Vijaya

Meena Srinivasan (Sociology 1981-84): I stood first in all the subjects and represented alumnae from my dept. At present doing business. I have 2 daughters; elder one got married and second one finished her engg. If you need more info do mail me. Regards, Meena

Prasanna Ranjith (History 1981-84) lives in Chennai with her family.

Sujatha Ramanan (Eng Lit 1981-1984): I am now residing in New Delhi, working as a Tamil News Reader Cum Translator on a casual basis with All India Radio, News Services Division. I do translation work & am also a voice-over artiste working for many private & govt advertisements & promotional campaigns. I am also working as a Tamil interpreter for the Canadian Embassy.

Uma Vijayakumar (Economics 1983-1986): After my graduation I was living in Coimbatore, Tumkur, Hosur and Chennai until November 1992 due to my husband's employment. In December 1992 we came to USA and since then we are living in New York. Presently I work as an Accountant in one of biggest diamond jewelry manufactures and distributors in the Diamond District of New York in Manhattan. My husband D Vijayakumar is working with US Government in their NYC Department of Environmental Protection as an Engineer. We have only son V. Divakar completed his studies in Finance and Investing and is working in a Canadian Bank as a Wealth Management Associate.

I fondly remember my days in Lady Doak and my friends with whom I spent my memorable days in life. I still miss my friends and that campus that is filled with love and affection and taught me good things in my life. I am also looking forward to hearing from Lady Doak Alumnae from USA or from around the world.

With Warm Regards, Uma Vijayakumar

Usha Kunchitapatam (Maths 1983-1986): After a short stint at Indian Bank, I moved to the US where I currently live with my family. I look forward to meeting more of my friends and collegemates. Usha

Usha Shenbagaraj (Eng 1986-1989): This is really really nice. I am married and settled in Madurai. Have two lovely girls - Samyuktha and Shefalika. Husband Shenbagaraj develops e-textbooks for American Students. I own and run the famous Dheepam Library. Besides lending out novels I also do Light Weight Book Binding of School and College books and note books. Occasionally when the need arises, I scribe for visually challenged students both in Tamil and Tamil. Usha

Suganya Elangovan (Zoology 1987-1990): I am currently in Chennai. My husband is a deputy director in the department of industries and commerce. I have a daughter doing her 2nd year B.Sc electronic media. I am a home maker. Sugi
Friends of Lady Doak College Newsletter, May 2011

Femina Askar Mallick (BCom 1991-94): I studied ACCA and am currently working as an accountant in the UK. The credit goes to the LDC commerce department for what I am today. Thanks to facebook, now all of my class mates are in contact with each other. We really enjoyed our days at LDC. Femina

Femina & Mallick with Tarik & Faris

Sumathy Balu (Maths 1994-1997): I saw Bhanu's message in facebook. Now I am running a company named View360, doing virtual tours. You can check it in our website www.view360.in. [Editor's note: these are really impressive sites!] We have done more than 100 tourist places in Tamilnadu and are now doing a virtual tour of Ajanta (view360.in/ajanta) and Ellora. We also do virtual tours for Colleges, Hotels and Resorts, and more... Please check the link and enjoy the virtual tour. Thank you, Sumathy

J. Vasanthi (Commerce 1994-1997): During College I worked for LDC in the Women's Studies Center. Now I got married and am blessed with one daughter going to 5th std. My husband is working in ITM as controller of Examinations, and I am updated with MCOM, MLIS, MPHIL. Presently I am working as Librarian in Amity Global Business School in Chennai. It's purely on God's grace and the credit goes to LDC. Thank you. Regards, J Vasanthi

Femina Askar Mallick with Tarik & Faris and family

Dr. Yuvana Satya Priya (Botany 1995-1998): Hello, Everybody. I am pleased to receive your mail which I feel boosts up my stamina to work hard with all my spirit as a Doakian. Very recently I got appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Residential Coaching Academy at BabaSaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Central University, Lucknow, U. P. This is the latest upgradation in my career. It makes me feel me great that even after 13 years there is someone who remembers us and keeps track of our achievements. Hats off to you!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You are incomparable, Keep it up. We will be always grateful to gurus our mentors and all Doakian friends. All thanks to Almighty God who gave us the opportunity to spend at least 3 years of our life in this precious institute. Cheers, Yuvana Satya Priya

Yuvana Satya Priya

Sri Lakshmi Arundchand (Social Sciences 2000-2003): I got married after I finished my college and have a 6 year old son. I successfully finished my MBA after my son was born. At present we are staying in London. I have always been proud to say that I am a Doakian and much more happy to have studied in a Sociology Department. They are the best teachers I have ever seen. I can't forget those happy days, like chatting under the tree and spending a lot of time in our canteen. Even now if I think about all those days I feel very happy and light-hearted (of course we did not have any responsibilities at that time – naa). I hope every Doakian feels the same like me. Thank you. Bye. Regards, Sri Lakshmi.

Sri Lakshmi Arundchand and her son

Rekha Jyothisna (Computer Applications 2003-2006): Since I left college I was working in a financial institution for about a year and then joined Dot Com Infoway, a software company in Madurai and worked there for about two years. I got married in the year 2007 and now a happy mom for a 2 and half year boy. I'm now currently residing in United Stated in the state of Texas for about 3 years. My batch mates: Manju Priya is residing in US and settled with two boy kids. Preetha is happy mom of a boy and a girl in Chicago. Shobana is mom of two girls. Yamuna Devi resides in Chicago and is currently working for a software company. My batch mates Athifa and Shamyukta are married and have settled in Madurai each of them with a girl kid. Hajeera is in Chennai, married with a girl kid. Preethi is working a software institution in Chennai and is married. Pavithra, Poonvandu and Shalini reside in Bangalore and married. Regards, Rekha Saravana

Rekha Jyothisna (Computer Applications 2003-2006)

Jaishree Karthiga RK (English Lit 2004-07, PG 2007-09, M.Phil 2009-10): Thanks a lot for your mail! Currently, I am working as Assistant Professor of English at Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai. My learning process is still on: Doing PGDELT at RIESI, Bangalore and my Ph.D. at Anna University of Technology, Madurai.

How I miss Literature and my teachers!! Rachel Mam, Jessi Mam, GK Mam, Suganthi Mam, Viji Mam, Betty Mam, Suka Mam, Dew Mam: I am thankful to you for all that I am today!

Please do send newsletters. Wish you all Success My Ever-Sweet Lady Doak!! Love, Jai

Jaishree Karthiga RK (English Lit 2004-07, PG 2007-09, M.Phil 2009-10)
Jaishree Karthiga

**Shailaja Pinto (ITM 2004-2007):** I’m at present a homemaker and mother of 2 children by the grace of God. My husband Pinto is a businessman (shipping) and settled in Tuticorin. My sons Joshua aged 4 is doing pre-school and Jonah aged 2 doing nursery school. I would like to keep in touch with my Doakian friends and henceforth would love receive regular newsletters. Thank You, Shailaja

![Shailaja](image1)

Shailaja with Joshua, Pinto, & Jonah

**Gokila**

**V. Tamilmani (Chemistry 2005-2008):** Currently I am working in Orchid Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Chennai. I had cleared csir-lectureship. I am searching for a JRF position. Within a couple of months I will join PhD in any institute. Tamilmani

![Gokila](image2)

![Tamilmani](image3)

**Shansi Reps/Fellows**

**Kate Becker** (1994-1996): After her time at LDC she completed a Master's degree at Harvard Divinity School focusing on Asian religions. She then switched career paths. In 2007 she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in nursing and now works as a Certified Nurse Midwife. She and her husband Paul Jones, an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia, have been married since 2007 and are currently living in Fort Myers, Florida, but will soon be relocating to Charlottesville, Virginia. Their first child, Samuel Frederick Becker-Jones, was born on 2 February of this year. She hopes to return to India, and Madurai in particular, to introduce both her husband and her son at some point in the future!

![Kate Becker](image4)

**Beracah Padmini A.** (Botany - Spl. in Industrial Microbiology 2005-2008): I did MBA (HR & Marketing) in Michael Institute of Management, Madurai and now I'm employed as a HR trainee in Dot Com Infoway, Madurai.

Our Alumnae Newsletter is a very good effort taken by our management! I should not deny the fact that it does update me more about my friends' whereabouts and lot more! Looking forward eagerly for the upcoming edition! :) With much love, Beracah

![Beracah](image5)

**Gokila Lakshmi T.V.** (BioTech 2005-2008): Hi to all Doakians, I’m happy to see your mail. Thanks a lot to keep touch in with me. I did UG in LDC; I completed MBA (HR) in KLNCE. Currently I’m working in Vaalai Training and Research as HR for past 1 year. I enjoyed my life and got a good standard education. I never forget days spent in LDC, especially our department club hours. I won lots of prizes in club activities. Really those activities trigger me to get into management studies. Gokila

![Gokila Lakshmi T.V.](image6)

**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 nearly $250,000, and in the past seven years over $23,000 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 over the past year:

**THANK YOU!**