The Self-financed stream of Madras Christian College celebrated the tenth year of its founding on the 2nd of September 2009. Speaking at the celebration, the Chief Guest Dr. Paul Dhinakaran, Chancellor of Karunya University said, “MCC has thinkers who think out of the box and it is up to such people to do service to mankind.” While inaugurating the ceremony, Dr. Dhinakaran also added that MCC is a beacon of light for education in India.

The dignitaries present were the Principal Dr. R. W. Alexander Jesudasan, former Principals Dr. Alexander Mantramurti and Dr. V. J. Philip, former Co-ordinators of the self-financed stream Dr. Sarprasatha Joe and Prof. Winfred Chelliah, and the Bursar Lt. Col.(Retd.) P. J. Sounдарaraj.

The Principal Dr. R. W. Alexander Jesudasan congratulated the staff and emphasized the need to strengthen the self-financed stream. “Providing quality education to more students is the prime aim of the self-financed stream in Madras Christian College”, said the Principal. “The new media block building on the campus is a part of such a venture”, he added.

Prof. J. Chandradas, the Co-ordinator recalled how the SFS program which started in the year 1999 with five staff members, 50 students and two departments has now grown into 15 courses with 2292 students and around 100 faculty members. A thanksgiving service was held in Anderson Hall on the previous day. The former Principal Rev. Dr. H. Francis Sounдарaraj gave the message.
As part of the Madras Day Celebrations, the Department of History organized a function on the 18th of September, 2009 where city historian Mr. S. Muthiah spoke on the theme ‘Madras – Its Educational Heritage’. He also released ‘Pyrsos’, the newsletter brought out by the History Association and the first copy was received by the Principal, Dr. R. W. Alexander Jesudasan.

The Department conducted a two-day exhibition on prehistoric sites in Chennai and its suburbs on the 17th and 18th of September. Tool assemblages belonging to various periods in prehistory were on display.

The Department of Commerce (SFS) organized a National Conference on ‘Paradigm Shift in Financial Services’ on 15th September, 2009. Inaugurating the Conference Mr. K. R. Ananda, Regional Director, RBI, spoke about the measures taken by RBI in promoting the innovations in the financial sector. The Principal, Dr. R. W. Alexander Jesudasan, delivered the presidential address and Mrs. Nirmala Mohan, Head of the Department welcomed the gathering.

Other Guest Speakers were Mr. M. J. Aprem, Asst. General Manager, Federal Bank, Dr. Dhanasekaran, Vice Principal, Corporate Learning Centre, United India Insurance Ltd., Mr. Nagesh Doraiswamy, Head, Oracle Practices, WIPRO and Mr. Srinivas, Relationship Manager, Deutsche Bank.

Delegates from Bangalore, Tirunelveli, Cuddalore and other city colleges participated in the conference. Various inter-collegiate competitions, both onstage and offstage were conducted. Around 15 colleges in and around Chennai participated.

The Department of Physics conducted a one-day seminar on the 11th of September, 2009. The seminar was inaugurated by the Principal, Dr. R. W. Alexander Jesudasan who spoke about his liking for Physics, the scientific principles that permeated all of science and scientific endeavour.

Prof. Lakshmanan, introduced the students to the fundamentals of non-linear dynamics, solitons and chaos. Dr. Aruna Dhathathreyan spoke on “Proteins at interfaces and adsorption at surfaces.” Dr. V. Subramanian, a Senior scientist from the CLRI gave a presentation on “Self-assembly and structural motifs in molecular clusters.”

Mr. Brian Gaughran, Chief Design Editor of The Hindu, was the resource person for a workshop conducted by the Department of Journalism on the 26th of September, 2009.

Students representing the Dept. of Hindi, won the Champions’ Trophy and several individual prizes at the inter-collegiate competition conducted by the Hindu College, Pattlepuram on the 19th of September, 2009.
Teachers Day

Teachers Day, which marks the birth anniversary of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, an alumnus of MCC, was celebrated in our College on the 10th of September 2009 in Anderson Hall. The programme, organized by the Students Christian Movement in association with the National Service Scheme, highlighted the role of Teachers in the lives of the students and what it meant to the teachers themselves.

On that day six professors - Dr. C. Selvaraj (Economics), Dr. P. Krishnan (Chemistry), Dr. Ebenezer Benjamin (Public Administration), Dr. Sarprasatha Joe (Commerce), Prof. S. Victor Frederick and Prof. Cherian Kurien (English) - who are retiring at the end of this academic year were honoured.

Paper Presentations

Department of Zoology
- B. Nithya & Ananthi Rachel Livingstone, presented a paper “Analysis of water” at the National Seminar on “Recent Trends in Biological Sciences” organized by Dept. of Zoology, Pachaiappa’s College, Chennai on 23rd September, 2009.
- Mr. A. Aravinth, II Msc Zoology received the first prize of Appreciation for the presentation of his paper entitled “Clostrodial Neurotoxins as potential Bio-weapon” at the state level students seminar held on 23rd September at Thiagarajar College, Madurai.

Department of Chemistry
- Dr R. Wilfred Sugumar delivered the key note address ‘Role of Recycling in Environmental Protection’ for the Ms. N. Shakuntala Endowment Lecture at Fatima College, Madurai on 18th September 2009.

Department of Languages
- Mrs. V. Jayalakshmi, Dept. of Hindi presented a paper on “Bharatiya Sanskriti Aur Sabhyata Ke Mulya-Aaj Ke Paripreshya Mein”(The Value of Indian Culture and Civilization in Today’s Perspective) organized by Anna Aadharsh College for women, Chennai. She also had the honour of being the judge for the event ‘kavitha Lekhan’ organized by the Hindi department of SDNB-Vaishnav College for Women, Chennai on the 24th of September, 2009.

Department of Statistics
Festivities on Campus

Moon Shadow

A torch-lighting ceremony marked the beginning of Moon Shadow 2009 at Selaiyur Hall. The torch which was passed on to the other Halls signified comradeship and fairplay.

The three-day event which began on the 10th of September showcased the talents of the residents in art, music and oration. To the surprise and disappoiment of many, the ladies of Martin Hall walked away with the overall shield and the literary and debating shield. The Selaiyurians won the cultural shield. The rock show was opened by Blacklisted and the main band Parousia followed with a live-wire performance.

Galarompics

Galarompics, an inter-hall event conducted by the Martinians, was held on the 19th of September, 2009 in the fields of the sports pavilion. The fun filled event saw the four halls including the newly inducted Margaret Hall competing against each other for the Galarompics Trophy.

Dr. Sarprasatha Joe was the Chief Guest for the event. The Principal Dr. R. W. Alexander Jesudasan, Wardens and faculty members were present.

Though there were heavy showers, even the rain gods could not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants. Cheers filled the pavilion when Bishop Heber Hall was declared the winners of Galarompics 2009 and Selaiyur Hall took the trophy for the March Past.

Utsav

This year’s Utsav, an inter-collegiate dance and choreography fest hosted by St. Thomas’s Hall, was conducted on 26th September, 2009. As many as eight colleges in and around Chennai participated. Ethiraj College won the first place for the dance competition for the second time in a row. The rock shows were performed by Blushing Satellite, which was followed by an enthralling performance by Slain and Bhoomi, rock bands from Bangalore.

Tamil Mandram

Tamil Mandrams of the college organised programmes in the month of September. St. Thomas’s Hall’s Bharathi Mandram activities of this year was inaugurated on the 24th of September 2009. Mr. Ravi Chandran, Professor of English, Dr. Ambekar Government Arts College was the chief guest, Mr. S.R. Raja M.L.A. was the chief guest for the Kambar Mandram inauguration held on the 18th of September 2009. Mr. Shantha Kumar the Councilor of Tambaram was also present on the occasion. Renowned writer, Mrs. Nirmala Suresh was the chief guest of Avvai Mandram inauguration conducted on the 25th of September 2009. The Principal of our college R.W. Alexander Jesudasan was present for all the programmes.

‘Go Wild’, an activity of the Zoological Society, was held on 23rd September, 2009 with inter-collegiate competitions conducted by the students.

The Botany Society organized a one-day freshers’ trip to Thada Falls, Kambakam, in Andhra Pradesh on the 12th of September, 2009. More than 120 students and 8 staff members joined the trip.

Department of Marine Studies and Coastal Resource Management participated in the “Coastal Cleanup Programme” held on 19th September, 2009.

Visitors to the Campus

Ms. Hazel and Rev. Andrew Anderson from Scotland, Ms. Tanya from Flinders university, Australia, delegates from Chang-Jung Christian University, Hong Kong visited the college this month.

Dr. Nida, a Marine Botanist and Dr. Janet, a Zoologist working at the Silliman University, Phillipines visited the Department of Zoology on the 28th of August, 2009. They had a brief discussion with the members of the faculty.

Students’ Achievements

The Energy and Resources Institute, in collaboration with Hewlett Packard, India celebrated “Green Consumer Day” on the 23rd of September, 2009 in Bangalore. As part of the celebrations, an inter-collegiate competition was held. Mr. Rinoj (M.Sc. Zoology), Mr. Dinesh (B.Sc. Physics), Mr. Anand (B.Com-SFS) and Ms. Rhea Abraham (B.A. Journalism) represented the college.

J. Johnson Arul Raj of III B. Sc. Statistics won the Badminton Tournament conducted by the University of Madras.

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