M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women held the annual student-run M.O.P. Bazaar on Dec. 26 and 27, attracting a turnout of 15,000 visitors to the 96 stalls. The event was inaugurated by Shri S. Ramachandran, Regional Joint Director, Tamil Nadu Department of Industries and Commerce on the 26th. Dr. E. Bhaskaran, Deputy Director, Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Tamil Nadu MSME Department, was the guest of honour. Mr. Ramachandran said, “The bazaar will be a motivation for others, as the rest will learn from them. If you’ve got a vision, you can earn well.” Dr. Bhaskaran spoke about the importance of women as entrepreneurs in the city. The two-day event, designed to help aspiring student entrepreneurs develop essential skills and real-time business experience, served an additional purpose this year. Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan, Principal, M.O.P. Vaishnav, said, “This year, with the motive to instill social responsibility, two per cent of the stalls’ profit will be directed towards charity, spreading the season’s spirit of goodwill towards all.”

AL Mudaliar sports meet

The tournament took place on Dec. 19 and 20, 2015 and several city colleges competed in different categories. Winning nine gold medals - eight individual achievements and one in relay, eight silver medals and four bronze medals, the college paved its way to victory with ease. P.N. Sowndarya was conferred with the title, “Best Athlete”.

‘Bringing art to students’ with Shringar

Shringar – the cultural festival organised by M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women, returned for its second edition this year. The programme was held on January 7th and 8th, 2016. The Shringar music and dance festival prominently featured illustrious alumni of the college. Artists Krithika Natarajan and K. Dharini delivered scintillating classical music performances on Jan. 7 and Jan. 8 respectively. The audience was enthralled by classical dance performances from Sudharma Vaithyanathan and T.M. Sridevi.

Redefining Journalism

The Department of Journalism under the auspices of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), conducted a faculty development programme on Redefining Journalism Curricula in Tune with Industry Requirements on Nov. 21. The chief guest, Mr. G.S. Vasu, Editor, The New Indian Express, emphasized the importance of instilling basic journalistic skills in students. Mr. Arun Ram, Senior Editor, The Times of India, said that emphasis has to be given to source management, inter-personal communication and story ideation.

She commended the college for conceptualizing the programme and bringing art to the students.
M.O.P. re-accredited at ‘A’ grade

M.O.P. Vaishnav College was recently re-accredited at the highest grade, ‘A’, by the National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) of the University Grants Commission (UGC). The college further improved its NAAC score, receiving a tally of 3.56 on 4.

A committee representing the NAAC, comprising Dr. Hemixa Rao as the Chairperson, Prof. Seema Pradip Joshi as a Member Coordinator and Prof. Shobha Joshi as a Member visited the campus on Dec 21, 22 and 23 for re-accreditation.

In order to ensure quality in higher education, the committee assesses institutions based on curricular aspects, teaching, research and extension, infrastructural, student support and progression, governance, leadership and management, best practices and innovations. The committee visited all departments, and faculty displayed their contributions to higher education. The role of each department in the students’ learning process, pedagogy adopted students’ projects, learning support and infrastructure were highlighted.

An interactive session with the Board of Governors to understand the management’s role in exhibiting leadership and governance was held soon after. A meeting with the beneficiaries through the community service initiatives of the college, Community Radio Station (CRS) activities and the scholarship (Earn while you Learn) project of the college were organised to showcase the role of institution in community building.

Extension activities such as sports, placement, entrepreneurial cell, library, NSS and NCC of the college were looked into. The contribution of the institution towards curricular activities were discussed through the students’ live performances of drama, music and dance.

Award for BCA app developers

For the year 2015-16, at the Chennai District level, the Chief Minister’s Award for Excellence in e-Governance for Students was won by M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women.

Anusha R (III BCA), Padhma Malini S (III BCA), Pavithra K (II BCA) and Subhashree R (BCA) and Nivetha D (II BCA), participated on behalf of the college.

The project developed was an Android app titled EXAMIT, a mobile app for visually impaired people. The App helps the visually impaired students to take up their exam without the help of the scribe, by enabling them to listen to the question and answer it in her own voice. Voice is later converted to text and sent for evaluation.

At the district level, M.O.P. competed with all top Engineering & Arts and Science colleged and won the first prize. The students were awarded Rs. 10,000 by Collector E. Sundaravalli IAS. The project has been nominated for the State level award.

National-level maths seminar

The π - β club of the Department of Mathematics of M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women conducted a national-level seminar on Graph Theory & Computational Analysis on Jan 21, 2016.

In the session – ‘Introduction to Research in Graph Theory’, Dr Bhartari R, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, Loyola College, addressed the students about graph theory and the various concepts that can be applied for research. The session provided a clear idea of the theoretical application of graph theory.

‘Graphs on Graphs’ session, by Dr B Srivathsan, Assistant Professor at Chennai Mathematical Institute, had discussions about implications of graph theory in computer software. He showed a variety of games that could be solved using graph theory.

The final session was ‘Graph Algorithms’, presented by Dr Rama R, Professor, Department of Mathematics, IIT Madras. Dr Rama gave an extensive overview on the implementation of algorithms in search, decision and number theory algorithms.

The session was attended by over 300 students and faculty, from meritorious institutions across the city.

M.O.P. holds Leadership summit

Over 200 delegates attended the Innovation & Leadership DNA Summit of 2016 (ILDS’16), hosted by the Department of Commerce, M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women, in association with the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) on Jan. 23, 2016.

The inaugural session saw leadership in two dimensions – Innovative thinking & Business thinking, as highlighted by S.G. Prabhakaran, President, MCCI.

Mr. C Y Subba Rao, deputy managing director, Snamar, addressing the delegates

C.V. Subba Rao, Deputy Managing Director, Snamar, the chief guest, discussed innovative leadership stories that focused on people centricity.

A few of the other sessions were conducted in the summit were “Tract Identification in Leaders”, “Crisis Management”, and “Testing times – The Indian leadership forecast.”

The valedictory address about “Investment in future of Women” was delivered by Collector E. Sundaravalli IAS. The event saw an immense turnout and was a great success.

Design: Ananya S
Editing: Shilpa Jayakumar
Faculty Advisor: Vidya Padmanabhan

Commemorating Shakespeare

Atheneum, the literary club of the college conducted its annual inter-department festival to commemorate the 450th birth anniversary of William Shakespeare on Jan 20, 2016. Events like shipwreck, block-and-tackle and poetry were conducted with a Shakespearean twist to them. The day began with Shipwreck, judged by the hilarious Sharat Subramanian, student of SRM University. This required participants to take up the given roles of contemporary personalities and convince the judge as to why they deserve a spot in his play. Barath Balaji moderated the following Block-and-Tackle competition titled “To be or not to be”.

Other events included a literary ramp walk named “Walking Ye Ramp” and invited students to dress themselves up in iconic costumes representing characters from Shake-speare’s plays. The day began with Shipwreck, judged by the hilarious Sharat Subramanian, student of SRM University. This required participants to take up the given roles of contemporary personalities and convince the judge as to why they deserve a spot in his play. Barath Balaji moderated the following Block-and-Tackle competition titled “To be or not to be”.

Design: Ananya S
Editing: Shilpa Jayakumar
Faculty Advisor: Vidya Padmanabhan

Tamil Club activities

The Tamil students of the M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women have had the benefit of various luminaries addressing them this semester.

On Dec 17, 2015, Kodhai Srinivasan, Tamil scholar, spoke on ‘Vaishnavism’ and ‘Andaal’s Thiruppavai.’

Popular TV anchor ‘Erode’ Mahesh delivered a speech titled ‘Sirippom Sindhippon’ on Dec 29. He said that humour is a part and an inseparable part of life.

Venkatachalam Iraivanu, an IAS officer, columnist and Columnist of Tamil Nadu delivered a speech about the job opportunities arising out of the Tamil language.

Dr. Aavudaiyan, All India Radio executive emphasized the speciality of Tamil.

For Pongal celebrations, Na. Muthukumar, veteran lyricist and a two-time national award winner, recalled his importance and talked about the importance of participating in Tamil-related competitions.
M.O.P. goes beyond chequebook charity

At a time of dire need during the deluge in Chennai, the students of various departments of M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women set aside their self-interest and comfort and came together with one motive - to reach out to the community.

Soon after Chennai was hit by floods, government machinery was unable to help everyone at the same time. A team of 33 students from M.A. (HRM) joined hands with Bhumika trust, along with a consortium of organizations, and worked towards immediate relief efforts. For 10 days, they conducted field visits to understand the needs of beneficiaries, distributed relief materials and helped in packing and loading. Through 40 hours of hard work, the students were able to provide food, survival kits, and more with the funds they had collected from all over the world. Volunteering with the Trust enabled them to learn to work in teams, be flexible, adjust to situations and improve themselves in all positive aspects.

Out-bound training programme

Breaking the routine of classroom teaching, the students of M.Com, M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women, were taken on an enriching one-day-soft skills training programme at VGP Resorts on Jan 9, 2016.

The training kicked off with an introspective exercise, followed by activities aimed at improving interpersonal and communication skills and inculcating a competitive spirit in students. Trainers helped students gain clarity about their goals and emotions, and set them on a path to self-discovery by pointing out the importance of persistence and will power for the achievement of goals.

The students also played team-building games such as rope-climbing and blind man’s bluff, designed to develop mutual trust. Collage-making on the theme of each participant’s vision for her own future was enjoyed the most.

The programme had the immediate result of helping the young women bond better with fellow students.

Learning disaster reporting from Chennai floods

The Present Tense Club of the Department of Journalism conducted a seminar on disaster reporting in the context of the Chennai floods, on Jan 22, 2016.

Pradeep John, whose social media presence as Tamilnaduweatherman got over 70,000 followers, spoke about weather patterns and dispelled wild rumours.

Ms. Jane Jeyakumar, Presenter and Sales Head at Chennai Live 104.8, described the psychological trauma she went through. Part of the team that was on air for 48 hours, she handled thousands of distress calls. She discussed the challenges of keeping the morale of the listeners high during disasters.

Ms. Priyamvatha P from News X, addressed the question every journalist has to face, “When someone is in danger, will you cover the story or save them?” She talked about her experiences of helping people and the challenges of being technologically handicapped.

Ms. Amrutha Varshini, a journalism graduate from M.O.P., now a trainee reporter in New Indian Express, gave a beginner’s perspective on disaster reporting.

The seminar was highly successful as students and teachers alike learned how different medias handle disasters.