

Role model inspires graduating class

M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women held its 22nd graduation day ceremony on Oct. 10, 2017, at the Music Academy, Chennai. Dr. Kiran Bedi, Honourable Lt. Governor of Puducherry, delivered the graduation day address, and distributed prizes to rank-holders.

The convocation saw the graduation of 1,004 students. 12 graduates secured first class with exemplary grade; 336 secured first class with distinction; and 572 graduated with first class.

"Self reliance is the secret of any life," Dr. Bedi said in her graduation day address. She shared lessons she learnt over the years of her illustrious



Dr. Kiran Bedi delivers the graduation day address

career. She talked about managing energy, building a brand image, going the extra mile, working on the quietude of inner life and burning bright for the limited time one has.

Dr. Bedi ended her address on an inspiring note: "Live an inner life that is in alignment with your external life. It will set your life."

Introducing the chief guest, Shri Manoj Kumar Sonthalia, secretary of the board of governors of the college, said, "She has defined success upon her own terms; lived it by her own rules... There are many things we can learn from Dr. Kiran Bedi." Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan, the principal of the college, gave an overview of the academic performance of the graduating students.

Shringar a cultural treat for rasikas

Shringar – the annual cultural festival organised by M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women which made a memorable debut in 2014 – returned for its fourth edition this year on Dec. 4, 5 and 6.

As a prelude to Chennai's Margazhi cultural extravaganza, Shringar has been embraced by the city's discerning rasikas.

Principal Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan expressed her gratitude to alumni performers who came back to M.O.P. to perform.

The Shringar music and dance festival prominently features illustrious alumni of M.O.P. Vaishnav, who have gone on to prove their mettle in their chosen art.



Ms. Kavya Muralidharan performs at Shringar

M.O.P.'s star alumni did their alma mater proud with their performances, and were fittingly presented with 'Star Alumni' plaques. Audiences were treated to a violin performance by Charumathi Raghuraman on Day 1 of Shringar, Dec. 4.

The second day saw a vocal concert by Sudha and Srividhya, popularly known as the Iyer Sisters. Dancers Archana Raja, Divya V.G. and Kavya Muralidharan delivered captivating classical dance performances on Dec. 4, 5 and 6, respectively.

Entrepreneurial spark lit

210 students, 23 speakers, 15 colleges, 8 sessions in 2 days. Ignite 2017, a national-level entrepreneurship summit was hosted by M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women on Dec. 8 and 9.

The summit was inaugurated in the presence of Ms. Lauren Lovelace, Consul for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, US Consulate, Chennai. The chief guest, Ms. Vaishali Neotia, CEO and co-founder of augmented reality and virtual reality company Merxius, spoke about what it takes to be an entrepreneur.

The summit had a host of speakers from across the country. Besides, entrepreneurs came together to talk about their business ideas, their hurdles, and the steps they took from ideation to fulfilment to growth, under the moderation of Mr. Ruhan Madni Naqash, CMO and co-founder, The Climber Knowledge and Careers Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Sanjay Pinto, lawyer, columnist and author.

To provide hands-on experience to the delegates, four B-Labs (business domain workshops) were organised: on E-Commerce by Ms. Vandini Ravindran, proprietor of Janvi Adornments, on food and agriculture industry by Ms. Meera Maran, on media and entertainment by Ms. Bala Manian and Mr. Chocka of OPN Advertising, and on social entrepreneurship by Ms. Sahaana Krishnan from Teach for India.

From the Principal's desk

Are entrepreneurs born or made? This is the eternal question debated by those in the education and entrepreneurial ecosystem. At M.O.P., we first believe in the latter. Even if there are some personality traits that make the entrepreneurial journey easier, there is only so far that nature can take a person. The greatest momentum comes from training and an environment conducive to entrepreneurship.

M.O.P. has always worked towards sowing the seed of entrepreneurship in the young minds in our care, and giving them the running start they need in order to become job-providers rather than just job-seekers.

Every year, we organise the M.O.P. Bazaar through which student entrepreneurs get a chance to plan a business and implement it, managing procurement, manufacturing, marketing, finance, and all the other factors in business. After each edition of the Bazaar, at least a handful of students are likely to leave with the desire for more long-term association with entrepreneurship.

This year, we went further, and organised a national entrepreneurship summit, Ignite 2017, on Dec. 8 and 9., the first of its kind at M.O.P. Entrepreneurs of national and international repute, and experts on start-ups came together at M.O.P. to exchange ideas, as well as share them with aspiring entrepreneurs. There was much to take away on branding, financing, and how to arrange one's personal circumstances to aid success, particularly for women.

Over and above these tips was one important message, mentioned by the chief guest, Ms. Vaishali Neotia. "Always put your hand out, and not your foot," she said. While the journey can be arduous, never chase success at the cost of the well-being of someone else on the same journey. Wise words to live by.



Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan

MBA ups business quotient

The 2017 edition of Bustle, the annual flagship event of the MBA department, was held on Oct. 8 at the college.

The last 10 years have seen this corporate quiz transform into one of Chennai's premier business quizzing destinations, and the 11th edition took it a step further.

Bustle 2017, which was conducted by popular quiz-master Mr. Gopal Kidao, saw the participation of 30 teams from Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Trivandrum and Mumbai. The winners and participants walked away with prizes worth more than Rs. 1 lakh.

NCC cadets keep M.O.P. flag flying high



Diya Chandok at the Para Regiment Training Centre

The cadets of the M.O.P. unit of the National Cadet Corps have continued to do the college proud with their achievements at the state and national level.

Sergeant Diya Chandok of III B.B.A (Shift I), representing the Tamil Nadu directorate, was selected for the Army attachment camp organised by the Para Regiment Training Centre, Bangalore. She was given the opportunity to experience para-gliding at the centre during the camp. She also got the opportunity to fire from the prestigious SLR rifle (self-loading rifle) and the Tavor rifle.

Cadet Hamritaa M of II B. Com (CS) and Cadet Revathy R of II B.C.A were part of a contingent representing Tamil Nadu, Puduchery, Andaman & Nicobar directorate at the Thal Sainik Camp 2017 in New Delhi. Hamritaa won a silver medal in an All India tent-pitching competition.

Spotlight shone on legacy of Tamil



Mr. (Ma Foi) Pandiarajan addresses the audience

The Tamil club of M.O.P., 'Painthamizh Mandram,' celebrated its inauguration on Dec. 11, in the presence of Mr. (Ma Foi) Pandiarajan, Honourable State Minister of Tamil Language and Culture, and Archaeology. The Minister shared his thoughts about the power and importance of the Tamil language. He also spoke about the different activities of the ministry to enhance the growth of the language.

The day's events included a seminar on the topic 'Pathirikai Tamil,' in which Mr. Venkatesan, editor of Padam magazine explained the nuances of Tamil language in today's journalism. He educated students about the skills that are expected of a journalist.

In a session on the topic 'Isai Tamil,' Mr. Thirumurugan, principal of Hindusan College, threw light on how this historical language grew over the years, and how music has helped in diversifying the language. The interactive session also featured ancient folk songs.

IN BRIEF

BBA: Drucker's Progeny and Mercatus, respectively the clubs of first and second shift of the under-graduate department of Business Administration, conducted intra-mural co-curricular events on Nov. 25. Students participated in a variety of business-related events such as mock stock exchange and stress interview.

Commerce: Two students of the M.Com department and four students of the B.Com (Hons) department attended an executive development programme on "Introduction to Investment" organized by Sastra Deemed University between Dec. 4 and Dec. 9.

M.Com students received industry perspectives on the topical subject of taxes, with lectures by chartered accountants Mr. Rajasekhar (on e-filing of returns, on Sept. 28), and Mr. Damodharam (on tax assessment of various entities, on Oct. 11).

Commerce students ben-

efited from 20 different workshops such as HR simulation, auctioning skills, productivity management and personal branding in the fifth edition of the annual workshop series, held on Dec. 9.

Computer Science and BCA: M.Sc. Information Technology got hands-on experience in the R tool through a workshop addressed by Mr. Suresh, professor, St. Joseph Engineering College.

Electronic Media: The department conducted an intramural competition on Dec. 8, featuring events such as media quiz, shipwreck, block-and-tackle, blog-writing and meme-making. Film personality Mr. (Mime) Gopi appeared as the chief guest.

English: The annual intercollegiate quiz competition conducted by the English department for the prestigious Dr. K. Nir-mala Prasad Endowment Prize, was held on Dec.

14 this year. More than 46 teams participated, and NIT Trichy emerged the winner.

Journalism: Students attended a number of workshops and talk events, including a shoot of an interaction between actor, director and producer Mr. Kamal Haasan and TV anchor Mr. Rajdeep Sardesai of India Today TV on Nov. 6.

Human Resources: The post-graduate department of Human Resources held a two-day capacity-building workshop on contemporary research techniques in social sciences, on Nov. 29 and 30. Faculty from Indian Institute of Technology – Madras, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Institute for Financial Management and Research, Loyola Institute of Business Administration, Pondicherry University and Presidency College addressed students.

Psychology: Dr. Vijay Vishwanathan, head and chief diabetologist, M.V. Hospital for Diabetes and

Diabetes Research Centre, Chennai, addressed students on the psychological challenges faced by children with diabetes, on Nov. 23.

Sanskrit: II year students visited the closed library of the Kuppaswami Sastri Research Institute (Madras Sanskrit College campus), Mylapore, on Dec. 1, to gain more holistic knowledge from the treasure trove of ancient wisdom.

Sociology: The department conducted its annual intramural competitions on Nov. 25, with the theme 'Apricity' (warmth of a winter sun). The students participated in events such as Amazing Race, which challenged them physically and mentally, and Talent Hunt.

Visual Communication: The department held a series of peer workshops on Dec. 8, which saw students with special skills tutoring others in domains such as olden calligraphy, industrial typography, content writing for ads, and studio make-up.

It's raining verse

Students underwent an immersive literary experience when poets visited the college for interactions as part of a poetry festival organised by the department of English in association with the art and literature NGO Prakriti Foundation.

The first session, on Nov. 23, saw poets Ms. Sampurna Chattarji and Ms. Karthika Nair discussing "Metrolands," their upcoming poetry collection, about the duo's experiences on the Mumbai local train and the Paris Metro respectively.

The second session, on Dec. 11, featured Mr. Perumal Murugan, not-

ed author, scholar and literary chronicler. He read from his robust collection of poetry and a recently released novel.

The last session, on Dec. 12, had Mr. Ramu Ramathan, playwright and director, and Pad-mashri Mr. Jayanta Mahapatra, physicist and bilingual Sahitya Akademi award-winning poet, sharing their tryst with poetry.

Mr. Mahapatra stressed the importance of writing poems about experiences from the heart.

Mr. Ramu Ramathan enthralled the audience with readings of humorous poems from his recent work.



Mr. Perumal Murugan at the poetry festival

..... SNAPSHOTS The Year of Daan



This is the year of Daan at M.O.P. Vaishnav College. On the occasion of the completion of 25 years of the college, each department has undertaken a community service project. Clockwise from top left: Students of Electronic Media prepare cattle-feed at a goshala as part of the 'Vrihi (grain) Daan' project on Dec. 14; Journalism students engage senior citizens in a cultural programme at an assisted living facility as part of the 'Samay Daan' project in December. Students of B.Sc Mathematics work on the initiative 'Ganith Daan,' through which they tutor students of M.O.P. Primary School, Triplicane, in mathematics and personality development; Students of B. Com. (Hons) interact with the elderly at an elder-care facility as part of the 'Samay Daan' project.



Community service is a way of life at M.O.P. Every year, student contributions help the college lend a hand to various non-profit initiatives as part of VISH (The Vaishnav Initiative for Social Help). This year, the college has thus contributed around Rs. 2 lakhs each to the NGO Friends of Tribals Society, and the Daan Utsav organised by CIOSA (the Confederation of Indian Organisations for Service and Advocacy). In appreciation for the students' acts of social responsibility, M.O.P. organises an entertainment programme each year. Glimpses from VISH 2017 -- left to right: Singer Ms. Shakthisree Gopalan performs; Dance crew High on Dance felicitated by Principal Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan; Students swing to dandiya rhythms.