PATH OF DISCOVERY

International Study Center opened its gateway to cross cultural engagement in 1990, in a small room with a little collection of books and a few C.D racks. Throughout the years it has transformed into a vast library, a cozy reading room, a main office and a writing center. It serves as an intermediate for International Exchange Programs. ISC helps students to explore new places in which they imagine living in. Thirteen students have spent one semester aboard at Mary Baldwin College, two at Pacific University, two at International Christian University and two at Longwood University. Every year nearly fifteen students join our International Service Learning Program from Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea. ISC is a space for academic discussion, professional talk, personal reflection and social interest in an international framework. The World has shrunk into one room. Hasn’t it? We celebrate global festivals through fun and games. It’s a space of varying culture. It transforms students to multi-taskers. Students are trained to play different roles such as organizers, translators and guides. ISC is headed by an administrative assistant, four faculty coordinators and one Oberlin Shansi Fellow.

- M. Jaisha Priyam, II U.G. English
SO MANY BOOKS! SO LITTLE TIME!

Love flying through the magical world of Hogwarts? Or embark on a journey of romance with your fictitious partner through the pages. Word by word as you enter the platform presented by the author, you enter a new world of imagination of extravagance and curiosity and a feast for your senses. Nothing can beat reading fiction, whether it is reading a book privately to the sound of nature or discussing allusions with fellow bookworms.

ISC library, Wow! As you enter the library you will be awe-struck when you see the sea of books neatly stacked. Every book lover has a dilemma which book to pick and travel with it? “So many books! So little time!” are the words murmured by many.

“All work and no play make, Jack a dull boy” - (Indian proverb)

So join us for a fun filled read, curious watch and energetic play.

-S. Mrudhula Pandian, I U.G. English

THE THYSELF

As bees hover around a beehive, a lot many things always hang around the heads of a teenager. Our instincts might surge us from behind to trace out the answers for many. However most of us come out with a null hypothesis. We will plan a thousand plans that will not work. We win most of the times in failing our own plans. We sleep for the most of a day and set ourselves occupied for the rest, claiming to be busy bees. We become the ambassadors of delayed punctuality, composed violence, an honest falsehood. Although, this is how life works for most of us, some may will, to bring a change in their lives, to succeed in their plans. And behold, ‘Where there is a will, there is a way’.

Poet Bharathi asks,

‘Oh Heavens! Where is the way to get a will?’

Instinct replies, ‘In thyself’

Luckily, a few would have found the secret to be in ‘thyself’ as Bharathi did. In my opinion, when the ‘thyself’ bears upon your success, happiness, and victory, you might stumble upon the haughtiness. When ‘thyself’ bears upon your failure, anxiety, and distress you might stumble upon self pity. Life with its own uncertainty becomes vulnerable with a heavy laden ‘thyself’. Then cast your burdens on the divinity and act free. The fruit is a life well lived.

For nothing will be impossible with god. (Luke 1:37)

-Asha Priyadharshini, III U.G. Physics
ISC CELEBRATIONS

This season in the ISC was totally loaded with the three letter word : F-U-N ! Nope. Not an exaggeration. The evidence to prove that ISC taking up the normal stuff to a whole new level is presented to you exclusively.

Sportive August

2015 August kick-started with a friendly ice breaking session with games. We made friendship bracelets of neon hues and exchanged it with our fellow ISCers. It was a D-day for the ISCers; the colours of the bands attracted the attention of fellow college mates making ISC’s presence felt in the college for a brand new year.

Competitive September

The ISC’s agenda was off to a great start with the club election. The European Carnival brought alive the flavours of the culturally rich continent with contests. Rangoli and poster contests brought out the artistic sides of competitors while the cooking contest explored the roots of European cuisine. Everyone tapped their feet as they danced to European numbers at the dance contest but it was a real test of brains over brawn during the treasure hunt. In September, Megan Nicole Mepham and Megan Edwards presented on Indigenous Americans living in environment Virginia State and other parts of the U.S for Native American Heritage Day. Then our talented ISC student choreographers organised a dance workshop for teachers and non teaching staff on Teachers Appreciation Day.

Skittish October

The spooky month of October was packed up with mischief. ISCers had fun interacting with fellow members as they prepared for the costume party – working out the decorations, selecting music and planning games. On the final day, everyone was in for a great treat. The place was darkened to heighten the effect of the lanterns lit for Halloween. Bats, ghouls and spider webs hung around the room. Glowing pumpkins lined the floor. Haunted themed treats and drinks were served. Raving music filled up the place. The place was party-ready! Fellow ISCers dressed up in costumes and makeup scared each other. Spooky music, fashion show and games channelled everyone’s inner impishness.

Apple day was a new addition to the normal line-up of festivities. ISCers were in for a surprise. Everyone enjoyed making apple pancakes, taking turns to prepare the batter and garnishing it with cream and syrup. On the other hand, few members battled their grey cells on a quiz about apples. The day ended with sharing the pancakes, listening to Megan Mepham and Megan Edwards explain the meaning of apple day at Mary Baldwin as a day of service and giving.

Awesome Ending

A fun-filled start ends with an equally fun-filled ending. The ISCers spent the last day springing a surprise on their fellow college mates on the last day of the semester: A flash mob! What better way to end a semester? ISCers danced to popular songs from around the world. Everyone enjoyed the funky and playful beats of the songs as the semester came to an end.

THIS UPCOMING SEMESTER, THE ONE CLUB YOU NEED TO BE IS ISC. SO, STAY TUNED, FOLKS!

-S. Mrudhula Pandian, I U.G. English
**I COULD...**

I Could
I stepped in, a place full of strangers,
I could feel the eyes on me,
I could hear the little whisperings,
I could...
I could see the unfamiliar faces,
I could feel the hot tears drip on my cheeks,
I could run away from here,
I could...
I could see the entire world before me,
I could see them want to destroy me,
I could see them mock me,
I could...
I could feel them push me around,
I could feel them juggle me,
I could feel them test my patience,
I could...
Then, I have a shoulder to cry upon – mom,
I have strong hands to pull me up – Dad,
I have understanding eyes – sister,
I have patient ears – brother
They told me “I know you could get through”,
I could…

- Ramya Palani
  I U.G. B.A.

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**YOURS LOVINGLY**

Have you ever written a letter to your loved ones — excluding the letters written in exam papers for the sake of marks?

Few decades ago paper, pen, post cards and telegrams were the treasures of people. We all would have been familiar with *Letter to Indira Gandhi* by Jawaharlal Nehru. Those thirty letters entailed his thoughts about history and studies of civilization. He wrote it when he was in prison. Letter writing was a way for making friends in other corners of the world under the name “pen-pals”. Today, pen-pal clubs can be found in magazine columns, newspapers and internet. I have one pen friend in Malaysia. We connected through a magazine seven years ago. We usually talk about education systems and politics. Two months before her family toured India. We decided to meet for the first time at Meenakshi amman temple. On that day, searching for a face I had not seen before in a sea of heads was not a difficult task but a different one.

The world is moving in a fast pace. Isn’t it? Mobiles and thumb prints are treasures of this generation. Checking inboxes for unsent mail and signing on to facebook for unanswered messages. The urges are gratified ones the message knocks our inbox. Think in case of post mail, it may take weeks or months to receive the post. You wait patiently for the reply. Re-reading the words and seeing the cracked paper posted before was a feel of unspoken words. This may sound impossible to you but it was once the medium which started peace and ended wars. Paper and pen can be substituted by mobile and thumb prints but it can never replace them. So, scribble your thoughts rather than typing a text.

-M. Jaisha Priyam, II U.G. English

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**Call for art work!**

Artists are creators, their pen and paper can make wonders in the world. Here comes a chance to put the hidden artist in you on spotlight. ISC gives you a platform to publish your work to public. Bring your chromatic shades and ornamental words to us to get it published in ISC’s next newsletter!

Email scans to ldcisc@gmail.com or stop by the office.