A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY!

I want to travel around the world. I told this to my parents as a child. As I grew older, I realised that I wanted to explore many different places and also learn a lot of new things. Just as a journey of a thousand miles begins, with a single step, my student exchange at Mary Baldwin University in the United States of America is my first step of my thousand miles. The opportunity to represent my country, my institution and my culture in a completely different environment is not just a new experience but also a wonderful platform to learn. This experience has helped me discover a lot of new things about myself and this makes me ecstatic. Transforming me from a girl who never knew that she could write to a person who has fallen in love with writing. I have made lots of lovely little memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

A different education system can be terrifying at the beginning but as you dive down deep into it, you definitely perceive innumerable facts that open new pathways towards a better future. Apart from academic aspects, an intercultural experience helps you broaden your connections and provides you with a bridge to develop bonds that you would have never expected. No one would ever believe if I told them that I had to travel around the globe to find a really good friend who shares the same personality as I but at the end of the day, that is the truth. Travelling can give you a kind of push. It can be a motivational push or it can even be a push of change. Whatever the push maybe, if you know it is going to give a positive change in some way or the other, trust me, don’t give it a second thought. Go for it because the expected things are just the beginning and the unexpected that continues is what decides how your life from there. Beyond everything, I would like to mention that all this would not have been possible without Lady Doak College. I express my sincere gratitude towards my institution, my principal, all my teachers and my friends who have been my constant support and motivation.

-Sridevi Dhanasekaran
II B.Com CS
**MY DAYS AT MBU**

I, Jayashri, cleared the interview and was selected for the study exchange program for a semester at Mary Baldwin University, Virginia, USA. First, I wish to thank God for bestowing me with this blessing and then I wish to express my gratitude to Lady Doak College for giving me this golden opportunity to study abroad for 5 months. This exchange program is definitely a turning point in my life. Mary Baldwin University is a wonderful place to study. The environment and the people are nice. I found the education system in US very different from that in India. There is a balance between education and entertainment. I love this aspect of US education. We spend a lot of time doing assignments rather than sitting in classes. The library is my favorite place to study and to do assignments.

Apart from academics, there are a lot of activities on campus everyday, in which I participate. There are also several clubs at the university such as BPB, Crochet and Art, Hiking, Cosmos and many others. I am an active participant in the BPB, Crochet, Art and Cosmos club. Cosmos club is exclusively for the international students. We meet every week to have food, play games and talk with each other. People are very sociable and we make good friends easily. In addition to Americans, I have a lot of friends from Asian countries such as Japan, Korea and Taiwan. They are all so amiable. We participate in many activities together and have lots of fun.

Mary Baldwin University organizes a lot of educational trips to nearby states. It is a very good way to explore different parts of US along with our friends and teachers. Such trips offer opportunities for us to explore the country and its culture, food and people. Teachers also take us on field trips. They are all very educative. I have learnt a lot from the trips and came across different experiences. I'm eagerly waiting for my next trip to New York.

My stay in Mary Baldwin University is a new chapter in my life. I have learned how to be independent in a completely new environment. I grasp something new from people around me every day. I have gained the ability to view myself in a different perspective, as a strong individual. This exposure is developing me not only academically but also personally. I am making a lot of memories to cherish for a life time. Once again I wish to thank my department-Business Administration, International Study Center, and Lady Doak College for this opportunity. I promise to come out with flying colors and make everyone proud.

_Jayashri Jambu_

II BBA

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**ISLP FEBRUARY**

Month of February was so cool. We had the last International Service Learning Program (ISLP) of the year. This ISLP is so close to my heart and my family since this was my very first time with the team from Portland State University. I took the team to my home. My entire family was very happy by their visit and the team was very friendly towards my family. The day I was with them was an extraordinary day. We spent time together by playing games. We glanced at my family photos. They even tried some traditional food prepared by my mom. They were impressed by my mom’s yummy feast.

_V.B. Prabhavathy Bose_

II BSc Physics
Mind you!

Yes we are flowers, but
Mind you, we do have thorns.

Yes we are like glass, but
Mind you, we get hurt when we are broken.

Yes we are like wind, but
Mind you, cyclone is also a wind.

Yes we are candles, but
Mind you, we give you light.

Yes we are butterflies, but
Mind you, we are hard to catch.

Yes we are bear children, but
Mind you, we are equal to men.

Yes we marry for our parents, but
Mind you, we have feelings.

Yes we yell at you, but
Mind you, we love you.

Yes we are women, but
Mind you, we are not you!

Mind you!

- Benazir Rifaya B.
III UG English

OUR LITTLE GIRL

My dear sweet boon
You are the brightest light in the dark,
You are the goddess of angels
Paris saw you before Aphrodite.
The golden apple must’ve been yours.
May you be in the pink of your health
May your intellectual beauty impress the world
May your fame grow as a flourishing tree
May the color of joy fill your life
May strength and courage accompany you
May your heart grow kinder and kinder.
May your words grow politer and softer.
May god shower his blessings onto you
May our little girl be happy forever

- Gowsalya Raja
III UG English

MIRAGE

As a small fish in uncharted waters she struggled,
Not knowing that the very struggle will harden her troubles and mold her.
‘Small fish’, they said, and nabbed her of all the trust and faith.
That she once had in her fellow fishes
How foolish of me, she thought.
Wanting to change her for better companions, the wild possibilities outgrew her,
Finally producing what she really wasn’t: a pleaser and a loser!
Once known for skills and no-objection, always an easy prey for big fishes to pry on.
And so the word spread and the small fish regretted its transformation.
The fishes who abandoned her first were the ones she thought would stay by her side during difficulties!
Time answered all confusions of the small fish with instances from near future,
That her purpose among her present group was fulfilled and no longer required
Leaving the small fish all alone once again!
“Is this life?”, shouted the frustrated fish towards the boundless ocean,
“This is just the mirage of what life will be!” boomed back ocean with lively lessons.

-K.S. Amritha
II , Social Sciences

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- Gowsalya Raja
III UG English
**GRASP IT UP!**

The very word “documentary” suggests boredom and information. It is not the truth rather it reveals the opinion of the society and situations. The three days of *Documentary Appreciation Workshops* has changed my perception of understanding films. The most awaited workshop knocked at the door of International Studies Centre and I grasped it when it came. The first worry that popped into my mind was attendance from the college. I was granted with permission to attend the workshops. Three day long sessions were facilitated by Mr Amudhan R.P.

What do you feel when you see someone jotting notes while watching a movie? You may think that the person has gone nuts. Jotting down notes while watching a movie may sound ridiculous to you but we did it. Mr Amudhan R.P. introduced ten styles of documentaries by showing us assorted films. After watching them, discussion sessions and presentations were carried out. Some documentaries made sense in the first viewing, and some did it in two, and some did not. Technical aspects and in depth meaning was also discussed during the sessions. The workshop facilitators will conduct a summer course for students this year. Try watching the documentary “Mercury in the Mist” and tell me what you think about it.

-Jaisha Priyam M.
III B.A. English

**Hey everyone!**

Missed your opportunity to show your talents this time? No worries! We’re glad to inform that our ISC is a platform where you could keep presenting your talents. Here we welcome you with open hands and plain boards for you to beautify it with your ideas and works. All you have to do is walk into our ISC office or contact us at isc@ldc.edu.in

-Ramya
I B.Com CS

-Brislene
III B.A. English

-Sridhivya
III B.A. English

-K.Priyadharshini
III B.A. English