

Kinnaird College for Women



Christmas 2008

“Peace on Earth and Goodwill towards all Mankind...”

Dear Friends,

As Christmas approaches one invariably remembers the timeless message, “Peace on earth and goodwill towards all mankind...” Today, more than ever, when our world is so chaotic, this seems a crucial message. Suicide bombings, credit crunches, global warming, wars, famine, tsunamis, earthquakes...we are powerless against



the onslaught but can only do our bit and pray for the best;

I have been writing a Christmas letter for years but this must be my last one – a very fond farewell.

On 17th September, I retired as Principal for the second time and handed over charge. The good news is that I could do so with my mind at peace.

New Principal

Kinnaird’s new Principal is Dr. Bernadette Dean. In the short time we have had to work together, I am convinced Dr. Dean is a person who will lead Kinnaird forward to ever greater heights. She is a highly qualified academician with a PhD in Education. Prior to joining Kinnaird she was Head of Academic Studies and Student Affairs at Aga Khan University, Karachi. Bernadette and her husband, Derrick, who works for PIA had himself transferred here. They are both adjusting to life in Lahore and being welcomed by academic circles.

Farewell Message

When I joined Kinnaird College as a carefree, young student so many years ago, I never realized it would become my second home. It was only as time went by, first as a student, then as a member of staff and ultimately as Principal, that I realized how the College had become not just a second home but a part of my very being. On retiring I feel the wrench a parent experiences when letting go of a child who has grown up. Life, however, is full of surprises and I am also happily discovering what life has for me without Kinnaird!

Thank You

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those who have been part of my Kinnaird life: students, colleagues, office staff, support staff, OAKS, PWI, friends and family. I wish there was space to mention each one by name, but let me assure you that your names are indelibly written in my heart. I must specially thank the Association of Kinnaird College (the Parent Body) and the Board of Governors, for placing their trust in me, giving good advice when needed and giving me such a free hand at all times to use my judgment. Representatives of the Government have been so co-operative in allowing the College to maintain its special character. I remember too those Church Partners and missionaries, who founded the College and who had the vision to support it monetarily and with staff over the years. I remember former Principals and so many staff who have worked here in the past to maintain and nurture the special spirit and traditions which are the hallmark of Kinnaird.



I am deeply grateful to each one who has enriched my career at Kinnaird by giving of themselves, their time, their expertise and their efforts for the sake of the College and for me, personally.

Each student has been a bright spark inspiring us all to do our best for them. Kinnaird students are enthusiastic and eager to learn and are finding the 4-year B.A. /B.Sc. programs far more interesting than the earlier 2-year course offered by the Punjab University. Teachers too, find the research-based program far more challenging. Keeping up with modern trends in the academic world, more programs were introduced this past year and Kinnaird once again pioneered a course; this was Mandarin, which has turned out to be surprisingly popular. We may soon need a new block for Languages alone: Kinnaird offers English, French, German, Spanish, Persian, Arabic, Urdu and



Chinese!



Student Accomplishments

Our students continue to amaze us. As usual, the last batch of girls bagged the top seven positions out of two hundred thousand students who appeared in the Intermediate Examination of the Lahore Board. At the B.A. /B.Sc. level and the Post-graduate level, our students have been producing excellent research papers; this has led to a publication of Kinnaird students' research. Many students have obtained admissions directly into M Phil and PhD courses in universities abroad, and been awarded prestigious scholarships such as the Fulbright.

Amaltas Court

You will be pleased to learn that a new wing which was added to the old Academic Block was inaugurated last August. Called the Amaltas Court, it stands on the site of the old tuck shop, encircling the glorious trees which are arrayed in gold for almost five months of the year. The building provides twelve greatly needed classrooms on three floors; it also houses an enormous computer lab, an examination hall, video conference room plus our own radio station on the third floor. Our students training here will be designing programs to reach a radius of 30 km and the challenge is to make the programs more interesting than TV channels.

Projects on the Anvil

Construction of Phase IV, the final extension to the Post Graduate Block is a major project on the anvil. This block will house a beautifully designed split level reference library, auditorium lecture hall and laboratories.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank philanthropist Mr. B.A. Malik, OAKS Lahore Chapter and many of you who have sent donations towards this project. More funds are required and I am sure Dr. Dean would welcome your gifts.

Another project on the anvil is building a second floor on the existing Mira Phailbus Hostel. It would give relief to so many outstation students anxious to receive a good education in a safe environment.

USA OAKS

In May I attended the OAKS annual reunion hosted this year by the newly opened Washington DC Chapter. They did a superb job welcoming over ninety former Kinnaird graduates at the luxurious home of Saba Anwar Rashid. I was overwhelmed by the love and re-bonding that was evident between the various age groups.

The spirit of Kinnaird lives on. Farida Saeed, President, OAKS North America Chapter, was recently at Kinnaird. What a joy it was to show her around the College and introduce her to the two KC students they are supporting.

All friends of Kinnaird are welcome at the College. I am sure Dr. Dean and the faculty would be happy to meet you.

Retirement

With retirement I hope to spend time in California getting to know my grand children, Imani, Aneesa and Aazil and being with my own children, Eila, Onjali and Anil. On 9th November I am flying to peaceful, scenic New Zealand to be with Shiuli and her family. Shiuli has arranged a cruise which will take us right round NZ and give me time to catch up with my two grand daughters, Shanzay and Aleisha. What a wonderful treat. You will, however, all be very much in my thoughts and prayers, especially Dr. Dean and I will soon be back home!



With Eid approaching and Christmas following, we can only pray for peace on earth and goodwill among mankind. Let me wish friends and family, great joy at Eid and Christmas. May the New Year usher in an era of harmony and goodwill among the world community and may our world remain safe from all harm and violence.

With Deepest Affection,

Mira Phailbus
Prof. Emeritus

PS Please share this letter with others who may have been missed out through an oversight. I also hope you will keep in touch with the College by email: kcw.main@gmail.com or postal mail at:

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My personal email is
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I would love to hear from you

