

# Greetings from the New Principal

December 2008

Dear friends,

Prof. Dr. Mira Phailbus the former Principal of Kinnaird has just retired and the Board of Governors has entrusted me Prof. Dr. Bernadette L. Dean with the responsibility of continuing the wonderful traditions and nurturing the spirit of Kinnaird while innovating to lead Kinnaird forward to ever greater heights. I look forward to your support as I take on this challenging task.

Being neither from Lahore nor Kinnaird, everyone including myself thought the transition would be difficult. However, I have been so warmly welcomed by the Kinnaird family and been joined by my very supportive husband Derrick that I feel quite at home. I have said “quite at home” because part of what is home for me my two wonderful daughters Sohni and Zahra, continue to live in Karachi where they are both University students.

## My Vision for Kinnaird:

At the investiture ceremony on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008 I shared my vision for Kinnaird. My vision for Kinnaird is founded on three key words: quality, relevance and transformation.

**Quality education** means providing intellectually stimulating academic programmes that encourage students to become seekers of knowledge, critical inquirers, imaginative and creative thinkers.



**Relevance** involves provision of an education that is in consonance with the continually changing and challenging local, national and global context. This requires introducing students to new knowledge generated across the world and developing and offering new programmes and courses based on national and global requirements.

As most students enter Kinnaird in their formative years, their educational experience should be **transformative**. It must serve their personal development, as well as help them understand the persistent and current social, political and economic problems and issues and encourage them to use their open, critical and creative minds to generate or adapt knowledge to address these problems and issues so as to transform society.

I am now in the process of working with faculty, staff and students to develop a shared vision. We will then develop a strategic plan to realize this vision. As members of OAKS and friends of Kinnaird I would like you to a part of this envisioning exercise. Please do write to me to share your thoughts and ideas.



You can reach me at

[bernadette.dean@kinnaird.edu.pk](mailto:bernadette.dean@kinnaird.edu.pk)

## **Kinnaird a vibrant and exciting community**



Kinnaird continues to be an exciting and vibrant community. Very thoughtful and colourful programmes were organized to welcome new students to the Intermediate, Baccalaureate and Masters programmes. In addition to academic work, Faculty, serve as advisors to the nearly thirty Kinnaird clubs and societies. These clubs and societies serve to develop students character and leadership skills. Over the last few months the clubs and societies have educated students about HIV AIDS, Breast Cancer, the importance of a healthy diet and exercise and conducted an inter college debate competition. Aware of how privileged they are, they are always willing to walk the extra mile for those less fortunate. They have organized a bonfire, bake sales and a faculty versus students' basketball tournament to raise money for the victims of the Baluchistan Earthquake. They have raised Rs.500, 000 which they will use to purchase winterized tents so that the victims have somewhere warm to shelter during the winter.

## **Representing Kinnaird**

I have just returned from my first official trip as Principal of Kinnaird. I attended the Regional networking conference of Presidents of Women's colleges and universities in Asia held at Miriam College, Philippines. It was a good opportunity to meet with other college and university heads and to share and learn what is being done at women's colleges and universities around Asia to empower women and develop women leaders.

The climax of the meeting was a commitment by members to establish the Asian Network of women's Universities and Colleges (ANWUC) to facilitate cooperation between the member institutions in such areas as curriculum development, faculty and student exchange and joint research to facilitate the development of young women leaders. From the Philippines I flew to Karachi to present a paper on the "Possibilities and Challenges of doing Educational Action Research" at the first conference organized by the Pakistan Association of Research in Education (PARE).

## **A Joyous New Year**

I wish all members of OAKS, friends and benefactors of Kinnaird Eid Mubarak, Happy Christmas and a safe, joyful and prosperous 2009. Let us all work together to ensure there is more peace, greater justice and greater acceptance of our diversity in 2009.



Warm Regards,

*B.L. Dean*

Dr. Bernadette L. Dean



---