



**CHRIST**  
UNIVERSITY

Declared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956

# THE RAINBOW

**VOICE OF INTERNATIONAL CHRISTITES**

Volume II Issue I 14th August 2009

## Message from the Vice Chancellor



I am pleased to learn that the first issue of Volume II of 'Rainbow', Newsletter for International Christites, will be brought out on the eve of Indian Independence Day. I congratulate our international students on this venture and wish to reiterate the University's commitment for their wellbeing and welfare.

India was the first Afro-Asian country to come out of the shackles of colonialism and it continues its struggle for eradication of poverty and social injustice the world over. One of the important ways to minimize social injustice is to educate the people. We, at Christ University, are always prepared to play our role in effectively educating young people from developing countries. I am sure the 'Rainbow' Newsletter will play a pivotal role in motivating and bringing together all the International Christites in our endeavour.

*With best wishes,*

**Dr. (Fr.) Thomas C. Mathew**  
Vice Chancellor  
Christ University

## Editorial

## INDIA: GREATEST DEMOCRACY

*Tomorrow, i.e. 15th August 2009, India will be celebrating the 62nd anniversary of its Independence Day and it is a joyous occasion for all freedom loving people of the world. It marks the success of the largest functional democracy in human history.*

*The very fact that ever since it's Independence, India has remained the largest functional democracy in the world is a matter of great achievement. Not only the people of India change governments through free and fair elections every five years or more as per the Constitutional stipulations, but have also succeeded in peaceful transformation of a feudal and fragmented political system into an egalitarian society. Nowhere else in the world such a transformation has taken place. Within 50 years of gaining Independence India has succeeded in electing a Dalit (low caste man), Dr K.R. Narayanan as the President of the Republic, had a non – Hindi speaking H.D. Deve Gowda as Prime Minister, had three Muslims as Presidents, a minority Sikh economist, Dr Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister, a Dalit woman as Speaker of Parliament and so on. What the USA could not achieve in 200 years, India could achieve within 50-60 years.*

*On the 62nd Anniversary of Independence, what kind of a socio-economic entity do we perceive in India? A trillion strong economy with the second highest GDP growth rate in the world! A republic headed by a woman President, Mrs. Pratiba Patil with a minority Muslim (12%), Dr Ansari as Vice President. A coalition government headed by a minority Sikh (1.5%) economist, Dr Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister and a minority Christian (2.3%), Mrs. Sonia Gandhi as Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance. The Speaker of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Mrs. Meira Kumar, being a Dalit woman, M with another woman leader, Mrs Sushma Swaraj as Deputy Leader of the Opposition. A Dalit jurist, Mr. Justice Balakrishnan, heads the Supreme Court of India, and a Dalit woman Ms Mayawati is the Chief Minister of the largest populated state (larger than Germany) of Uttar Pradesh.*

*We, the International Christites while saluting Indian people for their political maturity and achievements, wish them all success in the years to come. We are fortunate that we could spend our formative and most impressionistic years of our life in this great democracy. We enjoy being in the midst of a colossal socio-economic transformation of the largest democratic society of the world and consider ourselves lucky that we could observe such massive changes at close angles.*

**- Student Editors.**

# Rainbows on the horizon

It is monsoon time in India. It rains-some places heavily and in interior places like Bangalore (away from the sea) not so heavily. Dark clouds are always on the horizon. Land gets wet, greenery sprouts out, but minds get gloomy.

Yet it is time to see silver linings on the dark clouds and lovely rainbows in the sky. It is the best time for nature in India. Every inch of parched land gets life, every dry seed a sprout. It is the time for new life.

It is also time for schools and colleges to reopen. School bags, new uniforms, new books and laptops add colour to the colourful landscape of the city. We can see rainbows not only on the sky but also its colours on the earth below. One has only to watch from the Auditorium Block the main path leading to various “Blocks” of the Christ University from its gates: a thousand rainbows on the march, and the whispering in a thousand different languages; English, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, French, Portuguese. Verily it is the rainbow campus and the “Rainbow” quarterly for the year has, naturally, should be out in this season.

Adding further shades to the Rainbow campus are the more than two hundred foreign students from two scores of countries: from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. And their presence is not only noticed, but acknowledged and celebrated. True to the Indian dictum “Athithayo Devo Bhavam” (the guest is God), foreign students are welcomed and respected in the campus. And beginning with this year, an exclusive “International Office” has been established at the campus to deal with issues connected with the education and welfare of all foreign students at the Christ University.

The International Office is conveniently housed at the Auditorium Block (II Floor) near the main gate and the working hours are from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on all week days and from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays. You are always welcome to the International Office. Please make it a regular habit to look for announcements exclusively for International students put on the notice board outside the International Office.

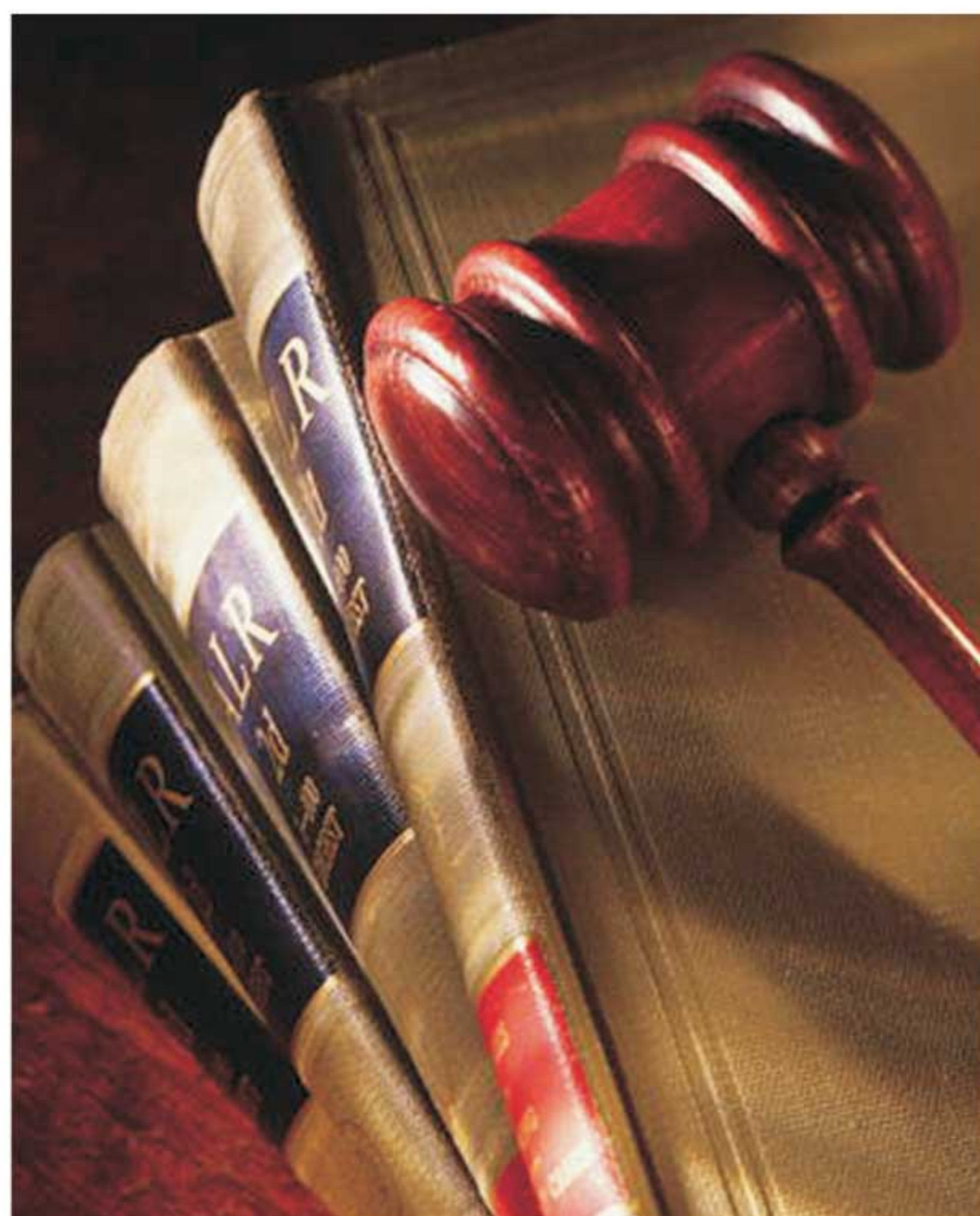
We are starting the new academic year with good news for everyone at Christ University. In the India Today rankings for 2009 Christ University has got the highest rankings ever in Commerce and Arts streams, i.e; 4th in Commerce, 6th in Arts and 13th in Science among all educational institutions in the country. While rejoicing on the achievements, we have to rededicate ourselves to work harder and realize still higher goals. No one should remain behind in this endeavour and hence every International Student at Christ University should see that he becomes part and parcel of main stream Christites.

Hence join us to make the year a successful and memorable year in your life!

Let's work together!!....

J.W.Lobo  
Director  
International Office

# The Introduction of Uniform Civil Code in India: Majority v Minority



The introduction of uniform civil code is in accordance to article 44 of the Constitution of India. In part four of the Constitution under the directive principles of state policy, the state is directed to "secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India." Until date this directive has not been realised in India because of various political and social reasons.

Personal laws are system of rules which allows different religious societies in India to be governed by their religious laws in matters relating to marriage, inheritance, succession, adoption etc. These laws reflect the cultural identities of such societies.

The introduction of uniform civil code is in line with the constitutional guarantees under Article 14 and 15 on one hand and Articles 25-28 on the other. However, other than promoting gender equality, the introduction of uniform civil code has also been advocated on grounds of modernity and national integration. The uniform civil code is to replace all the personal laws of different religious communities in India which include Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Parsis.

## Numerical strength and its impact on the uniform civil code.

Numerically, since in personal law terms Hindus include Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, [their composition in the population is about 85%]. This means that the rest of religious communities share 15% in a country of over a billion people; hence form religious minorities with Muslims being more than the other religious minorities. The fear of the minority communities is that the uniform civil code will be a reflection of the views of the majority which will lead into interference in their right to free practise of religion, equality and erosion of their minority identity. These fears have been exacerbated by the tenor of the Supreme Court and the attitude of its judges in various decisions and the advocates of uniform civil code who mainly include right wing Hindu activists. The media is also responsible in protracting the Muslim community to be backward and unfair to women in the comments following the Supreme Court decisions.

## Judicial activism: Role of the Supreme Court.

The highest judicial organ in the country expressed its views on the uniform civil code in the few cases before it. Among these are the judgements in Sarla Mudgal case and the controversial and popular decision by the constitution bench in the Shah Bano case. The cause of action in both of these cases had nothing to do with the uniform civil code. However, the court decided on its own to examine the issue. The Court advocated the introduction of uniform civil code on ground of national integration and not gender equality.

In the Sarla Mudgal decision the court seemed to indicate that since Mohammedan law allows men to marry up to four wives, Hindu men are induced to convert into being Muslims for the sole purpose of marrying more than one wife as bigamy is a criminal offence under Hindu marriage laws. The inference is that monogamous Hindu law is progressive, fair to women and modern compared to Mohammedan law. The Court seemed to indicate the bigamous marriages are a result of presence of Mohammedan law and not Hindu men's promiscuous conduct. The uniform civil code is the magic statute that once introduced will alleviate all the political, social-economic hurdles and ensure uniformity in personal law and hence eradicate all the communal problems experienced in India!

In Shah Bano, the case was about maintenance of divorced Muslim woman and whether secular law (section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973) should apply or the Muslim Personal Law. The Court after rightly deciding the secular law overrides the personal laws in this aspect went on to interpret the Muslims' sacred text and the issue of the uniform civil code. The court called for the uniform civil code on grounds of national integration even though the issue at hand was the degrading treatment of a divorced Muslim woman.

## Conclusion

In such an environment, taking into consideration the views of the Supreme Court in the two decisions discussed above, the uniform civil code should be introduced mainly to help in the unification of various communities. However the tenor is that such a move warrants the scrapping of archaic Mohammedan law which allows polygamy and maintenance during the three months after divorce (iddat period). The Hindu laws, being codified, monogamous, and allowing formal equality in matters of divorce, restitution of conjugal rights etc, are seen as modern, progressive and an example to be followed by the rest of the communities. Since the Hindu community commands a numerical strength of about 80% of the population there is a genuine fear by minority communities especially Muslims gathered from the pronouncements of the Supreme Court and views of right wing Hindu political activists that the uniform civil code will be the imposition of the majority's will over the minority. This galvanises the minorities and intensifies their demand for separate cultural identity in order to safeguard their religion and other cultural practices.

## Bibliography

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### Cases

- Mohd. Ahmad Khan v. Shah Bano Begum, AIR (1985) SC 945
- Sarla Mudgal v. Union of India, AIR (2006) SC 1531
- Bai Tahira v. Ali Hussain Fissali, AIR (1979) SC 362
- Fazlumbi v. K. Khadir Vali, AIR (1980) SC 1730

# Achievers AMONG INTERNATIONAL CHRISTITES



## **Sarah's view about Christ University**

A year has passed since I joined and being a part of Christ University gives me a feeling of relief and warmth. As I pen down my experiences, that I overcame I feel that I have learnt so much that it is inexplicable. This university has blessed me with freedom to express my identity, individuality, in shaping my life and above all has canalized my thoughts and actions in making a difference in this university. But as the wheel of time progresses, everyday is one to be cherished. I am happy that there are lessons to learn from our dear teachers. I want to thank the Almighty for having blessed me with the ability to move along through these years with felicity.

**Sarah.H.Hasham - Tanzania  
II BSc (PCM)**



Ms. Kamanchenak Saelao: II MA (Sociology) - Born in Bangkok, Thailand, schooling at Nakhon Pathom School, near Bangkok. Obtained BA degree in Sociology from Thammasat University, Bangkok (2004); also worked at Asia Bookstall. Went to USA under C.E.P and did a course in English as a second language at Mercer County Community College, New Jersey (2006) and came to India under ICCR Scholarship in June 2007. Has been a first class student at Christ University and takes an active part in all curricular and co-curricular activities of the department. Likes to help other Thai students with their studies and living issues. Is elected as PR Secretary of Thai Students Association, Bangalore, as well as Assistant Welfare Secretary of the Federation of International Student Associations-Bangalore. Hobbies: Reading & writing articles

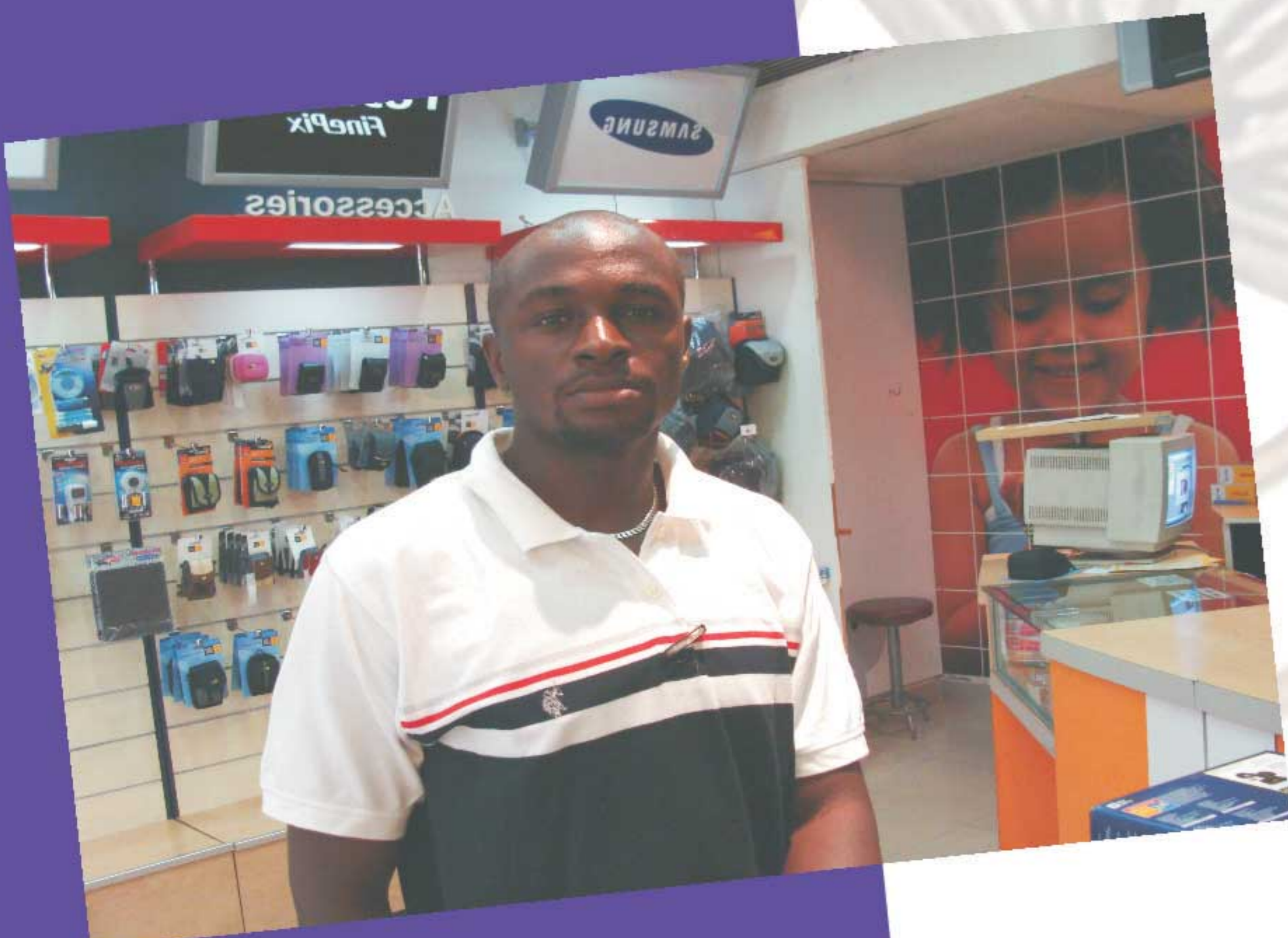
**Kamanchenak Saelao -Thailand  
II MA Sociology**

## INTRODUCING FOREIGN STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: 2009-10



It was 13th June 2008: the unforgettable date in my life, when I joined Christ College, which is presently Christ University. I felt like an alien in another planet!, everything was different from my home country, Tanzania. Culture, dress code, food, weather. After a week, I started to get used to the college environment and realized I am in the right place, because of all the facilities the college offers, the cooperation of my fellow students and teachers. The hospitality I got from my fellow Christites, made me comfortable and helpful to fit in this society. When I am outside Christ University I seem as a foreigner, but when I am in Christ University I am a Christite. As a foreigner Christite I am learning more about Indian culture, norms and values, and it has motivated my interest in my studies too. Studying in India especially in Christ University has been a great experience to me.

**Mary Stella Louis – Tanzania  
II BA (EPS)**



I, Ntemi Masanja from Tanzania is getting myself trained as effective and successful lawyer at Christ University School of Law. A fourth year BA., LLB student, I have already shown my potential by being a member of the winning team at the CMR Inter-law Collegiate Cross Examination competition held in Bangalore on 13th March 2009. I was also one of the members of the Christ University team which won the first place at the Nalsar-National Foundation for Corporate Governance Moot Court Competition held in Hyderabad from 10th to 12th April 2009. I was also adjudged the second best speaker at the same competition! A brilliant speaker in English and Swahili, I am serving the International Students Community of Christ University as representative for the second year in succession.

**Ntemi Ezekiel Masanja - Tanzania  
IV BA., LLB**



I am a citizen of Mozambique. I was born in the capital city, "Maputo", which is located in the southern part of the country. From the year 1996 to 2002, I did my 1st to 7th standards and from 2003, I started my secondary and P.U. education which I finished in 2007. After my P.U, I joined a teachers' formation institute which gives an intensive formation of teachers in 1 year but unfortunately I just stayed there for six months as I had to come to India. In this institute, I was the coordinator of the information; which meant I had to know every issue connected with the institution and inform all students about it and in the same way I took all the student's worries and presented to the general student coordinator of the institution.

With this background of student activism, I reached this great land "India" where I am pursuing my BBM course at Christ University. Currently, I am in II year being sponsored by the I.C.C.R. I am proud to say I'm happy to be in this University not only due to the educational standards maintained but also because of the general atmosphere prevailing in the Campus.

Along all this way, I passed through extra-curricular exposures where I learned much more things that are not given in the books. But among all, I'll just mention those which really helped broadening my mind.

In December 2006, I went to participate in the 16th Commonwealth conference of the educational ministers which was held in South Africa (Cape Town) representing the hopeful youth of my country. On the following year, I participated in many seminars held in my country which envisaged the debates on issues like the "Regional integration of SADC, the revision of the MARP plan of the African Union (AU), etc." I also was a member of a NGO (spread in all the country) which deals with academic issues in the country. In this organisation, I stayed for almost 8 months and I was the leader of the team dealing with media channels. I also won an inter-pre-university educational competition representing my school. Out of 22 rounds held, we won 18.

Today, I am glad to be the Foreign Student Representative of Christ University. In this second year of my leadership, I've learned so much about people of different countries, cultures, traditions and habits, I consider myself quite lucky!

Indeed, I can't end this without saying "CONGRATULATION TO ALL INDIAN CITIZENS" on the eve of Indian Independence Day.

**Antonio Alberto Cossa**  
**II BBM**



I was born on 18th January 1990. I was born and brought up in Kurgan Tube city of Tajikistan, a very beautiful mountainous country to the north of the Himalayas. The Hindukush and Pamir mountain ranges immortalized by Indian mythology are in my country. I had my schooling at Lyceum High School of Kurgan Tube city, south of Dushambe, our capital. I was a bright student at high school and always wanted to study abroad in English medium. My friends told me about the high academic standards of Christ University and I applied for BCA. I have come to Christ University with high hopes, but I have language difficulty. I am not very fluent in English and have difficulty in understanding lessons. But I am very enthusiastic and will work very hard to realize my dream. The International Office has been very kind to me; and a few Indian students of I MA (English) are helping me. Hence I have volunteered to be a foreign student representative. I need your full cooperation. My hobbies are working out at the gym and playing football.

**Firdavs Naimov**  
**I BCA**



I am the first child of a 5 member family. Born on the first day of May in Rasht, Iran. My mom encouraged me in sports, so I started swimming since I was 5 and by the age of 12 I was a gold medalist in the inter-state competitions. Pursuing it to the national level, I won a bronze medal. Later, wanting to try something new, I shifted my attention to figure-skating. After two years of practicing and participating I was a state level gold medalist. These small achievements gave me the confidence and made me believe that I can achieve anything by hard work.

So, when my parents gave me the option of studying abroad, I chose India, I was up for the challenge. I say "challenge" because it's a foreign country, unfamiliar culture, totally different food! And, last but not the least, its a different book-language. When it came to selecting the university, I wanted the best. So it had to be Christ University. I am a Christite from 1st yr B.Sc ( BCZ). It will be great to function as one of the F.S. Reps.

**Setareh Farzaneh - Iran**  
**I BCZ**



I am Sadiq Amini, was born on 4th Jan 1989, in Kabul city - Afghanistan. I was awarded a scholarship by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), based on which, currently I am in my final year BA (History, Economics and Political Science).

#### **Achievements**

- Secured 43rd rank in a general Exam after PU among more than 85000 students from all over Afghanistan.
- Secured 3rd rank in the general exam after PU among 4500 students in Herat-Afghanistan.
- Secured the First Prize in Debating competition, Christ University - 2008.
- Secured the First Prize in speaking contest, Bangalore University - 2008.
- Secured the Second Prize in Extempore Competition, Christ University - 2008.
- Secured the Second Position in Economic Quiz, St. Stephen's College Delhi - 2007
- Qualified to Participate and Present a Paper in an International Conference in Thailand (Bangkok) - 2008, and Turkey (Izmir) - 2008.
- Participated in Asian Economics and Entrepreneurship Summit, St. Joseph's College - 2008.
- In charge of Cultural Department as well as Spokesperson for State Youth Council, Herat-Afghanistan, 2005 and 2006.
- A prominent member of Debating Society, Centre for Social Action and Student Welfare Office.

Now, I am proud to be one of the six Foreign Student Representatives at the International Office of Christ University.

**Sadiq Amini**  
**III B.A (HEP)**

## **Negro, Black, or African?**

*Different words carry different meanings. Moreover, these words are actually sound patterns that create particular images in our minds. And so what differentiates one word from another is the image it forms in our minds.*

*In this sense, Negro, black and African cannot mean the same thing. However, most people use these words interchangeably. They only notice the difference from the way African people react to these words. Most Africans, for example, think calling them 'Negros' is abusive. But this was not a few years ago, especially in 1960's. In those days, famous African American activists like Malcolm X had no problem with the word. In fact, in showing respect for the word, they insisted that 'Negro' should always be written with the capital 'N'. Ironically, these same people refused to be called 'niggers'. And it seems this irony later influenced Africans to regard 'Negro' abusive as well.*

*But usually, especially in America, African people are simply called 'blacks'. This label, ofcourse, was meant to stress the fact that Africans are generally dark skinned. During slavery and colonialism, however, African blackness was redefined. Its meaning went beyond skin colour. Blackness meant backwardness, poverty, diseases, and wars. It also suggested a connection with what most people would call black magic. And so, Africa became a 'dark continent', despite the fact that the sun shines there the most.*

*Interestingly, the redefined meaning of blackness seems to have shared by most people who call Africans 'blacks'. Indeed, during the recent American Presidential campaigns, those who thought Obama was 'too black,' were in fact stressing his deeper African connection as compared to other American blacks. In addition, those who refuse to call dark skinned non-Africans 'blacks' share the same meaning. And since blackness means Africanness, it is more appropriate to call 'blacks' Africans.*

**Kato Lukaija - Tanzania**  
**III BA (EPS)**



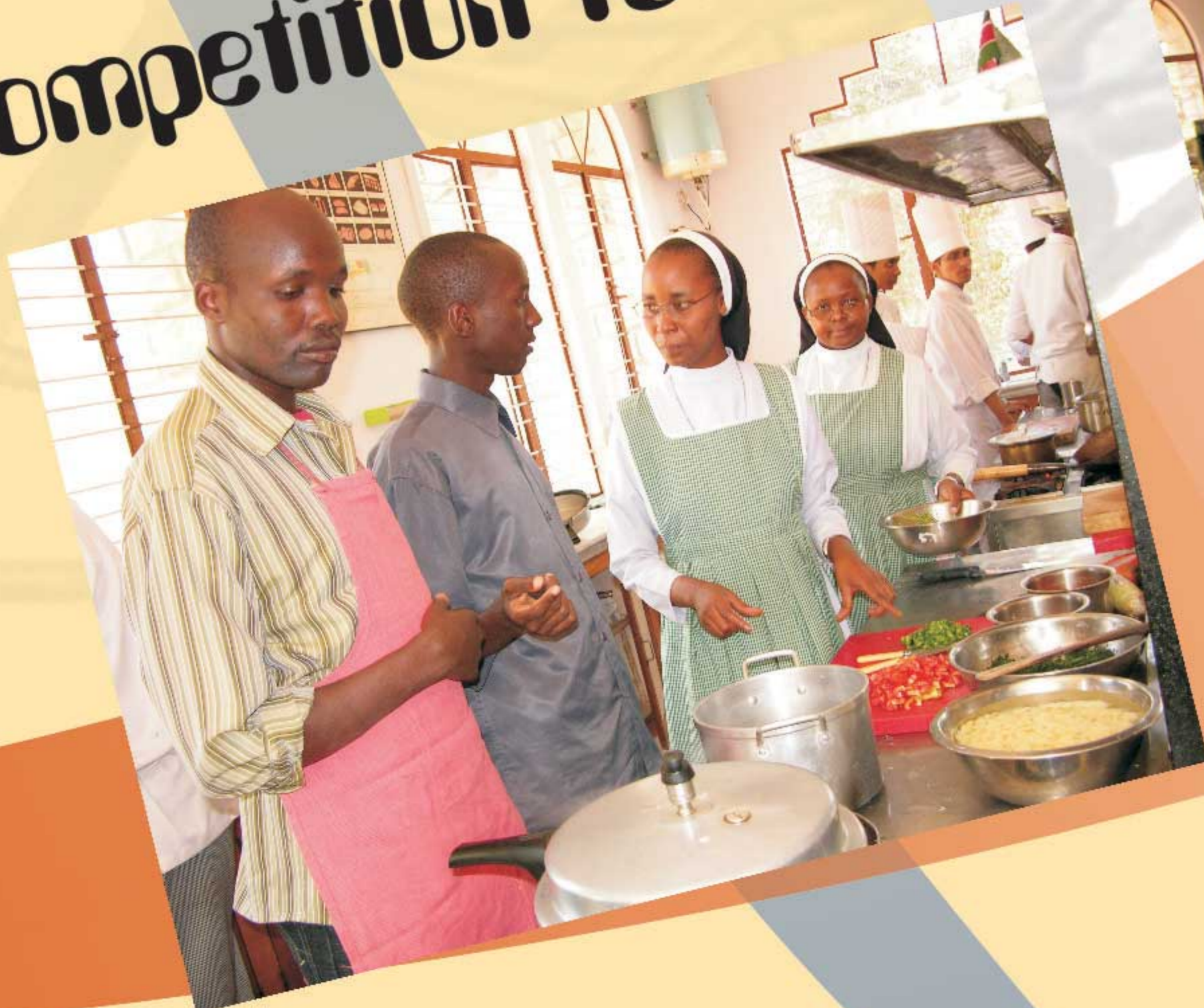
# USAC STUDENTS

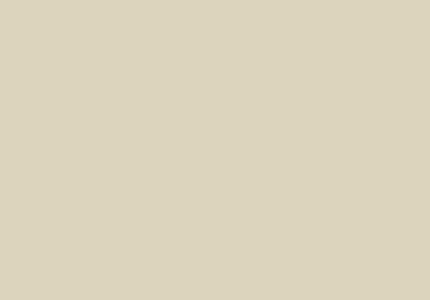


## Foreign Students Meeting – 23rd July 2009



## Cookery Competition for Foreign Students'09





**International Christites - A Statistical Profile**  
30/07/2009.

SL NO	Country	2007-08 Batch	2008-09 Batch	2009-10 Batch	Total
1	Afghanistan	3	1	2	6
2	Austria		1		1
3	Bangladesh	1			1
4	Benin	2	1		3
5	Bhutan		1		1
6	Cambodia		3		3
7	Cameroon		1		1
8	China		6		6
9	Ethiopia		2		2
10	France		2	0+3*	5
11	Germany			1*	1
12	Great Britain	2	1		3
13	Indonesia		1		1
14	Iran	1		1	2
15	Italy			0+1*	1
16	Ivory Coast	5	7		12
17	Kenya	2	5		7
18	Korea (Republic)	5	16	4	25
19	Kyrgyzstan		1		1
20	Lebanon			1*	1
21	Maldives	4		1	5
22	Mauritius	1	2	1	4
23	Malaysia		1		1
24	Mozambique	1	3		4
25	Nepal	7	12	7	26
26	Norway			1	1
27	Saudi Arabia	1			1
28	Senegal			1*	1
29	Seychelles		1		1
30	Spain			0+1*	1
31	Sri Lanka	4	2	2	8
32	Tajikistan			1	1
33	Tanzania	3	4	3	10
34	Taiwan	1			1
35	Thailand	2	23	6	31
36	Tibet		9	8	17
37	U. S. A		2	2+19*	23
38	Vietnam	2			2
39	Yemen	1			1
40	Zimbabwe		2		2
	Total	47	110	38+27*	224

\* Short Term/USAC Students.



Student Editors: Antonio Alberto Cossa - II BBM  
Mary Stella Louis - II BA (EPS)