



## *Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America*

### **Congratulations to our 2008-2009 Scholarship Recipients**

We received applications from several of our alumnae who have demonstrated excellence in their academic achievements, leadership ability, and participation in extracurricular activities. We would like to thank all our outstanding applicants who took the time and effort to send in their application. It was not an easy task for the Scholarship Selection Committee to select the finalists from this most qualified applicant pool.

We are proud to announce our 2008-2009 scholarship recipients – they are **Vihara Dharmaratne** and **Shakya Premachandra**. Each winner received a **\$250.00** scholarship.

**Vihara Dharmaratne** is a sophomore undergraduate majoring in International Studies at the University of Mississippi. She is a student at the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, as well as the Croft Institute for International Studies. Vihara attended Mahamaya Girls' College from 1996 to 2006. She served as the Deputy Head Prefect at Mahamaya in 2005. She was also a member of the school's English Debating Team. Vihara was presented the Most Disciplined Student Award at Mahamaya in 2006. Vihara enjoys learning new languages and about foreign countries and cultures. She hopes to attend graduate school upon completing her Bachelor of Arts degree. Vihara aspires to become a part of the diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and the world and to work for international organizations, such as the United Nations, Human Rights Watch, and UNICEF.

**Shakya Premachandra** is a graduate student (Master of Science) at the University of Missouri in Saint Louis majoring in Astrophysics. She attended Mahamaya Girls' College from 1994 to 2002. Shakya earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, with a first class, from University of Bangalore, India and a Master of Science degree in Applied Statistics from the Postgraduate Institute of Science at the University of Peradeniya. She has received numerous academic and extracurricular awards, including the General Proficiency Prize for Best Undergraduate Student, a Letter of Appreciation for Best Student in the Bachelor of Science Section, a Certificate of Merit for Solo Performance in Instrumental (Piano) Music, and recognition for her Project Exhibit on Statistics. Shakya has served as a Software Quality Assurance Technician for Advantage Technologies in Sri Lanka. She aspires to establish a career in astrophysics research and teaching and to contribute to the advancement of the field of physics in Sri Lanka.

On behalf of MGCAANA, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the Scholarship Selection Committee would like to sincerely congratulate Vihara and Shakya and wish both of them continued success in their academic and professional pursuits.

Best regards,  
Dharshani Nanayakkara  
Chairperson, Scholarship Selection Committee  
Director, MGCAANA