Prayer to Goddess ShAradA

नमस्ते शारदे देवी काशमीरपुरवासिनि ।
त्वामहं प्रार्थ्ये नित्यं विद्यादानं च देहि मे ॥ १ ॥

या श्रद्धा धारणा मेघा वाढेरी विधिवद्धभा ।
भजतजज्ञायशदना शामादिगुणद्रियिनी ॥ २ ॥

नमामि यामिनी नाथेन्द्रवत्सुकृतकुन्तलादाम ।
भवानी भवसन्तापरिप्रवणसुधानदीम ॥ ३ ॥

भद्रकाल्ये नमो नित्यं सरस्वत्ये नमो नमः ।
वेदेवेदाज्ञेदान्तविद्यास्थानेय एव च ॥ ४ ॥

ब्रह्मसंस्कृता परमा ज्योतिरुपा सनातनी ।
सर्वविद्याधिदेवी या तस्ये वाण्ये नमो नमः ॥ ५ ॥

यया विना जगत्युर्व शाब्धजीवन्मृतं भवेत ।
झानाधिदेवी या तस्ये सरस्वत्ये नमो नमः ॥ ६ ॥

यया विना जगत्युर्व मूकमुक्तवतस्तदा ।
या देवी वागधिधार्ती तस्ये वाण्ये नमो नमः ॥ ७ ॥

॥ इति श्रीशारदाप्रार्थना समासा ॥

Some of these verses are from Yajnyavalkya’s shrIsarasvatIstotram or vANIstavanam from Brahmaavaivarta Purana.
So this appears to be a compiled stotra.

Prayer to Goddess ShAradA

नमस्ते शारदे देवी काशमीरपुरवासिनि ।
Namaste Saraswati! O effulgent Sarada, worshipped in the city of Kashmir (substitute your city’s name here - worshipped in the city of North Brunswick). I pray to you everyday. Please give the pure knowledge.

You are faith, memory, intelligence, the divinity of speech, the spouse of Creator Brahma. You grace the devotees’ speech, you are the bestower of inner peace, and all other excellences.

नमः यावविनी नाथेश्वरालङ्कृतकुङ्कलाम्।
भवानी भवस्वार्थपनियःतुलार्धाम्।
यामी यामा अस्या सन्तीति यामी इति अमरम्।
यामः restraint, forbearance;
यामिनि she is restraint, forbearance;
नाथ protector लेखा streaks;
नाथलेखा streaks of lightening standing for sparkling knowledge;
अलंकृत decorated;
कुन्तुष्ण one with ear-ornaments;
Her ear ornaments are decorated with streaks of sparkling knowledge;
भवानी भवस्य पल्लि भवानी इति अमरम्।
भव लोकस्य सन्ताप दुखानां
निर्वाण killing, extinguishing;
सुधा अमृतं नदी river.;

I prostrate Yamini, one who is forbearance herself, who has her ears decorated with streaks of sparkling knowledge; who is BhavAni, who is a river of nectar that extinguishes the torments of worldly life. 3.

भगवान्येन नमो नित्यं सरस्वत्येन नमो नमः।
वेदवेदाङ्गवेदाङ्गविद्यास्थानेष्य एव च ॥ ४॥

भन्द्रते भद्रम् । auspicious;
भद्रकल्पणी One who bestows auspiciousness;
नित्यं प्रति दिनं
सर: प्रसरण सर्वत्र अस्तीति सरस्वती।
She exists everywhere as a flow (of knowledge) and hence she is Saraswati.

From where? Answer:
वेद वेदाङ्ग वेदांत विद्या स्थानेभ्यः।

Constant salutations to you, O Mother Beneficient!
You are the one who exists everywhere as a flow of knowledge originating from the Veda, the auxiliary branches of Veda, Upanishads, and all other forms of Learning. Salutations to you again. 4.
Prostrations to that Vani
who is the supreme spirit,
who is the divine light,
who is The Eternal Being, and
who is the presiding deity of all learning. 5.

Prostrations to Sarasvati,
Without who, the whole world would appear dead (even though living).
And who is the presiding deity of knowledge.
A person is as good as dead without the learning, Sarasvati.
That is the import. 6.
Possessed of madness

She is the instrument through which presiding over is done. Or simply presiding.

Prostrations to VAni

Without whom the whole world would appear dumb and demented;
who is the presiding deity of speech. 7.

॥ इति श्रीशारदापार्थना समासा ॥

Appendix philosophical interest

BhavAni

Why is Saraswati described as BhavAni? I will briefly quote Sankara on the topic in Rudra bhAshyaM.

BhavAni, Uma are adjectives of the Rudra. Rudra means - One who melts the miseries of worldly life. Since the destruction of ignorance or misery of worldly is only possible with knowledge, it is appropriately said that Rudra-Uma sahita is capable of melting that misery.

See RudrabhAsyam for detailed explanation: namaH somAya cha.

Rudra is sheer power. BhavAni is all knowledge, self-restraint, control.
And, you see, Power is all about Control.

SArada

SArada means effulgence as was translated in the first sloka of shankara rachita shAradA prArthanA.

Namaste Saraswati! O effulgent Sarada,

Right now, that is, the two months (Oct. 2nd, 1997 - Nov. 29, 1997) where in SarasvatI pUjA (or DasarA festival) falls (Asvlyuja, kArtIka) are called sharad Ritu. During the Sarad Ritu, what do you notice when you drive to work? It is a good day – neither cold nor hot, but the turnpike is jammed; but no
accident! And after turning to the radio, you find out that traffic is crawling due to the radiant splendour (glare) of bhagavan (or one who has a wealth – of radiance) Aditya. That effulgence is called SAradA.

What does it represent?

Have you ever been in the presence of a learned man - be the subject matter is programming languages, neural networks, analog computers or financial mergers or Veda/GeetAs? In his presence, that subject suddenly seems to be very simple, questions seem to be answered with ease and the whole subject matter appears like simple common sense and you feel an unexplainable power and joy. What is it and Where do you think that brilliance flows?

That brilliance is ShAradA, That flow is SarasvatI, Those sounds are VAnI.

Prayer to Goddess ShAradA

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Please send corrections to sanskrit@cheerful.com