



ITI HAS

(IT Is Happening At SASTRA)



Newsletter from SASTRA University

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Message from

VICE - CHANCELLOR

Dr. Radhakrishnan, our former President, was of the firm opinion that major innovations flow from the universities to the society. The Government of India and its apex bodies like UGC and AICTE are keen to accelerate the process of such a

transmission. SASTRA University is set on participating in this mission in a big way. SASTRA orients all its resources – infrastructure and human – towards the dissemination of knowledge and skill and entrepreneurial expertise required by the government and industry.

Alongside restructuring its academic programmes to suit the industry needs, SASTRA also takes specific initiatives in Rural Development. It has established a Centre for Rural Development Studies in partnership with IOB. Dr. C. Rengarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, inaugurated the centre on January 10, 2012. He urged SASTRA to promote research towards improving agriculture productivity and popularize its findings in areas of economic use of water and adoption of technology in farming and non-farming activities.

SASTRA launched Free Skill Development Programmes. Inaugurating the programmes Shri Ramadorai, Advisor to Prime Minister's National Skill Development Council, applauded SASTRA for being the first to take the initiative towards the national objective of training 500 million skilled persons by 2022.

SASTRA marches on its road map of extension services to society. Justice Shri C. Nagamuthu, Judge, Madras High Court inaugurated the Free Legal Aid Clinic run by students and faculty of the School of Law, SASTRA for the benefit of poor litigants. A 30-day entrepreneurship development programme sponsored by the Govt. of India was conducted exclusively for SC/ST people. Another training programme on Herbal Cultivation was organized for the economic empowerment of women self-help groups.

SASTRA donated Rs. 1.25 crores toward the Chief Minister's Thane Cyclone Relief Fund. The University is also creating infrastructure facilities at a Municipal School in a village in Kumbakonam Taluk at the cost of Rs. 90 lakhs.

Academically, SASTRA maintained its usual stride by organizing five international conferences on emerging trends in science and technology. A national conference on Vedas- the treasure house of Mathematics was also inaugurated by the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan.

Our students exhibited extraordinary skills in organizing the national level technical and cultural festivals – Daksh and Kuruksastra. The University now gears up for the successful completion of the year's activities. I wish all our students success in their examinations!

Prof. R. Sethuraman
Vice-Chancellor

SASTRA DONATES Rs.1.25 CRORE FOR THANE CYCLONE RELIEF

The Management, the Staff and the Students of SASTRA University, contributed a sum of Rs. 1,24,00,968/- towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for resurrecting various parts of Tamil Nadu that were affected by the THANE CYCLONE during December 2011. Out of the total contribution to the Relief Fund, the Management has contributed Rs. 1 Crore, all teaching and non-teaching staff, by way of one day salary, Rs. 11,11,968/- and all students of SASTRA University Rs. 12,89,000/-.

This amount was handed over to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 19th January 2012 by Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of the Management, Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean – Sponsored Research & Director – Centre for Nanotechnology & Advanced Biomaterials (CeNTAB), on behalf of the Staff, and Chi. Shabir Ahamed Ganai, a Ph.D. student from Kashmir, doing Ph.D. in the field of Nanotechnology, on behalf of students.

Later, an additional cheque for Rs. 79,832 was forwarded to the Chief Minister towards the difference in contribution of one-day salary of teaching and non-teaching staff, accruing from their pay and allowances effective January 1, 2012. With this the total amount contributed by SASTRA towards Thane Cyclone relief stands at Rs. 1,24,80,800.

The Management, the Staff and the Students sincerely pray and hope that the cyclone affected areas are soon restored to normalcy.



Our Vice-Chancellor, presenting the Cheque to the Chief Minister. Also seen (from left) Chi. Shabir Ahamed Ganai & Dr. S. Swaminathan

CENTRE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES @ SASTRA

Dr.C.Rengarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister, New Delhi inaugurated the Centre for Rural Development Studies at SASTRA on January 10, 2012. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rengarajan said: “The only way to improve living conditions of economically weak people in rural areas is to take steps to improve agriculture productivity. Ways should be found out to improve agriculture productivity by conserving available water, employing various technologies and reaching out research findings to people”.

“I am happy that a Centre for Rural Development Studies is being established at SASTRA University. The centre should find out measures to improve agricultural productivity in the delta areas. There are problems in agriculture production because of extreme dependence of water from other states--Cauvery water from Karnataka. Techniques of conserving available water should be introduced,” Dr.Rangarajan said.

“Mahatma Gandhi said that India lives in its villages. Even after several years of industrial growth, India still continues to live in villages,” Dr. Rangarajan added. Farmers should be educated to take maximum advantage of modern methods of cultivation. Farm mechanisation should be used to improve cultivation methods. Farmers should be taught to take up other

allied activities in the lean season . However, non-farm activities should be chosen so as to use local resources. In delta areas, materials such as paddy straw could be used for non-farm activities. Bagasse of sugarcane can be used for generating power, he said.

Calling for overall economic development, he said that agriculture should be made as a more viable activity.

Shri M. Narendra, Chairman, Indian Overseas Bank, who participated in the function said that the Twelfth Plan period accords thrust to 'growth with equity'. Growth should reach every citizen in the country. There are 6,38,000 villages in the country without banking facilities. It has been planned to provide financial inclusion to 79,000 villages which have a population of more than 2,000. Shri Narendra announced

that the IOB will provide Rs.25 lakh as corpus for the Centre for Rural Development of SASTRA University for its activities.

Prof. R.Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor also participated in the function. Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development welcomed the gathering and Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, Management Studies proposed a vote of thanks.



From left: Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Shri M. Narendra, Dr.C. Rengarajan & Prof. R. Sethuraman



Dr.C. Rengarajan delivering the Inaugural address



Shri M. Narendra addressing the audience

FREE SKILL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES

Shri S.Ramadorai, Advisor to Prime Minister's National Skill Development Council and Vice-Chairman, Tata Consultancy Services, launched the Free Skill Development Certificate Programmes at SASTRA on February 23, 2012. Inaugurating the programme Shri Ramadorai said that India has a target of creating 500 million skilled workers by 2022.

Shri Ramadorai added that currently the capacity of skill development in the country is around 3.1 million people per year. The eleventh five year plan envisions an increase in the capacity to 15 million people per year.



Shri S. Ramadorai lighting the traditional lamp

The objective of the National Skill Development Council is to train 500 million people in India by 2022. This will be done through public-private partnerships by linking universities like SASTRA. Lauding SASTRA for taking this initiative, Shri Ramadorai said, "SASTRA is the first in the country to take up this programme. Forty persons will be trained in various skills and each will be paid Rs.5000 per month for purchasing equipment and for their studies. I would try to get the recognition to the certificate given by SASTRA University from the Central Government and make it equivalent to an ITI certificate."



The BHEL cluster is around SASTRA and youth are taking courses in operating CNC Machines and Welding. This is a wonderful example of providing inclusive employment. The programme provides job opportunity to the youth. It also brightens their entrepreneurship development.

Prof. R.Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development SASTRA, participated in the function.

IT'S PAYBACK TIME, NOT FOR IIT BUT FOR VILLAGE SCHOOL

At a time when corporate bigwigs and successful entrepreneurs give back to IITs, SASTRA University gives back to a school in Kottaiyur, a small village near Kumbakonam. This municipal school at Kottaiyur is where the present Vice-Chancellor of SASTRA University studied up to class three and the school is getting ready for a facelift through a generous grant. SASTRA is constructing a new building and compound wall at a cost of Rs.90 lakhs for the benefit of students studying in this village school. This new building measuring around 6,000 sq.ft. will house 9 class rooms, staff room, common room, etc. The compound wall will be constructed at a running length of 460 mts.

"The success of India lies in its villages and the success of school education lies in the village schools" said Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor of SASTRA. He wanted this school to provide the possible best to its students and remove the stigma that only private schools are capable of creating good infrastructure and this step is a good start in that direction. The Vasthu Pooja for this new construction was performed on March 5, 2012 to mark the beginning of the construction activities. The Management, the Staff and the Students of SASTRA wish the school all success in its future endeavours.



Vasthu Pooja in progress

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VEDAS-THE TREASURE HOUSE OF MATHEMATICS

Shri E.S.L.Narasimhan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh inaugurated the National Conference on Vedas – The Treasure House of Mathematics (VTHM) at SASTRA on February 17, 2012. Delivering the inaugural address, the Governor said that it is an established fact that the Vedas are a treasure house of knowledge.

Shri Narasimhan said that Veda is the multifarious knowledge of the seers embodied as mantras, naturally necessitating supportive literature to understand properly and that literature is called Vedanga classified into six. By virtue of their nature these are equated with organs in the human body wherein Jyotisa occupies the position of eyes considered to be a very important one. Veda ordains performance of Dharma. And Dharma is nothing but rites envisaged in the ordinances passed by Veda. They appear before us in the form of Agnistoma, and Jyotistoma.

They are to be performed on the days prescribed by Veda. In order to find out the right time of the Vedic ritual, knowledge of Jyotisa is needed and Jyotisa requires knowledge of Ganita or Mathematics.

"Thus Ganita occupies the top most position among the Indian Sciences. Like the crest of peacock and the shining gem in the hood of cobra, Ganita is the supreme of the Vedangasastras", Shri Narasimhan said.

The Veda gives the order of numerals in a Mantra. The Kathahasamhita of Yajurveda refers to the places of ones, tens, hundreds, thousands and lakhs. While counting the numbers, the Veda says that the numerical forms are begotten by adding one to the existing. The culmination of Mathematical knowledge of Vedas is



found in the sulbasutras, heart of Kalpasutras, the basic Vedanga compared to the hands.

The ancient Indian scientists like Lagadha, Aryabhata and Brahmagupta measured the time and distance. The measurement of time starts with Nimesa and ends with Brhama kalpa. The much evolved form of mathematics appears in Aryabhatiya authored by Aryabhata one (fifth century AD).

The Governor called for introduction of texts of Vedic mathematics in all the Vedapatasalas. They can be introduced from class V onwards even in schools. Institutions dealing with higher education may launch a special drive to re-introduce Indian Mathematics. He also suggested that the Universities like SASTRA may think of introducing Vedic Mathematics as part of their PG-level course.

Shri Narasimhan released the book Veda Vaibavam (Volume Three) and Prof. R.Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor of the University, received the first copy. Dr. S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development welcomed the gathering and Dr. N. Kannan, Professor of Mathematics and the Coordinator of the conference proposed a vote of thanks.



From Left: Dr.S.N. Srivastava, Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Mrs. Narasimhan, Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Prof. R. Sethuraman, Dr.N. Kannan

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS AND COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

An International Conference on “Functional Genomics and Computational Biology” was organized by the Department of Bioinformatics on 5th and 6th January 2012. The Conference provided a good platform to discuss emerging trends in the field especially areas like Neuroinformatics, Systems Biology, Gene Expression and Next Generation Sequencing besides Structural Biology Initiatives and Drug Design.

Key note addresses were delivered by Prof. Sir Tom Blundell, Professor of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge, Dr. Francisco Barrantes, Director of the Argentinean Scientific Research Council and the UNESCO Chair of Biophysics & Molecular Neurobiology at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina and Prof. Giora Simchen, Professor at the Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

Prof. Dhananjay Bhattacharyya from the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, Prof.N. Srinivasan of the Molecular Biophysics Unit, IISc, Bangalore, Dr. Raman Govindarajan, Head-R& D, Sanofi Aventis, India, Dr. P. Gautam, Dean- School of Biotechnology, Anna University, Chennai and Dr. Binay Panda, Ganit Labs, Bangalore addressed the different sessions of the conference. More than 200 participants from academic and research community participated in the conference.



Prof. Sir Tom Blundell lighting the traditional lamp

TRADITIONAL DRUGS IN DISEASE MANAGEMENT

An International Conference on Traditional Drugs in Disease Management was conducted between 11th and 12th January, 2012 by Dept. of CARISM, SCBT, SASTRA University. This conference was inaugurated

by Prof. Gerald Muench, Head of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Western Sydney, Australia.

The seminar focussed on the biotechnological interventions and applications in promoting traditional drugs. It also highlighted the importance of traditional medicines in the management of various diseases and disorders. Besides, it threw light on the perspectives and prospects of traditional drug industry which may contribute towards the enhancement of income generation not only for individuals and industries but also towards national economy by promoting exports of traditional drugs.

International experts from Australia and USA and Indian scientists working on traditional drugs applying modern scientific parameters and tools delivered special lectures emphasizing the importance of natural products and traditional medicines in disease treatment and healthcare management. Notable dignitaries include Dr. Alan Rein, National Cancer Institute, USA, Dr. Saraswati Sukumar, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA, Dr. Srikant Anant, University of Kansas, USA, Dr. Suresh Govindaraghavan, Network Nutrition Pvt. Limited, Australia, Dr. Arun Balakrishnan, Piramal Life Sciences, India, Dr. B. Gopalan, Orchid Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd, India, Dr. Laxminarain Misra, Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants India (CIMAP), Shri. Praneel Datla, Parry Nutraceuticals, India, Dr. Amit Agarwal, Natural Remedies Private Limited, India, Dr.S. Narasimhan, Asthagiri Herbal Research Foundation, India and Mr. Sasi Warier, Astangha Ayurvedics, Trichy.

Altogether 250 delegates participated in the conference representing various educational, research institutions and herbal industries. Besides, two international participants Ms. Manju Latha Krishnamoorthy, University of New South Wales, Australia and



Prof. Gerald Muench lighting the traditional lamp

Mr. Parthasarathy Rengarajan, University of Kansas Medical Centre, USA also presented their research work. There were altogether 106 papers presented by young researchers. 6 papers were selected for Best Paper Awards by a panel of experts.

The International Seminar made participants to understand the importance of systematic and scientific validation of herbal drugs that is needed for the globalization of our ancient heritage. The two day seminar concluded with valedictory address by Dr. Ramasami, National Institute of Siddha, Chennai, India and Prof.P. Brindha, Associate Dean & Coordinator, CARISM, proposed a vote of thanks.

INTELLIGENT MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS

An International Conference on Intelligent Manufacturing Systems ICIMS 2012 was organized by the School of Mechanical Engineering, SASTRA on February, 17 & 18, 2012. Dr. N. Ravichandran, Chief Executive Officer, Lucas TVS inaugurated the conference and delivered a key note address “Total Quality Management”.

Dr. Ravichandran advised the budding engineers to move from 'screens' (Laptops and cell phones) to the actual 'Scenes' of design and manufacture. He also advised professors to switch from 'fault detection' mode to 'facilitation' mode. According to Dr. Ravichandran, excellent quality can be achieved only through understanding of customer needs. He further emphasized that quality is the result of organizational culture and not by mere certification alone.

“In today's global market, average age of companies continues to decrease and many disappear when they are not agile to rapidly changing demands of market. Innovation is the key to success and I am happy that SASTRA University is conducting this conference with



a theme on “Manufacturing, powered through innovative automation,” remarked the veteran of Indian manufacturing sector.

Dr. A. Senthil Kumar, Associate Professor, National University of Singapore delivered a keynote lecture on Micro Machining – Challenges and Opportunities.

Shri Syed Sajjadh, Managing Director, Cooper Bussmann India Pvt. Ltd., Pondicherry addressed the gathering on “Lean Manufacturing”. Students and researchers interacted with both the experts.

A good response of 178 technical papers was received from authors from India and abroad. All the papers were reviewed by a scrutinizing committee and verified for plagiarism. The hard and soft version of the conference proceedings were released during the conference. 29 selected papers are going to be published in a special issue of the Journal of Applied Sciences, an International Journal Indexed in Scopus.

REGULATORY NETWORK ARCHITECTURE OF BACTERIA

An International Conference on Regulatory Network Architecture of Bacteria [RNAB-2012] was held at SASTRA University in association with Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology from 9th to 11th March, 2012. The conference aimed at creating a platform for knowledge exchange and to increase understanding of the latest advancements in the field of quorum sensing, host-pathogen interactions and anti-microbial drug resistance.



The first session on host-pathogen relationships opened a door to new possibilities in the fight against diseases like pneumonia, AIDS and tuberculosis which are spreading rampantly in the world today. Dr. Manoharan's lecture on the transformation of *S.pneumoniae* to a pathogen, and the use of protein

based vaccines as plausible alternative to the conventional capsular based ones gave an insight into the constant adaptability of the organisms and the measures that would be needed to step up to this challenge. Dr. Av-Gay, who co-chaired the session, addressed the role of the protein tyrosine phosphatase PtpA in inhibition of acidification of macrophages hosting Mtb, taking us a step closer to understanding the prolonged life of the elusive bacterium in the macrophages. Another thought inspiring lecture exploring a lesser known aspect of HIV and the part played by CCR5 chemokine receptors was elucidated by Dr. Banerjee, while Dr. Mundayoor, the chair for the session, brought to notice the differences in genotypes of tuberculosis patients within our own country and analysis of drug resistance of the bacteria in Kerala.

Dr. Chan's stimulating experiments revealed a promising global inhibitor of the AIPs, as an effective prevention of biofilms in the second session 'Deciphering Quorum Sensing', which also saw a plethora of budding scientists creatively presenting their individual work in the most interactive poster session. The session on "Novel Antimicrobial Drugs & Antibiotics resistance," chaired by Dr. Peter Taylor and co-chaired by Dr. T. Ramamurthy, included entertaining sessions with Dr. Hancock, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Ramamurthy with fascinating discussions on the future of antibiotics, and alternative strategies that need to be explored if we are to keep abreast of the microbes.

In the session on the nuances of the genetic code and omics in bacteria, Dr. Umesh Varshney, Dr. Vijeshwar Verma and Dr. N. Ayyadurai addressed the audience.

Out of the selected 111 abstracts, the 103 abstracts were selected for poster presentation and the remaining were selected for presentation. 40 abstracts will be sent to the Journal of Archives of Microbiology, with an impact factor of 2.125, for publication.

THIN FILMS & APPLICATIONS

An International Conference on Thin Films & Applications was organized by the School of Electrical and Electronics from March 15-17, 2012. Prof. K.L. Chopra, IIT, New Delhi inaugurated the conference. In his inaugural address, Prof. Chopra said that though we have achieved great heights in the technology sector in the past decade, it is a shame that no large-scale silicon wafer foundry is functioning in India.

He gave a lecture on the technical know-how of thin film technology, considered as a major resource behind the



modern day solar cells and photo-voltaic cells. Silicon is found in abundance in India, but is still not put to proper use, he said, citing the rising export of raw silicon to Japan and buying high-grade processed silicon for industrial use here. The Titanium mining industry is facing similar issues in the country. Both materials are valuable components in photo-voltaic cells and are manufactured using modern scientific techniques.

Recalling the development of thin film technology in India, Prof. Chopra said there was no proper optical and electronic equipment to view the miniscule, micro and nano particles in the late 60s and 70s. "Indians pioneered this technique by giving silver quating on glass as early as 600 BC," said Chopra. The thin film technology was pioneered by our forefathers and it is the mother of 'nano technology'.

Turning down the false claims made by nano scientists, Prof. Chopra said it may be justified to produce one glass of water by nano purification. However, large-scale implementation of the process would certainly be a costly affair, he said. Despite the tough competition from the recently developing nano-technology, thin film technology is put to daily use. Various electronic gadgets function based on thin film techniques. A simple mobile chip would have a couple of kilometres of wire running on thin films, he said. Most machine tools are manufactured with this technology. The DVDs and photo-voltaic cells, laser mirrors used for industries are some common examples, he added.

More than 200 delegates from India and abroad participated in the event. Prof. K.L. Chopra released the first copy of the book of abstracts and was received by the Registrar, Prof. S. N. Srivastava, Prof. B. Viswanathan, Dean SEEE presented a memento to the chief guest and Dr. M. Sridharan proposed a vote of thanks. Earlier Dr. R. John Bosco Balaguru welcomed the gathering.

SASTRA- SCHRODINGER WORKSHOP

Growing awareness of incorporating insilico methods have changed the classical paradigm of sequential filtering and have helped reduce time in the process of drug discovery,” said Dr.Achintya Das, Director, Computational Chemistry and Life Sciences at Strand Life Sciences, Bangalore. Addressing the SASTRA-Schrodinger Workshop on 'Computational Drug Design' organized by the SASTRA University on March 26, 2012, Dr. Das said that about 50,000 to 3 million compounds are to be screened to arrive at a single drug and that around \$ 90 billion would be required for this vast exercise. The uses of state of the art methodologies in modelling and prediction have helped reduce the time span and the investment in the drug discovery process.

The SASTRA- Schrodinger Workshop on 'Computational Drug Design' is a 2-day hands - on workshop on the Schrodinger suite installed for research on drug design and bioinformatics. This work is funded by the Department of AYUSH, Government of India. SASTRA is the largest academic user of the Schrodinger suite in the country and this workshop is the first in the series of annual international meetings on drug design planned in the University. 80 participants selected from all over the country participated in the workshop. Prof. Kathryn Loving, Senior Research Leader at Schrodinger Inc, from Massachusetts, USA, Mr.Raghu Rangaswamy, Senior Business Director, Schrodinger Inc and application scientists from Schrodinger addressed the different sessions of the workshop.



KNOWLEDGE LEADERSHIP FORUM LECTURES

Algorithms and Architectures for Image Compression

Dr. S. Srinivasan, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT(M) delivered a lecture on “Algorithms and Architectures for Image Compression” on 17th February 2012. Dr. Srinivasan talked about the need for image compression, issues in the image compression,

and various image compression techniques. He also talked about the compression standards and the different types of algorithms used for coding and encoding of the video compression images and compared them in terms of various parameters. He also highlighted the applications of image compression in various fields.



Drives for Industrial Applications

Shri Srikanth Venkatachari, Group Head, Drives R &D, ABB India, Bangalore delivered a lecture on “Drives for Industrial Applications” on March 19, 2012. During his lecture he pointed out the importance and applications of physical dimension calculations, gearing mechanisms, torque control, theoretical aspects of winder machine, speed control of winder machine, web control etc.

Ancient Indian Wisdom and Modern Management

School of Management organized a lecture on March 2, 2012. The Chief Guest Dr.K.Subramanian, Pro Chancellor, Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (SVYUS), Bangalore addressed on the topic “Ancient Wisdom and Modern Management” for MBA graduates. Dr.K.Subramanian briefed on the aspects of modern western management and distinguished with the ancient Indian thoughts. He quoted extensively from Bhagavad Gita, Puranas and referred their relevance to modern period.



Machine to Machine Technologies

Shri. Anush Gopalan, President & CEO, Heterogeneous Communications, Chennai delivered a special lecture on "Machine to Machine Technologies Integrated with Mobile Computing" on 11th February, 2012. He explained the salient features of Short range and Long range Wireless Platform. Shri Anush Gopalan explained the M2M puzzles like cost per bit, network mobility, network lifecycle etc. He demonstrated the working of various products developed indigenously for Machine to Machine Wireless Communication.

Nano Technology for Sustainable Materials

Prof. N. Rajagopalan, Head, Technology Development & Chief Technical Advisor – Bridges, L&T - Ramboll Consulting Engineers Limited, Chennai, spoke on the topic "Nano Technology for Sustainable Materials for Infrastructures" on 14th October 2011. The speaker



defined the concept of Nano materials with application in Construction Technology. The scope of the lecture was for infrastructure development with

orientation towards construction industry and related to Power and Energy sectors. He spoke on the effective usage of nano cement, nano steel, nano glass, nano composites, nano coatings, nano particles for fire protection, nano sensors for concrete structures, nano mineral clay, nano clay-polymer composites etc., in construction Technology.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PHILOSOPHY FOR PROFESSIONALS

A one day National conference on "Philosophy for Professionals" was conducted by School of Management, sponsored by SASTRA University and Indian council for philosophical Research (ICPR) on 3rd March 2012. Eminent speakers addressed various sessions on different topics. Dr. Harisha G B Director, Rashtrottana Research Foundation, Bangalore, stressed the distinctive features of Indian philosophy and its inclusive approach. Pro. K. Subramanian, Pro Chancellor, SVYASA University Bangalore, delivered an enthralling talk on "Itihas and their influence on Indian minds" which was filled with humour, satire and kindled the interest of the gathering towards philosophy. Dr.S. Jeyapragasam, Director, International Gandhian

Inst for Non Violence & Peace addressed on the topic "The Philosophy of Peace and Non-violence" and stressed on non-violence to achieve peace. In the afternoon session students debated on the topic 'Science and Spirituality" followed by a panel discussion on professional ethics by SASTRA faculties.

PROGYAN

Progyan – A two-day national level inter collegiate management students meet, organized by School of Management, SASTRA was held on 20th and 21st of Jan 2012. The meet was inaugurated by Shri. A.V. Krishnan, Executive Director, BHEL Trichy. The event was organized to bring out the hidden talents of the budding

managers of India. 15 colleges participated in various events like best manager, business plan, business quiz, HR Debate, Ad-Zap etc, ship wreck, block and tackle, best manager, stock market game. The total prize amount bagged by the winners was Rs.42,000/- Shri. K. Chandrasekaran Senior Vice President, Cethar Limited, Trichy delivered the valedictory address and gave away the prizes.



PRADIPTA

"PRADIPTA '12" The First State Level Inter collegiate "Commerce and Management" Students meet was organised for the under graduate students on 11th February

2012 by School of Management / SASTRA. 13 colleges participated in four events namely AD-Zap, Business quiz, stress tactics and business plan. The overall trophy was won by St.Joseph's college Trichy. Shri Raghu Vatsa Chari, Regional Manager, IOB, Thanjavur Region inaugurated the meet and Shri.A.Venkatanathan Associate Vice-President HCL Technologies distributed the prizes.



SASTRA FREE LEGAL AID CLINIC

Hon'ble Justice Shri. C. Nagamuthu, Judge, High Court of Madras inaugurated the SASTRA Free Legal Aid Clinic on January 27, 2012. Speaking on the occasion Shri Nagamuthu said that Madras High Court stands first in disposal of cases in the country. Kerala was on top previously. Now Madras High Court has grabbed the first place. Disposal of cases at Madras High Court is 5,000 per judge per year. Subordinate courts in the state too have come first in disposal of cases in the whole country.

He said pendency of cases in some northern states is around 15 lakh since 1995. But in the whole of Tamil Nadu, the number of pending cases is around four lakhs.

Justice Nagamuthu appealed to the law students of SASTRA University to visit the villages covered under Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas (PURA) scheme introduced by former President Dr. A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, and help parents in getting birth certificates. He also asked the students to help people in getting community certificates.

Shri R.Padmanabhan, Secretary, Thanjavur Legal Services Authority, said the authority conducts legal awareness programmes in rural areas. It also conducts Lok Adalats, and plays the role of mediator. Shri Shankara Narayanan, District Judge also participated in the meeting. Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor presented a memento to Justice Nagamuthu.



Justice C. Nagamuthu lighting the traditional lamp

Legal Aid Camp

The faculty members and the students of School of Law organized a Legal Aid Camp in Kandamangalam village, near Thirukattupalli in Thanjavur District, on March 8, 2012 on the eve of International Women's Day celebration in association with the District Legal Services Authority of Thanjavur District.

MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS

Students of III year B.A., LL.B. Chi. Puneeth Gowda, Kum. Radhika Vasudevan and Kum. Akshaya P Sachin won the Raja Lakhan Gauda National Moot Court Competition held in Belgaum in March 2012. Twenty six teams comprising of 3 members each from various regions of the country participated in the event.

Kum. Chinmayi R Krishnan from IV year B.A., LL. B, Kum. Aishwarya K of I year B.B.A., LL. B. and Kum. Vassupradha R of B. Com., LL. B. won the Best Memorial Award in Dr. A.T. Markose Memorial National Moot Court Competition conducted by the School of Legal Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology from March 9 – 11, 2012.

Chi. Srinandan K of I year B.A., LL. B. and Chi. Atul S Madhavan of I year B. Com., LL. B were adjudged the Runners Up in the I National Mediation Competition conducted by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow on January 14th & 15th, 2012.



LAW STUDENTS VISIT SUPREME COURT & PARLIAMENT

Final year students of LL.B and Third Year Students of B.A., LL.B visited Supreme Court of India to witness the proceedings along with 2 faculty members - Shri. R. Rajyavardhanan and Dr. G. P. Ragini. The visit was organised between 28th January 2012 and 9th February, 2012.



DAKSH 2012

DAKSH 2012, the national level Technical Festival of SASTRA was held from February 24 – 26, 2012. The theme of this edition of DAKSH was “ENGINEERING 360.” It had many events that were focussed on helping the society and bringing out a development in it. It was like a pay-back time.

Flagship Events

THE DAKSH SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE saw enthusiastic participation from all disciplines. The thought of adopting a village and making it a model village has struck the cords and saw students coming forward to participate in huge numbers. The Nokia Hackathon saw the participants code for continuous 48 hours (first of its kind at SASTRA) to create any application based on an innovative idea. The prizes were befitting the efforts involved. They were eight NOKIA LUMIA phones. MCOP saw again in its second edition students striving to fight for the climatic changes that have been taking place across the globe. Youth Summit also saw enthusiastic students with extraordinary oratory skills clash for the title.

Each of the seven clusters, Chromoxone, Compense, ElectronIQ, Envisage, Nirmaan, Robotricks, Praakrithi had their own distinction in the uniqueness of events.

Chromoxone

This cluster had had an amazing mix of events that were both competitive and fun to learn from. The events kindled the grey matter of the brain to bring out the beat



in them to demystify the god's mystery. Aedificium protein was an event where one's basic bioinformatics skills were put to test. In the Thermax event the participants were encouraged to come up with their own equipment to heat a given quantity of water, and recover most of it. Another event that was a crowd puller was Detection or Deduction. This event was based on forensics where one had to analyze a given crime scene.

Compense

This year, all the events of Compense witnessed Huge participation from SASTRA as well as other colleges (Notably BIT Mesra, CSIT Durgapur etc.). We were fortunate to have the eminent presence of Mr. Gregory Smiley, Nokia Global Manager from Finland. Technovation and Websense made its call for all web aficionados.

Electroniq

The live wire event encouraged the participants to design any circuit on their own keeping in mind the theme of DAKSH, “ENGINEERING 360.” The traffic guru event kindled solutions for automatic control of traffic driving home the thought, “make it simple but not simpler”. ENVISAGE: The management skills of all was put to test by this cluster. Business plan event provided a great platform for students to develop and present their plans of a new venture.

Nirmaan

The major attraction of this cluster being Canal Conqueror event saw participation in huge numbers. The student's creativity was used utmost in the event Build-A-Gritty, where they had to build structures out of stationery. The events were designed to put every inch of the engineer in you to test.

Robotricks

Being the cluster with the maximum amount of prize money, the events designed were worth what it took to win. The stupendous blend of image processing and robotics were brought out in the events Image Botica and rush hour. Armageddon Desactivator urged participants to find solutions to nuclear safety.

Praakrithi

Being a new cluster, this saw a massive participation from all

disciplines. Everyone were enthused about providing solutions to make SASTRA campus greener in the GREEN CAMPUS event. The events were designed in such a way that engineering solutions had to be given to the environmental problems. So it became the most famous inter disciplinary cluster and a huge head turner.

DAKSH 2012 was a perfect concoction of fun and frolic with a dollop of difference. Participants stood as a testament to this stupendous feat. Thus each event blazed a trail of its own and truly personified the tag line of DAKSH-Experience Engineering.

Power Talks

Shri S. Gurumurthy, eminent economist and journalist spoke on “Marx and Markets.” Shri R. Elango, a native of Kuthambakkam village and a recognized social worker spoke on the topic, “Indian villages and nation development.’

Shri Gurumurthy provided anecdotal examples to contrast these two models and also how they were interlinked through a common idea of control. Both these models, in his opinion, were about guiding control and power but in different forms.

Shri Gurumurthy said, “We need to think of continuing with a saving-based economy, considering the flaws which led to the economic crisis and the collapse of the USSR. Elaborating his point, he said that Indian women played a pivotal role in India, in the transition to the modern market. On the other side, they decline to adopt changes and support a savings economy, said Shri Gurumurthy.



In India, we still believe in the culture-based and not market-based system, though various government pundits advice people to adopt a market-driven economy which proved to be a disastrous trap during the 2008 financial meltdown. The average savings to GDP ratio was around 26 per cent. While the country slowly

progressed in its path of liberalization, Indian women playing a pivotal role in the economy decided to stick to the savings economy, and the savings ratio rose above 35 per cent of GDP.

The US, during the meltdown, recorded a massive divorce rate leading to 51 per cent of children living with single parents. The family value in society was entirely lost in the western economy, he said.

Shri Gurumurthy added that India is a unique market and needs lot of understanding. Advising the youth to read more literature instead of the so-called modern economics, he said, “Every culture is a treasure trove and we must spend time to discover it.” He congratulated SASTRA for organizing a thought-provoking lecture like this.

Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor, Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean-Planning and Development and faculty members were present during the talk session.

KURUKSASTRA '12

Kuruksastra '12, SASTRA's annual inter-college cultural fest, took place from March 22-25, 2012. It started off with an Energy Awareness Cyclathon, a bicycle ride led by our Vice-Chancellor, along with members of the Management, Staff and over 200 students, from the District Collectorate, Thanjavur to the University campus.

The festival was inaugurated by the District Collector, Shri. K. Bhaskaran. As balloons rose high into the evening sky, music filled the air and had SASTRAites cheering to chartbusters belted out by the University band. It was an evening to remember, and also a sign of things to come over the next four days.





Experimenting with popular songs is the reason why their combination has become so popular among people of all ages. The night ended with Karthik dedicating the famous "Mustafa Mustafa" to final years of the institution, who deserved nothing less for pulling off an amazing extravaganza, spanning almost a week.



The following evening started off with a performance by song mimicry artist Kesavan, followed by the much-anticipated "Choreo Nite", the dance competition, also featuring host performances from our own Eastern and Western dance teams. The fest attracted participation from over 50 institutions from across the state, with over 1200 participants thronging our campus. Events across a range of clusters, namely Fine Arts, Music, Dance, Dramatics, Photography, Videography, Literary events in English, Tamil, Telugu and Hindi meant participants were kept busy throughout the course of the fest. Auditoria were packed to capacity and participants from colleges across the state showcased their talent as they competed for the title of Overall Champions at Kuruksastra '12. In the end, it was the defending champions, Government College of Technology, Coimbatore, who emerged victors.



The pro-nites were a big draw as usual, and Kuruksastra '12 would forever be remembered as the first edition that featured so many artists from across the nation. While Rajesh Vaidhya's energy-filled, soul-stirring performance left the huge crowd asking for more, Vijay Prakash and Stephen Devassy had them tapping their feet to popular numbers, both present and past. Karthik's concert, featuring Bennet and the band, was nothing short of a fitting finale to Kuruksastra '12.



PONGAL GIFT TO VILLAGERS

SASTRA University distributed 'Pongal Gifts' to 1770 ration card holders of Tirumalaisamudrum, Vallampudur, Monnaiyampatti, Kuruvadipatti, and Nattani villagers. A gift bag each containing 5 kg. raw-rice, 1 kg. jaggery and ½ kg dhal was given away to each of the villagers. The gift bags were distributed by Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development on 14th January 2012.



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

The 63rd Republic Day was celebrated at SASTRA on 26th January 2012. Dr. S.N. Srivastava, Registrar hoisted the tricolor and addressed the gathering. The cadets of NCC Girls Wing presented a guard of honour. Staff and students of SASTRA participated.



SASTRA NCC CADET PARTICIPATES IN REPUBLIC DAY CAMP IN DELHI

Kum. V. Saranya, III B.Tech EEE, a cadet of the NCC Women's wing, participated in the Republic Day camp 2012 held in New Delhi. She participated in the camp representing Tamil Nadu P&AN Directorate. She had the



opportunity to participate in six competitions including SW drill, PM's rally, line area, NIAP, group song and the prestigious Rajpath drill. From TN Directorate 10 cadets were selected for the Rajpath parade. The cadets also met

Defense Minister Shri A.K. Antony, Chief of the Army General V.K. Singh, Navy chief Admiral Nirmal Verma, Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne and Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Sheila Dikshit.

UGADI FESTIVAL AT SASTRA

The New Year for the students from the Deccan region of India popularly called Ugadi was celebrated at SASTRA University, Thanjavur, on March 23, 2012. Ugadi refers to the start of a New Year for Kannada and Telugu speaking students and is celebrated with great festive fervour. Ritualistic prayers, floral decorations, Rangoli designs, preparation of Ugadi Pachadi, a specific mixture consisting of neem flowers, raw mangoes, tamarind, jaggery and salt, and the traditional recitation of religious almanac referred to as Panchanga Shraavanam, marked the Ugadi festivities. Later, the Ugadi Pachadi, which symbolizes life as a mixture of different experiences, was distributed.

The Management wishes all the Kannada and Telugu students at SASTRA University a prosperous and successful year to follow.



SCHOLARSHIPS TO HOSTEL INMATES

Scholarships will be provided to 400 inmates of the Students' Home for the academic year. The scholarship scheme is planned with the help of a philanthropic organization. Under this scheme, students will be selected subject to their satisfying certain conditions like campus discipline, attendance, academics, hostel rules etc. The scholarship will provide reimbursement of mess fees paid by the student during the academic year.

SEMESTER ABROAD PROGRAMME

The following B.Tech students of 2012 batch are undergoing research internship at various universities/companies abroad as part of the Semester Abroad Programme of SASTRA.

MIT - Harvard, USA

K. Anusha
 P. N. Pavithra Kumar
 R. Madhumitha
 R. Swetha
 R. Saranya
 B. Lakshmini
 G. Sindhuja
 Kaushik Sridhar
 Kaushik Srinivasan
 R. Sudhasan
 Sai Prashanth. B



Georgia Tech, USA

Swarna Karthik
 Ganesh Sriram
 V. Sindhuja

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, USA

Yagnaramasubramanian, S
 Sidharth Parmar

University of Cambridge

S. Janani

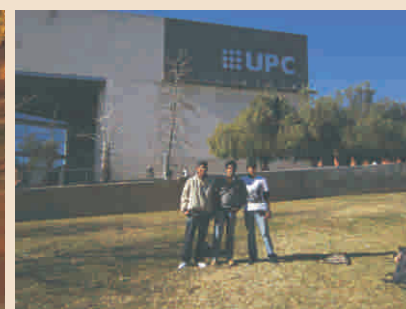
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany

Pranoy Valson
 Vishwanath K Bharathwaj
 G. Gayathri
 R. Adithya



UPC Barcelona, Spain

Athul Sripad. T.A
 Amogh Simha
 Kaushik S



Orebro University, Sweden

Prasanna Kumar. S
 Chittaranjan S. Srinivas

University of Windsor, Canada

B. Aiswarya

Google, California

Vidyasagar



SASTRA STUDENTS ATTEND AIESEC INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME IN INDONESIA

Chi. S.R. Srivasthan, and Chi. K. Aravind, students of First B.Tech. attended the Winter Internship programme of AIESEC held in Indonesia from December 5, 2012. They were selected by the AISECers of SASTRA and shortlisted for the Skype interview. AIESEC is the world's largest student organization initially started to spread peace through students by means of global exchange programmes. They were the only 2 students represented India in the programme.

During their six week stay in Bandung near Jakarta they worked on the project 'Women and the World' and visited schools and colleges teaching soft skills to the Indonesian students. They also visited the NGOs who worked for women empowerment and indulged in social service.



KHORANA FELLOWSHIP AWARD



Two students of SASTRA University, viz. Kum. Anahita Bharadwaj, studying IV year M. Tech. Industrial Biotechnology, and Kum. Deepa Rajagopalan, studying III year B. Tech. Industrial Biotechnology, have been selected for Khorana Fellowship Award for the year 2012.

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India and Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) are partnering to support the prestigious Khorana Program for Scholars named in honour of Dr. Har Gobind Khorana, who won the Noble Prize in 1968 for his work at the interface of Chemistry and Biology while a member of the UW faculty. The Khorana programme will provide opportunities to these students to undertake research at University of Michigan, Ann

Arbor and Georgetown University during the summer of 2012 for a period of 10 weeks.



The Khorana Program is envisaged to provide encouragement to young scholars to undertake R&D, enable students to carry out research at a premier University in the United States, transform research into societal benefits and build a seamless scientific community between India and the United States

Students studying in B. Tech. / M. Tech. / M. Sc. in recognized institutions of higher education in India in the areas of Biotechnology have been selected for this award, which carries 2,000 USD per month besides airfare to the States. The students are enabled to carry out research at a premier university in the United States and transform research into societal benefits.

SASTRA'S CULTURAL TEAM WINS RIVIERA 2012

The Cultural Team of SASTRA University emerged victorious yet again at RIVIERA 2012, the International Level Sports and Cultural Fest conducted by VIT University, Vellore between February 2-5, 2012. This is the fifth continuous overall victory for the team at VIT, and the team made a clean sweep of all the events in Fine Arts, Performing Arts and Literary clusters.



AWARD FOR PAPER PRESENTATION

Kum. L. Theivanai, Chi.S.N. Varun and Chi. K. Sai Surya Prakash of III year B.Tech. Civil participated in the National Level Civil Technical Symposium-Civilization 2012 conducted by Anna University, Chennai from 15th to 17th March 2012 and won the FIRST Place in PROJECT DISPLAY AND DETOUR EVENT. They received a cash prize of Rs. 4000.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

A Thirty-Day Entrepreneurship Development Programme titled “You can be an Entrepreneur” was conducted by the School of Management and Entrepreneurship Development Institute



Government of Tamilnadu, Chennai from 21st February 2012 to 26th March 2012. The programme was sponsored by the Ministry of MSME Government of India and National Institute for Micro Small Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad.

Shri. K. Baskaran, IAS, District Collector, Thanjavur inaugurated the programme, in the presence of Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor. Dr. S.N. Srivastava, Registrar, presided over the function. Shri K. Jayachandiran, Joint Director, EDI, Chennai welcome the gathering. Shri G. Raveendran, General Manager, DIC – Thanjavur, Smt. K. Senbagavalli, District Manager, TAHDCO, Thanjavur and Shri. Sudharasanam, Asst. Director, KVIB, Thanjavur offered felicitations. Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, School of Management, SASTRA University proposed a vote of thanks.

TRAINING ON HERBAL CULTIVATION FOR THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN SELF HELP GROUPS

A two-day training programme on herbal cultivation for rural women was organized by the Centre for Advanced Research in Indian System of Medicine (CARISM), SASTRA during 1st and 2nd March 2012 with funding from National Medicinal Plant Board, Department of AYUSH, Government of India, New Delhi.

Dr.S.Deivanayaki, Joint Director & Project Officer-Magalir Thittam, Thanjavur inaugurated the programme Shri L.Sridharan of IOB, Thanjavur delivered a special address.

The programme covered topics ranging from women empowerment, commercially viable medicinal plants of Thanjavur District, cultivation of selected medicinal plants, vermicompost technology, herbs for human health and herbal home remedies. This was followed by a visit to Herbal Garden maintained by CARISM at SASTRA. The participants were also given hands on-

training for herbal medicine preparation.

The training highlighted the role of herbal drugs in human healthcare and the marketing



opportunities for herbal products. It has created awareness about the importance and values of herbs, herbal products and their sources. For example, Aloe vera and its health benefits, Aloe vera gel are examples of products highlighted. The training has helped to identify important medicinal plants of Thanjavur district which possess high therapeutic values and good marketing potentials. A demonstration on how to improve yield in herbal plants using vermin-composting techniques was given to the participants. The objective of the training is to make women self help groups to grow useful plants, make simple herbal products which will contribute in increasing their income and empower them with sufficient resources. Prof.P. Brindha Coordinator, CARISM organized the programme.

LAURELS IN SAARANG 2012

SASTRA University's first foray into the grand stage of Saarang 2012, the cultural event of IIT Madras was a successful one with the team winning laurels in Music, Drama and Arts events. The music team's performance was regarded as one of the most professional ones that the judges had seen, with one of them, playback singer Prasanna requesting an impromptu performance with the team. Even though there is no overall championship given by IIT, SASTRA's performance has made a mark in the cultural scene of South India.

SASTRA TEAM PARTICIPATES IN BAJA SAE INDIA FOUR-WHEEL VEHICLE DESIGN CONTEST

SASTRA's team took part in BAJA SAE India for the second time, the first being in 2010. Our team (Team Crucible) consisted of 22 members led by Chi. Ramnath Natarajan IV B.Tech Mechanical Engg. Faculty Advisor of the team was Dr. S. Bharathi Raja. Sandhar Technologies Limited, Lucas TVS, JK Tyres, Agility Solutions and Five Star Industries were the sponsors for the team.

The competition provides SAE student members with a challenging project that involves design, engineering, planning, manufacturing and marketing. Each team's goal is to design and build a prototype of a rugged single

seat, off-road recreational four-wheel vehicle intended for sale to the non-professional, weekend off-road enthusiast. The competition's goals include that the vehicle must be safe, easily transported, easily maintained and fun to drive. It should be able to negotiate rough terrain in all types of weather without damage.



BAJA SAE India is a national student level competition, held from 17th-19th February 2012 at Pithampur, Indore. BAJA SAE India 2012 was sponsored by Mahindra and saw the participation of over 2300 students. The theme for BAJA 2012 was i4-ideate, incubate, implement, innovate, which was taken forward this year from Go Green, the theme for BAJA 2011. Based on the theme, SASTRA University designed an exhaust system which would reduce the emissions coming out of the exhaust.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day was celebrated at SASTRA University on March 8, 2012. Three eminent speakers from the IT Industry were invited to address the gathering on the topic 'Role of Women in IT'. Ms. K.R. Lakshmi, Manager, Industry Group, Health and Public Services, Accenture, Chennai emphasized on the fact that the industry is comparatively less gender biased than the rest and there are equal opportunities for both men and women to climb up the ladder. She also discussed the difficulties that women would have to deal with working in this industry. Ms. Anitha Rajesh, Operations Director, HCL Technologies, Chennai highlighted the ability of women to multi-task and create a perfect balance of her professional and personal life, coupling it with interesting statistics to substantiate it. Ms. Sreekala Ramamurthy, General Manager, Talent Transformation, WIPRO Technologies, Bangalore, shared her professional experience in the industry. She also pointed out that women make better managers and handle stress better than men. Dr.A.Umamakeswari, Associate Dean, SOC welcomed the gathering and Dr.S.N. Srivastava, Registrar presided over the function. Smt. M.Hemalatha, Assistant Professor, School of Computing proposed a vote of thanks.



BLACKBERRY APPLICATION STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR

Research In Motion (RIM), a Canadian company, the makers of the smart phone series BlackBerry, have started an initiative called BASE. It aims to welcome students to leverage the BlackBerry ecosystem in more ways than one. BASE empowers students with technical tools to test their entrepreneurial spirit through the BlackBerry App World. BASE aims to create awareness about the BlackBerry Developer Zone, App World, BlackBerry Academic Program, BlackBerry devices & RIM as an organization.

Around 120 students from SASTRA registered for the BASE program, and were supported in the entire journey by RIM. Our students accessed online resources, received online mentoring and finally qualified students received hands-on training in application development. Chi. Gunda Dileep from final CSE, who helped the student bodies to register for the contest, develop ideas, convert them to apps and submit to App World, commented that the BlackBerry Student ambassador will be identified in our college, who will be supported by RIM.



App Clinic

App Clinic was a focused 5 hour workshop model held on February 5, 2012 in EDUSAT LAB of SASTRA, where the participants got a chance to get started and do hands on BlackBerry app development. All our students who participated in this App Clinic received a participation certificate and an official T-Shirt from BlackBerry. Selection for App Clinic was based on completion of prerequisite projects and submission of app idea. About 25 app ideas written by our students were selected for the App Clinic.

WORKSHOP ON VASTHU

A workshop on Vasthu was organized by the Directorate of Distance Education from January 18-20, 2012.

Shri Manoj S.Nair, Consultant Engineer, Vasthu Vidya Gurukulam, Aranmula, Kerala who inaugurated the workshop said that roots of vasthu sastra can be found in Atharva Veda. The concept of Vasthu Mandala and Vasthu Purusha is one of the basic theories on which vasthu sastra was formulated. All the rituals and pujas in vasthu are tantric.

Shri T.Tinakaran, Astrologer from Tiruchendur and Shri Lakshmipathi Dishithar of Sengalipuram also spoke. Dr. S.Seshadri, Dean of Civil Engineering, SASTRA also handled a session.

A total of 128 delegates from various districts of Tamilnadu participated in the workshop.

CONSULTANCY WORK



A consultancy work was undertaken by School of Civil Engineering for the BSNL, Thanjavur Division. A team of experts from the School tested the verticality of the BSNL Steel Transmission Tower at Kumbakonam on November 29, 2012.

DR C. RANGARAJAN DELIVERS SHRI V. NARAYANAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Dr C Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, New Delhi, delivered the 7th Shri V. Narayanan Memorial Lecture on 'The Economic Scene: Current Concerns and Future Prospects' at Srinivasa Ramanujam Centre, SASTRA University, Kumbakonam on January 9, 2012. Delivering the lecture Dr. Rangarajan said: 'While the growth rate of the Indian economy increased steadily in the last two decades, except in the current year, the way forward could pose huge challenges in terms of sustaining the growth rate achieved in recent years, if not accelerate it to higher levels. Under the current world economic situation, India's growth rate during the current year might hover between 7 and 7.25 per cent and not the (initial) forecasted level of 8.2 per cent.'



Our Vice-Chancellor presenting a memento to Dr.C. Rengarajan

Reiterating the need to sustain the growth rate, Dr Rangarajan said the way forward would be in translating growth into poverty reduction, expanding employment opportunities and improving productivity across all sectors, narrowing economic disparities across and within states without compromising on efficiency and improving social indicators too.

"The agenda for achieving growth and poverty reduction might be formidable but it all depends on effective and efficient implementation of the policy agenda," he said, recapitulating the performance of the Indian economy since the launch of the reforms. Reverting to the more recent months, he said, "Initially, the growth rate in 2011-12 was forecast at 8.2 per cent, but the subsequent events such as slackness in industrial production and the world economic situation showed that this growth rate of 8+ per cent may not be attainable."

"The broad macro-economic parameters relating to savings (India's savings rate has crossed 34 per cent of GDP), and investment (this has exceeded 36 per cent of GDP) are still conducive for achieving high growth rate, but for this to happen we should remove the constraints that come in the way," he said.

Dr.S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean-Planning and Development welcomed the gathering and Dr.N.Kamakodi, M.D.and C.E.O, City Union Bank proposed a vote of thanks. Prof.R.Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor, Shri S.Balasubramaniam, Chairman, City Union Bank and others participated.



Dr.C. Rengarajan delivering the lecture

THETA'12

Theta'12 - a National Level Techno-Management festival was organized at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, Kumbakonam. Dr.V.T. Padmanabhan, Senior Scientist, Member, European Committee on Radiation Risk and No Nukes Asia Forum, inaugurated the fest on March 2, 2012. In his inaugural address, Dr. Padmanabhan made a specific mention of the competitive spirit that keeps the



demo and lab session on ETL a real-time tool used in software industries

A workshop on 'Advanced Soft Computing Techniques using MATLAB' was conducted by Dr.R.K. Selvakumar, Vice-Principal, Cape Institute of Technology on March 8, 2012. Fundamentals of Image Processing and Fuzzy Logic figured in the workshop and hands on experience were given to the participants in applications of image processing using MATLAB.



youth of modern times going along the progressive track. He also placed on record his appreciation of the efforts of Universities like SASTRA that mould the students community into a constructive force.

Various Competitions like Conqueror, RoboSumo and Robo Race, Virtual Placement, Trinity, Tragic maths, Comp-U-Teach, Triyendo were held. From around 60 Engineering and Arts and Science Colleges, 1500 students participated in the competitions and workshops. Prizes to the tune of two lakhs were given to the winners on March 4, 2012. Mr.G. Srinivasan, General Manager of Lanco Tanjore Power Company Ltd, Pandanallur, Tanjore district gave away the prizes.

WORKSHOPS BY EXACT

A workshop on 'Network Simulator-2' was conducted by Prof. Mohit.P. Tahiliani, N.I.T.K. Surathkal on the October 15, 2011. The resource person focused on the simulation of networks using Network Simulator-2 and touched upon vital issues related to Network Simulator-2, Architecture of Network Simulator-2, Wired and Wireless simulations. A lab session on Generating Tcl Scripts, Analyzing Trace files, Designing AWK Scripts, was also held for the benefit of the students.

Another workshop on 'Data Warehousing & its Real Time Tools' was conducted by Shri.E.Gurumurthy, Senior Technical Lead, Hewlett Packard, Chennai on 27th of February 2012. The workshop focused on general concepts and introduction about Data Warehousing, case study of Data Warehousing and

WORKSHOP ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Commerce and Management Studies, SRC, organized a State Level Workshop on "Entrepreneurship Development" on 24th February, 2012. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr.V. Badrinath, Dean, SOM and Director T&P, SASTRA. Quoting several achievers as example, the speaker drove home the point that there is nothing impossible for the indomitable spirit of man. Shri. M.S. Charan, a successful entrepreneur from Mayiladuthurai addressed the gathering throwing light on the problems faced by entrepreneurs. Eminent persons like Shri. K. Balasubramanian, CEO, Creative Consultancy, Trichy, Shri Mathew Oomen, Assistant Director, MSME Development Institute, Chennai, Shri. V.S. Srinivasan, AGM, City Union Bank, Kumbakonam, and Dr.H. Shankar, Professor of Commerce, Annamalai University, chaired the sessions. Prof. K.G.Raghunathan, Dean, SRC distributed the certificates to the participants.



WORKSHOP ON TEACHING DRAMA

A Two-day Workshop on the Teaching and Presenting of Drama was organized by the Department of English, SRC, SASTRA, on Sunday March 17-18, 2012. The Workshop was arranged for the benefit of 42 English Teacher Trainees of M.A. (English), B.Ed. programme of our University. Dr.P.Rajani, Professor of English, Tamilnadu Central University, Thiruvavur with a team of five others was the Resource Person. The programme began on 17th morning with the team led by Prof.Rajani presenting the first scene of Tennessee William's Glass Menagerie. In the afternoon, the participants were divided into four groups and trained to present effectively a play of their choice.

On 18th March 2012, the morning session began with speech practices in voice modulations with reference to short texts. It was followed by the presentation of the first Act of Herald Pinter's The Birthday Party by the Resource Team. Thereafter, the participants were divided into four groups and they rehearsed a scene from A Defenseless Creature under continuous guidance. In the afternoon, Prof.Rajani's Team presented the play A Defenseless Creature.

The whole programme was exhilarating, entertaining and instructive. Every participant was given individual attention and guided to present the assigned roles effectively. The participants felt the whole programme was at once a novel and useful experience, contributing to improving their speaking skill and learning the nuances of dramatic presentation.



WORKSHOP ON INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGY

A one-day Workshop on 'Innovative Pedagogy' was organized by the School of Education on 29th February, 2012. 40 participants from various colleges of Education participated in the workshop. Prof.A. Sivasankar handled the first session on Blended Learning in the net lab. Various elements of blended learning like e-books, EPSS and pod casting were uploaded by the participants in their individual blogs.

Prof.R.Nandhakumar served as a resource person for the second session on Multi-media based teaching. Hands on experience were given to the participants to promote the skill of developing multi media based contents that would heighten the impact of classroom instruction.



ANDROID WORKSHOP

Android Workshop was conducted on February 10-11, 2012 by Geeks lab Technologies Pvt. Ltd. The workshop was conducted by Shri Adarsh Rajput, The session started with the introduction of Android and the history behind it. A basic idea of open source development model and the power of the Android ecosystem were illustrated. Demonstration for setting up the environment for Android application was shown. Four important tasks like installing JAVA in the system, followed by the Eclipse IDE and then the Android SDK with the ADT plug-in for eclipse were demonstrated. The concepts of the UI and the various layout elements in it were also discussed. Then how to access the basic services of the phone like sending email, making a call etc from Java code was taught. Developing applications like media player, an embedded browser and Google Map's API were all discussed. The students of CSE, EEE & ECE jointly organized this workshop.

YOUTH TALENT ENCOURAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The 11th Inter School Competitions of the Youth Talent Encouragement Programme was organized at SRC from 2nd Jan 2012 to 10th Jan 2012. Twenty schools in and around Kumbakonam participated in the festival. Events like English Elocution, Tamil Elocution, Quiz, Carnatic Vocal, Sanskrit Recitation and Cricket were conducted. The First Prize winners in Elocutions and Cricket will be given a cash award of RS.3000 for each event and the second prize winners shall receive cash prize of Rs. 2000. The schools to which the winners belong would receive Rs. 5000 for enrichment of their library and the physical education department.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

The activities of Elpower, the association for the students of EEE Department was inaugurated by Mohana Sundaram, The Superintendent Engineer of TNEB, Thiruvarur Substation on September 02, 2011

The department of EEE in collaboration with Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) organised a special lecture on Wind, Water, Solar (WWS) ultimate power of 21st Century by Shri K. Balasubramaniyan, B.E., M.B.A., M.Phil (MGT)., DCPIC., PG DFM., FW., C.E., Creative Management, Trichy on March 30, 2012.

ISTE CHAPTER INAUGURATED

A Chapter of ISTE (Indian Society for Technical Education) was inaugurated at SRC campus on 21st January 2012. Prof.C. Chinnaraj, Executive Secretary, ISTE inaugurated the Chapter and spoke on the occasion.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INNOVATIONS IN LIFE SCIENCES

Gene Chem, the Association of the Department of Chemistry and Bio-Sciences organized a national level conference on Innovations in Life Sciences on 2nd March, 2012. Wide spectrum of areas like Cancer Biology, Phytomedicine, Bioremediation, Immunotherapy were covered by the researchers who participated in the conference. Dr.M.Jagatheesan Prof&Head Department of Environment and Herbal Sciences, Tamil University, delivered the inaugural address on Ethnopharmacology and Bioprospection for active compounds.



THIRUPPAVAI AND THIRUVEMPAVAI RECITATION CONTEST

Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai Recitation contest was organized by SASTRA on 12th January 2012 for the students of Schools in and around Thanjavur. 47 students from 20 schools participated in the contest. Chi K. Ketharnath of Sri Venkateswara Matric HSS bagged the first prize of Rs. 3000. Kum. N.R. Deepadharshini of

Auxilium Girls HSS got the second prize of Rs. 2000 and Kum. Jana Iswarya secured the third prize of Rs. 1000. All participants were given a cash award of Rs. 500 each.

A similar contest was held at SRC, Kumbakonam on 14th January 2012 for the students belonging to schools in and around Kumbakonam. The first three best performers were given cash award of Rs.3000, Rs. 2000 and Rs 1000



respectively. Kum. Sowmiya of Town Hr. Sec. School, Kumbakonam bagged the First Prize, Kum. Nandini of the same school received the second prize and Kum. Archana of Venus Matriculation School Thiruidaimaruthur secured the third prize.

NSS SPECIAL CAMP

A week long special camp was organized by the NSS units of SASTRA University Thanjavur, from 06th to 12th March, 2012.

Dr.S.N.Srivastava, Registrar inaugurated the camp. Dr.S.Seshadri, Dean, School of Civil Engineering, SASTRA delivered the special address.



As part of the special camp activities, Medical, Environmental and Health awareness camps were conducted. In view of a go-green mission, saplings were planted in the Munnayampatti school campus. Student volunteers took up the task of temple cleaning and school campus cleaning. Awareness-pamphlets on health, saving electricity and prevention measures, environmental and health awareness were distributed to the villages.

A week long special camp was organized by the NSS units of Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA University, Kumbakonam, from 19th to 25th March 2012 at Kottaiyur, Pulianchery and Moopakoil hamlets of Kumbakonam Taluk. Prof. K.G. Raghunathan, Dean, SRC presided over the inaugural function, and Dr.S.N.

Srivastava, Registrar inaugurated the camp. Dr.S. Seshadri, Dean, School of Civil Engineering, SASTRA delivered the special address. As part of the camp Medical, Environmental and Health awareness camps were conducted. Blood group identification and blood donation were also carried out. Saplings were planted in the Kottaiyoor Middle School campus. Vegetable seeds



were given to the villagers to form the vegetable park in their households. Volunteers carried out temple cleaning and school campus cleaning work. Awareness-pamphlets on health, savings,

electricity, protecting environment were distributed. Rallies like “Rain water harvesting awareness”, “Medical awareness”, and “Health awareness” were also organised. Dr. T. Jeyadoss, HOD, Chemistry and Bio-Sciences, SASTRA delivered an awareness lecture on “Health & Hygiene” and Shri. S. Sayee Prasanna, Senior Member, Education & Research, Infosys Technologies, Mysore, spoke on “Information Technology & Social Responsibilities”. Yoga training workshop was organized in association with the World Community Service Centre. The NSS volunteers also learnt Kayakalpa yoga and were given yoga certificates.

The volunteers donated 30 units of blood to Shri Kaali Blood Bank unit, Kumbakonam. 159 villagers were treated at the free medical camp. Dr.C. Savariraj Sagayam, M. D (S i d d h a), CARISM, SASTRA organized a Siddha Medical Camp. Dr. S a m b a t h , Dr.Sivakumar, Dr.



Sheik Abdullah and Prof. Arunkumar, Faculties of Dept. of Chemistry and Bio-Sciences, along with the students, organized a Diabetic Screening Camp. 77 villagers were screened for Blood pressure, Blood sugar, Urine sugar, and Hemoglobin. Several sports competitions were also conducted for the village children.

Dr.T.R.Sivaramakrishnan, Sr. Professor of SASTRA University delivered the valedictory address and distributed the camp certificates to the volunteers. Prof. S. Meganthan, NSS Programme Officer, presented the camp report. The NSS Programme Officers Prof. M. Sundararaman and Prof. S.A. Harish Rajaraman organized the camp events.

NSS ACTIVITIES

72 NSS volunteers were deputed for crowd control duty for the Vaigunta Egadesi festival at Shri Sarangabani Temple on January 05th 2012. On the same day a Road Safety awareness workshop was also organized in which students from various colleges and schools participated.

32 NSS volunteers participated in Road Safety Awareness Rally at Kumbakonam which was flagged off by Shri. Siva Baskar, Deputy Superintendent of Police, in presence of Smt. Ratna Sekar, Municipal Chairman of Kumbakonam.

Blood Grouping and Blood Donation camp was conducted on January 10, 2012 at SRC campus. 132 units of blood were donated to Government Blood Bank unit of Kumbakonam. Blood grouping was also done on the occasion and Blood Donors ID cards were given to 166 students on that occasion. Dr.Radhakrishnan, Medical Officer, Govt. Hospital, Kumbakonam and Medical Assistants participated in the camp.

36 NSS volunteers were deployed at Kumbakonam Bus stand and Kumbakonam railway station to the Pulse Polio immunization camp organized on 19th February 2012.

First Aid Training workshop was conducted to NSS volunteers at SRC on February 23, 2012. Shri. M. Rupeshkumar of the St. John Ambulance Association, Chennai acted as the resource person.

37 volunteers were deployed on Crowd regulation duty for Masi Maham festival at Kumbakonam on March 07-2012.

SNIPPETS FROM SHANMUGHA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE

28th INSTITUTION DAY

The 28th Institution Day of Shanmugha Polytechnic College was held on March 29, 2012. Dr. Swaminathan, Dean, School of Computing, SASTRA delivered the institution day address and distributed the academic prizes and special awards.



LAURELS IN IPAA

Teams from Shanmugha Polytechnic College which participated in the Inter Polytechnic Athletic Association Tournaments held in various places from December 2011- January 2012 won the following prizes:

Basket ball team – I Trichy Division

Basket ball team – III place in State level

Hockey team – I in Trichy Division

Carrom – IV place in Trichy Division

Chi. B. Prabhakaran III Mech – I in Triple Jump

Kum. P. Kavitha II EEE – II in 100&200 Mtrs.

Chi. A. Evanjaline of I ECE - II in Shot Put

LAURELS IN PAPER PRESENTATION CONTEST

Kum. M. Bagiyalakshmi and Kum. N. Shobana of the Civil Engg. Branch got the first prize and a cash award of Rs. 3000 in the state level paper presentation contest organized by Kongunadu



Polytechnic College, Thottiyam on January 9, 2012. Chi. N. Sivagunalan and Chi. S. Vijayasankar of Computer Technology Branch bagged first prize and a cash prize of Rs. 3000 for their paper in the contest.

RED RIBBION CLUB ACTIVITIES

Under the auspices of the Red Ribbon Club (RRC) Shanmugha Polytechnic College, a week long programme on 'Celebrating Life' was organized from February 14 to 17, 2012. Shri R. Thirumalairaj, RRC Manager, Thanjavur district delivered a lecture on HIV/AIDS Awareness. 25 volunteers participated in the peer educator activity. Mrs. Arulmozhi of HIV network shared her experience. Shri S. Vethiprabhu, ICTC counselor, Govt. Hospital, Thanjavur interacted with the students. 30 volunteers along with Shri P. Balasubramaniam, HOD/Civil visited the Raja Mirasudar Govt. Hospital where a video show on HIV/AIDS was screened. Essay writing and poster making competitions were held on the theme and prizes were awarded to the winners.



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