Message from VICE - CHANCELLOR

India has been making untiring efforts to reform her higher education over a long period of time. The fruits of her efforts are still to become manifest. Obviously, a wider perspective, encouraging private universities through liberal funding for their R&D activities may prove a break-through for accelerating her achievements leading to world recognition. Positive signs are already apparent from the fact that three of our IITs finding a place in Asia University Ranking, 2013.

The first quarter of 2013 has been a fruitful period of distinguished activities for SAstra. Its International Level Techno-Management Festival, DAKSH 7 was organized for three days from February 22, 2013. Over 3000 students from all over the country participated in it. Inaugurating the festival, Shri K.N. Radhakrishnan, Chief Executive Officer of TVS Motor Company urged the student fraternity to put in their best efforts to maintain the demographic advantage that India enjoys today.

The International Conference on Multidisciplinary Frontier of Medicinal Chemistry, organised by the Dept. of Chemistry in January 2013, discussed issues on emerging trends in designing novel drug targets for various diseases. The School of Civil Engineering, SAstra organized an International Conference in February, 2013 in which the delegates deliberated on infrastructural Issues. Our Centre for Advanced Research in Indian System of Medicine (CARISM) organised Phytocongress 2013 in March, focussing on taking up quality research in natural products with a view to achieve the WHO goal of ‘Health for All’ through natural products. On the occasion an MoU was signed between SAstra and University of Kansas for collaborative research.

The 9th Nani Palkhivala memorial lecture was delivered on January 5, 2013 by Shri K. Parasaran, MP, and former Attorney General of India. He stressed the ethical foundation of law, aiming at the wellbeing of people at large. The second SAstra National Moot Court Competition on international arbitration was organized by our School of Law during March 28 to 31, 2013. 36 teams from across the country participated in it.

Kum. Deepa Rajagopalan, IV B.Tech. Biotechnology secured the All India First Rank among 16,159 candidates in the Biotechnology stream of GATE – 2013 examinations. An electrical innovation by our students of lighting a bulb using 30,000 plus electronic components has been submitted to Limca Book of World Records.

The present issue of ITIHAS covers these and many other achievements of our students and schools in detail. Examinations are round the corner. I wish all our students success in their examinations!

Prof. R. Sethuraman
Vice-Chancellor

DAKSH 7

DAKSH 7, the International Level Techno-Management Festival of SAstra, was organized from February 22-24, 2013. Shri K. N. Radhakrishnan, President and Chief Executive Officer of TVS Motor Company, inaugurated the event. Inaugurating the festival, Shri Radhakrishnan urged the student fraternity to put in their best efforts to maintain the demographic advantage that India enjoys today. 50% of India’s population is under the age of 25 years and we have got the largest pool of English speaking population. These advantages have to be built on, otherwise countries like China would obliterate such a privilege; for one Indian English learner, there are 1,000 Chinese learning English.

Stressing that integration between industry and academia is very much essential in Indian context, he added that many more institutions are voluntarily seeking this kind of partnership. Planning, organization skill, leading from the front, risk-taking and decision making are relevant to all of us, he added. He advised the students to gain experience. “Do not let the CTC (Cost to the Company) decide your career. People do make a company different from others,” he added.

The events from each cluster namely BUILD, INNOVATE, PRAKRITI, DESIGN, INVOLVE, CODE & SIMULATE and ENVISAGE were a perfect mix of technicality and creativity, making DAKSH a challenge to the participants.

DAKSH 7 provided the right stage for the engineers of tomorrow to showcase their prowess and take back the...
experience of a wholesome techno-management festival. More than 3,000 students from various colleges all over the country participated.

With some of the most extravagant and challenging events like Smart Cities, House of Wax, Arjuna or Abhimanyu (which featured a track of 256 square meters), Lineless Follower, Solariser, Keystone, Vaayuratha, etc., DAKSH7 lived up to the standard of its very own theme, Mahabharata. The very idea of DAKSH running on the lines of Mahabharata stems from the various notable events that derived inspiration from the epic reign.

The highlight of the fest was the robotic warfare conceived by two final-year students, Bharadwaj Bondili and Karthik Molluru and four third-year students Ravi Kiran, Swaroop, Aniketh and Raghava. Military formations of 'Padmavyuham' and 'Chakravyuham' mentioned in the Indian epic were staged. At the event, the participant who cleared the maze by cracking hurdles emerged the winner.

Bike Show & Snake Show
The bike stunt show was the wrap up show of DAKSH 7. The audience was amazed beyond measures when a bunch of customized bikes and a Mitsubishi Lancer went to and fro warming up the engines and the crowd. The crowd had an adrenaline rush every time the stuntmen did a stunt. The stuntmen started doing high fives while doing a wheelie and when they did it, everyone's heart skipped a beat, anxious to know if they landed perfectly. The smell of burning tires while executing a circle, the torque, the sound of the raw power in the engines and the thrill of the show kept the audience at the tip of their toes.

The Snake Show was another such event which was a crowd puller. In an attempt to educate the audience, the Endangered Wildlife and Environmental Trust (EWET) conducted a snake show in SASTRA. It was indeed a highly enlightening and entertaining experience. Live snakes were displayed which brought the audience to the edge of their seats.

Cash prizes totaling Rs 10 lakh were distributed to the best performing teams.
DAKSH Power Talks
The following eminent personalities delivered Daksh Power Talks on various topics:

Prof. R. Vaidyanathan
Professor of Finance & Control
UTI Chair Professor in Capital Market Studies
Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore
Topic: Global Financial Crisis and the Indian Response
February 22, 2013

Shri Ram Gopal Rathnam
Topic: Management Thoughts of Mahabharatha
February 23, 2013

Sekkizaar Adi-p-Podi Dr. T.N. Ramachandran
An acknowledged cognoscente of Tamil Saivism
Topic: Cosmic Dance of Siva
February 22, 2013

Shri S. Gurumurthy
Thought Leader
Topic: Spirit of Indian Woman & Womanhood
February 23, 2013

Smt. Vishakha Hariji
Disciple of Padmabhushan Lalgudi G. Jayaraman
& daughter-in-law of Shri Krishnapremi Swamigal
Topic: Women in Indian Epics
February 23, 2013

Students’ Electrical Innovation submitted to Limca Book of World Records
Our students’ innovative idea of lighting a bulb using 30,000 electrical components has been submitted to the Limca Book of World Records. They succeeded in lighting a Bulb by passing electricity through 30,000 plus electronic components which included resistors, integrated circuits etc. The circuit set up was placed on a flexor board of dimensions 15 X 16.2 metres. The various electrical components were laid out on the outline of the map of Our Nation and at the centre the bulb was placed. Mr. Satyamurthy, Assistant Engineer, TNEB and Mr. Murugadas, Tashildar of Thanjavur were present when the students successfully demonstrated the record on 26th January 2013. More than 500 student volunteers worked with zeal to put together the components and the circuits. This event was organized as a curtain raiser to Daksh 2013.
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

The Department of Chemistry organized an International Conference on “Multidisciplinary Frontiers of Medicinal Chemistry: Synthesis, Molecular Biology & Technology (MFMC-2013)” on January 18 & 19, 2013. Speakers from India and United States addressed the delegates on emerging trends in designing novel drug targets for various diseases. The illustrious list of speakers included Prof. Gerald Hart, Johns Hopkins Medical School, USA, Prof. Arabinda Chaudhury, IICT, Prof. K. Balasubramanian, Prof. Mahesh Lakshman, City University of New York, USA, Prof. S. Perumal, MKU, Prof. Anju Chadda, IIT, Madras, Prof. Kamala K. Vasu, NIPER, Ahmedabad, Prof. Tanmaya Pathak, IIT, Kharagpur and Prof. Subrangshu Madal, University of Texas, Arlington, USA. The Conference had over 105 participants from different colleges across the country and more than 64 posters were presented.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIL ENGINEERING AND INFRASTRUCTURAL ISSUES IN EMERGING ECONOMIES

A two-day International Conference on ‘Civil Engineering and Infrastructural Issues in Emerging Economies’ (ICCIEE 2013) was held on 27th February, 2013. This conference was jointly organized by the School of Civil Engineering, SASTRA and Deakin University, Australia as part of the existing MoU between the two institutions.

Dr. K. Baskaran, Associate Dean (International), Faculty of Science and Technology, Chair in Civil Engineering, Deakin University inaugurated the conference. Delivering the inaugural address, Dr. Baskaran stressed the necessity for the infrastructure issues on important core areas like Sustainable Transport Energy Supplies, Water Management for Rural and Urban Areas and necessary infrastructural supports to help a country’s economy to grow.

Dr. P. Paramasivam, Professorial Fellow, NUS, Singapore laid stress on the use of ferro cement structural elements in public housing, which is accepted by building authorities even though ferro cement design has not been regulated by formal code of practice. He presented the typical innovative applications of ferro cement structural applications in Singapore, Australia, Cuba, Croatia, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, UK and USA.

Dr. Chew Soon Hoe, Deputy Director, CPT, Dept. of Civil Engineering, NUS, Singapore, stressed on infrastructure protection of the coastal region, which becomes an important part of national development.

Dr. V. Jothiprakash, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT-Mumbai, stressed on Soft computing techniques and how it can be used to build intelligent systems for achieving different goals in real-world applications.

Dr. T.G. Sitharam, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, and Chairman, Centre for infrastructure, Sustainable Transportation and Urban Planning (CiSTUP), IISc, Bangalore, delivered a lecture on Earthquakes: Consequences, Mitigation and Preparedness.

About 150 delegates from IITs, Engineering Colleges, Research Institutions, Civil Engineering Consultants, Builders and research scholars, attended the conference, including 8 students and 2 faculty members from Australia.
**PHYTOCONGRESS 2013**

*International Conference on “Natural Products in the Management of Cancer, Diabetes and Viral Infections”*

Phytocongress 2013 - International Conference on “Natural Products in the Management of Cancer, Diabetes and Viral Infections” was organized by CARISM, SAASTRA on March 7 & 8, 2013.

The event is aimed at creating a common platform for taking up quality research in the field of natural products and to contribute significantly towards the better healthcare of human society and to achieve the WHO goal of “Health for All” through natural products.

The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Bhushan Patwaradhan, Director, Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, University of Pune. Delivering the inaugural address Prof. Patwaradhan called for using traditional knowledge for drug discovery. He said that Ayurveda was the 'discovery engine' and therapeutic value of herbal plants published in recent times had been documented in Ayurvedic texts centuries before.

A book entitled “Theme Based Herbal Garden of SAASTRA University” was also released. The book depicts the importance and salient uses of plants grown by SAASTRA University in its farm seven kilometers away from the University, utilizing the funds from National Medicinal Plant Board, Department of AYUSH, New Delhi.

**Speakers:**
Dr. Roy A. Jensen - University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, Inc., USA
Dr. Shrikanth Anant – University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, Inc., USA
Dr. Wen-Chi Wei, Agricultural Biotechnology Research Center, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.
Dr. Julie Y. Djeu, Director, Department of Immunology, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, USA.
Dr. Renate Griffith University of New Southwales, Australia.

During the seminar the herbs and herbo mineral formulations which are effectively used in the management of Cancer, Diabetes and Viral Infections were discussed. This in turn will help the pharmaceutical industries to get leads and contribute towards developing eco-friendly Herbal Medicines, Herbal dietary supplements and drug molecules for the better healthcare of the human society.

205 participants from all over the country attended the seminar. Twenty papers were presented and there were more than hundred poster presentations.

**MoU with University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute**

On the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Centre for Advanced Research in Indian System of Medicine (CARISM), SAASTRA and University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, Inc., State of Kansas, USA for collaborative research. Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean, Sponsored Research, SAASTRA and Dr. Roy A. Jensen and Dr. Shrikanth Anant, University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, USA signed the MoU.
SHRI K. PARASARAN DELIVERS NANI PALKHIVALA MEMORIAL LECTURE

Shri K. Parasaran, MP, and former Attorney General of India delivered the ninth Nani Palkhivala Memorial lecture on “Law and Dharma” on January 5, 2013. Delivering the lecture Shri Parasaran said that Law administered is “dharma” and reason is the soul of law. He also added that the rule of law is “Sarvajana Sukhino Bavanthu,” i.e., everyone should be happy. Articles 19-2 and 26 of the Indian constitution speak about morality. Morality is the foundation for legislation which is the voice of the people. He also stressed the importance of ethical conscience. “Ethical foundation should not be forgotten”, said Shri Parasaran.

Quoting the story of Manuneedhi Cholan, Shri Parasaran said it is important that justice appears to have been done. Though it was a “wrong verdict” given by Manuneedhi Cholan from the point of view of law, as the calf came under the wheel of the chariot which had bells to alert people, and as the chariot was plying in a lane meant for royals and as it is the duty of the cow to protect the calf, Manuneedhi Cholan gave the verdict to do justice to the cow from the point of view of “Dharma.”

Shri. Justice T. S. Sivagnanam, Judge, Madras High Court, Chennai, who was also present on the occasion said while it is the duty of the Parliament and State Legislatures to enact laws, Judges deliver judgments as per the laws.

Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Vaidhyasubramanian, Dean, Planning and Development also participated.

TARKA SASTRA — II NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

TARKA SASTRA – Lawgically Speaking – The Second edition of SASTRA’S National Moot Court Competition was organized by School of Law between March 28-31, 2013. The competition was held on the theme of international arbitration. Signifying the spectacular success of the first edition, a total of 36 teams from across India including Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra participated in the competition. Shri. S. Gurumurthy, Thought Leader, inaugurated the competition and delivered a spectacular lecture on, “Evolution of Law and Society in India.”

Eminent jurists, academicians and practitioners from across the country judged the competition. The finals was judged by a pantheon of Legal Luminaries: Justice N. V. Balasubramanian, Retired Judge, High Court of Madras, Shri G. Masilamani, Senior Advocate and Additional Solicitor General of India, and Shri. Aditya Bhat, Partner, AZB and Partners, comprised the jury. Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam welcomed the Jury. In keenly contested finals, National Law University, Delhi was adjudged the winner of the competition. They won the trophy and a cash prize of Rs. 50,000/-. For the second
time in running, The Runners-up was Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar. Along with the Runners Up Trophy, they won a cash award of Rs. 25,000. The team from National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi won the Best Memorial Award. Kum. Farheen A. Penwale, a participant from the A.K.K. New Law Academy, Pune, won the Best Speaker Award. Shri Abinash Kumar Pradhan, a participant from School of Law, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar was adjudged the Best Researcher.

**CHAIR ON LEGAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

The School of Law, SASTRA University has established the Nani A. Palkhivala Chair on Legal Anthropology to conduct research in the converging field of law and society. Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor announced this during the inauguration of the Moot Court competition. He hoped that his new chair would encourage research among faculty and students to explore the multi-dimensional convergence of Law, Anthropology, Sociology, Economics, Theology and Humanities.

**PRESENTATION AT NANOINDIA**

Dr. S. Swaminathan, Director, Centre for Nanotechnology delivered an invited lecture on “Nanomaterials for Biomedical Applications” at Nano India, 2013 on 20th February, 2013. The Conclave attended by scientists and experts from various fields of nanotechnology, was held at National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram and chaired by the doyen of Indian Science & Technology, Prof. C.N.R. Rao. Dr. Swaminathan’s talk, which was widely appreciated, focused on the importance of the materials and the influence of nanostructures on tissue regeneration.

**ADVANCED SCHOOL ON BIOMEDICAL NANOTECHNOLOGY**

The Centre for Nanotechnology & Advanced Biomaterials (CeNTAB), SASTRA University organized an Advanced School on Biomedical Nanotechnology, jointly with the Nanomission Council, Department of Science & Technology between March 25 and 29, 2013. The School was attended by 38 young Ph.D. and post-doctoral fellows from across the country, short-listed by a screening committee. The School aimed at providing insights into the plethora of research opportunities available in this emerging field so that the participants can embark on a research career in Biomedical Nanotechnology. The School had resource persons from academia and industry apart from internal experts. The panel of external experts included Prof. M. M. Nayak, Indian Institute of Science, Dr. Ganesh, Olympus Medical Systems India Pvt. Ltd., Dr. Jayandaran Rao, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Dr. Biman Mandal, IIT, Guwahati, Dr. Deepthy Menon, Amrita University, Dr. Afsar Ahamad, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune and Dr. Nitin Kale, NanoSniffTechnologies, Mumbai. The participants also were provided laboratory sessions to familiarize with the synthesis, fabrication and characterization techniques involved.
ROUND TABLE ON UNION BUDGET

A Round Table on Union Budget 2013-14 was organized by the School of Management on March 7, 2013. Shri V.B. Athreya, Economic Advisor, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Ms. Aarti Krishnan, Research Head and Deputy Editor, The Hindu Business Line, Shri T.T. Srinivasa Raghavan, Managing Director, Sundaram Finance Ltd and Shri R. Anand, Partner, Tax and Markets, Ernst and Young Pvt. Ltd participated in the discussion.

Participating in a roundtable, Mr. Athreya said that there is no direct tax effort, no respite from inflation, and there is very little stimulus for growth in the budget.

Ms. Aarti Krishnan, Research Head and Deputy Editor, The Hindu Business Line, said that Union Budget is not a mere statement of accounts and it is an exercise in which the government explained its policy. Some highlights of this budget were taxing the rich, widening the tax net, and providing affordable home to people. “But this cannot be called a great budget” as challenges were more.

Shri T.T. Srinivasa Raghavan, Managing Director, Sundaram Finance Ltd, said that western model was blindly copied in the budget exercise in India. “When we talk of demographic dividend, it may turn out to be a “demographic time bomb” if we don’t provide jobs to youth who are graduating in large numbers every year.

Shri R. Anand, Partner, Tax and Markets, Ernst and Young Pvt. Ltd., said that over a period of time, there was substantial buoyancy in tax paying. Another feature was direct taxes which stood at 18 per cent in 1992-93 had now reached 52 per cent in 2013-14. Indirect taxes were coming down.

Shri Anand suggested that people should be involved in budget making. A draft could be prepared and circulated in December or January to people and get their opinion. This was being done in countries like New Zealand.

LECTURE ON HISTORY OF PLUTONIUM

Dr. P.R. Vasudeva Rao, Director, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, delivered a Knowledge Leadership Forum Lecture on ‘history of plutonium,’ on March 29, 2013. He said that the discovery of plutonium was a fascinating history as it was done in top secrecy and urgency. Dr. Rao said that plutonium was the first man-made element, produced initially on a nano scale, but ended up in producing tonnes of it for the bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki in Japan in 1949.

Interacting with students, Mr. Vasudeva Rao said that research is going on with respect to fusion technology and it is possible that energy can be produced using fusion technology by 2050.

Dean’s List & Merit Scholarships

At the function, Dr. P.R. Vasudeva Rao distributed Dean's list & Merit Scholarships worth Rs.80.22 lakhs to 925 students of SASTRA. Scholarships worth Rs. 80 lakhs have also been distributed to 500 hostel inmates at the rate of Rs. 16,000/- by way of mess fees reimbursement.
MoU WITH MADRAS DIABETIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION

SASTRA University and Madras Diabetic Research Foundation, Chennai signed a Memorandum of Understanding on February 19, 2013 in Chennai. The MoU facilitates research collaborations between the School of Chemical & Biotechnology, SASTRA University and Madras Diabetic Research Foundation, addressing novel therapeutic and sensing strategies involved in diabetes and related complications. The MoU will also promote student and faculty exchange, conduct technology-based multidisciplinary diabetes research and organise joint symposia and workshops. Some of the research areas identified are stem cells and tissue engineering, development of non-invasive point of care devices, biomaterials, nano-delivery systems, wound healing and metabolomics. The MoU was signed by Dr. S. Swaminathan, Director, Centre for Nanotechnology & Advanced Biomaterials (CeNTAB) on behalf of SASTRA and Dr. V. Mohan, Director, MDRF.

MoU WITH INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, PHILIPPINES

The Centre for Rural Development Studies, School of Management, SASTRA signed an MoU with International Rice Research Institute, Philippines on April 8, 2013. The MoU was signed between Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, School of Management, SASTRA and Dr. Robert S. Zeigler, Director General, IRRI. The MoU aims to promote agricultural research, training and exchange of information and technology between the two centres.

SASTRA SPONSORS THINK-EDU CONCLAVE OF ‘THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS’

SASTRA was one of main sponsors for the prestigious ThinkEdu Conclave organized by ‘The New Indian Express’ in Chennai on February 7 & 8, 2013.

There were sixty two speakers and fourteen panel discussions in the conference. Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, Shri. L K Advani, Smt. Sheila Dikshit, Dr. Subramanian Swami, Shri Shashi Tharoor were some of the speakers of the event. Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning & Development, SASTRA chaired a session on ‘World Class Universities’ during the conclave.

Education Expo ’13

SASTRA University also sponsored the Education Expo ’13 for Higher Education organized by ‘The New Indian Express’ in Trichy on March 30 & 31, 2013. Thousands of Plus 2 students and parents attended the career interaction sessions and visited the stalls of the institutions. Dr. G. Balachandran, Registrar, SASTRA who spoke in the event appealed to the parents to let their children choose their own path following their passion.
Chi. Lakshmi Varaha Iyer, a 2009 batch student of SA stra, currently doing PhD at University of Windsor, Canada, won the 'Outstanding Graduate Research Category Award' in February 2013 from the university. This top internal recognition award for research carries $1000.

**THE CITATION**

Mr. Iyer started as a Masters student at the Centre for Hybrid Automotive Research and Green Energy (CHARGE), University of Windsor in February, 2010. Since then, Iyer has grown into a thorough researcher who possesses leadership qualities unlike contemporary graduate students. He has been instrumental in supporting the University’s research agenda through the Canada Research Chair Program in Hybrid Drivetrain Systems. The wide acceptance of Iyer’s work can be supported by his list of publications where he has eight peer-reviewed journals, eleven peer-reviewed conference papers, eight journal papers invited for peer-review, one patent pending and two completed industrial projects through his work at the University in a span of three years. His work on renewable energy systems attracted industries like Marcom Systems and Tesla Digital to work on collaborative projects funded by FedDev and NSERC at the University of Windsor. Moreover, his work has been extended and a patent has been filed titled “Development of a Mechanism for Seamless Power Transfer between SunSource’s PV Source, End Users and Power Grid” along with the Industrial partner. He also led industrial projects of Sober Steering Inc. and Essex Power Corporation at the University of Windsor, which involved development of anti-drunk driving system for electric vehicles and power line fault detection and classification unit, respectively. Apart from conducting research by himself, he motivates a lot of undergraduate and graduate students with many research ideas and solutions. Mr. Lakshmi Varaha Iyer has been an exemplary student, rather an aggressive researcher and a leader among his peers.

**SASTRA STUDENT TOPS GATE-2013**

Kum. Deepa Rajagopalan, a final year B.Tech. Biotechnology student of SA stra secured the All India First Rank and topped the GATE-2013 examinations in the Biotechnology stream. With 80 marks, she emerged first amongst the 16,159 candidates appearing in the Biotechnology stream in GATE-2013. Deepa has been a consistent performer and also won the prestigious Khorana Fellowship during 2012 and spent a term as research intern at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA and worked in the area of intracellular trafficking of vitamin B12. Passionate about making a career in Biotechnology, Deepa is keen to pursue higher education in India and was thrilled with the results. She said that she has not even applied to any US universities and would like to pursue research in India. Three more students Kum. Abinaya Badri, Kum. Nagammal and Kum. Preethi Narayani have secured ranks 13, 26 and 28 respectively. The Management of SA stra congratulates all the students for their outstanding achievements. Such student achievements reflect the quality of students and the high standards of SA stra’s School of Chemical & Biotechnology which is ranked amongst the best in the country.

**SASTRA UNIVERSITY WINS RIVIERA IN STYLE**

The cultural team of SA stra University won the overall trophy at Riviera’13 conducted by VIT University during Feb 6 to 9, 2013. This is a record 6th time in succession that SA stra is walking away with the overall trophy. The cultural team from SA stra won prizes in almost all the events in Literary, Painting, Music, Drama, Dance and other categories. The English,
Hindi, Tamil and Telugu cultural clubs of SASTRA with its team members demolished stiff opposition from premier institutions like IITM, NIT-T, VIT, IIIT-H, etc. and walked home in style with the Overall Trophy beating more than 30 colleges that participated from all over the country. The trophy was handed over by Cinema Artist Vikram in a glittering function on February 9, 2013. The Management congratulates the winners.

**SASTRA TOPS PRAGYAN ‘13**

SASTRA University won the RECAL Trophy for overall champions of Pragyan ’13, the techno-management festival of National Institute of Technology, Tiruchir, held from February 28 to March 1, 2013. PSG Tech, Coimbatore, won the second place.

The winners received the award from Shri P. Sivakumar, Director, Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), Defense Research and Development Organization, at the valedictory session of the ISO 9001:2008 certified event. The event saw participation by 3,500 students, in addition to 10,000 entries online.

**SASTRA TEAM WINS TRICHY REGION TATA CRUCIBLE CAMPUS QUIZ 2013**

SASTRA University emerged winner in the Tirucli regional round of the Tata Crucible Campus Quiz 2013, one of India’s largest inter-collegiate business quiz, conducted at National College, Trichy in February 2013.

The winning team of Chi. K. Sudharshan and Chi. Pranav that won cash prize of Rs.75,000 will compete with winners from seven other cities in the South Zone finals at Bangalore. Another SASTRA team of Sridhar and Visaka Simhan won the runners-up prize of Rs. 35,000 as well. National College Principal Prof. K. Anbarasu presented the cash prizes.

There were three SASTRA teams among the six that qualified for the regional round out of 198 teams. The other three teams represented were from Indian Institute of Management, Bharathidasan Institute of Management, and National Institute of Technology. Top two teams from each of the four zones will vie for the Tata Crucible Campus Quiz title in the national finals at Mumbai on April 14, 2013.

Winners of national finals will be rewarded with cash prize of Rs.5 lakh and coveted Tata Crucible Trophy while the international champions would be rewarded with an international holiday package and other exciting prizes.

**SASTRA’s GREEN VISIONARIES SECURE II PLACE IN TOP IIT EVENT**

A team of eight II B.Tech. students has won the second place in GREENX, an event in the technical festival organized by IIT- BHU, known as TECHNEX. The team, christened as “THE GREEN VISIONARIES” had been required to fulfill a series of 46 tasks, spread over five spheres consisting of fuel, waste, energy, food and water and green for fun. They faced stiff competition from the teams of IIT’s and NIT’s. In all, around 26 different colleges from all over the country participated in this competition. They presented their work before a panel of judges at Varanasi. THE GREEN VISIONARIES was headed by Abhishek.S.Iyer (MECH). Members include: Kaushik, Venkatraman(ENI), Pranav Sundararajan (MECH), Harish Balakrishnan(CSE), Alex Mathew(CSE), Prajeet Krishnan(MECH), and Sujeet Krishnan(MECH). Prof.S.Anantha Padmanabhan, Senior Professor, School of Civil Engg. guided the team.
The following students are undergoing their Research Internship at various foreign Universities under the Semester Abroad Programme:

MIT – Harvard, USA
- M N Anandya
- Adhuli Mohan
- M. Vijayan
- Vidyas N. Channuvedswari
- Sudhi Ann Alex
- B. Preethi Bala
- Konczentra Navaneetha
- R. Janet Pushpa
- Shruti Srivastava
- Adithi Rajagopalan
- Deepika Vasudev
- Prachi Divai
- N. Nalini

Georgia Institute of Technology, USA
- N. Karthik
- Sri Harsha P.V.
- Sair Lalith, G.K.

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, USA
- Vignesh V. Ramakrishnan

University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA
- Anirudh Krishnankumar

Gotpal, Inc, Connecticut, USA
- Neelakantam A.

CINVESTAV,MEXICO
- Mubashwar Adinji Iyer
- Kaligotla Krishna Iyothi
- Gayadri N.

Deakin University, Australia
- Divya C.
- Udha Jayakumar

UFC, Barcelona, Spain
- Vanheeri Ginathch
- Karthikeyam K
- Malliganj M
- Ballakonda Revanth
- M. Anaga
- Divya V
- KU. Arthaka
- Tanikella Aditya Abhishek

University of Barcelona
- Zafird A.

Karlruhe Institute of Technology, Germany
- Neelakantam A.
- Varun N
- Anikta Kumar
- Arvind S.

École Polytechnique de Montreal, Canada
- C. Jagannathan
- Ortheo University, Sweden
- B. Vani Krishna
- Balasubramanian R.

University West, Sweden
- Palan Sivakumar
- Sreshta Srinivasa
- Venkai Sri Sai G.

National University of Singapore, Singapore
- Thiyavani L
- Durgalakshmi R.

Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Japan
- Anuraga Narayanam K.
Shri. N. Santhana Krishnan, III B. Tech. Civil won the first prize for his paper "Soil stabilization using innovative methods" presented at Cognizance'13, annual tech fest conducted by IIT Roorkee from March 22-24, 2013.

K.R. Ramamani Taxation Moot Court
The School of Law, SASTRA University won the 3rd K.R. Ramamani Taxation Moot Court competition conducted by the School of Excellence, TN Dr. Ambedkar Law University. The team comprising A.G. Sweta, Akshaya P. Sachin, Aishwarya K. Iyer from SASTRA University beat ILS, Pune in the finals of the Taxation moot court. The moot problem was on the issue of retrospective amendments and its impact on international taxation. The team from SASTRA won the cash prize of Rs. 50,000 and also the prize for the best memorials. A total of 26 teams from all over the country participated with SVKM and GLC, Mumbai being the other two semi-finalists. The panel of judges comprised Justice Mr. T. Raja, Judge, High Court of Madras, Justice (Retd.) Mr. N. V. Balasubramaniama and Mr. Arvind Pandian, Addl. AG of TN.

National Moot Court Competition in Pune
A team comprising of Kum. Sruthi S of IInd year B.B.A., LL.B., Chi. Adarsh S, IInd year B.A., LL.B. and Kum. S. Varsha of IInd year B.A., LL.B., won the 1st Runner’s Trophy in the 8th National Moot Court Competition held at Balaji Law College, Pune between 17th - 19th January, 2013. A total of twenty two institutions from all over the country including three National Law Schools participated in the competition. The SASTRA team won a trophy and a cash prize of Rs. 50,000. Former Union Law Minister, Legal Luminary and Senior Supreme Court Advocate Sri. Ram Jethmalani distributed the prizes.

Paper Presentation
Chi. Amrith Bhargav, first year B.A., LLB. student of SASTRA University was selected among the 20 people to present a paper at the National Seminar on Social Exclusion held at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai on Feb 8, 2013. He presented a paper on Caste and Globalisation, which was adjudged the best among the ones presented.

LAW STUDENTS VISIT SUPREME COURT
III B.A., LL. B. & III LL. B. students along with Prof. R. Rajyavardhanan and Prof. S. Sangeetha visited the Supreme Court of India from 18th to 20th February 2013, as part of their curricular requirements. They also visited Competition Commission of India, National Commission for Women, Indian Council for Child Development. They also had an intellectual discussion and sought advice from the Supreme Court Judge Hon’ble Justice F.M. Ibrahim Kalifulla and Solicitor General of India Shri Mohan Parasaran.
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “THE ESSENCE OF GITA”

A two-day National Conference on “The Essence of the Bhagavad Gita” was organized by the Department of Oriental Studies and Research during February 15-16, 2013. Inaugurating the Conference Swami Tattvavidanda Saraswati of Hyderabad said, “Unlike other epics of the world, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata have an impact on the contemporary society. The Mahabharata, of which the Gita is a part, has deeper influence of the social, cultural and religious life of the Indian people. All the Gods we worship have origins in the Mahabharata. All the emotions of the human heart find beautiful presence in the galaxy of characters depicted in the epic. The Gita, finding a place in the middle, stands as a lamp post by illuminating both the preceding narrative and the one that follows it. Everything stated in the Gita is meant to be tested in the life of every man; it is intended to be verified in practice. Dr. D. Venkappayya, the Registrar-in-charge, presided.

In the seven sessions that followed, eminent scholars like Swami Sri Brahmavidyananda of OM Mandiram, Madurai, Dr. M.V. Ananta Padmanabacharya of Chennai, Shastrashastra Sahitivallabha Sri V. S. Karunakaracharya, Director (Retd.), SSI New Delhi, Swami Sri Omkaranananda of Vedapuri Ashram, Theni, Dr. N. Kannan, Head, Dept. of Oriental Studies and Research, SASTRA University and Dr. S. Padmanabhan, Department of Sanskrit, Madras University, delivered lectures on various topics of Srimad Bhagavad Gita.

LECTURE ON ‘THE MESSAGE OF GITA’

The Department of Oriental Studies & Research organized a special lecture on January 5, 2013 for the students of B.Tech. Who had taken Srimad Bhagavad Gita and Vedanta as Open Elective subjects. Swami Shri Swaroopananda of Sivananda Ashram, Rishikesh, delivered the lecture.

Lecture on the Philosophy of Yoga

Dr. K.Subrahmanyan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (SVYAS), Bangalore delivered a lecture on the Philosophy of Yoga on February 4, 2013 for the students of Sanskrit and Vedanta. He inspired the students to study Yoga sutra for leading a peaceful, stress-free and healthy life, since computers and machines are too much with us in this modern world. Dr.G.Balachandran, Registrar of SASTRA University, presided over the function. Dr.N.Kannan, H.O.D, Oriental Studies and Research welcomed the gathering.

Lecture on Ayurveda

A special lecture was organized by the Department of Oriental Studies and Research on “Applications of Ayurveda in Daily Life” on March 7, 2013. Dr.S.Swaminathan, Dean, Sri Jayendra Saraswati Ayurveda College, Chennai delivered the lecture. Dr. Veerakumar Venugopal, Next Generation Transducer Development, Seagate Technology & Adjunct Professor, Centre for Magnetism and Magnetic Nanostructures, University of Colorado, USA delivered his lecture on “Perpendicular Magnetic Recording” on January 31, 2013.

Special Lectures

Dr. K. Porsezian, Professor, Department of Physics, Pondicherry University, delivered a lecture on the “Emerging trends and applications in the super continuum generation using photonics fibre” on February 15, 2013.

A special lecture session on “Grid Management” was arranged jointly by EEE Students Association (ELECTRA) and SASTRA IEEE Students' Chapter on February 28, 2013. Shri. I. Nedumaran, Chief Manager (Electrical), Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) delivered the technical lecture. He spoke on Electric Power Transmission and the significance of reactive power in power system, importance of maintaining
voltage and power factor, reactive power compensation and sequence of events causing grid collapse with a case study.

Lt. General M.C. Bhandari (veteran) PVSM, AVSM & BAR D.Litt., FIMA, Former Chairman, Uttarakand, Public Service Commission delivered lectures under the Knowledge Leadership forum of SASTRA on January, 7 & 8, 2013. The first lecture on “Euro Zone Crisis & its impact on Indian Economy” was attended by the I and II year MBA students. He also delivered a lecture on “Professional Ethics” for the III B.Tech. students of CSE, EEE, ECE, IT and Mechanical Engineering. Lt. General Bhandari spoke to the IAS, IPS aspirants & NCC Cadets on “Serve Mother India”.

SASTRA UNIVERSITY HEADS THE NATIONAL LEVEL SNAKEBITE STUDY

SASTRA University represented by Dr. BL Dhananjaya Assistant Professor – Research, School of Chemical and Biotechnology, and his team will lead the venom detection aspects in the National Level snakebite study, which is a national level Multi-centric hospital based snakebite study. This was officially announced in the Toxinology forum at the workshop on designing the snakebite study aspects, hosted by Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore on 11 & 12th March 2013.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

Republic Day was celebrated at SASTRA on January 26, 2013. Dr. G. Balachandran, Registrar, SASTRA hoisted the tricolour and addressed the faculty and students. The NCC Wing (Girls Battalion) of SASTRA presented guard of honour on the occasion.

PONGAL GIFT TO VILLAGERS

The Management of SASTRA University distributed Pongal Gift - bags containing 5 kg. raw-rice, 1 kg. jaggery and ½ kg dhal to each of the 1770 ration card holders of Tirumalaisamudrum, Vallampudur, Monnaiyampatti, Kuruvadiyipatti, and Nattani villages. The gift bags were distributed by Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development and Dr.S.Swaminathan, Dean, Sponsored Research on January 13, 2013.

AWARD FOR MANAGEMENT FACULTY

Dr. R. Renganathan, Professor, School of Management, SASTRA won the 'Best Professor in Marketing Management' given by 'ET NOW' (Economic Times Now). The award was given away at a function held in Mumbai on February 16, 2013.

LECTURE ON UNION BUDGET- 2013

School of Management in association with Tiruchirapalli Chapter of Cost Accountants conducted a special lecture on “Union Budget- 2013” on March 4, 2013. Shri. V. Alagappan, Chartered Accountant, Trichy spoke on the Tax proposals in the Union Budget and Dr. A.K.S. Sukumaran, Professor, School of Management, Thanjavur spoke on the Economic Survey 2013. 120 students and 4 executives from BHEL, who are cost accountants, participated in the programme.
PROGYAN 5

School of Management organized PROGYAN 5, a National level MBA students' meet on March 1&2, 2013. 170 students drawn from 20 Colleges & Universities participated in 7 different competitions like Best CEO, Best Management team, Business Quiz, IPL Auction, Case Presentation, Treasure Hunt, etc., aimed at bringing out the soft skills of the students.

Dr. G. Balachandran, Registrar, SASTRA inaugurated the event. In the valedictory function, Mr. C.A.M.Raman, Chairman, Town Benefit Fund, Kumbakonam, distributed prizes. National Institute of Technology (NIT), Trichy team won the overall shield. Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, School of Management, SASTRA said the event PROGYAN (Professional Knowledge) aims at bringing out the latent talents through competitions.

Lecture on Swami Vivekananda's Management Thoughts

School of Management organised a special lecture on “Swami Vivekananda's Management Thoughts” on February 4, 2013 as a part of Swami Vivekananda's 150th birth anniversary celebrations. Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean School of Management, presided over the function. Dr. K. Subrahmanyam, Pro – Chancellor, S – VYASA University, Bengaluru delivered the lecture to the MBA students. In his address, he insisted that the management students should imbibe the qualities like self - confidence, courage and faith on employees as preached by Swami Vivekananda. Dr. R. Srinivasan proposed a vote of thanks.

Another lecture was delivered by Dr. D. Bala, MS, International trainer, Art of living on “Science of Breath-Ancient Indian Wisdom & Modern Science” on January 19, 2013. The School of Management organised the lecture in association with Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR).

WORSHOP ON MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

School of Management organised a Two-day workshop on “Tools and Techniques in Management Research” on 16th & 17th February 2013 as a Faculty Development Programme. Dr. R. Venkatesakumar, Reader, Department of Management Studies, School of Management, Pondicherry University explained the usage of various tools in SPSS Package for management research purposes. 38 staff members from SASTRA University, 3 research scholars and 13 PG students participated. Dr. P. Vajiyanthiswamy, Professor, School of Management and Shri. K.A. Shreenivasan, were the Convenors for the workshop.
WORKSHOP BY HCL

A Workshop on 'Employee First Customer Second' was conducted by M/s HCL on February 20, 2013. Third year B.Tech students of CSE, ICT, IT, workshop. Various competitions were conducted for the students. The winners were felicitated with prizes.

DIVERSITY CONNECTS AT YOUR CAMPUS! BY ACCENTURE

SASTRA University in association with ACCENTURE Technologies celebrated Women's Day on January 13, 2013. III B.Tech girl students attended the programme. Ms. Sonya Suvarna, Ms. Latha Ramani, Ms. Nupur Sharma, Ms. Tazeen Eram, Ms. Isha Gautam and Ms. Sowmya executives from Accenture, spoke on the facilities provided in Accenture and women's achievement in the company. Requirements on placement in Accenture was also discussed. Activities like tug of war and quiz were conducted to encourage girls.

WIPRO DISTRIBUTES OFFER LETTERS

Officials from M/s Wipro Technologies visited SASTRA University on March, 18, 2013 and distributed Offer Letters to the students of SASTRA who were recruited by them in the campus interview.

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

School of Management organised an Executive Development Programme on “VAT and Central Sales Tax in Tamilnadu” on February 14, 2013. Dr.A.K.S.Sukumaran, Professor, School of Management was the course director of the programme and he deliberated the practical inputs in Tamil Nadu's VAT Act and CST. 30 executives from industries in and around Trichy and Thanjavur participated in the programme.

TRAINER FOR TNPSC GROUP I EXAM

SASTRA Academy for Growth & Excellence (SAGE) conducted a one-day workshop on January 21, 2013 for the aspirants of TNPSC Group I Examination. Mr. Bhaskara Bharathi and a group of experts from Chennai conducted the Workshop. Aspirants from in around Thanjavur attended the Workshop.

THIRUPPAVAI, THIRUVEMPAAVAI RECITATION CONTEST

Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai Recitation contest was organized on January 10, 2013 for the students of Schools in and around Thanjavur. Seventy students from about twenty schools surrounding Thanjavur participated.

LAURELS BY FOOTBALL TEAM

SASTRA University Football team won the 3rd place and received a cash prize Rs.10,000/- in the 'Riviera-2013' International Sports Carnival, organized by VIT University, Vellore from 2nd-5th February 2013.
Kum. V.N. Lavanya from Maxwell Matriculation Higher Secondary School won the first prize of Rs.3000/-.
Kum. V. Pooja of St. Joseph Higher Secondary School for Girls got the second prize of Rs.2000/- and Sow. Sowmya of Sir Sivaswami Aiyar Centenary Girls Higher Secondary School, Thirukkattupalli won the third prize of Rs. 1000/- All the participants were awarded a cash prize of Rs.500/- each

Similar competition was held at SRC, Kumbakonam on January 10, 2013. Selvi R. Sheethal of Town Hr. Sec. School, Kumbakonam won the first prize and bagged the cash award of Rs.3000. Selvi A. Madhumitha, also from Town Hr. Sec. School, was awarded Rs.2000 for winning the second prize. Selvan K. Bragadeesh, Venus Nursery and Primary School, Thiruvidaimarudhur won the third prize of Rs.1000. The other participants received Rs. 500 each for their enthusiastic participation.

As part of Srinivasa Ramanujan Quasquicentennial Celebrations, SASTRA University organized a state level inter school quiz competition on Life and Works of Srinivasa Ramanujan at its centre in Kumbakonam named after the great mathematical prodigy Srinivasa

Ramanujan on January 20, 2013. 84 teams representing 33 schools from various parts of the State participated in the competition. Dr. Sumanth C Raman, Advisor, Life Sciences and Health Care Practice, TCS conducted the quiz. The University awarded the first, the second & the third prize winners and the respective schools with cash award of Rs. 1 Lakh, Rs.50,000 and Rs.25,000 each. Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Sr. Sec. School, Nungambakkam bagged the first prize. D.A.V. Boys Sr. Sec. School and A.M.M. Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Chennai won the second prize. The third prize was won by Kendriya Vidyalaya, Thanjavur and D.A.V. Boys Sr. Sec. School, Chennai. As this was the first state level Ramanujan quiz, the University magnanimously awarded two second and third prizes without dividing the prize money.

SOCIAL SERVICE CAMP FOR B.Ed AND M.Sc.B.Ed STUDENTS

The School of Education at SRC organized a Social Service Camp for the students of B.Ed. and M.Sc.,B.Ed., /M.A.,B.Ed. programme from Feb 21-23, 2013. Dr.P. Ramani, Former Dean, Education, SASTRA inaugurated the camp at Arulmighu Satchinathar Swamy Temple at Thirupurambiam. In his inaugural address, Dr.Ramani insisted upon the need to orient educational activities towards development of social consciousness and National concern. Prof.K.G.Raghunathan, Dean, SRC, SASTRA presided over the function. Major A.Balasubramanian, Principal, SOE welcomed the
gathering. The students cleaned the temple and the Panchayat Union Middle School. 160 notebooks and pens were gifted to the poor children of the school. The students visited Arivuthukovil for a lecture cum demonstration on yoga and in the afternoon attended a lecture on Health Education by Dr.R.Palanivelu, Consultant Pediatrician. The students visited Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute at Auduthurai. Dr.Subramaniam delivered a lecture on Advanced Crop Researches. Dr.K.Narasimhan and Shri.R.Nandakumar were the camp officers.

**SASTRA’S ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE PARTICIPATES IN BAJA 2013**

Team Crucible, SASTRA’s Racing Team, participated in the prestigious BAJA 2013, conducted by Society of Automotive India (SAEINDIA) at Pithanpur, from February 14-17, 2013. The annual event aims at providing opportunity to young, enthusiastic and talented engineering students to showcase their passion for automobiles. A team of 24 students from SASTRA designed and fabricated a 4-wheeled single-seater all-terrain vehicle for the competition.

The selection of teams for the endurance race took place after three stages of eliminations, which are based on virtual presentations, college level technical inspection and on-site technical inspection at NATRAX. BAJA 2013 was a four-day event, in which the vehicles were tested for 100% rulebook compliance, engine condition and various sample tracks and tough conditions for the first three days. After completing the on-site inspection, teams adhering to the norms were shortlisted for the endurance run. The event witnessed 120 cars at the event site.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADVANCED COMPUTING**

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering organized a National Conference on Advanced Computing on January 18, 2013 at SRC. Shri.R.Krishnan, Vice-President, Banking Industry Practice, Tata Consultancy Services, Chennai inaugurated the camp. Shri.T S Vinodha Sivam, Delivery Manager, Accenture Software, Chennai participated in the valedictory function. Papers on topics like Cloud Computing, Network security and Cryptography, Software Engineering were presented.

**SEMINAR ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

The Department of Commerce and Management Studies, SRC organized a two day Seminar on Entrepreneurship Development on February 22 & 23, 2013. Dr.V.Badrinath, Dean, SOM, inaugurated the seminar. Topics like Idea Generation, Rural Entrepreneurship, Project Report Preparation, Licensing of Project, Funding of Projects and Project Commercialization were analyzed by experts.

Around 275 delegates participated in the seminar.

**WORKSHOP ON MICRO CONTROLLERS AND ELECTRIC DRIVES**

ISTE Students Chapter, in association with VI Micro Systems, Chennai organized a workshop on Microcontrollers and Electric Drives on March 22, 2013. A team of technical experts from VI Micro Systems conducted the workshop for the III year EEE students and the members of the staff of the Department. The workshop concentrated on the circuits that are used to control BLDC Motor, STEPPER Motor, and Switched Reluctance Motor.
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADVANCES IN WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering organized a National Conference on Advances in Wireless Technology on January 3, 2013. Dr. M. S. Sricharan, Senior Consultant, WIPRO Technologies inaugurated the conference. Prof. J. Jayaram, National Instruments, Bangalore, Dr. Y. Venkataramani, Prof. Saranathan College of Engineering, Trichy, Dr. P. Dhananjayan, Pondicherry Engineering College, Puducherry, Dr. K. Thenmozhi, Associate Dean, SASTRA and Prof. V. Chandrasekar, SRC spoke on various topics related to Wireless Technology.

WORKSHOP ON PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD DESIGN & FABRICATION

ELPOWER, the association of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering organized a two-day workshop on Printed Circuit Board Design & Fabrication by Innovative Electrical Technologies, Trichy on 21 & 22 February, 2013. Shri. Shankara Vinayagam and Shri. Thirumalvalavan, IET, Trichy inaugurated the workshop.

WORKSHOP ON PYTHON PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE

S-Foss, the Open Source Community at SRC, in collaboration with The Web Institute, New Delhi organized a two-day workshop on Python Programming Language on March 23 & 23, 2013. Python is a very powerful programming/scripting language, very popular with open source community. Shri. Siddhouth Goyal and Shri. Aswin Mukhija, from the Web Institute acted as resource persons. The participants learnt the basics of the language, its hardware requirements and installation. Shri Aswin Mukhija discussed Coding solutions for some prominent problems. 120 students attended the workshop.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RECENT TRENDS IN POWER SYSTEM

A national conference on 'Recent Trends in Power System' was organized by the Department of EEE on February 9, 2013. Shri. P. Anantha Kumar, TransTrasco, Trichy inaugurated the conference and spoke on Power Crisis. Twenty Eight Papers were presented by the participants in two sessions. Dr. S. Jayalalitha, Associate Dean, E & I, and Ltn. Dr. Vijaya Rekha, Associate Dean, EEE, School of EEE, SASTRA also participated.

THETA v 3.0

Theta v3.0, a three day Technical Management Fest was organized by SASTRA University at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, Kumbakonam on March 1-3, 2013. Around 2300 students from various institutions participated in 42 events and 2 workshops organized in eight clusters namely Electronica, Informatica, Bio-Genesis, Strategia, Robolusion, Emulsion, Mathematica and Equilibria. The Robo-Race proved to be the highlight of the whole fest. The Robo Race track is recognized as the longest track in Tamilnadu. It consisted of hurdles like Sand, Grease, Gravel, Glass and Clay. Sky-Fi labs conducted Aerotrix workshop on 'Design of remote controlled air craft'. The students demonstrated the flight of the designed air craft in the University ground.

The Indian Institute of Space Technology Thiruvananthapuram, recognizing the skill of designing had chosen the best team for participating in the contest to be organized by the Institute. The festival was inaugurated by Dr. R. Sivanesan, Registrar, Anna University, Chennai and Dr. R. Vijayarajeswaran, Industrialist, Chennai. The winners of various events were honoured with prizes worth Rs.1.5 lakhs.
Swamy Vivekananda 150th Birth Anniversary Committee, Kumbakonam in association with SASTRA University conducted a national symposium on “Swami Vivekananda’s Thoughts and their Relevance Today” on February 3, 2013 at SRC. Dr. Sunil Krishnan, Writer and Translator, Karaikudi, Shri M. Venkatesan, Writer & Publisher, Chennai, Shri. Arvindhan Neelakandan, Researcher, Writer, NARDEP, Kanyakumari, Shri. Arasalur, R. Selvam, Trainer and Environmental Educationist and Dr. R. Srinivasan, Gandhian Scholar, spoke on the occasion. The Principals of various colleges in and around Kumbakonam participated in the symposium as special invitees. Around 280 students from various colleges attended the programme.

The Department of English, SRC, Kumbakonam, organised a special lecture by Prof. N. Krishnaswamy, former of CIEFL Hyderabad, on February 6, 2013, for the benefit of the M.A. (English), B.Ed. students. He spoke on Grammar Learning and Teaching. He insisted that the most effective way of learning any language is through exposure and practice. In the 21st century, with the advancement in information and communication technology, the young learners have enough exposure to English language through classroom interactions, T.V. channels and the Internet.

He exhorted the teacher trainees never to venture to teach grammar in isolation. Any life situation -- such as train time-table, description of an object or arguing on a recent government decision -- would prove a good starting point and will lead them on to exercising language skills, ensuring exposure to the subtleties of language—and all this without any strain or bitterness.

**Prof. M. S. Nagarajan**, Professor of English (Retired), Madras University, spoke on ‘New Historicism’ on March 1, 2013. Prof. Nagarajan began his speech by tracing the English critical tradition from Sidney down to modern times. In 20th century, New Criticism, Structuralism and Post-structuralism emphasised textuality – the close analysis of the language of the text and its relation to other texts – to the exclusion of biographical, historical or any other extra-textual information.

Prof. Nagarajan went on to illustrate the value of ‘New Historicism’ as a tool for effective reading by applying this methodology to the study of Shakespeare’s King Lear and ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’, as worked out by the New Historicists, and also his own application to the reading of the text ‘Purushadevi Kathai’. Literary appreciation assumes new perspectives from time to time and so continues as a lively enterprise today and will be so forever.
YOUTH TALENT ENCOURAGEMENT PROGRAMME

As part of Youth Talent Encouragement Programme, various competitions were conducted for school children from February 4-9, 2013. A cash award of Rs.2000 was given to the 1st Prize winners and Rs.1000 to the 2nd Prize winners for each event. A cash award of Rs.5000 was given to Town Higher Secondary School, Kumbakonam, Dr.G.S.Kalyanasundaram Higher Secondary School, Pazhaya Gudalar and Sri Matha Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kumbakonam to promote their libraries.

Ph.D BY FACULTY

Dr. Renuka, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce and Management Studies, SRC defended her thesis entitled ‘A Study on the Services of Hotel Industry in Thanjavur District’ in the public viva-voce held on January 18, 2013 at Bharathidasan University, Trichy.

LAURELS IN SWIMMING CONTESTS

Chi. N.P.Narayana Swamy of III B.Tech. CSE produced a new district record in 50 mts Back Stroke and bagged the first prize in District level Chief Minister’s Trophy for Swimming held at Annai Sathya Stadium, Thanjavur on January 5, 2013. In the state level swimming meet organized by Anjalai Ammal Mahalingam Engineering College, Kovilveni, he managed to set a new state record in hundred mts free style. He also came first in 4x50 mts free style relay in which 22 districts participated. In the 200 mts Individual Medley, he won the second prize.

In the National level Swimming Competition conducted by VIT Vellore on 6-9 February 2013, Selvan N.P.Narayana Swamy won the first prize in 100 mts. free style and third prize in 100mts back stroke and 50 mts. free style.

NSS ACTIVITIES

65 NSS volunteers participated in the Road Safety Awareness Campaign organized on January 12, 2013. 1000 awareness pamphlets were distributed and 200 black stickers were pasted on vehicles.

A Pulse polio immunization camp was organized on January 20, 2013. 46 NSS volunteers were deployed at Kumbakonam Bus Stand and Railway Station.

An awareness rally on “Social Values in Swami Vivekanandha's Principles” was organized on February 3, 2013. 64 NSS volunteers participated in the rally.

A blood donation and group identification camp was organized by the NSS wings at SRC on February 22, 2013. 42 units were donated to Kali Blood Bank and blood grouping was done for 240 students.

65 NSS volunteers were deployed to control the traffic and assist the public during the Masimaham festival at Kumbakonam on February 25, 2013. 55 NSS volunteers participated in the Disaster Management Workshop, conducted in association with Sri Sathya Sai organization, Tamilnadu Unit on March 9, 2013. Rainwater Harvesting awareness campaign was organized on March 25, 2013. Thousand pamphlets were distributed to the public by the volunteers.

NSS SPECIAL CAMP

A week long special camp was organized by the NSS units of Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA University, Kumbakonam, from 18th to 24th March, 2013 at Pulianchery, Moopakoil and Kottaiyur villages of Kumbakonam Taluk. Dr. G. Balachandran, Registrar, SASTRA University inaugurated the camp. Prof. V. Chandrasekar, Head, Department of ECE presided over the function. Dr. V. Vaithiyannathan, NSS Programme co-ordinator, SASTRA delivered a special address. As part of the camp, Medical camp, Environmental awareness camp, Rain water harvesting, Road safety and Health awareness programmes were conducted.
SNIPPETS FROM SHANMUGHAA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE

XXIX INSTITUTION DAY

The Twenty-ninth Institution Day and Annual Sports Day of Shanmugha Polytechnic College was held on March 25, 2013. Dr. S. Pugazhenthhi, Dean, School of Mechanical Engineering, SASTRA delivered the institution day address and awarded academic and sports prizes. His inspiring lecture focused on professional and personal development of the students. He said that success is not written in one’s forehead, it should come from hard work.

Principal Shri.R. Chandramouli presented the Annual Report for the academic year 2012-2013. Shri.R.Saravanan presented the Physical Education Annual Report. Book prizes work Rs. 1.5 lakh were distributed to more than 200 students.

LAURELS IN IPAA

Shanmugha Polytechnic College Athletic men team secured 84 points and won the Championship Trophy. S.Tamilventhan I / EEE secured 27 points and got the Individual Championship Medal in the Thanjavur Division Inter-Polytechnic Athletic Meet, held at (Men) Venkatesvara Polytechnic College, Pudukottai on January 31st and February 1st 2013, (Women) Government Polytechnic College, Trichy on 28th January 2013.

DENTAL HEALTH CAMP

As a part of NSS activities “Oral Hygiene Enlightenment Campaign” was organized on February 28, 2013. The camp was conducted by Adithi Dental Hospital, Thanjavur. Dr. S.Gayathiri along with her medical team conducted the dental camp. More than 100 students undergone dental check-up.

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(A University under section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
THANJAVUR - 613 401.
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