



ITI HAS

(IT Is Happening At SASTRA)



Newsletter from SASTRA University



Vol. 14

IV Quarter

2014

Message from the VICE - CHANCELLOR



I share my happiness with all of you on the successful completion of 30 academic years of the institution ever since it started in 1984 and now we march our entry into the institution's 4th decade. The progress and the achievements we have made in the last 30 years is definitely satisfying to realise the fact that we started with three degree programmes

with a modest student strength of 90 and today stand tall to offer about 56 programmes besides Ph. D. programmes. Of course, the current status of SASTRA would not have been achieved in such a short span of time without the exemplary performance of students and resounding faith placed by the parents, recruiters and other stakeholders who are always part of our external ecosystem.

While, we rejoice our successes, it is also equally important to review our performance and place new benchmarks to reach newer heights. Hence, it has been decided to compile a vision document titled "SASTRA 2025." The document will address the broad areas – Teaching & Learning, Research, New Programmes, Collaborations, Infrastructure & Human Resource Development, Technology Adoption, Social Interface, etc.

The last quarter of 2014 witnessed a host of important events in the campus. The prestigious SASTRA – Ramanujan Award for 2014 was presented to Prof. James Maynard of Oxford University, England & University of Montreal, Canada on December 21, 2014. The SASTRA-G.N.Ramachandran award has been instituted this year to honour outstanding research work in Physics, which carries Rs. 5 lakh and a citation. The first award was presented to Prof. M. Vijayan of IISc, Bangalore on November 28, 2014. Prof. K.N. Ganesh, Director IISER, Pune and Prof. V. Chandrasekhar, Director, NISER, Bhubaneswar have been selected for the Second SASTRA-CNR Rao award 2015.

The 11 Teraflop High Performance Computing Cluster with 30 processors with 960 GB of RAM, connected to a 40 GBPS infiniband, has been commissioned at SASTRA to provide high performance computing environment to the students and researchers.

The Second Edition of 'Lawgical Connect' was organized in Chennai on Nov 1, 2014 in which a panel of legal luminaries discussed the 'Uniform Civil Code.' This major academic initiative by SASTRA was well received by an elite 1000 plus audience. It is a matter of pride that the Nani Palkhivala Memorial Trust has permitted the Law School of SASTRA to conduct the annual Nani Palkhivala Memorial National Tax Moot Court from this year onwards.

The issue covers the awards and laurels won by faculty and students and many more.

Wish you all a Happy New Year 2015!

Prof. R. Sethuraman
Vice - Chancellor

SASTRA-RAMANUJAN AWARD 2014

The SASTRA-Ramanujan Award for 2014 was presented to Prof. James Maynard, Oxford University, England & University of Montreal, Canada on December 21, 2014 at the International Conference on Number Theory held at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA University, Kumbakonam. The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize was established in 2005 and is awarded annually for outstanding contributions by young mathematicians to areas influenced by the genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. The age limit for the prize has been set at 32 because Ramanujan had achieved so much in his brief life of 32 years.

The prestigious SASTRA-Ramanujan Award carries 10,000 USD and an impressive citation. The award of the 2014 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize to James Maynard is a fitting recognition in the tenth year of its inception and in keeping with the tradition of recognizing path-breaking work by young mathematicians.

Dr. Mangalam Srinivasan, Former Advisory, Research and Teaching appointee at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Special Advisor, Kennedy School of Government and fellow of CFT, Harvard University presented the award to Prof. James Maynard. Presenting the award, Dr. Mangalam highlighted the



Prof. James Maynard receives the prestigious SASTRA-Ramanujan award from Dr. Mangalam Srinivasan



Dr. Mangalam Srinivasan

value of Indian civilization in general and Trichy and Thanjavur districts in particular. The delta districts of Trichy and Thanjavur are a perfect choice for the UNESCO heritage status for culture and humanities. "The ease with which external cultures and habits plugged, symbolizes the two districts being a cradle of unity of civilizations, encouraging contrarian thoughts in all fields – music, arts, science, engineering, literature and philosophy," she said. She called mathematics a 'heritage talent' and remarked that while in mathematics, parallel lines do not meet, parallels of all sorts had converged without creating any divisiveness in these two districts.

Prof. Krishnaswamy Alladi of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Florida, USA and the Chairperson of the Awards Committee read out the citation. He recalled the genesis of this award in 2005 and how this award is currently amongst the

highly rated and sought after awards for Mathematics in the World.

He also recalled that the first recipient of this award in 2005 Prof. Manjul Bhargava from Princeton University went on to receive the Fields Medal in the year 2014, which is considered to be the Nobel for Mathematics.

The International Panel of experts, who formed the 2014 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize committee were Professors: Krishnaswami Alladi – Chair (University of Florida), Roger Heath – Brown (Oxford University), Winnie Li (The Pennsylvania State University), David Masser (University of Basel), Barry Mazur (Harvard University), Peter Paule (Johannes Kepler University of Linz), and Michael Rapoport (University of Bonn). The committee unanimously selected Prof. James Maynard for the award.



Prof. Krishnaswami Alladi



Our Vice Chancellor presenting a memento to Dr. Mangalam Srinivasan



The dignitaries at the bust of Srinivasa Ramanujan at SASTRA Campus



From left: Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Prof. James Maynard, Dr. Mangalam Srinivasan, Prof. R. Sethuraman, Prof. Krishnaswami Alladi and Prof. K.G. Raghunathan

The prize was in recognition of his revolutionary contributions to prime number theory, for making the strongest advances thus far on various long standing problems on primes, and for the ingenious techniques he has introduced which will influence future research in the field. The prize also recognizes his fundamental doctoral thesis at Oxford University and his sensational post – doctoral work at the University of Montreal. In his acceptance speech, Prof. Maynard said that the SASTRA Ramanujan Award was his first major award recognising his work and that he was humbly thrilled to receive the award.

Prof. R.Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor, SASTRA University honoured the Chief Guest with a memento and made an announcement that the student participants from the schools will be given mathematics books worth rupees thousand each and the schools will be provided with Rs. 10,000/- for the development of the school library. Earlier Dr.S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning & Development, SASTRA University welcomed the gathering.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUMBER THEORY

An International Conference on 'Number Theory' was held at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA University Kumbakonam on December 21 & 22, 2014.

Dr. Mangalam Srinivasan of the Harvard University, USA inaugurated the conference.

The following renowned mathematicians from the USA, Canada, Turkey & India deliberated on the legacy of Srinivasa Ramanujan and his work on Number Theory during the conference.

1. Prof. Krishnaswami Alladi, University of Florida Gainesville, USA
Title: "Partitions with non-repeating odd parts - q -hypergeometric and combinatorial identities"
2. Prof. Ali BulentEkin, University of Ankara, Turkey
Title: The Components of the partition function $p(n)$, Modulo 13
3. Mr. Michael Griffin, Emory University, USA
Title: Weierstrass mock modular forms and elliptic curves



Dr. Mangalam Srinivasan lighting the traditional lamp

4. Prof. J. Sethuraman, Florida State University, USA
Title: Bayesian analysis in a complex model for failures in an epoxy/ fiber composite
5. Prof. Kagan Kursungoz, Sabanci University, Turkey
Title: Andrews and Bressoud Style Identities for Partitions and Overpartitions
6. Prof. Srinivasan Balaji, George Washington University, USA
Title: On a unified conjecture about prime gaps
7. Prof. Jesse Thorner, Emory University, USA
Title: Bounded gaps between primes in Chebotarev sets
8. Prof. Ken Ono, Emory University, USA
Title: Ramanujan's Legacy: Mathematics and Film

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE



Prof. James Maynard, after receiving the award, delivered the Srinivasa Ramanujan Birthday Commemorative Lecture on December 22, 2014 on 'Small gaps between primes.' The speaker said that there should be infinitely many pairs of primes which differ by 2; this is the famous twin prime conjecture. More generally, it is believed that for every positive integer m there should be infinitely many sets of m primes, with each set contained in an interval of size roughly. Although proving these conjectures seems to be beyond our current techniques, recent progress has enabled us to obtain some partial results.

Previous winners of SASTRA- Ramanujan Prize

1. Manjul Bhargava (Princeton) & Kannan Soundararajan (Michigan) in 2005 (two full prizes)
2. Terence Tao (UCLA) in 2006
3. Ben Green (Cambridge) in 2007
4. Akshay Venkatesh (Stanford) in 2008
5. Kathrin Bringmann (Cologne) in 2009
6. Wei Zhang (Harvard) in 2010
7. Roman Holowinsky (Ohio) in 2011
8. Zhiwei Yun (Stanford) in 2012.
9. Peter Scholze (University of Bonn) 2013

The SASTRA-Ramanujan Prize continues its great tradition of recognising the most exceptional work by a young mathematician.

SASTRA G.N. RAMACHANDRAN AWARD

Prof. H. Devaraj, Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission presented the first SASTRA G.N. Ramachandran Award 2014 to renowned scientist Prof. M. Vijayan of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on November 28, 2014. Presenting the award Prof. Devaraj observed that performance-based funding to universities is integral to ushering in excellence in universities across all dimensions. He recalled the contribution of physicist Prof. G.N. Ramachandran to the University of Madras at the invitation of the then Vice-Chancellor Shri A.L. Mudaliar.

Prof. Devaraj remarked, “The inspirational leadership of Dr. Mudaliar identified the scientific temper of Prof. G.N. Ramachandran, who went on to become a leading international researcher in molecular biophysics and crystallography. Such excellence needed to be nurtured



Prof. Devaraj, Vice Chairman, UGC presenting the G.N. Ramachandran award to Prof. M. Vijayan

in universities through policy decisions that identify performing institutions and provide support to such institutions, both public and private, he said.

Prof. Vijayan is currently the INSA Albert Einstein Research Professor at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and is known for his outstanding work in the area of Molecular Biophysics and Crystallography. Prof. Vijayan felt honoured to receive the award in 2014, declared as the International Year of Crystallography by the United Nations.

The award instituted by SASTRA to honour outstanding research work in Physics, carries a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh.

Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor appealed to the UGC Vice-Chairman to introduce academic staff colleges in technical universities and offer full time Postgraduate programme in ‘Engineering Education and Pedagogy’ and to provide performance-based funding to all types of universities.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CRYSTAL GROWTH AND BIO-MOLECULAR CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

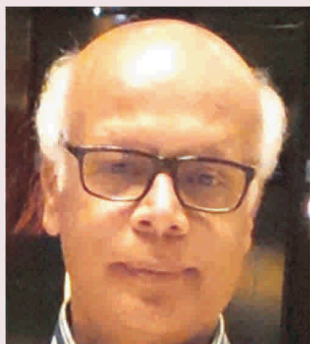
The 2-day International Conference on Crystal Growth and Biomolecular Crystallography organized by SASTRA was inaugurated by Prof. Devaraj. Prof. Vijayan delivered the plenary lecture in the inaugural session of the conference. Delivering the lecture, Prof. M. Vijayan traced the pioneering role of Prof.G.N. Ramachandran, his association with him, the evolution of macro-molecular crystallography in India and its current stage.

105 delegates and speakers from India, Netherlands, Ireland and Singapore attended the conference. 75 posters in emerging areas of crystallography were presented at the conference.



Prof. Devaraj lighting the traditional lamp

THE SECOND SASTRA-CNR RAO AWARD



Prof. K. N. Ganesh

The second SASTRA-CNR Rao Award for Excellence in Chemistry and Materials Science will be awarded to Prof. K. N. Ganesh, Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune and to Prof. V. Chandrasekhar, Director,

National Institute of Science Education & Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar. Both the awardees are recipients of several national and international awards including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award, the J. C. Bose Fellowship and are also Fellows of all the Academies of Sciences in India as well as the Academy of Sciences of the Developing World, Trieste, Italy.



Prof. V. Chandrasekhar

The award, instituted by SASTRA University, recognises outstanding contribution in chemistry and materials science, the two areas in which Prof. Rao's contribution has been phenomenal. The award was instituted in the name of Prof.

Rao as a tribute to his relentless services to strengthen India's position in science and technology.

The annual award carries a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh and a citation. The award will be presented at the SASTRA University Campus, Thanjavur during the National Science Day Celebrations on February 28, 2015.

11 TERAFL0P HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING CLUSTER @ SASTRA

Dr. A. Mukhopadhyay, Adviser & Scientist G, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, New Delhi inaugurated the 11 Teraflop High Performance Computing Cluster (HPC), established at a cost of Rs.2 Crore at SASTRA University on November 25, 2014. The facility has been created with support from DST and IBM.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mukhopadhyay said that the Government of India's National Super Computing Mission has ear-marked Rs.4,500 Crore to build a supercomputer grid across academic and research institutions. He also mentioned that the project will improve India's rank in the world of supercomputing and also will transform the training and research efforts for developing home-grown applications to address problems in medicine, agriculture, climate change, space research and other areas of applications.

He complimented SASTRA for setting up this High Performance Computing Cluster and encouraged the efforts to use this facility for inter-disciplinary research in the areas of computational biology, GIS, data analytics, cloud computing, molecular dynamics, etc. This facility at SASTRA University has 30 processors with 960 GB of RAM, connected to a 40 GBPS infiniband, providing a high performance computing environment to the students and researchers.



Dr. Mukhopadhyay at the High Performance Computing Cluster facility at SASTRA



From the early years of independence, an issue that has remained a topic for heated discussion is that of a Uniform Civil Code. This moot point was debated upon during the second edition of **Lawgical Connect**, a panel discussion organised by SASTRA University's School of Law in association with *The Times of India* on Nov 1, 2014, at Sri Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Hall, in Chennai.

The event was moderated by eminent columnist Shri S. Gurumurthy, who is also the Distinguished Research Professor of Legal Anthropology at SASTRA University.



While delivering the welcome address, Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean - Planning and Development, SASTRA University, recalled India's first Prime Minister who desired for bringing a Uniform Civil Code into effect and how it hasn't happened yet in the last six decades. "We cannot afford to not discuss this topic and that is why this discussion is termed 'cerebration' requiring high

level of intellectual insight", he said.

Introducing the topic 'Uniform Civil Code - constitutional Politics and Judicial Will' to the audience, Shri Gurumurthy spoke about the history of the Uniform Civil Code and said that even when India wasn't a nation state as we know it today, we had a common civil code and all this changed in the time period between 1921-1937, when politics played havoc. "We need to decide, whether we need a divided society or whether we can find common threads in this scheme of things. I think the term Common Civil Code fits better, as it celebrates the diversity of our country and does not impose uniformity," said Gurumurthy, before letting the floor open for discussion.



Former Supreme Court judge Shri K. T. Thomas felt that it was a misfortune that even after 64 years of having been a republic, we still needed a debate on this



topic, which has been mentioned in the Directive Principles. "It is a constitutional joke that those who demand a Uniform Civil Code are dubbed communalists and those who oppose become secularists. Our constitution is the mother of all laws and it is a basic feature of it that all are equal before law. Going by that point, if all are equal, all citizens should be bound by the same law," he said.



Taking a slightly different stand, Shri A. P. Shah, Chairman, 20th Law Commission and Former Chief Justice, Delhi and Madras High Court, said that a Uniform Civil Code cannot be a formula for national integration." The intention of bringing a Uniform Civil Code has been viewed

with suspicion. Changes to Islamic laws have been made in countries like Turkey, Tunisia and Pakistan. At the same time, sections of the majority community have created a perception that a Uniform Civil Code will be stuffed only with ancient Indian jurisprudence," said Shri Shah, who felt that there are merits and demerits in various religious personal laws and changes have to be brought about gradually.

Shri M.N. Krishnamani, senior Supreme Court advocate and former President, Supreme Court Bar Association, said that the concept of a Uniform Civil Code has been misunderstood by some communities. "A Uniform Civil Code does not mean uniformity of religious rituals. It attempts to bring uniformity in the legal space. Adopt



whatever is good from various laws. But for that, we need to be firm and political will is required, which is why in spite of various judgments of the Supreme Court, it has still not been done," said Shri Krishnamani, who felt that a committee needs to be constituted to examine the case of a Uniform Civil Code.

Shri Manish Tewari, Supreme Court advocate and former minister for information and broadcasting, felt that no step should be taken which shall assault the diversity and the idea of India. "The state has no business to interfere in the personal affairs of its citizens. Such a step would not be wise, even from the standpoint of national security," he said. "The best way to amend personal laws would be only if the impulse rose from within a specific community," said Tewari.



During his closing remarks, Shri Gurusurthy said the discussion led by the speakers provoked one and all to think about this subject. "I think a Uniform Civil Code means that we will borrow the best of all traditions," he said. Shri Ninan Thariyan, Vice President and Response Head, The Times Group, Chennai, said that the synergy of a media house and a law school led to the success of this event. 200 students from School of Law, SASTRA attended the event. Around 50 students from other Law Schools and Universities of Tamilnadu and other states also attended.



200 students from School of Law, SASTRA attended the event. Around 50 students from other Law Schools and Universities of Tamilnadu and other states also attended.





A POINT FOR CEREBRATION

AFTER MORE THAN SIX DECADES OF INDEPENDENCE, THE UNIFORM CIVIL CODE REMAINS A DISTANT POLITICAL REALITY

The sound of crackers causing the celebrative explosion became mute to give way for a different sound caused by the 'cerebrative' explosion of intellectual minds at Lawgical Connect. The minds celebrated on the



topic "Uniform Civil Code - Constitutional Politics & Judicial Will" organised by the School of Law, SASTRA University jointly with The Times of India at Chennai. There are some topics that are better to be avoided but the Uniform Civil Code is one in which the risks of not debating are more than debating. The political desire of India's first Prime Minister Pandit Nehru to secure a full national identity for the Indian citizen through Uniform Civil Code, after 64 years of the Indian Constitution, still remains a distant political reality. The need for uniform status for an individual in the society and the issue of religion, caste, community, etc., both in a tragic mix has created a lack of clarity in the thought process. The very phrase "Uniform Civil Code" ignites an emotional response which needs to be manoeuvred through a high level of intellectual discussion and Lawgical Connect is one such attempt to get scholarly inputs from the sharp minds of public intellectuals with rich socio-politico-legal experience.

SASTRA University School of Law's lead academic initiative to create enlightened awareness through a non-partisan approach by assembling an intellectually rich panel of speakers was overwhelmingly welcomed by a congregation of over 1000 people who gathered to understand the difference between the Right to Religion & personal issues like marriage, inheritance, succession, etc. Such a 'cerebral' citizen connect effort by an academic institution may be replicated at different stakeholder levels with sensitivity & due care in an effort to make Pandit Nehru's vision a reality. Has the 'ripe time' that Pandit Nehru wanted arrived? Will this academic lead by SASTRA University that follows the Judicial will (in Shah Bano & Sarla Mudgal) be followed by a Political Consensus? Because,

“in politics are realized all the rules of renunciation, in politics are united all the contradictions, in politics are combined all the contradictions, in politics are centered all the worlds.”

(MAHABHARATA, SANTIPARVA 63.18.29)

Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam

Dean-Planning & Development, SASTRA University.

NANO SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AWARD TO SASTRA PROFESSOR



Dr. S. Swaminathan, Director, Center for Nanotechnology & Advanced Biomaterials (CeNTAB) at SASTRA University has been selected to receive the Young Career Award in Nano Science & Technology for 2015. The Award instituted by the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India is a recognition for the ongoing research work undertaken at CeNTAB under the leadership of Dr. S. Swaminathan.

CeNTAB is involved in cutting-edge research to develop technologies for health care, specifically in tissue engineering and drug delivery. Currently, research is focused on the development of novel three-dimensional polymeric nanofibre scaffolds for tissue engineering of skin, cardiovascular arteries, and nerve regeneration using aligned and random nanofibres. The random nanofibre scaffolds have been evaluated clinically after obtaining the required regulatory clearances. The clinical studies of the nanofibre matrix in treating full-thickness skin damages like traumatic wounds, surgical wounds, diabetic wounds and burns have demonstrated that the nanofibre scaffolds were able to accelerate the regeneration of skin in all types of injuries. The Centre also focusses on developing myocardial patched and currently the pre-clinical evaluation is being undertaken. Both these deliverables from CeNTAB have tremendous clinical applications that can change the current medical landscape pertaining to treating skin injuries and cardiac arrests.

Dr. Swaminathan received his Ph.D. from the Department of Chemical & Biochemical Engineering at Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA and worked on the

development of low temperature setting polymer – ceramic composite cements for bone tissue engineering and the thesis was nominated for the Best Dissertation Award. He received the Dean's Fellowship for his doctoral studies. After his Ph. D., he joined as a Research Associate in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA where he studied the application of low temperature setting cements for spinal fusions.

Dr. S. Swaminathan also the recipient of Materials Research Society of India Medal for 2009 in recognition of excellence in a particular field of expertise within the domain of materials and processes. Dr. S. Swaminathan has also received the Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award from the Department of Biotechnology in 2006 to develop a targeted drug delivery system for anti-cancer drugs. With about 100 publications and an h-index of 14, 8 patents filed, Dr. Swaminathan's research activities are funded by the Nano Mission, Department of Science & Technology, Indian Council of Medical Research, Department of Biotechnology and through the internal funding of the University. He is also the Co-ordinator for the PG teaching programme in Medical Nanotechnology funded by the Nano Mission, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India. The award will be presented in January 2015 during the Nano India Meet along with Dr. P. S. Anil Kumar, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore who is the other recipient of this prestigious award for 2015.

YOUNG HISTORIAN OF THE SCIENCE AWARD



Dr. R. Venkateswara Pai, Assistant Professor (Research) at SASTRA University has been selected to receive the inaugural Young Historian of the Science Award for the year 2014 by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). This Award was presented to him during

INSA's Annual Meeting in Goa on 21st December which carries a cash prize of Rs.25,000, medal & citation. This award, considered to be the highest recognition of promise, creativity and excellence made annually to those historians of science distinguished for these attributes as evidenced by their research work. Dr.Pai's research work in Astrophysics also earned him the best Ph.D. Thesis award at IIT, Bombay and his continuing interest in Cosmic Science & Astronomy makes Dr.Pai fully qualified to receive this award. Dr.Pai will also be eligible for financial support under the History of Science research programme, fellowship and also for international travel assistance to present research findings.

CHARLES CAPEN TRAINEE AWARD



Dr.P.C.Prabu, M.V.Sc., Diplomate ICVP, Diplomate IBTP, (Assistant Professor, Central Animal Facility, SASTRA University) has won the prestigious Charles Capen Trainee Award for demonstrated achievements in the field of toxicologic pathology awarded by the International Academy of Toxicologic Pathology. The award was presented to him by Dr. Jerry Hardisty, DVM, DACVP, Fellow IATP, Experimental Pathology Laboratories, Inc., USA during the 5th Conference of Society of Toxicologic Pathology in India held from October 31 to November 2, 2014 in Bangalore.

MITACS SCHOLAR AT SASTRA UNIVERSITY

Mr. Wudneh Shewa, from the University of Windsor, worked with Prof. Ponnusami in the School of Chemical and Biotechnology, SASTRA between 8 October 2014 and 24 December 2014. The project

was funded by MITACS. The sanctioned value of the project was 5000 CAD.

The purpose of this project was to assess the photocatalytic degradation of textile dye wastewater into CO_2 plus H_2O . The results of the investigation show that dye bath and reverse osmosis effluents can be treated with the help of solar activated catalyst and sun light. A solar active photocatalyst (Ag-ZnO) was synthesized and optimisation of the photocatalytic degradation process of textile dye wastewater was performed using Taguchi method of experimental design. A COD removal of 60% and 29% was achieved from the photocatalytic degradation of dye bath and RO effluents, respectively. The evidence from this study also suggests that the COD removal from the dye wastewaters is associated with colour removal. The finding of this study can serve as a base for future studies and has important implications for developing sustainable and eco-friendly method of treating textile dye waste water at a pilot scale.

Wudneh is currently a doctoral student under the supervision of Dr. Jerald Lalman in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Windsor.

Mitacs Globalink builds a living bridge between Canada and International partners by establishing and reinforcing global links through student mobility. The Mitacs Globalink Research Award is an exciting new initiative that provides the opportunity for faculty members and students at Canadian universities to build an International research network and undertake research abroad.



GRADUATION DAY @ NRITHYODAYA



The Graduation Day for awarding degrees to the students of BFA & MFA in Bharatanatyam Courses offered jointly by SASTRA University and Nrithyodaya, through distance mode was held at Nrithyodaya, Chennai on October 19, 2014

Dr. Chitra Madhavan, Eminent Historian & Archaeologist presided over the function and distributed the degree certificates. Smt. Priyadarshini Govind, Director, Kalakshetra was the Chief Guest. Dr.Padma Subrahmanyam, Director, Nrithyodaya explained the course concept and introduced the teaching faculty. Dr.S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean Planning & Development and Dr.N. Seshadri, Director, DDE, SASTRA were also present.

10 BFA and 14 MFA students received their degrees at the convocation. Select BFA & MFA graduates staged a dance performance on the occasion.



KNOWLEDGE LEADERSHIP FORUM LECTURES

Prof. V.S. Chauhan, Scientist – Malaria Group, International Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology, New Delhi delivered a talk on “Challenges in biomedical research in India: Malaria vaccine development and drug delivery systems” under the aegis of Knowledge Leadership Forum on 19th October 2014. Apart from tracing the advances in the development of the malarial vaccine, Prof. Chauhan also described passion-driven research on the development of unique peptide sequences that were found to exhibit significant plaque disrupting property and can be promising anti-Alzheimer's therapeutic agents for the future.



Shri Prabhu Thomas, Vice-President, Strategic Sourcing , Circor International Inc., Burlington, MA, USA delivered a lecture at the School of Mechanical Engineering on 'Supply Chain Management' on October 17, 2014 . The speaker elaborated on the production and supply of products and emphasized the need for innovations in the area of supply chain management.

Shri N. Venkatraman, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court, delivered a lecture on “Framework for an



Independent Judiciary” on 24th October, 2014. He spoke on the importance of transfer of power to tribunals through legislative processes and its impact upon the nature of adjudication. He also cautioned on the need for the Tribunals to be worthy successors to the High Courts in all respects. He stressed on the need to understand Tribunals to be supplementary to the jurisdiction of High Courts and not to be deemed as a 'substitute.'

Dr. Vikram Kumar, Emeritus Professor, Centre for Applied Research in Electronics, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi



delivered a lecture on “Challenges for Photovoltaics” on December 23, 2014, organised by the School of EEE. Dr. Vikram Kumar highlighted the need for solar energy, history of different solar cell generations, the achievements of Indian research groups in the field of solar energy and mentioned the plan for installing 20 GW solar energy by 2022.

At a lecture organized by the Bioinformatics Department of SCBT on December 24, 2014, **Dr.B. Jayaram**, Professor of Chemistry and the Coordinator, Supercomputing Facility for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, IIT Delhi spoke on 'Genome to Hit Molecules Insilico: A Country Path today, A Highway tomorrow.' He highlighted the efforts from his group on exploiting genomic information, structures of small protein and energetic calculations to develop tools for the drug discovery pipeline.

SASTRA LAW SCHOOL TO CONDUCT THE PRESTIGIOUS PALKHIVALA TAX MOOT

The Nani Palkhivala Memorial Trust has permitted the School of Law at SASTRA University to conduct the annual Nani Palkhivala Memorial National Tax Moot from this year onwards.



The Palkhivala Tax Moot is a prestigious moot court competition with the top law school students from all over the country vying for honours. The GLC, Mumbai was conducting this moot ever since its inception in 2003 but discontinued just before the 11th edition was due in August 2014.

On knowing this, the SASTRA Law School approached the Nani A. Palkhivala Memorial Trust which conveyed its no objection to SASTRA Law School and permitted it to conduct this annual tax moot in honour of the legendary jurist and humanist Nani A Palkhivala. "We are extremely happy with this announcement and would like to thank Mr.Berham Palkhivala (Nani's brother) and Shri H.P.Ranina and other trustees of the Trust for having placed confidence in the SASTRA Law School and we shall leave no stone unturned in the successful conduct of this prestigious moot every year" said Prof. R.Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor of SASTRA University who also shared that every student who joins the law school is given a free copy of the book "Courtroom Genius" which is a biographical sketch of Nani Palkhivala. In addition, the Trust has also asked SASTRA to conduct the Nani Palkhivala Memorial Elocution contest to encourage the art of public speaking amongst law students.

The SASTRA Law School last year instituted 3 scholarship schemes for the best outgoing students in the B.A., B.B.A. & B.Com. LLB programmes in memory of Justice Patanjali Sastri, Nani Palkhivala & G.Ramaswami and also has established a Research Chair in the area of Legal Anthropology.

“With the addition of the Nani Palkhivala Tax Moot, SASTRA's Law School has added another feather to its cap" said the Vice-Chancellor who also shared the happy news that the SASTRA Law School with its recent round of moot successes has broken into the top 10 of the Mooting Premier League displacing some of the reputed law schools in the country.

LAURELS IN MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS

13th SURANA & SURANA INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2014

Chi K. Srinadan (IV year B.A., LL.B. (Hons.)), Kum Varsha Chandrashekhar (II year B.A., LL.B. (Hons.)) and Kum G. Annapoorani (III year B.A., LL.B. (Hons.)) of School of Law, SASTRA emerged the winners of the 13th Surana & Surana International Technology Law Moot Court Competition, 2014 hosted by Symbiosis Law School, Pune, in association with Surana & Surana International Attorneys, Chennai from 10th of October to 12th of October, 2014. The winning team lifted the glittering trophy with a cash prize of Rs. 30,000/-. The event played host to 16 teams including RMLNLU, Lucknow; National Law University, Jodhpur; National Law University, Odisha; NUALS, Kochi and Jindal Global Law School, O.P Jindal Global University amongst others. The competition is a tier moot.



19th of October, 2014. The competition is a tier moot. The event played host to 37 teams including MS Ramayia College, NLU Bhopal, NLU Odissa. In the Finals, SASTRA competed against MS Ramayia College. Hon'ble Tmt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, (Judge, High Court of Madras) Hon'ble Thiru. Justice V. Ramasubramanian, (Judge, High Court of Madras) and, Hon'ble Justice M. M. Sundresh (Judge High Court of Madras) were the judges in the final round.

7th HNLU NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

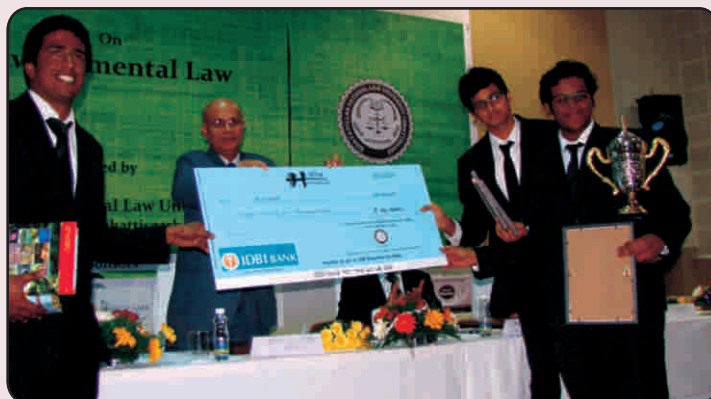
Chi. Ashwin Kumar (III year B.A., LL.B. (Hons.)), Chi. Ashuthosh. (III year B.A., LL.B. (Hons.)) and Chi. Saketh.K (III year B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons.)) of School of Law, SASTRA emerged the Winners of the 7th HNLU National Moot Court Competition, 2014 hosted by HNLU Raipur from 17th to 19th October, 2014. 30 teams including NALSAR, GNLU, NLU Odissa CNLU Patna participated. In the finals SASTRA was against Symbiosis, Noida. Justice Navin Sinha, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Chhattisgarh, was the Chief Guest of the valedictory function and he adjudged the final round of the competition.



SASTRA students receiving the Trophy from Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Revati Mohite Dere, Bombay High Court, Adv. Pramod Nair, Head, Arista Chambers, Vice President, Indian Arbitration Forum and Mrs. Aarti Dixit, Associate Professor, Department of Technology, Savitri Bai Phule Pune University

8th Pro Bono-Enviro National Moot Court

Chi. Kiran.M (III year B.B.A.,LL.B.(Hons)) Chi. Vikas B.M.(II year B.B.A.,LL.B.(Hons)) and Chi.Ram M.S (II year B.A.,LL.B.) of School of Law, SASTRA University emerged the winners of 8th Pro Bono-Enviro National Moot Court Competition 2014 hosted by School of Excellence, Chennai from 17th of October to



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADVANCES IN PROCESS ENGINEERING

A National Conference on Advances in Process Engineering (CAPE) was organized by the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IIChE) student chapter, SASTRA University on October 10 & 11, 2014.

Dr. M. Chidambaram, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT-Madras delivered the plenary lecture on Trends in Process Control. Shri N. Byrava Moorthi, Manager, EID Parry (India) Ltd. spoke on "Process Modeling, Optimization & Pollution Abatement in Sugar Industry Complex". Shri B. Panneer Selvam, Deputy General Manager (CBR-Operations), Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Cauvery basin refinery spoke on "Current Challenges and Activities in Petroleum Industries". A panel discussion was also organised.

75 posters were presented by participants from different colleges in Tamil Nadu. On the second day a workshop on "Scilab" was organised for the student participants.



Dr. P. M. Satya Sai, DGM, NRB, BARC, Kalpakkam, Shri S.Jaykumar, Deputy General Manager (Operations),

Chettinad Cements and Shri P. Marimuthu, AGM (R&D and Q.C) Seshasayee Papers and Boards Ltd spoke on various topics on the second day.

Cash prizes worth Rs.12,000 were distributed to the winners of the paper and poster presentations. Dr. R. Kumaresan, Associate Dean, SCBT, SASTRA coordinated the conference.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON BIG DATA ANALYTICS

The Department of Bioinformatics, School of Chemical & Biotechnology, SASTRA organised a National-level Workshop on 'Big Data Analytics' on December 6, 2014, bringing together scientific community from both the fields of Data Science and Bioinformatics. The workshop had a total of 38 participants and focussed on the computational methods for the analysis of biological data and covered a wide range of areas including text mining,



machine learning methods, graph theoretical approaches in biological systems and analyzing -omics data. The practical sessions included Hadoop tutorials, parallel computing in R and data analytics using R.

PROGYAN 2014



The annual management event "Progyan 2014" of the School of Management, SASTRA was held on October 10 & 11,

2014. Shri.Kumar Ramamurthy, Vice President, Global Practice Head and Chief Technologist, DW BI / Information Management Practice Virtusa Corporation, Bangalore inaugurated the event. In his inaugural address, he highlighted the emergence of data science in the last five years and the way big data is changing the way in which businesses are done. The emergence of data science and SMAC (Social, Mobility, Analytics and Cloud) have resulted in new business paradigms and are creating huge new job opportunities.

Shri.J.Harinarayanan, Cluster Head, SunTV Network, Chennai distributed the prizes to the winners of various events at the valedictory function. Competitive events in HR, Marketing, Finance, Business and Sports were conducted and the management students of Kumaraguru College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore emerged as the overall winners of Progyan 2014. Students from 15 colleges in Tamilnadu and Pondicherry participated in the event.



The Phoenix Association and Philip Kotler Club of the School of Management organised a guest lecture on “Social Media Marketing- Success and Failure Stories” on October 4, 2014. Dr.A.G.V.Narayanan, Dean, Faculty of Management- EBET Institutions spoke about the usage of social media by employees for internal communication, digital influence on purchase and the evils of social marketing.

Dr.S.Selvabaskar - Associate Professor, School of Management has won the 'Best Paper Award' for the research paper titled 'Viewers' perception and expectation for media content with reference to Tamil news channels in Chennai' in the IEEE Sponsored International Conference for Science, Engineering and Management Research- ICSEMR 2014, organized by Vel Tech. Multitech University, Chennai during November 27-29, 2014.

MAHAKAVI BHARATHIYAR BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Mahakavi Bharathiyar's birth anniversary was celebrated at SASTRA on December 11, 2014. Dr. N. Seshadri , Director, DDE, SASTRA University who spoke on the occasion portrayed Bharati as a multilingual and an optimist. He also sung lines from Bharati's patriotic songs and elaborated how his poems help to inculcate patriotism and national integration in the youth. Dr. G. Bhalachandran, Registrar presided over the function.

WORKSHOP ON PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS



A two day workshop on Photovoltaic systems was organized by ISTE students chapter in association with Mr. G.Vijayabalan,

Managing Director, Green Power Solutions Pvt Ltd, Chennai, at SRC campus on October 7 & 8, 2014. Fifty final year EEE students participated in this workshop. This workshop focused on configuration, design and applications of photo voltaic systems.

The lecture sessions held on both days covered topics like: Basics of PV system, sun radiation, insulation,

converters and design of PV system. The practical sessions gave a clear idea on PV applications like: Solar lantern, DC fan, street lighting system, home lighting systems, cell chargers and Solar PV test kit.

The workshop was organized for the EEE students by Prof. B. Ponmudi, ISTE faculty in-charge and other members of the department.

NCC AND NSS



NCC cadets and NSS volunteers of SRC, SASTRA jointly participated in “Clean India” campaign conducted on October 2, 2014 by

Southern Railway Tiruchirappalli Division, at Kumbakonam Railway Station.

The NCC units organized a blood donation camp on October 15, 2014 at SRC and donated 120 units of blood to the Blood Bank of Govt. Hospital, Kumbakonam.

In the Basic Leadership Camp held at Soka Ikeda College of Arts & Science for women, Chennai from October 21-30, 2014, NCC Cpl. R.Mohanapriya of II B.Sc. CCS bagged a bronze medal and LCpl. V.Bharathi Kanmani of II M.A.B.Ed. bagged two gold medals in various events.

Cpl. V.Vigneswaran and Cdt. S.K.Venkatesh of II B.Com. with ANO Lt.T. Senthilnathan participated in a National level Rock Climbing Training camp organized by NCC Gwalior HQ, from November 25 to December 6,2014.

“SWACHCHA BHARAT ABHIYAN” LAUNCHED

The NSS Units of Shanmugha Polytechnic College launched “Swachcha Bharat Abhiyan” on October 2, 2014. A pledge was taken by all the students to publicize the mission of 'Clean India' street to street and village to village and to keep the surroundings clean. As a continuation of this programme cleaning of the campus was done by our NSS volunteers.



UPCOMING EVENTS

"NANO INDIA"

The Nano Mission's National Level Meet
Hosted by the Centre for Nanotechnology &
Advanced Biomaterials (CeNTAB), SASTRA University
January 29 & 30, 2015

National Seminar on
Advaita Acharya Chatushtayam
February 2, 2015

International Conference on Nanotoxicology
Department of Chemistry and Biosciences
February 13-14, 2015
at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre,
SASTRA, Kumbakonam

National Seminar on Samskrita Vaibhavam
School of Humanities & Sciences
Department of Oriental Studies & Research
February 17, 2015

**1st International Conference
on Opto-Electronics and Photonic Materials
(ICOPMA-2015)**
School of Electrical & Electronics Engineering,
February 27-28, 2015

**TARKA SASTRA -
4th National Moot Court Competition**
School of Law
February 27 - 1st March 2015

**International Conference
on Modeling & Simulation (ICMS'15)**
School of Computing, Electrical &
Mechanical Engineering
March 25&26, 2015

**Nani Palkhivala Memorial Taxation
Moot Court Competition**
School of Law
April 3-5,2015

Book-Post



SASTRA
UNIVERSITY
(A UNIVERSITY U/S 3 OF THE UGC ACT, 1956)

THANJAVUR - 613 401.
TAMIL NADU

EDITORIAL BOARD

Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam	Dean, Planning & Development
Dr. S. Swaminathan	Dean, (SR) & Director (CeNTAB)
Dr. M. Vijayalakshmi	Associate Dean, SCBT
Dr. G. Venkatraman	Department of English
Dr. R. Ravi	Department of English

ITIHAS can also be viewed at www.sastra.edu

A Quarterly Newsletter published by SASTRA University, Thanjavur - 613 401, Tamil Nadu
Ph: +91 4362 264101 - 108, 304000 - 29, Fax:+ 91 4362 264120, URL: www.sastra.edu.
Printed at : PGK ARTS, No.21, Kasiviswanathar East Street, Kumbakonam - 612 001. Ph : 0435 2420323.