



ITI HAS

(IT Is Happening At SASTRA)



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Newsletter from SASTRA UNIVERSITY



Message from VICE - CHANCELLOR

Both Ayurveda and Siddha are unique systems of Indian medicines contributing significantly to the healthcare system. These medicines have long history of use and better patient tolerance as well as acceptance. In recent years, heavy metal toxicity has tremendously and adversely influenced the growing global acceptance of traditional medicine. In the present scenario, the demand for herbal-based as well as traditional medicinal products, nutraceuticals and cosmoceuticals is growing exponentially throughout the world. But, the contribution of India to this industry is very low. Indian Industries are reluctant to step in to the R&D in Indian System of Medicine due to lack of faith in the safety and efficacy of the traditional drugs.

The need of the hour is to introduce modern technologies such as Phytochemistry, Analytical chemistry, Biotechnology and Nanotechnology in these traditional medical sciences. This in turn will lead to the production of safe efficacious human compatible herbal and herbomineral preparations.

Keeping in mind the various scientific aspects that may contribute to the globalization of Ayurveda and Siddha, SASTRA University has established an innovative “Centre of Excellence and National Facility for the Scientific Manufacturing of Ayurvedic & Siddha- Rasa Aushadhies and Bhasmas” with financial support from Dept. of AYUSH, New Delhi. The Centre was inaugurated by Dr. Subir Gokarn, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, on March 21, 2011.

This issue of ITIHAS comes to you with wide coverage of events conducted during the quarter: the intercollegiate technical, cultural and sports events, national conference on Vedas and various other academic and co-curricular activities.

Prof. R. Sethuraman
Vice-Chancellor

SASTRA LAUNCHES CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN AYURVEDA & SIDDHA

Dr. Subir Gokarn, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India launched the Centre of Excellence in Ayurveda & Siddha, supported by the Department of AYUSH, Government of India, at SASTRA University on March 21, 2011. Launching the Centre, Dr. Subir Gokarn said that Thanjavur, one of the oldest cities in India, continues to bear its tradition in arts, music and temples. SASTRA University functioning in this place shows increasing signs of modernity. The establishment of a Centre for Excellence in Indian Systems of Medicine is a combination of tradition and modernity and portrays the essence of the Ayurveda and Siddha systems of medicine which have been our powerful resources.

Dr. Gokarn said that this traditional form of medicine of our land must provide a viable alternative to the popular systems of medicine. The Indian system of medicine which is rooted in our tradition must address the challenges of this field. The speaker expressed his hope that the centre established by SASTRA University will rise to the expectations of the present day and address the challenges faced by the field.

Dr. Subir Gokarn also launched B.A.,LL.B., B.Com.,LL.B., & B.B.A., LL.B., programmes on the occasion and laid the foundation stone for the new



Dr. Subir Gokarn, Deputy Governor, RBI lighting the traditional lamp



Shri M. Narendra, CMD, IOB addressing the audience

building of the Indian Overseas Bank at SASTRA campus.

Shri M. Narendra, Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Overseas Bank, in his special address, elaborated on the various support schemes extended by IOB to educational institutions. He also requested the students of SASTRA to be a part of IOB's various welfare programmes offered to the rural masses, as part of its corporate responsibility. Mr. Krishna Prasad, Chief Regional Manager, IOB, Thanjavur proposed a vote of thanks.

THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE & NATIONAL FACILITY FOR AYURVEDA & SIDDHA @ SASTRA

The Centre of Excellence and National Facility for the Scientific Manufacturing of Ayurvedic & Siddha- Rasa Aushadhies and Bhasmas, established at SASTRA University, supported by Dept. of AYUSH, New Delhi, is dedicated to develop standard manufacturing protocols and quality standards for select Rasa-Aushadies and Bhasmas in Ayurveda and Siddha. The main objectives are to carry out standardization and validation studies on Ayurvedic Rasa-Aushadies and Bhasmas as well as Siddha Parpams and to understand the pharmacokinetics of these metal-based and mineral-based preparations. The Centre is also dedicated to train M.D., M.Tech., and Ph.D., students pursuing their research projects in Indian Systems of Medicine.

DAKSH 5.0

DAKSH 5.0, an international technical extravaganza of SASTRA University, was held on 25, 26 and 27 of February, 2011. It provided a platform to all budding technocrats and engineers to showcase their talents on technical lines and to experience engineering to its hilt.

The aura of DAKSH started to spread from February 23 with the successful organization of workshops. The workshops that were conducted are: Image processing workshop by Intelligent Systems, Haptic robotic arm, Ethical hacking, Mobitrinix by Technophillia, Sustainable Leadership, E-waste management and Fuel cell workshop by Green Add+ and Forensic workshop by renowned forensic expert Dr. P. Chandrasekaran. IBI, a Canada based company conducted a workshop on molecular modelling which had an overwhelming participation. The workshops provided the student community an opportunity to learn and excel in the specialised areas of science and technology.



Day 1 of DAKSH started off with a few of the most engaging and enthralling events from each cluster of the fest. CEREBRATE from CHROMOXONE cluster, GRAND MASTER from ENVISAGE, SPEED RACER from ROBOTRICS were the flagship events which kept the participants involved while POKER MANIA from ELECTRONIQ, RUPEE RULES from SHUNYAKAAL and CSOCCER from NIRMAAN also attracted the audience. That afternoon, the students at DAKSH witnessed a power talk by Shri. S. Gurusurthy on 'The cultural heritage of India and its effect on the past, present and future of our country.' The organisers of DAKSH had a chiller as the participants kept racking their brains with their respective events in the form of a laser show arranged in the main ground. Named TANDAV, dance of lights, was a treat to the eyes

especially after a busy and a nerve biting sessions of various events. Students from different colleges were present to witness the show which apart from the conventional ones also had a Shiv Thandav to leave the audience excited with the witnessing of the confluence between laser lights and the traditional dance performance.



Shri S. Gurumurthy interacts with the students

The enthusiasm and zeal was carried forward to Day 2 which witnessed events like SNATCH BALL under ROBOTRICKS and CONTRAPTIONS under NIRMAAN which stole the day's attention. IBM BLUEBATTLE from COMPESENSE and LIVEWIRE from ELECTRONIQ were the highlights of the respective cluster. XTREME XCHANGE from CHROMOXONE and KRYPTOS from SHUNYAKAAL were the crowd pullers. The second power talk of DAKSH was addressed by Dr. R.K. Raghavan, Former Director of CBI. He spoke on the increased use of technology in crime and quipped that the police forces also have to acquaint themselves with the upcoming technologies. I AM NOT A GEEK, an event from infotainment @DAKSH was a big hit! Gamers had their go at DAKSH CYBER GAMING later in the evening.

Day 3 of DAKSH witnessed the finals of many events like AEDIFICIUM PROTEIN of CHROMOXOME, TECHNOVATION of COMPESENSE and SPEED RACER of ROBOTRICKS. The plethora of events like ELECTRAPTION under ELECTRONIQ and GRAND TREBUCHET under NIRMAAN left everyone astonished. The first ever Model Conference of Parties-MCOP in India organised at DAKSH was a huge success. DAKSH IDOL, the trademark of infotainment @DAKSH was the perfect ending to the festival's entertainment.

Over 7,000 students from 200 colleges from across the country and abroad participated in the festival.



Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam presents a memento to Dr. R.K. Raghavan

KURUKSASTRA XI

Kuruksastra XI, a national level cultural fest of SASTRA University was held from 25th to 27th March 2011, and was a phenomenal success in terms of competition which came from around 50 colleges from across South India. Various literary events in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu, ranging from quizzes to debates were held over the course of three days. Apart from these, events were also held in Fine Arts, Music, Dance and Dramatics. The first evening saw SASTRA University's music team light up the stage with a mix of classical melodies and fast paced numbers, cheered on by a capacity crowd of over 5000 students. Innovative events such as ART VENTURE and MU'SYNC, introduced in KS this time were a hit with participants and the audience alike. The light music event "Spartan Symphony" was held on the evening of 26th and witnessed neck to neck competition between teams. The eastern and western dance competitions "Nriyodaya" and "Gravity" set the stage on fire with performances by colleges including GCT Coimbatore, JJCET and AMET among others. Workshops were the highlight of Kuruksastra with Pottery, Terracotta, photography & videography workshops held over the course of the three days of the fest. The art gallery featured contributions from budding artists from across various colleges apart from those by SASTRA's Fine Arts Club. Indeed, with this edition, Kuruksastra has reaffirmed its status as one of the biggest and most awaited cultural fests in South India.



COLOSSEUM 2011

Colosseum 2011, the national level inter-college sports fest of SASTRA University, was held from March 10 to 13, 2011.

The event, in celebration of the spirit of 'Sportsmanship', covered a variety of both indoor and outdoor games such as badminton, basketball, chess, football and table-

tennis, volley-ball and best physique. Apart from the regular events, Colosseum hosted an online quiz for sports enthusiasts.

Padmashri (Mrs.) M.D. Valsamma, Olympian, participated in the valedictory function and distributed the prizes. PSNA College of Engineering & Technology won the team championship. More than 20 institutions from diverse geographies participated this time.



Mrs. Valasamma presenting the trophy



Shri N. Raja unveils the Shila-Phalaka

Humanities and Sciences introduced the chief guest. Dr. P. Brinda, Dean, CARISM proposed a vote of thanks.

Dr.K. Ramasubramaniam, IIT Bombay, delivered the Valedictory address. Dr.R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal, Principal (Retd), Sanskrit College, Mylapore presided over the function. Brahmasri Gudalur G.R. Ramachandra Sastrigal, Kumbakonam, recipient of Rastrapathi Award, was honoured on this occasion.

The three books, Veda Stuti, Veda Vrksa Samrakshanam and Sri Swaminatha Shatpadi Stotram written by Sri Gudalur G. Ramachandra Sastrigal were released in the function. A Compact Disc rendered by Dr.V.Kannan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad on “The Beauty of Mathematics” was released by Dr.S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development. Copies of the CD were distributed free of cost to all delegates.

The conference was jointly organized by the School of Humanities and Sciences and Centre for Advanced Research on Indian System of Medicine (CARISM) of SASTRA University. More than 350 delegates comprising academics, vedic scholars and students from different parts of the country attended the conference.

ITS SASTRA ALL THE WAY AT TATA CRUCIBLE QUIZ

The nation's biggest business quiz for campuses, TATA Crucible Quiz, made a debut at Trichy as part of the four new cities that have been added this year to the fascinating quizzing juggernaut. With over 75 teams taking part in the debut edition it seems likely that Trichy would be a regular feature on the Crucible map.

Out of the six teams that entered into the final, SASTRA emerged victorious by bagging both the winner and the runner-up titles. Chi. Srinath and Chi. Sridhar of SASTRA are the champions and Chi. Varun Parthasarathy & Chi. Sridhar.C of SASTRA are the runners-up.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VEDAS – THE SOURCE OF ALL SCIENCES

A three-day National Conference on Vedas – the Source of all Sciences (VAS 2011) was inaugurated by Shri N. Raja, IRS (Retd.), Former Member, Central Board of Excise and Customs, New Delhi on February 17, 2011 at SASTRA University. Inaugurating the conference Shri Raja said the Vedas though abstract, make a lot of revelations. The Puranas of our country talk about the evolution of the universe. The Vishnupurana says that the sun never rises and sets. The rising and the setting of the sun is what you see and do not see. The Sun is always there. The scientific knowledge that 'the Sun is keeping the earth in its position, the Moon is the satellite of the earth and the earth is revolving around the Sun,' were all revealed by our ancient texts thousands of years ago. Mahabharata reveals that the plants have the sense of touch and they are able to see and hear. The Vedas and the Puranas are the repository of knowledge. Hence the younger generation should study their teachings, said the learned speaker.

The speaker commended SASTRA University for organizing a conference on the Vedas which form a treasure house of mathematical wisdom, which on exploring never gets exhausted, but abounds in newer findings. Shri Raja also unveiled the “Shila Phalaka,” which contains the coding theory in Narayaniyam.

Earlier the conference convener Dr. N. Kannan welcomed the gathering and Dr. K. Kannan, Dean

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS DISTRIBUTED

Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, Assistant Country Director and Head, Disaster Management, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) distributed merit scholarships to students on January 10, 2011. A total of Rs. 70 lakhs worth of merit scholarships were distributed to 806 students. Two percent of the top rank holders were given 20% of fee concession, while 2% to 10% top rank holders were given 10% per cent of fee concession.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Radhakrishnan called upon the people to participate in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations. 189 heads of states have committed to achieving MDGs to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger in the world by



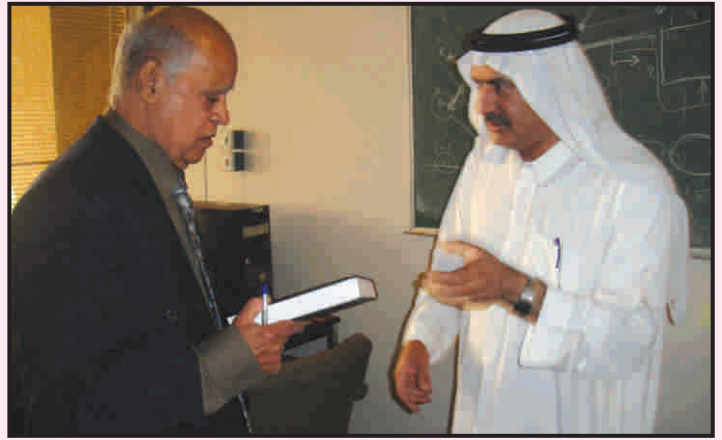
A student receives scholarship from Dr. Radhakrishnan

2015, achieving universal primary education, improving maternal health, removing gender inequalities, reducing child mortality, AIDS control, environment protection and global partnership for development.

Dr.S. Swaminathan, Dean, Sponsored Research welcomed the gathering and Dr.Badrinath, Dean (i/c), School of Management, proposed a vote of thanks.

SEMINAR TALK BY SASTRA PROFESSOR IN SAUDI ARABIA

Dr. M. Thiyagarajan, Professor, School of Computing , SASTRA gave a seminar talk on “Wavelet as Denoising Technique in Image Analysis” at the Department of Mathematics, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia on December 7, 2010.



He also gave a seminar talk on December 14, 2010 at the University on the topic “ZKIP and Mutual Information as measure of similarity.”

ALUMNI MEET IN CHENNAI



An Alumni Meet was held on February 27, 2011 at P a d m a Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary

School, KK Nagar, Chennai. Nearly 500 Alumni of SASTRA University, with the members of the family participated in the meet. Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development, SASTRA delivered the key-note address. The event showcased the latest at SASTRA and provided a strong networking platform to the alumni. Open-to-all events like Brainstorming, personal experience sharing and, Q & A were some of the events organised. VENKATA 3, a play by Y. Gee. Mahendran and his team was also enacted during the occasion. The meet was coordinated by Shri R. Venkatraman, an alumni of 1993 Batch.



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS CHAPTER @ SASTRA

The Student Chapter of the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IICChE) was inaugurated at SASTRA University on January 19, 2011. Dr. Dhanasekharan, Honorary Regional Secretary of Annamalai-Neyveli Student Chapter, inaugurated the Chapter. Industrial officials from Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Karaikal include Shri. Murthy, GM Head (Well Services), Shri.V. Kumaresan, DGM & Shri Rajagopal, DGM, from ONGC, Karaikal spoke on the occasion.

Dr.R. Kumaresan, Associate Dean, Department of Chemical Engineering, welcomed the gathering. The Student Chapter, headed by Dr.R. Kumaresan, has been started with a strength of 108 students from various divisions of Chemical Engineering.



ISHRAE STUDENTS' CHAPTER

The Students' Chapter of the 'Indian Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers' (ISHRAE) was inaugurated on January 28, 2011 at the School of Mechanical Engineering, SASTRA. Dr. R. Saravanan, President, ISHRAE Chennai Chapter and Dr. S. Arivazhagan, Students Chair, ISHRAE Chennai Chapter participated in the function.

President Dr. Saravanan administered the oath of office to the student office bearers. Dr. S. Pughazhenthii, Dean, School of Mech. Engg. received the Student Chapter Charter, which extols the students to strive for the advancement of the sciences of Heating, Refrigerating



and Air conditioning Engineering and related fields. Dr. Saravanan, an expert in the field of Ammonia Refrigeration addressed the students and faculty on the issues of Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning (R&AC) technology, present environment degradation, need for climate control and technologies to improve R&AC system COP. The present COP of RAC systems which should be 5-7 is actually 1.03 - 1.05 due to inherent engineering cycle time losses. He highlighted the various funding agencies and sources for the pursuit of scientific research in India in this context.

SEMINAR ON RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

PHOENIX Association conducted a one-day seminar on 'Research Methodology' on February 19, 2011. Dr.R. Neelamegam, Emeritus Professor & Advisor, Department of Management of Studies, VHNS College, Virudhunagar spoke on "Research Methodology". Prof.S. Baskaran, Department of Commerce, VHNS College, spoke on "Application of Statistical Tools in Research".

SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

The Entrepreneurial Development Cell of School of Management, SASTRA University, conducted a two-day skill development training programme on "Computer Assembling and Hardware Trouble shooting" on March 12&13, 2011. Mr. N. Surriya, and Mr. L. Antony, Hardnet IT Academy, Trichy conducted the training to the students. Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, School of Management presided over the function. Mr.S. Thiyagarajan and Mr.P. Vijay Sankar were the co-ordinators for the programme.

Entrepreneurial Development Cell and Jenneys Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management, Trichy conducted a two-day skill development training on 'Preparation of Bakery Products' on March 14&15, 2011 at Jenneys Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management, Trichy. Prof. Ponnilingo, Director-Technical, Jenneys Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management inaugurated the programme and Dr.V. Badrinath presided over the valedictory function. Smt. Seema and Smt. Renna Roy co-ordinated the programme.



PONGAL GIFTS TO VILLAGERS

SASTRA University distributed 'Pongal Gifts' to 1640 ration-card holders of Tirumalaisamudrum, Vallampudur, Monnayampatti and Kuruvadipatti villages. A gift-bag each containing 5kg raw-rice, 1kg jaggery, ½ kg dhal was given away to the villagers. Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean, Sponsored Research, distributed the gifts.



Dr. S. Swaminathan distributes pongal gift

SASTRA DONATES TO POLICE DEPT. MARRIAGE HALL

SASTRA University donated generators for the recently inaugurated air-conditioned unit of Dheerga Sumangali Kalyana Mandapam, a marriage hall built by the police department of Thanjavur. In the inaugural function of the A/C Unit of the hall Shri C. Swaminathan, Deputy Registrar of SASTRA, participated. SASTRA University has donated Rs. 21 lakhs so far. The Marriage hall is being given on concessional rent to police personnel for conducting marriages of their wards and also for public at a reasonable price.



WIPRO MISSION 10 X ADVANCED WORKSHOP

Wipro Mission 10 X Advanced workshop was conducted on 25th and 26th of Feb 2011. Faculty members from SASTRA main campus, SRC-Kumbakonam and JJCET, Trichy participated in the workshop. Mr.Datta Kumar from Wipro Technologies was the resource person.

REPUBLIC DAY

The 62nd Republic Day was celebrated at SASTRA campus on January 26, 2011. Dr. S.N. Srivastava, Registrar hoisted the tricolour and addressed the gathering. The NCC Women's wing of SASTRA presented a guard of honour of the occasion.



SASTRA NCC CADET @ REPUBLIC DAY CAMP IN DELHI

Kum. N. Janani, III B.Tech. ICT represented Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Andaman Nicobar Directorate in the Annual NCC Republic Day Camp held in New Delhi from 1st January, 2011 to 30th January, 2011. The camp is conducted every year in which cadets from all over the country participate. She was part of the 106 member team of cadets from the 6 groups comprising TN Directorate, namely Trichy, Madurai, Coimbatore, Madras-A, Madras-B and Pondicherry. She participated in various competitions like: Senior Wing (SW) Girl's Drill, Group Dance, Group Song and All India Cancer Awareness competition. She also marched in the prestigious Prime Minister's rally held on 28th January, 2011 at the Army Parade Ground, New Delhi. She was one of the 15 people from the directorate to have appeared for the Youth Exchange Programme (YEP) selections. This year TN Directorate bagged the 2nd position out of 17 Directorates, a feat achieved after 5 years. Earlier she attended various training cum selection camps held in Trichy and Chennai. She also represented Trichy Group as Best Cadet in the Inter Group Competition held in September, 2010.



Kum. Janani (First from left)

SASTRA STUDENTS @ HARVARD & MIT LABS AND OTHER FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES FOR INTERNSHIP/COURSE WORK

Our B.Tech. students are undergoing their Research Internship/Course Work in many of the foreign universities including Harvard Medical School and MIT, USA. Their Internship/Course work is for one semester beginning February 2011. Details are given below:

MIT – Harvard – Research Internship

SRIRAM KUMAR S
 VENKATESAN R
 DIVYA BHARAT
 JANANIS
 SRI UMAAISVARYA K.B
 ANJALI NARSING RAO
 ABINAYAR
 HARIPRAKASH H
 SATHYAS
 ARAVINDAKSHAN R
 AISHWARYA VASUDEVAN

BIOE
 BIBT
 BIBT
 BIOE
 BIOE
 BIBT
 BIOE
 BIOE
 BIBT
 MIBT

Dartmouth College, USA

Niranjana Natarajan - MIBT

University of Utah, USA

|R. Shrinivasan – MIBT

National University of Singapore – Research Internship

E. Pavithra – Bioinformatics
 Surender Mohan - Bioengineering

National University of Singapore – Course work
 Sowmya. G – EIE

UPC Barcelona – Research Internship

Ravuru Rakesh (ECE)
 Shantan (ECE)
 Prashanth Sekhar (Mech)

University of Windsor, Canada – Research Internship

Vamsi. R - EEE

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, USA – Course Work

M. Palaniappan IT
 G. Kaushik IT

ETH, Zurich – Course Work

Saiganesh Swaminathan – CSE III Year

Siemens, Singapore – Research Internship

Mandel Keka Chemical
 Nikhil. N EEE
 Mahesh Kumar, R EEE

During their internship they are working under the guidance of world-renowned scientists. Their achievements demonstrate the quality of research internship and reflect the opportunity provided by SASTRA. SASTRA's Desh – Videsh Scholarship provides a round trip airfare and monthly stipend of USD 200 to each student to partly cover their living expenses.



INTERACTIVE SESSION ON R&AC

Mr. S. Sridhar of Lakshmi Aircons Pvt. Ltd., Chennai conducted an interactive session with the students of School of Mechanical Engineering on Refrigeration and Air-conditioning (R&AC) on March 15, 2011. He spoke on the fundamentals of R&AC and later answered questions related to the subject.

Earlier, Officials of Lakshmi Aircons Pvt. Ltd., guided 16 students of the ISHRAE Students Chapter, SASTRA through the Nanotechnology Research Laboratory, where a 380 HP capacity, Air-conditioning System with Variable Refrigerant Volume (VRV) control is being installed. This system being the cutting edge technology in energy conservation will enable the Laboratory to save nearly 20 Lakhs per month on electrical energy. The students were also taken around the Air Conditioning system (180 Tons) installed in the Jiva Jantu Pariksha Kendra.



SASTRA STUDENT BAGS INTERNSHIP AT FACEBOOK



It was a dream come true for 19-year-old Chi. S. Vidhyasagar pursuing third-year B.Tech. Computer Science in SASTRA University as Face-book (FB) in which he used to interact with his friends selected him for a three-month summer internship from May 23.

FB will be paying US \$ 5.800 as monthly stipend and \$1.000 as house stipend to Chi. Vidhyasagar. On successful completion of the internship, he will also be eligible for return internship or a full time offer from FB.

Chi. Vidhyasagar had to undergo two rounds of interviews online before FB offered him the internship at its facility in Palo Alto, USA. Vidhyasagar represented India at the International Topcoder high school tournament in USA in 2008 and his mobile application Astrologic to post one's daily astrological predictions on FB has been downloaded by a million people from 120 countries in six months.

LAW STUDENTS WIN MOOT COURT

A team of three students from School of Law, comprising Kum. Shruti Krishnan, Chi. Nideesh Kumar T.V. and Kum. Abbiraami, M, II Semester B.A., LL.B. participated in the 4th PRO BONO ENVIRO NATIONAL Moot Court Competition, 2011 held on 26th – 27th March, 2011 at the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai. Shruti Krishnan, II Semester B.A., LL.B. was adjudged the BEST SPEAKER in the above Moot Court Competition which discussed various legal issues pertaining to Environment. A total of 14 teams (Comprising 3 members each) from all over India participated in the competition.

FDP ON CRYPTOGRAPHY

A Faculty Development Programme on Cryptography and its Applications to Mobile and Wireless Communications was organized by the School of Computing on February 12, 2011. Dr.N. Vijayarangan, Senior Scientist, Innovations Lab, TCS, Chennai inaugurated the programme.

In his address he talked about the features and components of public key infrastructure. He also explained the modification required to adopt it for mobile environment. The pros and cons of GSM and CDMA with respect to coverage, data transfer speed and SIM were discussed.

The speaker encouraged the faculty members to design a double based number system processor which can be used in mobile communication. He also requested them to take part in the TCS R & D projects. Nearly 100 faculty members attended the programme.



SASTRA STUDENT'S ARTICLE FINDS ITS PLACE IN THE HINDU'S 'NXg'



The article titled "Too long for words," written by Kum. Nethra Ram, a student of M.Tech. Medical Nanotechnology, SASTRA University, has been published in 'NXg' column of 'The Hindu' on January 6, 2011. The Hindu awarded her a gift voucher of Rs. 1000 for the article.

SASTRA TO ESTABLISH A UNIVERSITY IN GUJARAT

The Government of Gujarat has selected SASTRA University to establish a private university at Vadodara. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Government of Gujarat and SASTRA University, represented by Dr.S.N. Srivastava, Registrar of University, during the Vibrant Gujarat 2011 summit on January 12, 2011. The new university named Sandipani University will be supported by various philanthropic organisations, including SASTRA and is expected to function from the academic year 2011-12.

VISIT OF SRI MATA AMIRTANANDAMAYI

Sri Mata Amirtanandamayi Devi, Head of the Mata Amritanandamayi Mutt visited SASTRA University on 28th and 29th January, 2011. She interacted with the faculty and students and also visited various facilities at SASTRA. She expressed happiness over the functioning of the university.



MAGAZINE RELEASED

CEPSTRUM, a magazine of the Department of ECE, was released by Mr. Krishnendu, Advisory Research Engineer, IBM Bangalore on March 31, 2011. Dr. T.R. Sivaramakrishnan, Senior Professor, School of EEE received the first copy. The articles in the magazine include: Saga of Colours, Digital Jewelry, Silicon Dreams, Spectrum Allocation, Memoristor, Hawk Eye, etc. The articles are contributed by II, III and IV year B. Tech. ECE students.



TCS BEST STUDENT AWARD

The Best Outgoing Student Award for the year 2010-11, given by TCS, was awarded to Chi. Ankit Kumar Sinha of B. Tech - Computer Science Engineering. The award was given away by Shri K. Krithivasan, Vice President, TCS, at a function held on March 22, 2011.



RIVIERA '11- WHERE SASTRA'S DOMINANCE CONTINUED...

SASTRA'S cultural team emerged overall champions for the fourth consecutive time in the Riviera'2011, National level cultural festival of VIT, Vellore. Events kicked off on 30th January, 2011 with the 'Tamil Sangam' sweeping a majority of events in their cluster. SASTRA's campaign had started off on a bright note with our winning the English drama (Best actor as well!) and also doing a very commendable job in 'Telugu lits' where almost every event had a SASTRA student placing. The 'English lits' were out rightly dominant in their events and were very hard to beat. The Arts team's awe-inspiring work was a tough competition for most of the participants. The 'Eastern dance team' put up a superb display of classical dancing and it almost seemed unfair to give them only the 2nd place. The 'Western dance team' came second in Dance-Battle, an impromptu dance competition. After 4 days of intense competition, Riviera'11 came to a close. The Valedictory function, fittingly was presided over by 'Mega-star Chiranjeevi'. Four days of hard work had culminated into SASTRA winning its FOURTH CONTINUOUS OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY @ VIT.



GRADUATION DAY AT SRC

The Graduation Day at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre (SRC), SASTRA University, Kumbakonam was held on 9th January 2011. Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, Asst. Country Director & Head - Disaster Management, United Nations Development Programme, India delivered the Graduation Day address and awarded degrees to 512 students belonging to various faculties like M.Phil., M.Sc., M.Com., B.Com., B.B.A., B.C.A., B.Sc. and B.Ed. SASTRA University honoured the first and second rank holders in each of the branches of study with a cash award of Rs.1000 and Rs.500 each respectively to motivate them for better performances in future.

Delivering the Graduation Day address Dr. J. Radhakrishnan said that intelligence alone is not enough to achieve success. In the information age, using the available information to one's ability is essential. "Information is pouring in through the net. It is for students to make use of it," he said. Failure is not the end of life. "One has to keep attempting; I passed my IAS only in the third attempt," Dr. Radhakrishnan said, stressing on the importance of hard work and dedication.



Dr. Radhakrishnan presents the degree certificate to a student

Those who entered colleges were lucky as only 35 per cent of the students in India come to the level of higher education, he said. He cited the example of Abraham Lincoln who became President of America after many failures.

The orator said that his tenure as Collector of Thanjavur was a turning point in his life. He could see the response of local communities to disasters like Kumbakonam school fire accident and tsunami in Nagapattinam district where also he served as Collector. "I visited Natham village near Kumbakonam today and saw the children

who survived the school fire accident." He appreciated SASTRA University for providing free education to one sibling from each of the 96 victims' families.

Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor presided over the function. Earlier Prof K.G. Raghunathan, Dean, SRC welcomed the gathering and Major. A. Balasubramanian, Principal, School of Education proposed a vote of thanks. Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean, Sponsored Research, was also present.

SHRI V. NARAYANAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Dr. Subir Gokarn, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai delivered the VI Shri. V. Narayanan Memorial Lecture at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, Kumbakonam on 21st March, 2011. He spoke on the topic 'Financial Inclusion: A Consumer Centric View.'



Dr. Subir Gokarn speaks

In his talk, the speaker analyzed various vital issues related to topics like statistical study of population having Bank Account, Life Insurance, Debit Cards, Credit Cards etc. He also touched upon issues like public access to loans, Structure of Employment, Rural & Urban occupations and incomes, usual and unusual routine household expenditure, distribution of cash saving by household, motivations to save, to barrow etc. The lecture drove home the point that inclusion is to be seen as an opportunity and not as an obligation.

Earlier Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean Planning & Development, SASTRA University welcomed the gathering. The speaker was honoured by Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor, SASTRA and Shri S. Balasubramaniam, MD & CEO. CUB. Dr. N. Kamakodi, Executive President, CUB proposed a vote of thanks.

Shri M. Narendra, CMD, IOB., and Senior officials from City Union Bank Kumbakonam, faculty and students attended the lecture.

THETA '11

Theta '11, a three-day National Level Techno-Management Festival, organized by various student-Associations of Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, was inaugurated on February 18, 2011 by Shri. K.R. Giridharan, Managing Director, Kali BMH Systems (P) Ltd. In his inaugural address, the speaker laid emphasis on the fact that the modern world is ruled by technology. He appealed to the students to enhance their knowledge of technology to the level of contributing something newly to the field.

Shri V. Narayan, CEO, Everonn (P) Ltd., Chennai, the other guest speaker spoke on traits of excellence, laying special emphasis on developing positive attitude towards challenges in life. He concluded his speech saying that the future is for those who show keen interest in technology.

Shri K.M. Bindhu Sadhakan, Managing Director, Kali Steel and Engineering Industries (P) Ltd., encouraged the students to practise divergent thinking innovatively and cherish entrepreneurial aspirations.



Earlier Prof. K.G. Raghunathan, Dean, SRC, welcomed the gathering and Major A. Balasubramanian, Principal, School of Education honoured the guests with mementos. Shri G. Guruprasad, Student co-ordinator of Theta 11 proposed a vote of thanks.

Three workshops and 20 events in five clusters were conducted as part of 'Theta 11'. A workshop on 'Ethical Hacking' was organized by Kyrion Technologies Pvt. Ltd. The workshop aimed at providing adequate knowledge to the aspiring Hacking and information security geeks about E-mail Hacking, System Hacking and Wireless Hacking.

Thinks Lab Pvt. Ltd., organized a workshop on E-Trix and LogiTriX. E-Trix focused on the art of building autonomous robots out of discrete electronic

components and Logitrix on the art of building specialised precision robots using microcontroller programming.

Under Informatica, events like octavo, quizards, Hack-4-3RHON Linux Gurus, Webmasters, Panorama and virtual coliseum were held. Events like Dexter's Lab Tactics Theatrics, Think and INK, Electromagination Resistromania, Scramble Circuit Arts, e-secure and Technical Quiz were conducted under Electronica Cluster. The Biogenesis cluster conducted Paper Presentation, Poster Presentation, Model Display on topics like Environmental Hazards Management Biomolecule production, Phyto medicine, Cancer Biology, Nanobiology, Nanomedicine immunotechnology etc. The cluster also organized special lectures by eminent scholars in the field. Dr. K. Singaravadivel, Principal Scientist, Indian Institution of Crop Processing, Thanjavur delivered a lecture on "Food Processing Scenario in India". Dr. A. Ganapathy, Professor and Head, Bharathidasan University, Trichy spoke on Recent Trends in Tissue Culture. Under Strategia cluster events like 'Can you be a diplomat?,' Trambasto, Ticket to wall street, Business Plan Presentation, Best Manager were organized. The general cluster conducted events like Wings of Fury, Robot Race, Survival of the fittest, emulsion and Paper Presentation titled 'I-talk' in which 15 papers were presented.

Dr. K. Sudharsan, Scientist (F) Head (Engg. Group), Govt. of India, Ministry of Defence, DRDO, Naval Physical and Development Organization, Kochi delivered the valedictory address and distributed prizes worth Rs. 2 lakhs to the winners of various events.

B.Ed. EDUCATIONAL TOUR

An educational tour to Marine Biology Research Institute of Annamalai University at Parangipet was organised by the School of Education for B.Ed. regular students on 11th March 2011. Dr. Suresh, Project Co-ordinator of the centre explained to the students on star fish culture, coral reefs, deep ocean preserved fish varieties, variety of prawns, crab, shell, exo skeleton of tortoise, model marine eco system, etc. found in the Marine Museum.

GUEST LECTURE

Shri S.V. Narayanan, MD., Appolo Insurance Assistance Services Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore delivered a lecture on "Insurance Agents Regulations" on 22nd January, 2011 under the auspices of COM-MAN Forum. Prof. K.G. Raghunathan, Dean, SRC rendered a special address on the occasion.

SOCIAL SERVICE CAMP FOR B.Ed. STUDENTS

A three-day social service camp was organized by the School of Education for the students of B.Ed. and M.Sc., B.Ed., Programmes. Prof. K.G. Raghunathan, Dean (Engineering), SRC, inaugurated the camp on 27th January 2011 at Arulmigu Koteeswar Swamy Temple, Kottaiyur. The students cleaned the temple campus in the forenoon and visited the Government College for fine arts at Kottaiyur, in the afternoon. The basics of sculpture, clay modelling and painting were taught to the students by the faculty of the college. Lectures on 'Health Education' were delivered by Dr. S. Pathasarathy, Chief Civil Surgeon, Govt. Hospital, Kumbakonam and by Shri S. Muralidharan, Dept of ECE, SRC SASTRA.

Shri R. Swaminathan, District Treasurer, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Kumbakonam delivered a lecture on 'Scouts for Social Service.' A cultural programme was organized by the B.Ed. students. Shri A. Sivasankar was the camp officer.



NSS SPECIAL CAMP AT MARUTHANALLUR

A week long special camp was organized by the NSS units of Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA University, Kumbakonam, from 22nd to 28th March 2011 at Maruthanallur, Karuvalarcheri and Nandhivanam villages of Kumbakonam Taluk of Thanjavur District. Prof. K.G. Raghunathan, Dean - SRC SASTRA presided over the inaugural function and Dr. S. Seshadri, Dean, School of Civil Engg. inaugurated the camp. Major. A. Balasubramanian, Principal, School of Education, delivered a special address. Medical, Environmental and Health awareness camps were conducted as part of the camp. Blood group identification and blood donation were also carried out. 100 Coconut saplings, 200 teak saplings and flower saplings were donated to the village households. Student volunteers took up the task of temple cleaning and school campus cleaning. Awareness-pamphlets on health, consumption of electricity and environment protection were distributed to the villagers. Rallies on

'Rain water harvesting awareness', 'Medical awareness', and 'Health awareness' were conducted. Special lectures on 'Youth Empowerment', 'Service to Humanity is service to God', 'Environmental Science' were also arranged.



The NSS volunteers donated 25 units of blood to Kaali Blood Bank. Dr. C. Savariraj Sagayam, M.D (Siddha), CARISM, SASTRA, organized a Siddha camp. Dr. T. Jeyadoss, Head, Dept. of Bio-Chemistry organized a Medical Screening camp.

Dr. S.N. Srivastava, Registrar, SASTRA University, delivered the valedictory address and distributed prizes to the winners of various sports events. Mr. G.P. Sujith Babu, Youth Officer & Head, NSS Regional Centre, Chennai, distributed the camp certificates to the volunteers. Prof. S. Meganathan, Programme Officer – NSS, SRC, SASTRA presented the camp report

N.C.C. NEWS

NCC cadets of SRC participated in the Cadre Camp organized by 8(TN) Battalion NCC Kumbakonam on 8th and 9th of February 2011 and on 8th to 11th of March 2011. The cadets underwent training in rifle drill, Map reading, Field and Battle Craft, Military history, Administration, National Integration, Health and Hygiene etc.



BEST PHYSIQUE

Chi. V. Ashok Raj, III B.Tech. EEE won the Mr. RIVIERA-11 title, a Gold Medal and a Cash Award of Rs. 5000 in Riviera-11, the International Sports Fest held at VIT University, Vellore between January 30 and February 2, 2011.



N.S.S. SPECIAL CAMP

The NSS Units of SASTRA organized a Special Camp at Kuruvadipatti, Sellappanpettai, Thiruvengadaudaiyanpatti and Monneyampatti villages from February 7 to 13, 2011. Dr.S. Seshadri, Dean, School of Civil Engineering, inaugurated the camp. An Eye Camp was organized in all the villages by Vasan Eye Care Hospitals, Thanjavur. A medical camp was held at Monneyampatti in association with the Thanjavur Medical College Hospital. Dr. S. Pravin conducted a Dental Camp at Kuruvadipatti. Siddha and Veterinary camps were also organized in these villages with the help of the doctors of SASTRA. Planting of saplings and road formation were the other works carried out by the volunteers.



N.S.S. ACTIVITIES

A Road Safety Awareness Campaign was organized by the N.S.S. units of SRC on January 10, 2011. Around 175 volunteers participated in the event which was inaugurated by Shri Lakshmanan, Inspector of Traffic, Kumbakonam. Pamphlets containing awareness information were distributed and 200 bull's eye stickers were also given free of cost to the public.



Around 60 NSS volunteers were deputed for crowd regulations at Arulmigu Mahalinga Swamy temple car festival at Thiruvaidaimaruthur on January 19, 2011.



A Pulse Polio Immunization Camp was organized on January 23 and February 27, 2011. 50 NSS volunteers participated in the camp in which polio drops were given to 1700 children.

Voters' Day Awareness Campaign was organized on 25th January 2011. Dr. V. Vaidhyathan, NSS Co-ordinator, SASTRA, inaugurated the campaign. 1000 pamphlets throwing light on various rights of the voters were distributed to the general public.

A one-day orientation programme was organized exclusively for the NSS volunteers on January 29, 2011. Senior faculty members spoke on various topics. Around 75 NSS volunteers attended the programme scheduled in 6 sessions from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Prof. K. G. Raghunathan gave away the participation

certificates to the volunteers in the valedictory function held at 5.30 p.m.



A workshop on Yoga was organized on Feb. 12, 2011. Ms. Amutha Ramanujam of The World Community Service Centre, Trichy Chapter served as the resource person. Kundalini Yoga and Kayakalpa Yoga in simplified form were taught to 70 NSS volunteers and staff members at SRC. Shri V. Rathina Sabapathi, Trustee and Shri Siva Raman, Co-ordinator of World community service centre, Kumbakonam chapter, presided over the workshop sessions. Prof. K.G. Raghunathan, Dean SRC delivered the valedictory address.

The NSS Units, in association with St. John's Ambulance, India, Chennai chapter, organized a First Aid Training camp at SRC on February, 15, 2011. Prof. K.G. Raghunathan, Dean SRC inaugurated the camp that was presided over by Major A. Balasubramaniam, Principal, SOE. 150 volunteers participated in the camp. Shri Rupesh Kumar, Lecturer, ST John Ambulance India served as the resource person.

ELPOWER ASSOCIATION VALEDICTORY FUNCTION

The Valedictory function of Elpower Association was held on 4th April, 2011. Shri V. Chandrasekar, Executive Engineer, MRT / TNEB delivered an inspiring address on "Job opportunities for Electrical Engineers". The second volume of VICHAR, the association magazine was released by the chief guest. The first copy of the magazine was received by Dr. T. Radhakrishnan, Sr. Asst. Professor, Head, Dept. of Physics. Chi. Iyer Praveen Raghunathan read out the Annual Report of the association for the year 2010-11. Prof. K.G. Raghunathan, Dean SRC, presided over the function.

THIRUPAVAI/TIRUVEMPAVAI RECITATION CONTEST

Thirupavai/Tiruvempavai Recitation Contest was organised at SASTRA on January 13, 2011. 28 students from 14 schools of Thanjavur participated in the contest. Kum. R. Anubama of Kamalashubramaniam Matric Hr. Sec. School got the first prize. C. Swarnasri and Ramachandra of Yagappa Matric. School bagged the second and third prizes respectively. Rs. 3000, 2000 and 1000 were given away as the first, second and third prizes respectively. All the participants were given a cash award of Rs.500.



A similar contest was organised at SRC, Kumbakonam. 26 participants from various schools of K u m b a k o n a m participated in the contest. Kum. R. Sowmya of Town Higher Secondary

School won the first prize, a cash award of Rs. 3000. Kum. K. Nandini of the same school won the second prize of Rs. 2000. Kum. S. Sowndarya of Tiko Silks Matric. Hr. Secondary School, Thirupuvanam bagged the third prize of Rs. 1000.

BOOK PUBLISHED



The Department of English, SASTRA published a text book titled “Technical Communication” in January 2011. The book meant for the II Semester B.Tech. programmes of SASTRA focusses on special features of technical communication. The unit on Professional Writing deals with various forms of technical writing like: reports, proposals, projects, technical

articles, user manual and product description.

Ph.D. BY FACULTY



Dr. R. Amudha, Assistant Professor, School of Management, SASTRA successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis titled “Customer satisfaction towards service quality of a Private Sector Bank” in a public viva voce exam on January 24, 2011. Dr.C.Vijaya Banu, Senior

Assistant Professor, School of Management, SASTRA was her research advisor.

SNIPPETS FROM SHANMUGHA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE

XXVII INSTITUTION DAY

The Twenty Seventh Institution Day of Shanmugha Polytechnic College was held on March 23, 2011. Prof. Anantha Narasimhachar, Former Principal, SIT, Trichy delivered the Institution Day Address. He advised the students to go for employment directly after the diploma, rather than pursuing higher studies. They can continue their higher studies later through part time mode. Dr. T.R. Neelakantan, Associate Dean (R) & L&T ECC Chair Professor, School of Civil Engg., SASTRA who delivered the special address insisted on character building. Shri B.M. Venkatramani, Principal presented the annual report for the year 2010-11.

Book prizes were awarded to 157 academic prize winners. Best Outgoing Student Award of Rs.500 each to all branches was also given away during the function. Various special awards instituted by faculty members and the Budalur Janaki Ammal, Merit-cum-Means prize instituted by Shri B. M. Venkatramani, Principal was given to 12 students, each Rs.250.



Prof. Anandha Narasimhachar delivers the Institution Day address

SPORTS DAY

The Twenty Seventh Sports Day was held on March 23, 2011. Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean i/c, Training & Placement and School of Management, SASTRA presided over the function and distributed the prizes. Shri V. Paramasivam, Physical Director presented the P h y s i c a l Education Annual Report.



LAURELS IN SPORTS

Kum. P. Kavitha of I year Diploma won the Second Place in 100m and 200m and got the silver medals in IPAA state level inter-polytechnic athletics meet held at Latha Mathavan Polytechnic College, Madurai from February 21-23, 2011. She also won the third place in 100m and 200m in the District level sports held in Thanjavur organized by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu.



NSS SPECIAL CAMP

A Special Camp was organized by the NSS Units of Shanmugha Polytechnic College from January 28 to February 3, 2011 at Thirumalaisamudrum village. Dr. G. Dinakaran, Professor, School of Civil Engineering, SASTRA inaugurated the camp. In the tree planting programme organized in association with IRDO, Thanjavur, saplings were planted in the local school and church premises. Nearly 100 persons received free treatment and medicines in the Siddha camp, in which Dr. Souriraja Sagayam and Dr. R. Gopinath of CARISM, SASTRA participated. Dr. G. Venkatraman, Associate Professor of English, SASTRA delivered the valedictory address. Shri. B.M. Venkatramani, Principal presided over the function.

Shri P. Balasubramanian, HOD-Civil, and Shri G. Saravanamoorthy, Lecturer/EEE were the coordinators for the camp.



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