



ITI HAS

(IT Is Happening At SASTRA)



Newsletter from SASTRA UNIVERSITY

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Message from

VICE - CHANCELLOR

SASTRA University remains committed to provide world-class education to the wards entrusted to its care. This warrants earmarking huge outlay every year towards infrastructure expansion in the form of cutting-edge classrooms, laboratory and research facilities, library resources etc. Rs 30.6 crores was spent for this purpose during the year 2010-11.

To augment interdisciplinary research and to leverage the growing synergies between science and technology, a new Research Block, at the cost of Rs.20 crores, has been built. Shri N. Chandrasekaran, CEO & MD of Tata Consultancy Services Ltd., dedicated this facility to the nation on April 23, 2011.

Dr. B. Hari Gopal, Advisor & Head, Science and Engineering Research Council, Dept. of Science & Technology, New Delhi delivered the 10th University Day Address and distributed the academic prizes.

The School of Law, SASTRA University has introduced two new five-year integrated courses in Bachelor of Law – BCom LLB and BBA LLB, from the academic year 2011-12 onwards.

SASTRA students continue to win accolades from foreign universities. Two of our B.Tech. students who underwent research internship at Harvard/MIT have now gained admission to the Ph.D. programme at Cambridge University and Imperial College, London.

Counselling for B.Tech. programmes of SASTRA University was held from June 20-23, 2011. Our transparent merit-based admission system and cost-effective education continue to attract bright students from various parts of the country and their parents applaud the good efforts of SASTRA in this direction.

I wish all the faculty & students of SASTRA and recruits a purposeful new academic year.

Prof. R. Sethuraman
Vice-Chancellor

TCS CHIEF DEDICATES SASTRA'S ANUSANDHAN KENDRA TO THE NATION

Shri N. Chandrasekaran, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), dedicated to the nation 'Anusandhan Kendra' – SASTRA's Hub for Research and Innovation (SHRI), on April 12, 2011. Shri N. Chandrasekaran also delivered the VI Nani Palkhivala Memorial Lecture. Speaking on the occasion, he said the economic challenge that confronts developed countries is yet to be overcome and the role of emerging and developing markets like India are vital for global economic growth. 'The India story provides a positive employment outlook and it is estimated that one in every six people joining the global workforce in the next ten years will be an Indian'.

The top countries which felt the impact of the global economic crisis in the recent past are either developed countries or developing countries. These countries have not yet recovered from the crisis. This has proved to be an advantage for India to make slow but steady progress, he said.

The economic recession has led to two types of unemployment in several nations. The first type resulted in those who were already employed losing their jobs and the second led to well-qualified persons being not able to find jobs.



From left: Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Shri Ravi Viswanathan, Shri N. Chandrasekaran, Prof. R. Sethuraman, Dr. S. Swaminathan

In the 1950s, in India 12 acres of land was available per capita. The availability fell to five acres in 2000 and to three acres in 2011. This shows how dense the population has become.

The India growth story with an estimated double digit growth in the next 10 to 15 years presents challenges as well as opportunities that necessitate development of skills related to both business and society.

The soft infrastructure is the most valuable asset of India and has to be harnessed in a collaborative framework. The expected economic growth in India presents a lot of opportunities for development along with a challenging issue of sustainability.

The economic challenges, demographic strengths and sustainability issues present to the world a huge set of opportunities and India has the propensity to leap forward and gain the competitive advantage, he pointed out.

In India the demand for teaching profession could increase in the coming years as the country needs at least four crores of teachers, Shri Chandrasekaran added.

Dr.S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning and Development, SASTRA welcomed the gathering and highlighted the role of Shri Palkhivala in protecting the rights of the common man.

Shri Ravi Viswanathan, Head of Chennai Operations of TCS, Shri K.Ganeshan, VP-HR, TCS were also present.

Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean – Sponsored Research, proposed a vote of thanks.

On the occasion, Shri Chandrasekaran handed over joining letters of the 1359 students of SASTRA recruited by TCS this academic year to Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development.

SASTRA HUB FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Anusandhan Kendra, SASTRA's Hub for Research & Innovation is a valuable addition to the infrastructure facilities at SASTRA. Built and established at a total cost of Rs.20 crores, this facility will promote interdisciplinary research and will leverage the growing synergies between Science & Technology.

This research block houses Tissue Engineering Lab, Drug Delivery Lab, Biomolecular Simulations Lab, Chromatin Epigenetics Lab, Electrophysiology Lab,

Nanosensors Lab, Nanofluids Lab, Functional Nanodevices Lab, Nanomaterials Lab, Genetic Engineering Lab, Quorum Sensing Lab, Molecular Biophysics Lab, Characterization Lab, Instrumental Analysis Lab, Phytochemistry Lab, etc. with sophisticated facilities like Transmission Electron Microscope, Scanning Electron Microscope, Materials Characterization, Central Instrumentation Facility, Cell Culture, etc. with a central Circular staircase with Atrium.



TENTH UNIVERSITY DAY

The 10th University Day of SASTRA was celebrated on April 23, 2011. Dr.B.Hari Gopal, Adviser, & Head, Science & Engineering Research Council (SERC), Dept of Science & Tech. New Delhi delivered the University Day Address and distributed the awards. In his address Dr. Hari Gopal said: “A qualitative growth of higher education in India is vital for applied and basic university research that can lead to the development of break-through products. He highlighted the need for research that provides breakthrough solutions just as the Green and White Revolutions did for the growth of agriculture and dairy farming in the country”.

He also provided insights into developing affordable products in the fields of healthcare, automobile, food production and storage. He encouraged researchers to develop solutions for the existing problems that could increase the quality of livelihood.

Vice-Chancellor Prof.R. Sethuraman while presenting the annual report for the year 2010-11, congratulated the research faculty of SASTRA for being able to secure 20 research projects from various funding agencies at a total cost of Rs.7.40 crore, taking the total number of ongoing projects to 45. He added that new infrastructure facilities to the tune of Rs.30.60 crore had been created, notable among them being the establishment of SASTRA Hub for Research & Innovation, laboratory updation and modernization for Rs.7.90 crore and new indoor soccer field for Rs.10 lakh. The Vice Chancellor also congratulated 34 B.Tech. students who had been selected for the Indian Academy Fellowship for this summer and 11 B.Tech. students for research internship at Harvard and MIT. With over 2,200 students placed in over 65 companies that had visited SASTRA for campus recruitment, the graduating students beamed with full confidence ready to take up their professional careers.

Chi. M.Kaushik, B.Tech (Mech Engg), was awarded the Kamakoti Award for the Best Outgoing Student for 2011 and many other special awards were distributed.



Chi. M. Kaushik receives the Kamakoti Award from Dr. Hari Gopal

Cash Incentive for Ph.D.

The following seven faculty members were given a cash incentive of Rs.1 lakh each for having completed their Ph.D. without compromising their regular teaching assignment: Dr. R.Ravi, Dr.T.Rajaram, Dr. S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dr. K.Ramkumar, Dr. V.Rajeshkumar, Dr. G.Hariharan and Dr. D. Narasimhan.

SASTRA COUNSELLING FOR B.TECH. ADMISSIONS

SASTRA Counselling for B.Tech. admissions for the year 2011-12 was held from June 20 – 23, 2011. Shri K.Vaidhyanathan, Editor, 'Dinamani' handed over the first admission letter to Chi. S.Bakthakolahalan from Tirukoilur for securing the second rank for his 1183/1200 marks in the +2 examinations. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vaidhyanathan said that the transparent merit-based admission system followed by SASTRA University, Thanjavur, is an eye-opener in today's scheme of things prevailing in the professional college admission system in our country.

Shri Vaidhyanathan said, 'At a time when the cardinal duty of providing food, water, health, education and religious counsel has been commercialized, the admission system of SASTRA is exceptional and merits appreciation.' Education was only a means and not the end. Beyond education and earning, the students have to do something more for society, he said and advised the students to participate in the nation building activities and spread the Indian culture all over the world.

Dr.S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning & Development, SASTRA, welcomed the gathering. He appealed to the parents not to be carried away by



Shri Vaidhyanathan hands over the first admission letter

application sales figures to judge the quality of an institution. Citing the Harvard Business School admission as an example, he said the quality of applications received is a better benchmark than the quantity. Dr.Vaidhyasubramaniam said, out of the 11,000 candidates who had applied for engineering course admission at SASTRA, more than 80 percent had secured over 85 percentile of marks in their +2 examinations.

Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean In-Charge, Training and Placement, proposed a vote of thanks.

The Founder Shri S.Ramachandra Iyer Scholarship was awarded to M. Suriakumari of Nannilam Government Girls Higher Secondary School for securing the first rank in the school, scoring 1135/1200. This scholarship is awarded in memory of the Founder who hails from Tiruvarur district and will provide free education for the student throughout her course. This scholarship was instituted in 2007 and this is the fifth year that it is being given.

Quota for Trichy and Thanjavur Students

Trichy and Thanjavur district students were allotted 10 per cent seats each, subject to their completing Std X and Std XII in schools within these two districts.

Educational Loan

Indian Overseas Bank, SASTRA Branch and City Union Bank, Thanjavur Branch set up help desks during the counselling days, to support students requiring educational loan.

COUNSELLING AT SRC

Counselling for admission into various B.Tech. programmes and M.Tech. integrated programmes for 2011-12 was held at Srinivasa Ramanujam Centre, Kumbakonam on 4th July 2011. Prof. K.G. Raghunathan, Dean-EEE, SRC handed over the first three admission letters to Chi. Bandela Prasath, Nellore, Chi. Kotta Madhukar Naidu, Tirupathi and Chi Yashwantha Hari Kumar of Nellore, in the presence of Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, P&D.



Dr. K.G. Raghunathan hands over the first admission letter

WHY SASTRA?

- Merit based transparent admission procedure
- Re-accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade
- Qualified, dedicated and experienced teaching faculty
- MoUs with renowned Universities & Industries
- State-of-the-art infrastructure facilities congenial for high quality education
- Excellent placement opportunities – Over 2200 students (2011 Batch) placed in reputed firms
- Merit based scholarships to students and encouragement to co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- Various recognitions from Government of India like: Scientific and Industrial Research Organization
- TIFAC-CORE in Advanced Computing and Information Processing
- Centre for Advanced Research in Indian System of Medicine
- National Mechatronics Facility
- Centre for Nanotechnology and Advanced Biomaterials (CeNTAB)
- National Facility for Ayurveda, Siddha & Herbo-metallic studies with GLP compliant Animal House
- Choice Based Credit System and Semester Abroad Programmes offering flexibility to students in their B.Tech. degree courses
- Accelerated Course Registration System (ACRS) to complete B.Tech. Course-work in 7 semesters. The entire 8th semester is available for internships in premier organizations.
- Collaborative Semester Abroad programme for B.Tech students at: Harvard/MIT under the HST programme, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, University of Utah, Dartmouth College, University of Windsor, ETH, UPC, NUS, Deakin University, University of Leicester, etc. A stipend of US\$ 200/- per month and round trip air ticket for the students selected under the semester abroad programme.
- Maximum number of Indian Academy of Sciences fellowships to B.Tech. students in the last two years.
- Merit-based selection for M.Tech. Programmes based on qualifying UG / PG degree performance
- Stipend for GATE qualified candidates admitted to M.Tech./M.Pharm. Programmes
- Over 40 funded on-campus R & D projects opening up opportunities for quality Ph.D. Study with stipend.
- Excellent hostel and other support facilities like 250 Mbps Internet, Wi-Fi, Gymnasium, Indoor Stadium, etc.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE

In addition to the regular pay as per the VI Pay Commission Recommendations, a Professional Development Allowance is given to all teaching faculty of SASTRA University from January 2011, with a minimum of Rs. 3,000 and a maximum of Rs.20,000/- per month commensurate with their qualification and contribution to SASTRA's research progress. To non-teaching staff the allowance is from Rs.2,000 to Rs.5,000 per month.

SASTRA SPONSORS 'THE HINDU' COUNSELLING SESSION 2011

SASTRA University, as the title sponsor, presented the third edition of The Hindu Education Plus Pre-Counselling Session at Trichy on May 7, 2011.

Prof. Prafulla Agnihotri, Director, Indian Institute of Management-Tiruchirapalli, inaugurated the day-long Session.

Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, Training and Placement, SASTRA who spoke on the occasion said SASTRA's sponsorship of the event reflected 'University Social Responsibility' with the purpose of enabling students to choose the right course in right institution. There was now an acute shortage of basic science teachers as well as English teachers in the country, he noted, and emphasized on the importance of choosing a career and not a job. A motivated workforce of experienced, dedicated and research-oriented faculty, the infrastructure, brand image of the institution, merit-based admissions, innovative educational practices, cutting-edge courses and scope for all-round growth must be the factors students need to consider before choosing the course and the institution, said Dr. Badrinath.

The New Indian Express – Dinamani Education Expo

SASTRA was the Associate Co-sponsor for The New Indian Express – Dinamani Education Expo held at Trichy on 26th and 27th March 2011.



SASTRA GRADUATES MAKE IT TO CAMBRIDGE & IMPERIAL COLLEGE

Chi. C. Shyam and Kum. Dharini Iyer, B.Tech. graduates from the School of Biotechnology at SASTRA University have been admitted to the Ph.D. programme at the prestigious



Cambridge University and Imperial College, London respectively. Shyam and Dharini were one among the 10 B.Tech. students who were selected to undergo a research internship at Harvard/MIT under the HST programme. Their work at the medical school in the areas of Cancer Biology and Tissue Engineering resulted in quality publications and was commended by their research guides who offered them an additional one-year research assistantship at the Harvard Medical school. Based on their research internship and the experience gained by working with top-notch scientists, they had applied to the Ph.D. programme at Cambridge and Imperial College. Both of them have received formal admission letters from Cambridge & Imperial for a full-time Ph.D with full financial assistance.

Both of them were active in various research engagements at the Center for Nanotechnology at SASTRA and demonstrated keen interest in healthcare research. Their internship at Harvard/MIT arranged by SASTRA has further reinforced their commitment to research.

Chi. Shyam in an e-mail to SASTRA added "Currently as a Research Scholar in Harvard Medical School, I am looking forward to commence my Research Based Master's in Cancer Biology at the prestigious Imperial College, London which would later translate as a Doctoral degree beginning this October. This transition was made possible through the prized opportunity provided by SASTRA University in the form of a research internship at HARVARD-MIT-HST. Kum. Dharini said: "The research endeavours at Harvard MIT HST as a student of the Semester Abroad Program (SAP) gave me an excellent opportunity to undertake cutting edge research as a Research Scholar at Harvard Medical School. These opportunities fostered my selection into the Ph.D. Program at The University of Cambridge in the Department of Clinical Medicine aided by the Jawaharlal Nehru and Cambridge International Scholarship."

INSPIRE FELLOWSHIP

Four students of SASTRA University – K. Priyadharshini, N. Suriya, K.S. Suganthi and A.C. Kripa Shankari - have been awarded the INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) fellowships given by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, this year.

INSPIRE Fellowships are awarded for pursuing Ph.D. in life sciences, physical sciences, chemical sciences, earth and atmospheric sciences, mathematical sciences and engineering sciences.

INSPIRE is an innovative programme of the Department of Science and Technology for attracting young talents to pursue research. The Assured Opportunity for Research Career (ARORC) under the INSPIRE programme is for researchers in the age group of 27-32 years. It offers research positions to young achievers and opportunity for independent research based on merit.

The fellowship carries a monthly stipend of Rs.16,000 plus house rent allowance and an annual contingency grant of Rs.20,000 for a period of five years or till the completion of Ph.D. whichever is earlier.

INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FELLOWSHIP

34 B.Tech. students of SASTRA University have once again dominated the Indian Academy of Sciences Fellowship list for the 2011 summer internship stretching SASTRA's record for the fifth consecutive time for maximum number of students being selected from a single institution. During the summer they worked in premier research labs in India and had the opportunity to engage with top scientists on various research pursuits.

WORKSHOP ON ETHICS AND VALUES



The Department of Training and Placement organized a workshop on “Ethics and Values” for the faculty members of the Department of English, who handle 'Indian Culture and Ethics' course for first year B.Tech students, on June 16, 2011. Mr.K. Krishnaswamy, State Coordinator

Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari and Dr. R.Srinivasan, Assistant Professor, School of Management, SASTRA were the resource persons. Dr. K. Kannan, Dean, Humanities and Sciences inaugurated the programme and Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, Training & Placement welcomed the gathering.

XX ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING

The 20th Academic Council Meeting of SASTRA was held on May 27, 2011. The council approved the revised curriculum of all B.Tech. / M.Tech. (5 year Integrated) Programmes from I to VII Semesters, based on the requirements of industry and students' feedback.

❖The council also approved introduction of the following Programmes:

- ❖ M.Sc. Forensic Sciences Degree Programme - to be offered jointly by SASTRA University in collaboration with University of Abertay Dundee, Scotland, U.K.
- ❖ 5 year Integrated BCom LLB., and BBA LLB., Degree Programmes catering to the needs of students to have two degrees viz., Commerce & Law, Business Administration & Law.
- ❖ Six months Certificate Course in Cyber Law. This Programme aims at motivating the youngsters to be aware of the crimes committed through computer operations.

Dr. P.V. Vaidyanathan, Former Vice Chancellor Annamalai University, Dr.T. Madan Mohan - Director, Department of Biotechnology, Dr.R.Sethuraman, Former Director -MIT, Madras were the external experts who attended the meeting. Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor presided over the meeting.

NEW INTEGRATED COURSES IN LAW

Two new five year integrated courses in Law, BCom LLB and BBA LLB are being offered from the current academic year by the School of Law at SASTRA University, with the approval of the Bar Council of India.

SASTRA is the only private university that has started a special school for Law in 2008, after 25 years, with the approval of the Bar Council of India. Though it had been offering three years course in Law and five year BA LLB for the past two years and this academic year onwards, SASTRA would provide only five-year integrated courses.

These integrated programmes provide the students with diverse knowledge in the field of Social Studies, Business and Economics. SASTRA is also taking initiatives to work closely with premier law schools abroad for meaningful internship and study abroad programmes. The students are encouraged to participate in various moot court competitions conducted by some premier law school like NLSIU, Symbiosis School of Excellence, Chennai and in other places like Chandigarh and Trissur.

TCS OFFER LETTERS DISTRIBUTED

TCS offer letters were distributed to all the 1359 TCS selects from the 2011 batch on 29th April 2011 by Mrs. Lakshmi Murali, Principal Consultant, TCS and Mr. T. Ram Kumar, Regional Head - Talent Acquisition (Chennai), TCS in the presence of Dr.S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning and Development and Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean-Training and Placement.



MISSION 10X-INNOVATION CHAIR PROFESSOR

Dr.K.Ramkumar, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering, SASTRA has been appointed as



WIPRO MISSION 10X Chair Professor by M/s Wipro. The offer letter was given to him by Mr. Kuruvilla Sebi Kumar, Senior Consultant, WIPRO on 25th April, 2011.

The objective of the Mission 10X Chair Professor Grant Scheme is to encourage faculty members to actively participate and work towards improving educational technology in India.

The Mission10x Chair professorship grant is awarded to distinguished members of engineering faculty in recognition of their outstanding contributions towards engineering education falling within the purview of enhanced employability skills in students. The Mission 10X chair professor/s would continue their institutional affiliation and work in their respective institutions where Mission 10X concept center facilities are available.

WIPRO MISSION 10X BASIC WORKSHOP

Fifth batch of WIPRO MISSION 10X Basic Workshop was conducted from 6-10 June 2011 at SASTRA Wipro Mission 10X Concept Centre. 32 faculty members from SASTRA, Kings College of Engineering, Pudukottai and CARE School of Engineering, Trichy participated in

the workshop. The resource persons were Prof. S.L.Satheesh Kumar, Mr.C.K.Subramaniam, and Dr.Rajeev Sukumaran, Senior Consultants from WIPRO, Bangalore. Mr. V.Chandrasekar, Dr.Brinda Giri, Dr.K.RamKumar, Ms. Kavitha Thiyagarajan, and Mr. S. Mohamed Ghouse, Assistant Professors, SASTRA were identified as Master Trainers of WIPRO and nominated as observers to conduct future programmes.

WIPRO selects numbering 132 underwent a one month “Wipro Project Campus” training programme conducted by WIPRO Technologies at our campus, The first module “Jump Start -I” was handled by WIPRO officials for all the Wipro selects and Jump Start –II was conducted by the faculty of School of Computing of SASTRA for the non-circuit branch Wipro selects from 13 through 17 June,2011.



Students participated in Wipro Project Campus training

TRAINING ON PREPARATION OF NUTRITIOUS PRODUCTS

The Entrepreneurship Development Cell of SASTRA organized a training programme on “Preparation of Nutritious Products and Marketing Strategies” at Krishi Vignan Kendra (KVK), Sengipatti, Thanjavur on 20th and 21st May 2011. The programme was organized in co-ordination with KVK Usilampatti and Sengipatti near Thanjavur. Trainers from the KVK acted as resource persons. 40 farmers from Sengipatti, Valasakudi and Usilampatti villages participated in the programme. The programme was co-ordinated by Mr. V. Vijay Anand and Mr. S. Thiyagarajan, Asst. Professors, School of Management, SASTRA University.

COMPUTER ASSEMBLING & HARDWARE TROUBLE SHOOTING

The ED Cell of SASTRA conducted a Skill Development Programme on “Computer Assembling & Hardware Trouble Shooting” at Kamala Subramaniam Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Thanjavur on 25th & 26th May 2011. The programme was organized in co-ordination with EXCEL Systems, Kumbakonam. 50 Hr. Sec. Students of the Kamala Subramaniam Matriculation Hr. Sec School participated in the programme.

SASTRA-TCS RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Tata Consultancy Services & SASTRA University signed an MoU for collaborative research in **Epigenetic Analysis Platform and Biomarker Discovery**. This MoU was signed on June 29, 2011 at TCS, Chennai by Mr. Debashis Ghosh, President – Mfg, Life Science & Energy and Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning & Development. Dr. M. Vijayalakshmi, Associate Dean – Bioinformatics, will be the Principal Investigator for this research project which aims at developing Algorithms and Tools for inferring disease state from epigenetic data and also Development of a software platform for analysis of epigenetic data. This collaborative work will utilise SASTRA's strength in experimental chromatin epigenetics, high throughput microscopy and bioinformatics and the software excellence of TCS to develop an epigenetic platform for disease diagnosis. Besides delivering the planned outputs, this collaboration will also result in high quality doctoral work, publications in reputed journals and possible patents. The MoU is in continuation with the institutional level MoU signed between SASTRA & TCS in the Presence of TCS CEO Mr. N. Chandrasekaran at SASTRA University on April 12, 2011.



Signing of MoU for research collaboration between TCS and SASTRA

Mr. Debashis Ghosh, President – Manufacturing, Life Science & Energy, TCS, Mr. Ravi Viswanathan, Vice President & Head, Global Telecom Business and of Chennai Operations, TCS, and Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning & Development, SASTRA

Flanked by Mr. Ganesan, Vice President, HR and Ms. Lakshmi V Murali, Principal Consultant, TCS on the right

On the left : Mr. Amit Saxena, Strategy & Operations, Life Sciences and Healthcare ISU, Dr. M. Vijayalakshmi, Associate Dean – School of Chemical & Biotechnology, SASTRA, Dr. B. Gopalakrishnan, Principal Scientist, TCS Healthcare Innovation Labs, Hyderabad, Dr. Rajgopal Srinivasan, Head, TCS Healthcare Innovation Labs, Hyderabad

SASTRA – AMITY MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD WORKSHOP

The Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA, Kumbakonam and AMITY Centre for Olympiad, New Delhi jointly conducted a workshop on Mathematics Olympiad for training students drawn from the various states of India and abroad from 22nd to 29th May, 2011 at AMITY University premises for the 6th consecutive year.

Dr. R. Srikanth and Dr. K. Kannan of the Mathematics Department of SASTRA University conducted the workshop. Parallel sessions were conducted for the seniors and juniors.

A one-day exclusive workshop for the faculty of AMITY University was conducted on 25th May 2011 by these experts on the theme “ Research Initiatives for Faculty of Mathematics” at the same venue.



Ph.D. BY FACULTY

Dr. K. Ramakrishnan, AP – III, School of Civil Engineering, SASTRA successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis titled 'Crop Calendar Adjustment Study in Sathanur Irrigation System,' in a public viva voce exam held on April 15, 2011.



Dr. T.R. Neelakantan, Associate Dean, School of Civil Engg., SASTRA was his research advisor.



Dr. Y.B. Venkatakrishnan, AP-I, Department of Mathematics, SASTRA obtained his Ph.D. in January 2011, for his thesis “Studies in Bipartite Theory of Graphs” submitted to Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Maha Vidyalyaya, Kanchipuram.

Dr. B. Saritha, AP-I, Department of Chemistry, School of Chemical & Biotechnology, SASTRA obtained her Ph.D in November 2010. for her thesis “Phytochemistry & Pharmacognosy in the identification of traditional drugs of doubtful origin – A select study” submitted to Bharathidasan University, Trichy.



FACULTY INDUCTION TRAINING

A Faculty Induction Training Programme was conducted by the Department of Training and Placement for the new faculty members of SASTRA on 20th & 21st, June 2011. Deans and senior faculty members of SASTRA handled sessions on Classroom Communication, Students Psychology & Classroom Management and Modern Teaching Methods. The participants were also oriented towards the Research Facilities, Examination System, Library Resources and Service Rules of SASTRA. 40 faculty members who joined SASTRA Main Campus and SRC, Kumbakonam in June 2011 attended the programme.

OPEN ELECTIVE STUDENTS VISIT BEL, BANGALORE

22 students of the open elective course "Introduction to MEMS & NEMS" along with Dr. M. Sridharan, Senior Assistant Professor, ECE, visited Bharath Electronics Limited (BEL), Bangalore on 16th April 2011. The students visited MEMS fabrication facility and MEMS packaging / assembling facility and saw a demonstration of the IC fabrication. The scientists from BEL explained the students about the ongoing activities of BEL through a video presentation. Also the students visited the exhibit area of BEL where they saw many of the Electronic devices / components / circuits / instruments on communication systems developed for Indian Army / Navy / Air Force. The BEL employees explained the Electronic Voting Machine (product of BEL), Road Signals and other traffic control systems, alarms and other products of BEL. This visit attracted the students towards micro-devices and the applications of micro-electronics.



REVELS CUP

SASTRA's Cricket, Hockey and Athletics teams participated in the "Revels Cup" tournament held MIT, Manipal from March 4-12, 2011. Our Athletics team won the following prizes:

400 Metres	S.Gajendran	III/EEE	Bronze
1500 Metres	K.Skandhan	II/MPS	Silver
1500 Metres	S.Patrick	II/BALLB	Bronze
High Jump	R.Giridharan	III/EEE	Bronze
Triple Jump	S.Dilip Raju Dominic	III/BBIN	Bronze
4 X 400 Mtr Relay	S.Dilip Raju Dominic	III/BBIN	Silver

SPORTS DAY

The Annual Sports Day of the University was held on April 23, 2011. Earlier 'FUERA', intramural tournament for the year 2010-11 was conducted for the students and staff. Olympian Shri S. Simon Sundarraj, addressed the gathering and gave away the prizes.

The Best House in Athletics went to the Red House which secured 60 points. The Individual Championship was bagged by Chi.A. Silambarasan of III year ECE who secured 15 points for men and Kum. Preethi of I year ECE who secured 15 points for women.



SASTRA NCC CADETS WIN LAURELS

In the NCC Inter Unit competitions held at the National Institute of Technology, Trichy, recently Kum. Saranya and Kum. Pavithra of SASTRA University emerged first, second in best cadet contest of senior wing category. They were felicitated by Colonel P.K. Thomas, Commanding Officer 4 TN Girls Battalion NCC at a function held at the unit office Trichy.



COMBINED ANNUAL TRAINING CAMP

10 NCC cadets attended a Combined Annual Training Camp at NIT, Thuvakudi, from 27th May to 5th June 2011, in which they acquired military training and participated in various cultural activities. Seven cadets attended the Inter Unit Competition Camp at NIT, Thuvakudi, from 9th June to 18th June 2011.



SRI MOOLA RAMA POOJA

His Holiness Shri Suyateendra Teertha Swamiji of Sri Raghavendra Swamy Matha Mantralayam performed Sri Moola Rama Pooja at SASTRA campus, Thanjavur on June 23 and 24, 2011. The Pooja began with a Ganapathy Homam on 23rd June 2011. Staff and students of SASTRA and a large number of devotees in and around Thanjavur participated in the Pooja and received blessings.



WHEN DVAITA MEETS ADVAITA

June 24, 2011 turned out to be a rare moment for devotees of the Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt and the Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, as both the mutt heads met together. The Kanchi Acharya visited the SASTRA University, Thanjavur campus and performed his daily rituals while the Mantralayam Swamigal performed the Moola Rama pooja on June 22 & 23, 2011. Recalling a rare event of this kind in the 1960s, the mutt official explained how the Maha Swamigal of Kanchi Shri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi and Shri Sujayeendra Theertha Swamigal of Raghavendra Mutt met each other briefly in Kothakotta in Andhra and that they were also attending Tarka and Meemamsa Shastra lectures together. Both the acharyas shared a common stage and blessed devotees who gathered to cherish this rare moment.



118TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF KANCHI MAMUNIVAR

SASTRA Celebrated the 118th Birth Anniversary of Kanchi Mamunivar, His Holiness, Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Swamigal on 14th June 2011 at SRC. 1500 food packets were distributed to the public on the occasion.

ANNADHANAM TO VAITHEESWARAN KOIL PILGRIMS

SASTRA University arranged annadhanam to the devotees of Vaitheeswaran Koil, who proceeded on padayatra from far off places like Karaikkudi, Trichy to the temple on 24th April 2011, at its SRC Campus, Kumbakonam. A special pandal was erected in front of the campus for this purpose. 15,000 food packets, each comprising a sweet and 2 variety rice and a water sachet, were distributed to the devotees by Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor, SASTRA and Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development. Teaching and non teaching staff of the University, NSS and NCC Volunteers participated in the day-long annadhanam.



UGADI CELEBRATIONS

Kannada and Telugu students of SASTRA University, Thanjavur celebrated Ugadi, on April 4, 2011 with traditional fervour. Ritualistic prayers, floral decorations, rangoli designs, Ugadi pachadi and Panchaga Shraavanam marked the occasion.



RAMANUJAM REMEMBRANCE DAY

The 91st Remembrance Day of the mathematical prodigy Srinivasa Ramanujan was observed at SRC, Kumbakonam on 26th April, 2011. Dr. K. Kannan, Dean, Humanities and Sciences, SASTRA, garlanded the bust of Srinivasa Ramanujan at SRC.



X ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS @ SRC

The X Annual Day Celebrations of the Srinivasa Ramanujam Centre Kumbakonam was held on 17th April 2011. Shri S. Ramachandran, Chairman & CEO Changepond Technologies, Chennai delivered the Annual Day Address and distributed the prizes.

Delivering the Annual Day Address, Shri Ramachandran said that there are two attributes to overall development of an individual. One is related to skill and the other to the personal values. Personal values like honesty, morality, adaptability, flexibility, dependability, reliability and responsibility are more important than any skill the world could ever think of.



Cash awards to the tune of ₹ 2 lakhs were given away by the Chief Guest to the academic toppers. Shri. A. Karthik of IV B.Tech., ECE and Kumari M. Safana Farjeen of III B.Sc., Bio-Chemistry received the best outgoing student awards for the year 2010-11.

X ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

The X Annual Sports Day of Srinivasa Ramanujam Centre were held on 17th April 2011. Shri D. Ilangovan, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kumbakonam sub division was the chief guest. Winners and runners in various sports and track events were given away certificates and prizes. The winners of the inter school competitions, organized by SASTRA, as part of its Youth talent encouragement programme, also received cash prizes to the tune of ₹30,000.



SPECIAL LECTURES TO B.Ed., DDE STUDENTS

Dr. S. Balakumar, Asst. Prof. Dept of Chemistry and Bio-Sciences, SASTRA and Dr. S. Selvaraj, Consultant Laparoscopic Surgeon, KS Hospital Kumbakonam delivered lectures on "Pathogenicity of HIV & Control Measures", on 5th May 2011 to the teacher trainees at SRC pursuing B.Ed., programme through Distance mode at SASTRA University.

PLACEMENTS AT SRC

Around 330 students of SRC, Kumbakonam campus have been placed in premier organizations during the campus interviews held in this academic year.

More than 20 companies like TCS, WIPRO, IBM, CTS, L&T, Vedanta, Mahindra, IDBI, etc, visited SRC and were satisfied with the performance of the students. Students belonging to various branches of B.Tech, B.Sc, B.Com, BBA, BCA and MCA were selected by these companies.

It is also heartening to note that Chi. N. Vinoth, son of late R. Namachivayam of Innambur has been placed in Robert Bosch, a leading IT Service Company, with an annual package of Rs. 3.20 lakh.

Vinoth secured the second rank at the +2 examination with vocational subjects in 2007. Hailing from an economically challenged family, Vinoth was supported by his mother, a daily labourer.

The SASTRA Management, coming to know about his humble parentage, granted him admission with full scholarship by waiving the tuition fee of Rs. 2.80 lakh and true to the expectations of the University he has been successfully placed in Robert Bosch. The performance of Vinoth is an eye – opener for his likes.



BRIDGE COURSES

A Bridge Course was conducted for the lateral entry students of the B.Tech. Programme from 2nd May to 17th June 2011. Technical Communication, Mathematics, Basic Civil, Mechanical, Electrical Engg. and Computer Science were taught to the Diploma students who enter the B.Tech Programme, to enable them to facilitate smooth transition into the Engineering Programme. Around 250 students admitted into the lateral entry course, who studied at Shanmuga Polytechnic College and various polytechnics from the state attended the programme.

A similar programme was conducted from 2nd May to 31st May for the students who enter the final year Diploma course of Shanmuga Polytechnic College. English, Mathematics and Physics were the subjects covered in the course.

NSS ACTIVITIES

Best NSS Volunteer Award

15 NSS Volunteers of SRC were given 'Best NSS Volunteer Awards' for their active participation in all NSS programmes for the past 3 years.



Shri T. Illangovan, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kumbakonam Division gave away the awards at a function held on 10th April 2011. Certificates and

Books were awarded to them as a token of appreciation for their services.

World Environment Day

World Environment Day was observed on 10th June 2011 by the NSS Units at SRC in association with Tamil Nadu Science Forum and Young Scientists Alumni Association.



Dr. N. Ganga, President, Tamil Nadu Science Forum, Thanjavur, participated in the function and distributed prizes to the winners of Quiz Programme on Environment, held on that day.

Voter Awareness Campaign

Voter Awareness Campaign was organized at SRC on 11th April 2011. Pamphlets were distributed to the public by 150 NSS volunteers who took part in the campaign.



Blood Donation

104 units of blood was donated to Shri Kali Blood Bank by NSS volunteers on 12th April 2011. Blood Group & Hemoglobin levels were identified for 220 students. Dr. S. Ravi & Dr. Shanmuga sundaram organized the camp.



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