



# ITI HAS

(IT Is Happening At SASTRA)



Newsletter from SASTRA University

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## Message from the VICE - CHANCELLOR



Enriching the intelligence quotient of learners is only one dimension of the activities of an institution of higher learning. It should also function as a promoter of social and spiritual values among the young learners. SASTRA is cognizant of this obligation and promotes a number of activities to enhance social and spiritual awareness of its learners. As

a further step in this direction, SASTRA has proposed to establish two chairs – one for Rural Development in memory of the former President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and another for Indian Values in memory of Swami Dayananda Saraswati.

It is gratifying to note that the 40 students adopted by SASTRA who were rendered homeless and parentless, are coming up well at the Swami Dayananda Public School at Rishikesh. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with them during his visit to Rishikesh on September 11, 2015.

The placements at SASTRA is poised to scale a new height this year. Over 1825 students have been placed by reputed companies so far.

Prof. M.S. Ananth, Former Director, IIT Madras delivered the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Address at SASTRA on September 6, 2015. TARKA SASTRA, the national level Moot Court Competition witnessed participation from 22 law colleges from all over the country. Justice K.T. Thomas inaugurated the event.

A 'Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases' has been established at SASTRA, in July this year. Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India inaugurated the centre. Merit Scholarships worth Rs 87.26 lakhs have also been distributed by him to 836 students.

Dr. Jacob Tsimmerman of the University of Toronto, Canada has been selected by the Awards committee to receive the SASTRA Ramanujan Award 2015. The award will be presented to him at the International Conference on Number Theory to be held during December 21-22, 2015 at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre of SASTRA, Kumbakonam.

SASTRA has instituted a new award this year in the name of 'SASTRA-Obaid Siddiqi Award' for outstanding research contribution in Life Sciences.

An International Conference on 'Angiogenesis: Technology and Therapeutics' and a host of events by various Schools have been organized during this quarter. 12 veteran school teachers were honoured with a silver cup and a shawl on the Teachers Day celebrations organized by the School of Education, SRC, Kumbakonam on September 5, 2015.

Best wishes!

*Prof. R. Sethuraman*  
Vice-Chancellor

## XXIX CONVOCATION

The 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation of SASTRA University was held on September 6, 2015. Prof. M.S. Ananth, Former Director, IIT Madras & Distinguished Visiting Professor, IIT Bombay delivered the convocation address and awarded the degrees. Delivering the convocation address, Prof. Ananth said, "Humility and faith in God are the two limbs of intuitive revelation needed for indefinite progress of human life." He drew inspiring examples from the lives of the teacher-turned President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and the President-turned teacher Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam who were humble and faithful in their quest for intellectual accomplishment.

He stressed on the need for unity among natural and social sciences for the highest form of enlightenment. Complimenting the progress of education and research in natural sciences like engineering and medicine, he called for a transformation in the neglected areas of social sciences and humanities. An integrated approach is the key to explore the lawful material world outside - both human and natural.

The conventional teaching-learning approach must concentrate on diverse approaches to solve a problem than solving diverse problems, said Prof. Ananth, counselling students to reduce problems to a solution. Such creative experiments could not happen in theoretical steps but only through leaps in the thought process using the best of both the left and right brain assets.



A student receives the degree from Prof. M.S. Ananth



Prof. M.S. Ananth delivering the convocation address

He laid emphasis on the three components of education - knowledge, know how and character building - pursuing all the three embedded with a deep sense of nationalism.

Ph.D. degrees were awarded to 50 students and graduate and post-graduate degrees were awarded to over 3,500 students belonging to various disciplines of engineering, sciences, management, law and humanities.

The best doctoral thesis in Engineering was awarded to Ms. K. S. Suganthi for her work that resulted in seven publications with a cumulative impact factor of 26 and for Sciences to Shri Ganesh Kumar Mani for his work leading to eight publications with a cumulative impact factor of 31. The best doctoral thesis in the discipline of Humanities was awarded to Swami Santatmananda from Rishikesh for his work on 'Dvaita and Advaita Comparative Philosophies.'

The Lord Selvamuthukumar Award for the Best Outgoing Student of the graduating batch of 2015 was awarded to Chi. R.V. Trilochan, a B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering graduate.

Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor while welcoming the gathering highlighted the recent achievements of the University.



A section of the audience in the Convocation Function

**TARKA SASTRA 2015**

TARKA SASTRA 2015, the 5th National Level Moot Court Competition was organised from September 18-20, 2015 by the School of Law, SASTRA University. Justice Shri K.T. Thomas, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India inaugurated the event and spoke on 'Indian Constitution and Minority Rights.' Justice Thomas pointed out that a 13-member bench of the apex court had declared that India shall always remain a secular state while delivering its verdict in the Kesavananda Bharati case in the year 1973, four years before the word 'secularism' was added in the preamble.



Justice K.T. Thomas inaugurating TARKA SASTRA

Describing the Constitution of India as the greatest event to have ever happened in the history of the world, he said, “Constitution has been the creator of all institutions of India, including the Supreme Court, Parliament and the office of President of India, and governs them.”

Though Constitution did not define 'minority', it deals with the issue in two Articles – 29 and 30, Justice Thomas pointed out. “Constitution has not provided any special privilege or rights to minorities. If such rights were provided, Article 14, which enshrined 'Equality before Law,' would have become null and void. As far as faith is concerned, Article 25 says everybody has freedom of conscience, free profession, practice and propagation of religion. However, this right is subject to public order, public morality and public health. By this, the constitution says India is more important than



Justice K.T. Thomas addressing the audience

religions. Similarly, Article 26 allows religions to acquire and administer property, but only in accordance with law,” he added.

The fifth edition of Tarka Sastra centred on the moot problem of Article 26 and the right to own and administer temples. Around 22 law colleges from all over the country, including six national law schools competed for the prestigious trophy and a cash award of Rs 50,000 and special awards.

The intense competition ended in the finals between School of Excellence in Law (SoEL), Chennai and the School of Law, Christ University, Bangalore with SoEL bagging the top honours, including the awards for best speaker, best memorial and the overall championship trophy. The judges for the grand finale were Senior Advocate and Former Advocate General of Karnataka Shri Uday Holla, Additional Solicitor General of India Shri G. Rajagopalan and Senior Advocate Shri M.S. Krishnan.

Shri Uday Holla, who spoke in the valedictory function, encouraged the law students to prefer litigation over corporate jobs. He highlighted the values of integrity, diligence and thirst for knowledge as the key ingredients for the making of a successful jurist. Shri G. Rajagopalan, emphasized the importance of moot court competitions in shaping a lawyer's future and said that though it was result oriented and there was pressure to deliver, the students should shed their anxiety if they wanted to win a moot which he described to be a 'Twenty-20 game'.





A Moot Session in progress during the Competition

Shri M.S. Krishnan said that law pervades every aspect of life and a lawyer needs to be a jack of all trades. He regretted that corruption and incompetence has made inroads into the bar and judiciary and told the students to give importance to dignity.

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. R. Sethuraman recalled an anecdote relating to the legendary Nani Palkhivala's ingenuity in obtaining an order to confirm a property auction. Congratulating the students, he said that Nani Palkhivala's meteoric rise from being a stammering student to becoming an orator of eminence should be an inspiration to all students of legal education.



Prize distribution



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ANGIOGENESIS: TECHNOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS

The third International Conference on 'Angiogenesis: Technology and Therapeutics' was organized by the School of Chemical and Biotechnology, SASTRA from September 23-25, 2015.

“Targetting vascular markers hold the key to treat various diseases,” said Shri Gopal Kundu of the National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, speaking at the conference. He indicated that the Indian Society for Angiogenesis Research will be initiated shortly to enable knowledge networking among researchers in the field.

Dr. Debabrata Mukhopadhyay, Mayo Clinic, USA, and Dr. David O' Bates, from the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, were the Chief Guests.

Dr. Mukhopadhyay emphasised the need for similar conferences to promote outreach, nurture scientific temper among the youth and break boundaries to serve humanity. Prof. Bates highlighted the importance of networking among scientists to develop communities.

Dr. Mukhopadhyay and Dr. Bates delivered plenary lectures on “Angiogenesis and neuropilin” and “Anti-angiogenic form of VEGF” respectively.

Dr. Srinivasan Vedantham of the School of Chemical and Biotechnology, SASTRA, the Convener of the conference, underlined the importance of such thematic meetings for the benefit of students and scientific community.

Prof. G. Bhalachandran, Registrar, SASTRA University, released the booklet on conference proceedings. The conference sponsored by the Department of Biotechnology, Department of Science and Technology and the Indian Council of Medical Research, brought together more than 150 scientists, technologists, clinicians and policy makers to deliberate on the various facets of angiogenesis.



A total of 27 invited lectures on various aspects of angiogenesis molecular mechanisms and novel targets were delivered by eminent researchers from across the globe.

Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean - Sponsored Research, SASTRA University, and Dr. Mukhopadhyay distributed the prizes for the best poster presentations.

## CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology inaugurated the Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases (CRID) at SASTRA University on July 25, 2015. Speaking at the inauguration, Prof. Vijay Raghavan said that specialisation in isolation does not always breed excellence and stressed on the importance of inter-disciplinary approach to solve problems in the fields of health care, energy, food, and public health. Scientists and technologists should contribute to the growth and development of the country by addressing the problems faced by the nation through basic research, he said.

### Merit Scholarship Distribution

Prof. Vijay Raghavan gave away the annual merit scholarships to the tune of Rs. 87.26 lakh to 863 students placed in the Dean's list based on their performance during the SASTRA University Examinations.

Students placed in the top 2 per cent are awarded a Dean's list certificate and a scholarship by way of 20 per cent tuition fee refund. Students between top three and 10 per cent are given 10 per cent tuition fee refund.

Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean, Sponsored Research and Director, Centre for Nanotechnology and Advanced Biomaterials (CeNTAB) welcomed the gathering and announced the institution of the SASTRA Obaid Siddiqi Award for outstanding research contribution in Life Sciences.

Dr. N. Saisubramanian presented an overview of the vision, goals, and research activities of the Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases (CRID) at SASTRA.



A student receives the Merit Scholarship from Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan

PLACEMENTS @ SASTRA

1825 students of various streams have been placed as on September 30, 2015 at the campus recruitment drive that started from July 2015 onwards. M/s TATA Consultancy Services (TCS) recruited a total of 1304 students in its campus recruitment conducted on September 6 & 7, 2015.

More than 350 students were placed earlier in product companies such as PayPal , Amazon, Zoho, Freshdesk, MuSigma, Dell, Informatica, Chargebee, Thorogood, Microsoft, Latentview and Rockwell with an average pay of Rs.6 lakh.

TCS also recruited nine students in the product category with a salary of Rs. 6.5 lakh per annum for niche services in Research and Digital Innovations Labs.

The placements at SASTRA is poised to scale new heights this year. The University is piloting various post-recruitment interventions to enhance employability and make the campus to corporate transition smooth.



SOME OF OUR PROUD RECRUITERS



**PRIME MINISTER INTERACTS WITH SASTRA ADOPTED STUDENTS AT RISHIKESH**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, during his visit to Swami Dayananda Ashram at Rishikesh on 11th September 2015, interacted with a section of students studying at Swami Dayanand Public School at Rishikesh. SASTRA University, while providing relief to the 2013 Uttarakand flood victims, assured that around 100 children, who were rendered homeless and parentless, would be provided free education. 40 such students adopted by SASTRA were also part of the brief interaction with the Prime Minister. SASTRA University was represented by Dr. S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning & Development.



Dr. S.Vaidhyasubramaniam also handed over the Ph.D. Degree of Swami Santatmananda, a disciple of Swami Dayananda, who recently completed his Ph.D. on 'A Comparative analysis of Advaita & Visishtadvaita.' The best doctoral thesis cash award of Rs.25,000/- and the Ph.D. degree were also presented to Swami Santatmananda by Swami Dayanada on September 11, 2015.



Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam with Swamy Dayananda Saraswati & Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

**JACOB TSIMERMAN TO RECEIVE 2015 SASTRA – RAMANUJAN PRIZE**

The 2015 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize will be awarded to Dr. Jacob Tsimerman of the University of Toronto, Canada. Jacob Tsimerman is an extraordinary young mathematician who has made deep and highly original contributions to diverse parts of number theory, and most notably to the famous Andre-Oort Conjecture. He is one of the few mathematicians to have complete mastery over two very different areas of mathematics – analytic number theory and algebraic geometry. This has enabled him to achieve significant progress on a number of fundamental problems lying at the interface of the two subjects. Much of Tsimerman's research stems from the spectacular Ph. D. thesis entitled “Towards an unconditional proof of the Andre-Oort conjecture and surrounding problems” that he wrote at Princeton University in 2010 under the direction of Prof. Peter Sarnak. The thesis concerns arithmetical questions around the Andre-Oort conjecture and makes substantial progress towards it.



Dr. Tsimerman has several first rate contributions spanning algebraic geometry, number theory, mathematical logic and analysis. He is an exceptionally broad and creative mathematician and the breadth of his expertise seems unrivaled among number theorists of his age. All indications are that he will continue to contribute at the very highest level and will be a major force in the world of mathematics for the next several decades.

Dr. Tsimerman was born in Kazan, Russia on April 26, 1988. In 1990, his family first moved to Israel and then in 1996 to Canada, where he participated in various mathematical competitions from the age of 9. In 2003 and 2004, he represented Canada in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) and won gold medals both years, with a perfect score in 2004. During 2004-06, in just two years, he finished his Bachelors degree courses in Toronto. During 2006-11, he was a doctoral student at Princeton under the supervision of Prof. Peter Sarnak and was supported by an American Mathematical Society (AMS) Centennial

Fellowship. Following his Ph. D., he had a post-doctoral position at Harvard University as a Junior Fellow of the Harvard Society of Fellows. In July 2014, he was awarded a Sloan Fellowship and he started his term as Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize is the first major international prize awarded to him. He emerged as the top choice out of a pool of exceptionally strong candidates.

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 achieved so much in his brief life of 32 years. The prize will be awarded during December 21-22, 2015 at the annual International Conference on Number Theory at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam (Ramanujan's hometown).

The 2015 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize Committee consisted of Professors Krishnaswami Alladi - Chair (University of Florida), Henri Darmon (McGill University) Winnie Li (The Pennsylvania State University), Hugh Montgomery (University of Michigan), Peter Paule (Johannes Kepler University Linz), Michael Rapoport (University of Bonn), and Cameron Stewart (University of Waterloo). Previous winners of the Prize are Manjul Bhargava and Kannan Soundararajan in 2005 (two full prizes), Terence Tao in 2006, Ben Green in 2007, Akshay Venkatesh in 2008, Kathrin Bringmann in 2009, Wei Zhang in 2010, Roman Holowinsky in 2011, Zhiwei Yun in 2012, Peter Scholze in 2013 and James Maynard in 2014. The award of the 2015 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize to Jacob Tsimerman is in keeping with the tradition of recognizing the spectacular contributions by the most brilliant young mathematicians.

### TCS -BEST STUDENT PROJECT AWARD 2015

The Best Student Project Award 2015, instituted by TATA Consultancy Services (TCS), was given to two students of SASTRA University this year. The award was presented by Shri C.Ramkumar, Head, HR Unit, TCS-Chennai, at a



function held at SASTRA on September 8, 2015. The award carrying a gold medal each and a sum of Rs.20,000/- was given to the winning project team - Kum. M. Lakshmi Priya and Kum. S. Sujitha for their project titled “Tumour Diagnosis using Image Processing and Soft Computing Techniques”. Their mentor was Dr.K.S. Ravichandran, Associate Dean, School of Computing, SASTRA.

### WAR OF WORDS

'War of Words' a debate was organised by the School of Law on the topic “Constitutionality of the National Judicial Appointment Commission” on August 22, 2015. Advocate Shri Suhirth Parthasarathy argued in favour of the Commission and contended that the Collegium system was against the spirit of the Constitutional Assembly Debates where as Shri P. Giridharan pointed out the potential for interference by the political class in Judicial Appointments in the proposed Bill and averred that what was required was reforms for the Collegium system and not its overthrow. Senior Advocate Shri N. Venkatraman was the moderator for the debate.



In the afternoon Shri N. Venkatraman, delivered a Knowledge Leadership Forum lecture on “Law in the Landscape of Globalization” where he elaborated the emerging contours of the legal landscape in a globalising world and how laws and regulatory structures have emerged cutting across national boundaries.

### KLF LECTURES



Ms. Suchitra Vijayan, Barrister-at-law, Writer and Political Theorist delivered a lecture on September 10, 2015 on “Human Rights and Anthro-Juridical History.” She contended that every

right that has become a part of the 'Human Rights complex'

was born out of struggles in particular contexts and should be understood as such. She shared her experiences of her wide travel along national boundaries and how such experiences can shape our ideas on rights.



Dr. Shannon Olsson, NCBS, TIFR, Bangalore spoke on “Naturalist-Inspired Chemical Ecology” that was organized by School of Chemical and

Biotechnology on August 14, 2015. She spoke on her research, which employs a comparative approach to understand how insect brains parse the complex natural chemical environment to generate decisions. The talk generated many research questions among faculty and students that yielded into fruitful interactions with Dr. Shannon.

Dr. Dheepa Srinivasan, Principal Engineer, General Electric Power and Water, Repair Development Center, GE India Technology Center, Bangalore delivered a lecture on Additive Manufacturing and Gas Turbine Materials Lifting on July 20, 2015 and inaugurated the MECASSO (Mechanical, Mechatronics and Aerospace Association) activities for the year. The speaker emphasized the role played by Additive Manufacturing Technology which is the basis of 3 D Printing. Tomorrow's world will possibly rule out the process of machining industrial components and print them in 3-D instead, which is more effective and versatile than the conventional methods.



### TAX CONSULTANCY CELL

The 'SASTRA Tax Consultancy Cell' has been formed in the School of Management to offer services in taxation, investment counselling, property consultation, loan facilitation and documentation to the members of faculty serving at SASTRA University. The Cell which was inaugurated on July 24, 2015 will function under the guidance of Shri CA.S. Balachandran, Professor, School of Management.

### SASTRA ANUKUL SIKSHA PROGRAMME

Under the Anukul Siksha scheme of SASTRA, placement training was provided by the fast learners to 1243 students from main campus and 378 from SRC campus. An online test was also conducted as part of the programme in which 1500 students attended.

### STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS OF SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT



Dr. V. Raghu Raman, Senior Faculty in Business Management, IBRA College of Technology, Sultanate of Oman inaugurated the activities of NIPM

Chapter at the School of Management and spoke on “Employee Engagement and Retention Strategy” on August 10, 2015. He spoke on the three components, namely, commitment, involvement and dedication, which would promote the overall productivity of an organisation. He emphasized that the result of employee engagement varied from individual to individual based on their skills.

Entrepreneurship Development Cell of SASTRA University, organized “SPOT LIGHT,” a meeting of the entrepreneurs, on July 20, 2015. Shri Kumar Vembu, Founder & CEO,



GoFrugal Technologies, Chennai was the invited speaker. He addressed the students on 'Entrepreneurial Skills for young Entrepreneurs'. He encouraged the students to start their business venture at a young age and face the uncertainties with courage.



Shri Arun Abraham Francis, National Head, Campus Hiring, M/s. Informatica, Bangalore inaugurated the activities of Sahithya Association

(Association for the B.Com CA students) on August 18, 2015, for the year 2015-16.

The Entrepreneurship Development Cell of SASTRA University for this academic year was inaugurated on August 24, 2015. The chief guest for this event was Shri Sharat Satyanarayana, a start-up enthusiast, Content Coordinator - Construct Festival and founder of Sponsorships & Content – TEDx Bangalore.



A guest lecture was organized by Phoenix Association, the Students' Association of the School of Management, on August 22, 2015 at 3.45 pm. Dr.N. Panchanatham, Professor & Head, Dept. of Business Administration, Annamalai University addressed the MBA students on “Groom for a Better Career”.

### PROGYAN '15

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Progyan 2015 - A National Level Inter-collegiate Management Students' Meet, organized by the School of Management, SASTRA was organized on September 26 & 27, 2015. Delivering the inaugural address Prof. Dr. G. Sethu, Dean, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Tiruchirapalli said that a student can learn from his own class mates and from the faculty too. The interaction and informal discussion with peers and faculty members initiated high order of learning among the students.



More than 21 institutions participated in various competitions viz., Best CEO, Best CFO, Business Plan, B-Quiz, 4 P's & Operations.

Jansons Business School, Coimbatore won the Overall Trophy and Joseph Institute of Management Trichy, the second place. Shri. R. Gururajan, Asst. Executive Director, Dalmia Cements (Bharat) Ltd, Tiruchirapalli distributed the prizes in the valedictory function.



### TRAINING AND PLACEMENT ACTIVITIES

#### Faculty Induction Programme



A Faculty Induction Programme was organized by the Department of Training and Placement on August 22, 2015.

Seventeen newly recruited faculty members attended the programme. Dr. V. Badrinath, Director – Training & Placement gave the overview. Senior faculty members handled sessions on the following topics: Campus Overview and Student Mentoring - Dr. L. Cresenta Shakila; Service Rules and Regulation by Prof.G. Bhalachandran-Registrar SASTRA; IT Infrastructure - Dr. Shankar Sriram; Research Engagement - Dr.K.Uma Maheswari; Modern Teaching Methods - Dr. K.S. Rajan and Library Services – Shri Adhi Sundarajan.

#### Lecture on Digital Five Forces

Shri Sandip Gosh, M/s. Tata Consultancy Services delivered a lecture on 'Digital Five Forces' on August 4, 2015. He said that TCS has been working globally with different brands adopting the capabilities of the five digital forces to unique needs of each industry, thus reimagining the business model, products & services, customer segments, channels, business processes and workplaces.

#### Counselling for Education Abroad

Fored Overseas, an Education Consultancy, conducted a free counselling session to students aspiring for further education in the US, Canada, UK,



Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Dubai, Ireland and Europe, on September 25, 2015. Smt. Jayanthi of the agency spoke to the aspiring students on foreign education, foreign universities and Visa processing. 210 students attended this programme.

#### Road Shows by IBM and TCS

M/s Tata Consultancy Services – EIS Divisions conducted a road show on August 14, 2015. Shri. Senkathir Selvan, EIS Business Head spoke on the scope of life sciences and



engineering services in Tata Consultancy Services to create a awareness among the budding engineers.

Another event on

“Telecom as Career Option” was conducted on 31st August 2015 by Shri.R. Kannan, Senior Consultant, to create awareness on the Telecom career options for the students.

A Road Show was conducted by IBM on August 25, 2015. The event focussed on the avenues in ISDL and GST of IBM for the young engineering

minds. Shri R a j e s h Ramalingam, Project Manager IBM Client Innovation Centre, India addressed the



students. Another event was conducted by Shri. Jeetesh on September 1, 2015 exclusively for MCA students.

### FREE JEE COACHING

A free two-year JEE Coaching Programme was inaugurated at SASTRA University on July 25, 2015. Inaugurating the programe, Dr.V.Badrinath Director – Training & Placement, SASTRA said that free JEE coaching offered by SASTRA University to the students of Thanjavur, Kumbakonam and Trichy is a great opportunity for the student community, as the coaching is offered at SASTRA campus in Thanjavur, almost at their doorstep. The students need not spend time and money to travel to far off places like Chennai.

Classes are conducted in association with Prof.K.K.Anand's 'SMART' Academy, Chennai. The response from the students of Thanjavur and Trichy Districts for this programme was very good. Out of 858 students who appeared for the preliminary test, 30 toppers were selected. Out of which 14 were from Trichy and 16 were from Thanjavur district.

The free coaching classes will be conducted during the weekends at the SASTRA campus, Thanjavur till April 2017. SASTRA is taking these efforts to increase the awareness of JEE students in this region, as JEE is emerging as a popular choice for admission to professional engineering colleges such as IIT, NIT and other institutions such as SASTRA University.

### AWARD TO FACULTY



Aspiring Minds, a leading campus co-ordinating organization has a w a r d e d Dr. V. Badrinath, Director, Training and Placements, SASTRA with the “Visionary Minds

Award” under the Career Guru Award category. He has been recognised for the insightful efforts and best practices towards improving the overall employment ecosystem in the country. The award was given to him at the “National Employability Conclave” held at Coimbatore on 21st September 2015.

### VOICE FOR BT 2015

"Voice for BT 2015" –an inter-collegiate public speaking contest on Bio Technology was held on Aug 28, 2015. The event sponsored by NOVOZYME Company had participants from 30 universities and colleges from four Southern states.

The contest was conducted on the following three clusters: Importance of Cleaner Environment and the role of Biotech Tools, Application of Agricultural Biotechnology in improving food Nutrition in Crops and Importance of Waste to Energy and the role of Biotechnology.

Shri G.S. Krishnan, Regional President, Novozymes India gave the overview of the contest. Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean - Planning & Development, SASTRA delivered the inaugural address. Dr.S. Swaminathan, Dean – Sponsored Research, SASTRA distributed the prizes. The certificates and medallions to the participants were awarded by Shri Mads Bjornvad - R&D Head, Novozymes India and Shri Divakar Rao – Advisor, Life Sciences Sector, Novozymes India.



**CENTRE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**



The Centre for Rural Development Studies (CRDS) at SASTRA University organized a series of guest lectures during the quarter by successful local entrepreneurs to motivate the students.

Shri Subramania Sharma, Managing Director, Bombay Sweets, Thanjavur addressed the MBA students on the topic “You Too Can Become An Entrepreneur” on July 24, 2015.

CRDS celebrated the Independence Day at the Government Middle School in the neighbouring Tirumalaisamudram village. The celebrations began with the hoisting of our national flag, which was followed by cultural events performed by SASTRA University students imparting the message of 'Patriotic Spirit.' The 'Therukoothu Team' of SASTRA University performed a street play and imparted social messages to the students. The Gaana Varshini team sang patriotic songs on the occasion.

**SASTRA COMMUNITY OUTREACH (SCORE)**

**FREE EYE CHECK-UP**



A free eye check-up camp was organised by SCORE, PLASMA and EXNORA of SASTRA on September 30, 2015. Dr. Subratanu Chakraborti, Mahatma Gandhi Eye Hospital, Trichy, who spoke on the

occasion, emphasised on the need for eye donation. He mentioned that one person can donate eyesight to 8 people as the layers of the eye can be transplanted.

SCORE organised another free eye check up camp on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 for the benefit of staff and students in which more than 600 people benefitted. The camp was organized by Mahatma Gandhi Eye Hospital, Trichy.

**Cleaning Work at Government Schools**

Volunteers from SCORE and EXNORA cleaned the Government Schools at Tirumalaisamudram, Vallam and Sengipatti on 30th September 2015.



**Celebrating the Spirit of Mahatma Gandhi**

A cultural program was conducted on September 30, 2015 at JVC Auditorium to celebrate the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi. The events included, performances by the students of Telugu and Tamil Lits, screening of documentaries and speeches on Mahatma Gandhi. The Centre for Development Studies (CDS), in collaboration with Share Your Hands and Gandhian Studies organized the event.

**UPAHAAR**



“Humanity defines a Human” is the motto behind 'Upahaar,' a student organization of SASTRA started in 2011. There are currently 200 volunteers in the organization,

actively participating in various philanthropic activities. It aims at providing food, shelter and education to the needy.

Upahaar paid the complete course fee to an MBA student, during 2013-15. The team sponsored a meal to the inmates of “Udhavum Manangal,” an old age home at Trichy on August 15, 2015 as part of the Independence Day celebration. Blankets and meal were provided to the 30 inmates of TRUWDES, an old age home at Thuvakudi.

**ONAM CELEBRATED AT SASTRA**

SASTRA, with its national student community, celebrated Onam in traditional Kerala style. Onam is celebrated in memory of community at large and celebration of past history as enunciated in the Mahabali legend, a story of how paradise was lost and for the harvest, tied with the memory of the golden age of prosperity. Students from Kerala and other Malayalam students and faculty from different parts got together and welcomed King Mahabali with floral designs and offered special prayers at the temple in SASTRA campus. They had also arranged for Onam Sadhya, a traditional Kerala delicacy to be served to the invited guests. The Vice-Chancellor, SASTRA University, conveyed his personal Onam wishes and wished them prosperity.



Ph.D. AT SASTRA

The following faculty members received their  
Ph.D. Degrees at the XXIX Convocation of SASTRA

**Dr. S.Balachandran**

**Title :** A Study on Energy and Indices of Graphs



**Dr. C.Savariraj Sahayam**

**Title :** Studies on Salacia Oblonga Wall. - In the Prevention and Management of Type II Diabetes Mellitus and Related Microvascular Complications



**Dr. A.Srinivasan**

**Title :** Tamizh Language Speech Processing: An Improvement of the LBG Algorithm and its Application to an Analysis and Recognition of the Tamizh Consonant 'H' (zha)



**Dr. V.Alagesan**

**Title :** Development of Two-Phase Heat Transfer Correlations for Liquid - Liquid Systems in Shell and Tube Heat Exchanger



**Dr. S.G. Venkatesh**

**Title :** Development of Legendre Wavelet Based Hybrid Techniques for a Few Differential Equations Arising in Engineering



**Dr. B.Karthikeyan**

**Title :** Analysis, Development and Validation of Algorithms for Compression of Radiographic Images



**Dr. R.Senthilkumar**

**Title :** Studies on Integrated Aqueous Two Phase (ATPi) System for the Extraction and Purification of Natural Protease



**Dr. R.Jayabharathy**

**Title :** Context Aware Location Based Services for Next Generation Wireless Networks



**Dr. K. Ramesh**

**Title :** Marxist and Neo-Marxist Approaches to the Study of Select Novels of Huxley, Orwell and Bradbury



**Dr. B.N. Vedha Hari**

**Title :** Development and Characterization of Efavirenz Loaded Nanoparticles



**Dr. R.D. Sathiya**

**Title :** Estimation of Significant Wave Height Using Ocean Satellite Images



**Dr.R. Sundararaman**

**Title :** Phytochemical and Pharmacological Studies on Some Medicinal Plants Used in the Treatment of Peptic Ulcer



**Title :** Steganography System on Reconfigurable Hardware and Its Design Verification



## TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATIONS

Teachers Day was celebrated at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA, Kumbakonam on September 5, 2015. Dr. K. Chellappan, Formerly Head, Dept. of English, Bharathidasan University was the Chief Guest. Addressing the teachers, Dr. Chellappan said that an ideal teacher regards children not as a vase to be filled in but a fire to be lit. He strives to bring out the best in them. 'Moulding machines may be the task of other professionals but moulding the young minds is prerogative only of those in the profession of teaching,' said Dr. Chellappan. The two presidents of our nation namely Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam were exemplary teachers who paved way for national progress on account of their personal integrity and professional devotion, said the speaker who went on to request the teachers and student teachers to safeguard the nobility of the profession at all costs.



The veteran teachers who were honoured

### VETERAN TEACHERS HONOURED

The following twelve veteran teachers were honoured with a silver cup and a shawl each on the occasion:

- Shri V. Appaswamy (86)
- Shri R. Ramachandran (83)
- Shri M. Sivanesan (82)
- Shri N. Sundaram (82)
- Shri M. Subramanian (81)
- Shri K.A. Kanagasabai (80)
- Shri R. Sundararajan (76)
- Smt J. Arulmary (76)
- Shri N. Keerthivasan (76)
- Smt R. Rajam (75)
- Shri R. Lakshmanan (75)
- and Shri Lakshminarasimhan (76)



Dr. K. Chellappan was also specially honoured for his brilliant service as an outstanding academician.

Prof. K.G. Raghunathan, Dr. R.V. Ram, Dr. K. Rajamanickam and Dr. G.P. Ragini also spoke.

In the afternoon, Dr. K. Chellappan delivered a lecture on P.B.Shelley's poem 'The Cloud.'

## VICE CHANCELLOR INTERACTS WITH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Vice Chancellor Prof.R. Sethuraman visited Aringnar Anna Government Higher Secondary School, Kumbakonam on July 24, 2015 and interacted with the 11th and the 12th standard students. A set of note books were given to them as token of appreciation of their academic efforts. Prof.K.G. Raghunathan, Dean, SRC and Dr.G.P. Ragini, of School of Education accompanied the Vice-Chancellor.



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

A two-day National Conference on "Recent Trends in Electrical Sciences and Technology" was organized by the Departments of ECE & EEE, SRC, SASTRA, Kumbakonam on October 16 & 17, 2015. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. R. Vijayarajeshwaran, Managing Director, Vi Micro Systems Pvt.Ltd., Chennai. He spoke on the opportunities for students in the core industry and on various 'Microcontrollers for Embedded Applications.' Shri V. Vijaya Kumar from QMax Test Equipments, Chennai, explored "Automated Testing Methods and Issues." Dr. T. R. Sivaramkrishnan delivered a lecture on "Remote Sensing Technologies and Applications". 43 papers were presented by faculty and students of various institutions. Shri K. Selvam, DGM (O&M), Lanco Tanjore Power Company, Karuppur, chaired the valedictory session and released the souvenir.



**STUDENT ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES**

The activities of the ExACT association were inaugurated on July 25, 2015 by Dr. Y. Venkataramani Formerly Professor, NIT – Calicut & Dean (Research & Development), Saranathan College of Engineering, Trichy. He delivered a lecture on “Security against Black hole attacks in Mobile Adhoc Networks.”

Prof. V.Gopal, Professor of Finance and Accounting, Indian Institute of Management, Trichy inaugurated the activities of COM-MAN Forum, the association for the students of Commerce and Management Studies on August 14, 2015.

The activities of GENECEM, the association for the students of Chemistry and Bio-Sciences, were inaugurated by Dr.S. Selvarajan, of K.S. Hospital, Kumbakonam on August 18, 2015 with a lecture on Acid in Gastro Intestinal Tract.

Workshops for the students on “Firefox OS Application Development & Webzilla” and “Infographics & Tricky Designing” were conducted by the students of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering on August 22, 2015 and October 10, 2015.

A guest lecture on “Current Trends in IT” was delivered by Shri Gnanaganesh Dhanvel, Senior Software Engineer, Google Corporation, San Francisco, US on 12th September 2015. Students of BCA, MCA and B.Tech. CSE attended the lecture.

Computer Society of India organized a workshop on “Network Simulator – 2” on September 26, 2015. Prof. H. Manikandan, of Department of CSE served as the resource person. Around 120 students of B.Tech - Computer Science and Engineering programme participated in the workshop.

The S-FOSS Association of the centre organized a Workshop on “PHP” on August 22, 2015. HTML, DHTML, MySQL and Flash, Web page creation using PHP and MySQL were discussed in the workshop in which 54 students from MCA and MSc programme attended. Shri K.Raghuraman, Ms. K.Priya and Ms. D. Rubidhadevi served as resource persons.

The 'Free and Open Source Software Day' was observed by S-FOSS Association on September 25, 2015. Prof. R.Varahasamy delivered a special talk on “Data Analytic Tool – R” and Prof.T.F.Michael Raj demonstrated “Web Ontology.”

The School of Education organized an Eye Screening Camp to the students of B.Ed. and M.Sc.,B.Ed. programme on October 12, 2015 as part of its World Sight Day Celebrations.160 student teachers got their eyes screened by technicians from Dr. Arvind Vision Care, Kumbakonam. Dr. V. Arvind spoke on 'Advanced Eye Care for All'.

**SASTRA WINS FESTEMBER FOR THE RECORD 15<sup>TH</sup> TIME**

SASTRA's cultural team won the Illayaraja Rolling Trophy of the Festember 2015, the national level cultural festival organized by NIT, Trichy on September 24 - 27, 2015, for the record 15th time. The management of SASTRA congratulates the winning team.



The cultural team of SRC which participated in FESTEMBER'15 came out in flying colors bagging five First prizes and three Second prizes. In Kuraloviam, Karpaga Lakshmi of III ECE won the first Prize. In Villupattu, R. Thiruvassagam and his team secured the First place. K. Radhika of IV ECE won the I Prize in Carnatic solo for the second consecutive year. Selvi S.Karpaga Lakshmi, Nandini Ishwarya Devi and R.Anusha bagged the First place in Katrodu Kathai Pesu. The team was rewarded with a cash award of Rs.15,500 for its meritorious performances in various competitions.



**RAMZAN SWEET DISTRIBUTION**

SASTRA Management distributed sweets worth Rs.50,000 at Nagore Dargah in view of Ramzan.



**NCC AND NSS**

46 NSS volunteers of SRC participated in the Crowd Regulation duty at Swaminatha Swamy Temple at Swamimalai for Karthigai festival on August 8, 2015. 52 volunteers performed crowd regulations duty at the temple on September 9, 2015 in view of the Kumbabishekam.

182 units of blood were donated to Sri Kaali Blood Bank by the students of SRC, Kumbakonam at a Blood Donation Camp organized on September 10, 2015.

133 NSS volunteers participated in the medical awareness rally organized by the Kumbakonam Municipality on September 30, 2015.

The SD and SW cadets of the NCC wing at SRC participated in the Combined Annual Training Camp / Group RDC-1 Selection camp held at Vidya Mandir Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Kandarakottai from August 22- 31, 2015.

**MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS TO POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS**

Merit based scholarships were distributed to students of Shanmugha Polytechnic College on August 20, 2015. Shri T.P. Jaibeam, District Revenue Officer, Thanjavur distributed scholarships worth Rs 16 lakh to 94 students.

Four students of the I year and 47 students of the II year Diploma Programme received a scholarship of Rs 25,000 each. 43 third year students were awarded scholarships ranging from Rs 10000 to Rs 5000 based on their semester marks.

During the First Year Diploma admission this year, 35 students were awarded Rs 25,000 each for their score of 90 % and above in their 10th standard examination.

The Chief Guest appreciated the management of SASTRA for this gesture and said that this kind of scholarships and encouragements were not given by other institutions. He advised the students to spend the money for their educational purpose and advised the parents, who were also present in the meeting, to keep an eye on the students.



*Book-Post*



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**TAMIL NADU**

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