SASTRA strives to get better everyday towards its journey for continuous improvement. Our efforts have borne fruit and this is evident in SASTRA’s remarkable improvement in the NIRF ranking of the MHRD released in April.

The Counselling for admission to the B.Tech. programmes of SASTRA was held from June 19-22, 2017. There has been a heavy rush for admission to the programmes at SASTRA, for SASTRA offers high affordability and quality. 23,000 students from over 15 states in India have applied for the programmes. Apart from the regular quota under the All India Rank, 15 students from the North-Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar have been admitted under a special supernumerary provision.

B.Optom., a four-year under-graduate programme in Optometry has been started in this academic year, in collaboration with Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai.

At the XVI University Day celebrated on April 10, 2017, Dr. K.P. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship delivered the university day address and distributed awards to students and faculty members. He inaugurated Project REVERE in the presence of Shri S. Ramadorai, Chairman, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, on the occasion. Project REVERE, a joint-initiative of the TATA Trust and SASTRA, aims at training 1,000 poor rural youth in the next three years to get employment or to start their own businesses.

The School of Law organized the 13th Nani Palkhivala Memorial National Moot Court Competition in April, in which 20 teams from 7 National Law Schools across the country participated. A moot team from SASTRA has been selected for the 9th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition to be held in Geneva in July.

Several Faculty Development Programmes and Workshops were conducted during the quarter. Students have won laurels in technical contests and in Moot court competitions.

Classes for the academic year commenced on June 26, 2017 and I wish all our students a successful year ahead!

Prof. R. Sethuraman
Vice-Chancellor
The Counselling for admissions to B.Tech. and M.Tech. Five Year (Integrated) programmes offered by SASTRA University, Thanjavur was held from June 19 - 22, 2017. Krishna Teja, P. Bhanumahesh and C. Vaishnavi, the top three rankers with All India Rank of 39, 42 and 43 respectively, picked Computer Science and Engineering.

Shri N. Murugan, SRM-IOB, Shri Ramakrishnan, Chief Manager- CUB and Shri Balamukundan, DGM-Punjab National Bank handed over the admission letters to the three students and also launched the educational loan scheme with special interest rates for SASTRA University students.

Fifteen students from the North-Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar have been offered admission to various engineering programmes at SASTRA University under a special supernumerary provision.

Computer Science & ECE continued its academic popularity and emerged the most popular branches sought after by students. 70% of seats were allotted based on the JEE and plus two combined score and the remaining 30% on normalized plus two aggregate marks.

Welcoming the students, Dr. S. Vaidhsubramainam, Dean – Planning and Development, highlighted the high accessibility, affordability, quality and opportunity quotient at SASTRA.

Education Loan Campaign by Banks

The City Union Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and Punjab National Bank put up special counters for on-the-spot sanctioning of education loans to the students admitted to SASTRA, during the Counselling days.

Counselling at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre-SASTRA, Kumbakonam

Counselling for admission to various B.Tech. programmes offered at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre of SASTRA at Kumbakonam was held on June 23, 2017. Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean-Sponsored Research, SASTRA handed over the first admission letter to Chi. Totla Sasi Kumar Reddy, the topper in the merit list.

Merit List

The rank list for admission to various Engineering and Law programmes offered by SASTRA was released on June 10, 2017. A total of 23,000 students applied from various States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Bihar, Rajasthan, Assam, Jharkhand, and Kerala for admission to over 1,600 seats in engineering.
The XVI University Day of SASTRA was celebrated on April 10, 2017. Dr. K.P. Krishnan, I.A.S., Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India delivered the University Day Address and distributed the awards to students and faculty members. He also inaugurated Project REVERE, on the occasion.

Delivering the university day address, Dr. Krishnan said, “Universities and higher educational institutions can experiment a student-entrepreneur in residence programme to encourage entrepreneurship through a flexible curriculum.” He also stressed the need for harmonising knowledge creation with skills and entrepreneurship for socio-economic development.

Dr. Krishnan recalled the entrepreneurial nativity of Indian communities that were active in global trade in the 16th century. He wanted universities and other stakeholders to build a robust entrepreneurial network through skill acquisition.

Citing the example of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, USA, he said that a study in 2006 estimated that top 25% of the MIT global alumni contributed to three million employment opportunities and created 2.8 trillion wealth which was equivalent to being the 11th largest economy in the world. The entrepreneurship development model of Israel resulted in a sharp fall in unemployment from 9% in 2000 to 4% in 2011.

Universities and higher education institutions must innovate and switch to the employment creation mode for which the governments are extending huge support. Dr. Krishnan also spoke of the convergence of skill initiatives and the dynamic troika – ITIs, polytechnic education and entrepreneurship as a component of public policy.

Dr. Krishnan also presented the Kamakoti Award for the Best Outgoing Engineering graduate to Kum. R. Madumitha (Mechanical) and the Justice Patanjali Sastry Award & G.Ramaswamy Award to the best outgoing law graduates Kum. S. Harini (BA.,LLB) & Chi. M. Kiran (B.B.A.,LLB.) comprising a citation and a cash award of Rs.1,00,000 each.

The SAPHIRE Award for outstanding faculty research, was given to Dr. John Bosco, Dr. Uma Maheshwari & Dr.K.S. Rajan which carries a citation and a paid foreign vacation to the faculty & their family members. Besides these, Rs.1 Lakh was awarded as cash incentive to 13 SASTRA faculty members, for having completed Ph.D. without compromising their academic work load.

Shri S. Ramadorai, former Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation and Chairman TATA Institute of Social Sciences, who was the guest of honour at the programme, stressed on the need for technology and digital ecosystems for transforming skill development from a start-up to a scaled-up project mode.
Vice-Chancellor Prof. R. Sethuraman presented the annual report highlighting various achievements during the academic year 2016-17. Notable amongst them are the 36 new research projects sanctioned at a total value of Rs 17.5 Crore, student scholarships worth Rs 1.6 Crore besides record campus placement and campus infrastructure expansion to the tune of Rs 22.14 Crore.

**Project REVERE**

Project REVERE — Rural Empowerment through Vocational and Entrepreneurially Reliant Ecosystem - is a joint initiative of the TATA Trust and SASTRA University that aims to train 1,000 socio-economically challenged rural youth through three and six months free training programmes to build sustainable livelihood mechanisms through gainful employment or by way of starting own businesses.

Each trainee would be paid a monthly stipend of Rs 4,000 and imparted various skill development programmes such as driving, tailoring, CNC machining, cooking and welding under the project.

**BEST OUTGOING STUDENT AWARD (B.Tech. Programmes)**

Chi. Kakaraparty Manoj - Civil Engg.
Kum. Madhumitha R - Mechanical Engg.
Chi. Sanjeevi Raja KA K - Mechatronics
Chi. Papareddy Dhayakar - Electrical & Electronics Engg.
Kum. Arishankari R - Electrical & Electronics Engg.

Kum. Neerahika D N - Information Technology
Kum. Samyuktha M - Information & Communication Technology
Kum. Supritha K - Bioinformatics
Chi. Harihar M M - Biotechnology
Chi. Kishor K - Chemical Engineering
Kum. Manasa V - Bioengineering

**BEST OUTGOING STUDENT AWARD (Law Programmes)**

Chi. Amrith Bhargav B - B.A., LL.B. (Hons.)
Chi. Anantharaman S - B.Com., LL.B. (Hons.)

**BEST OUTGOING M.TECH. (5-YEAR INTEGRATED) STUDENT AWARD 2017**

Kum. Mathangi J - Biotechnology
Best Outgoing M.Tech. Student Award 2016
Kum. Dhanisha K M - Nanoelectronics

**Ph.D. AWARD**

(In recognition of successful completion of Ph.D. by the Faculty, without compromising their regular academic work)
Dr. A. Arumugam
School of Chemical & Biotechnology
Dr. K.R. Sugumaran
School of Chemical & Biotechnology
Dr. D. Ramya Devi
School of Chemical & Biotechnology
Dr. N. S. Manigandan
School of Chemical & Biotechnology
Dr. V. Padmapriya
School of Electrical & Electronics Engineering
Dr. V. Padmapriya
School of Electrical & Electronics Engineering
Dr. R. Chandiramouli
School of Electrical & Electronics Engineering
Dr. K.R. Sekar - School of Computing
Dr. A. Sumathi - School of Civil Engineering
Dr. V. Vijay Anand - School of Management
Dr. T. S. Varadharajan
School of Humanities & Sciences
Dr. A. Varghese Joseph
School of Humanities & Sciences
Dr. G. Sathiamoorthy
School of Humanities & Sciences
Dr. C. Natarajan
School of Humanities & Sciences
The School of Law, SASTRA University hosted the 13th Nani Palkhivala Memorial National Tax Moot Court Competition, from April 7 – 9, 2017. The moot proposition was based on the Constitutionality of the vires of Entry Tax. The event spread over three days, had 20 teams from 7 National Law Schools from across the country.

The team comprising Niyati Shah, Harshita Choudary and Prajakta Joshi representing SVKM School of Law, Mumbai emerged winners, won the trophy and cash award of Rs 50,000 by pushing the team comprising Himanshu, Aditya and Arun representing GNLU to the second spot.

Hon’ble Justices Shri Rajiv Shakdher, Dr. Anita Sumanth of the Madras High Court and Shri N Venkataraman, Senior Advocate of Supreme Court were the judges for finals and gave away the awards to the winners.

Speaking at the valedictory function, Justice Shakdher said that law is the lifeblood of the Constitution and muscle of the justice machinery. He paid rich encomiums to the late Nani Palkhivala and recalled his contributions to Indian law starting from the Kesavananda Bharati case. Terming Palkhivala as an ‘accidental lawyer,’ he spoke of how the legendary jurist transcended from being a good lawyer to a great lawyer by his charities. The Hon’ble Judge advised the students to idolise the inspirational personality that Nani Palkhivala was and remain guided by his persuasive advocacy skills to shape a professional career in law which he claimed was “gaining its pre-eminent status.”

Justice Shri N Seshasayee, Judge, Madras High Court delivered a KLF Lecture on 'Civil Litigation: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow' on April 22, 2017. Justice Shri N Seshasayee, well known for his deft handling of contentious issues, clarity and sharp presentation, spoke on the contours of civil litigation and exhorted the students to learn from history.

The team from SASTRA Law School has been selected among the top 30 qualifying teams from the 5 UN Regions, for the 9th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition to be held at Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from July 17 – 21, 2017. The Competition is presented by the Centre for Human Rights, based at the University of Pretoria, with the support of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, in collaboration with the Regional Office for Southern
Africa of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (ROSA).

The competition has become a benchmark for Human Rights mooting over the years at the international level, attracting participants from top universities across the world among which Yale and Oxford are noteworthy. The team from SASTRA comprising Anusha R & Sai Sathyanarayana is one of the three teams from India to participate in this prestigious moot. Shri Satish Prem, faculty in the School of Law will accompany the team as its coach. The management has also offered financial support as a token of encouragement.

SASTRA’s Moot team comprising Vaishali Sairam of IV year B.A., LL.B. (Hons.), Srinivas Krishnan of IV year B. Com., LL. B. (Hons.,) and Krishna. R of III Year B.Com., LL.B. (Hons.), emerged the winners of the 2nd Anand Swaroop Gupta Memorial National Moot Court Competition - 2017 hosted by Sharda University, New Delhi from April 5-7, 2017. The competition witnessed participation of over 60 law colleges including 12 National Law Universities. The final was adjudged by Justice Shri B. K. Rathi, Former Judge of the Allahabad High Court, Mrs. Khan, Dean of Jamai Mila College of Law & Justice and Shri Allah Rahman, Former Judge, Allahabad High Court. Shri Salman Kurshid, Former Central Minister and Senior Advocate gave away the trophy and a cash prize of Rs. 50,000 to the winning team.

Shruthi R Manickam, Adithya Vishwanathan, Krishna Dath M of second year were adjudged Runners in 2nd

SASTRA students have bagged the ‘Project Smart Head Gear,’ an inter-collegiate competition organised by M/s Rane Group, Chennai. The contest aims at attracting the best talents in ‘Helmet Design’ from among the engineering students.

Pramodh Vyas, Keerthivasan & Madhumitha, B.Tech. students of Mechanical Engineering, guided by Dr R.Venkatraman, Director, Shanmuga Precision & Forging and Professor in School of Mechanical Engineering, SASTRA, won the first prize of Rs 25, 000 and merit certificates. 32 teams from various institutes participated in the competition.

Shri R. Venkatanarayanan, President - Corporate Affairs, Rane Group gave away the prize to the winners at a function organized at SASTRA on June 30, 2017. Addressing on the occasion, he mentioned that education must result in imparting one or more skills, else it has no use. Application oriented education and research is very important. He also added that safety bags
for two wheelers may also come to the market in future like in four wheelers.

Shri. N. Haribabu- Advisor- Business & Excellence & L & D, Rane group in his address said that four 'I's are causing road accidents i.e.: Ignorance (about the impact of the loss), indifference (to safety practices), insensitive (to our own life) and indiscipline. He said we lost many precious lives on road due to road accidents and we need to reduce it in future by following safety norms.

Shri Rahul Samnekar and Shri N. Shankar Kumar of Schneider Electric India were the special invitees. Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean- School of Management, SASTRA University said SASTRA management & Entrepreneurship Development Cell is keen to support students to convert such creative ideas into a marketable commercial product.

Academic Guidance and Motivation Programme
26 SCORE volunteers shared their thoughts and experiences in Higher Education with the students of the Government High School Elupatti, Thanjavur District on February 10, 2017. Students of 6th to 9th standard were instructed in four phases - with regard to hygiene, discipline and behaviour in first phase; respect, culture and courage in the second phase; Science, Maths and English subjects in the third phase; and GK, Environment and other relevant subjects in the fourth phase. Stationery items worth Rs.3000 were distributed to the students. Besides, Rs.1000 was donated towards “Puravalar Thittam” an Endowment in the name of SASTRA SCORE.

Educational Trip for Government School Students
Under “Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan Scheme,” volunteers from SCORE brought 230 students of Vallam Girls’ Higher Secondary School and Palace Girls’ High School of Thanjavur to SASTRA University to visit the Mechanical and other Science Research Laboratories. Demonstrations on the usage of equipment and the researches carried out by scholars and teachers in SASTRA Campus were made to them, during their visits on January 28 & 29, 2017.

Stem Cell Donor Registry & Swab Cell Collection
Executives from Datri Foundation conducted a preliminary Stem Cell Donor Registration Camp and sample collection in SASTRA main campus (4 days) and SRC, Kumbakonam in February 2017. During these days, they collected 3068 Swab samples from the students, staff and volunteers. The objective of this programme is to help and give life to cancer patients who fight for their lives and also to support the DATRI Foundations in this noble cause.

Vision Screening and Assistance
In Association with Titan Eye Plus Thanjavur, SCORE volunteers conducted an eye test camp to help the poor
and needy community working inside SASTRA. Sub-staff, who are in need of optical requirements at an affordable cost, were also benefitted.

Drug Addiction - Awareness Programme

In association with the Central Bureau of Narcotics, SASTRA Community OutReach ProgrammE (SCORE) organized a Drug addiction awareness program on March 15, 2017. More than 350 students participated. Dr. A.Venkadesh Babu, IRS, Assistant Commissioner, Central Bureau of Narcotics, Chennai, in-charge of South India participated in the programme and addressed the volunteers. Dr. V. Badrinath, Director SCORE and Training & Placement, Student Coordinator Aishwarya Mahesh and the SCORE student volunteers coordinated the programme.

Seminar on: “Towards Sustainable Global Environment”

SCORE organized a Seminar on “Towards Sustainable Global Environment” on World Water Day. Three prominent environmentalists, Mr. G. Sundarrajan from Poovulagin Nanbargal, Prof. N. Manimegalai from Thaneer Organisation and Mr. K. Kalidasan, Founder of Osai Environmental Organisation, were the guest speakers. Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean School of Management and Director Training and Placements presided over the programme and shared his experience in early days in the ExNoRa and other organisations. Mr. G. Sundarrajan insisted on the four 'R's - REFUSE, REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE. Mr. K. Kalidasan insisted on how to promote sustainability and Prof. N. Manimegalai elaborated on the Chipko Movement. On behalf of SASTRA University, Dr. V. Badrinath presented and honoured them with an appreciation certificate and an award as “Environmental Guards”. Staff Coordinators Dr. N. T. Saraswathi and Dr. R. Nalini and Student coordinators Hariharan, Dhamodhara Shankar, Aishwarya, Guruprasath and Vinay coordinated the programme.

Valediction of SCORE, ExNoRa, KS Upahaar, PLASMA and ED Cell

A formal valedictory programme of all social service units of SASTRA was held on April 13, 2017. Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, SoM and Director, T & P distributed certificates to the senior volunteers and introduced the volunteers for the AY 2017-18.

International Yoga Day at SASTRA

International Day of Yoga was organised by SCORE on 21 June, 2017. Dr. V. Badrinath Dean School of Management and Director Training and Placement
welcomed the gathering and highlighted the features of the programme “Yoga For Human Excellence” of the university extended for the benefit of all the engineering students for the past four years. Dr. G. Bhalachandran Registrar of SASTRA University presided over the event and summarised the benefits of yogasanas. Professor and Varmakkalai Aasan Thiru M. Panchapikesan of Vedathri Maharishi centre for Yoga from Tanjore addressed on the “Greatness of Yoga and its Impact on Happy Living.” Assistant Professors of Vedathri Maharishi Centre for Yoga Thiru Chandru and Ms. Sundari demonstrated several Asanas to the polytechnic and engineering students and staff of various departments. The staff in charge Dr. V. Rengarajan organised the event.

New Age Mantra for Smart Teacher Education (NAMASTE) for New India, a joint venture by SASTRA-TCS Teaching Learning Centre (STTLC), trained 14 batches of teachers till May 2017. 562 School teachers from both public and private schools in Tamil Nadu were trained in digital teaching methodology. During the second quarter, five batches of teachers were trained.

REVERE, a Tata Trust and SASTRA University Initiative, commenced with the objective of identifying unemployed rural youth of both genders and providing them with vocational skills like tailoring, driving, two wheeler mechanism, desk top printing, professional housekeeping and cooking. SASTRA University along with Tata Trust also plans to create opportunities for these beneficiaries through provision of employment and entrepreneurial development activities.

The First batch of tailoring and driving course commenced on April 28, 2017, in two batches with a batch size of 30 participants. REVERE Project provides both Theory & Practical training for the above courses. Each beneficiary is given a stipend of Rs.4,000/ per month during this training period of 3 months. They are also provided Uniforms and Identity Cards to uphold the brand Identity/Equity of SASTRA and Tata Trust.

Pre-placement training for final year B.Tech students of SASTRA University was conducted in two batches from May 16-18 and May 21-23, 2017. Trainers from FACE, SMART and SIX PHRASES were involved in training nearly 1800 students in soft skills and various aptitude related skills. Also the faculty from the School of Computing, SASTRA University oriented the students on C and C++.
SASTRA University is offering two new courses - Bachelor of Optometry & Master of Optometry in association with Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, from this academic year.

Plus two students from pure science stream or Mathematics and Biology will be eligible to join B.Optom. course. Admitted students will study at SASTRA for the first two years and the remaining two years will be at Elite School of Optometry, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai.

The course covers concepts on Ocular Diseases, Medical Psychology, Visual Optics, Paediatric Optometry Geriatric Optometry and Low Vision Care, Binocular Vision, Public Health and Community Optometry, Occupational Optometry, etc., along with other aspects. Optometric and Dispensing Optics, Clinical Examination of Visual Systems, Practice Management, Integrated Clinical Laboratory – I and II, Clinics I and II, Connect Lens, etc. are the other aspects to be covered under the course.

The 32nd Academic Council of the University gave its stamp of approval to these programmes. The council also approved two other programmes: M.Tech. in Robotics and Five Year Intergrated MCA Programme.

A conference on Dwaitha Philosophy was held at SASTRA on June 24 & 25, 2017. A session on Mimamsa was handled by Pujiyasri Sri Sri Subudhendra Teertha Swamiji of Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, Mantralayam. The conference was well attended by many religious scholars.

Moolarama Pooja

Pujiyasri Sri Sri Subudhendra Teertha Swamiji performed Sri Moola Rama Pooja at SASTRA Campus on these days. Staff and students of SASTRA and a large number of devotees in and around Thanjavur participated in the pooja and received blessings.

ANNADHANAM TO VAITHEESWARAN KOIL DEVOTEES

SASTRA University provided Annadhanam to around 15,000 devotees on pathayatra to Vaitheeswaran Koil on April 23, 2017. A special pandal was erected in front of SASTRA’s Kumbakonam campus for this purpose. Food packets each comprising a laddu, tamarind rice and curd rice, butter milk, water packet and medicine for foot burns were distributed to the devotees by a team headed by the Vice Chancellor Prof. R. Sethuraman.

Every year devotees from different parts of Thanjavur, Sivagangai and Pudukottai Districts proceed to Vaitheeswaran Koil after the Tamil New Year's Day as part of their annual ritual. The Annual Annadhanam started at 2.00 p.m, went up to 9.00 p.m. and was ably supported by the NCC Cadets, NSS Volunteers, Kumbakonam Municipality and Police officials.
The 33rd Annual Sports Day was celebrated on April 11, 2017. Shri M. Thamizh Selvam, Arjuna Awardee, Former Olympian & Former National Weight Lifting Coach graced the occasion and distributed the prizes. Dr.V. Badrinath, Dean School of Management & Director Training and Placement presided over the function. Dr.B. Sriperiya, Physical Director presented the Physical Education Annual Report.

Chi. K. Siddharth was given away the Best Outgoing Sports Person Award for his Excellence in his Athletics, Best Physique, and Volleyball. The Individual Championship in Athletics was bagged by Chi. J. Jaya Prakash of IV Mech. in Men Section and Kum. R. Shruthi of III BCom. LLB. in Women Section.

SASTRA’s Video and Image processing team set up a mechanism to support the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department (TNHRCED), to count the number of visitors attending the 1000th birth anniversary of Saint Sri Ramanujacharya, at Sri Adi Keshava Perumal & Bhashyakara Temple, Sripurumbudur. The technical team installed two base stations in front of the Kannadi Arrai and Ramanujar Avathara Stalam. With the help of the tool, the crowd at the time of “Thirumanthira Sesha Vahanam” was estimated. The number of devotees attending “Satrumurai Thanga Pallaku” was also calculated. SASTRA’s technical team was headed by Dr. N. R. Raajan of SEEE.

The mechanism was demonstrated to Dr. M. Veera Shanmugha Moni, IAS, Commissioner, HR & CE. A report comprising the data was submitted to Mr. Kumar, Joint Commissioner (IC), Sri Adi Keshava Perumal Temple.

Shri Balakrishna Vijaya Kumar, GM - Personnel, AIR India, delivered a lecture on “Pushing beyond Frontier” – What Managers do to achieve? on April 5, 2017 for MBA students. During his lecture, he highlighted the significance of customer relationship as one of the marketing strategies. The Abraham Maslow Club, School of Management organized the lecture under the aegis of National Institute of Personnel Management – Trichy Chapter, SASTRA Group, Dr.V. Badrinath, Dean, School of Management welcomed the gathering and Dr.V. Srinivasa Kumar, Associate Professor, School of Management co-ordinated the programme.
Shri A. Palaniappan, General Manager-Quality, Veesons Energy Systems Pvt Ltd. Trichy delivered a lecture on “Challenges ahead of Engineers” on April 7, 2017, during the valedictory function of MECASSO Association of School of Mechanical Engineering. He elaborated on the role of a mechanical engineer in industries.

Entrepreneurship Development Hub, SASTRA organised a “Top Management Meet” at SASTRA University, Thanjavur on May 10, 2017. Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, School of Management and Coordinator, EDI Hub, SASTRA University welcomed the gathering. He also shared information regarding Udhayamita Scheme, funding schemes in DST – NMIT and new entrepreneurial avenues proposed by the Government of Tamil Nadu in tourism promotion.

Dr. R. Krishnamurthy, Scientist G, Computational Fluid Dynamics Division, DRDL, Hyderabad, gave an invited talk on “Use of CFD in Missile Technology” and distributed the certificates to the participants. Dr. P. R. Naren from School of Chemical and Biotechnology and Dr. B. Jayaraman, Dr. D. Prakash, Dr. M. Venkatesan and Dr. S. Nadaraja Pillai, all from School of Mechanical Engineering were the resource faculty. About 20 participants attended the FDP, with includes faculty from Centurion University of Technology and Management, Paralakhemundi, Odisha, SRM University, Kalasalingam University and other engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu.

A refresher course for research supervisors of SASTRA University was conducted on January 26, 2017. Dr. B. Ilango, Former Vice Chancellor, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore was the resource person. He spoke on “The Art of Writing a Thesis.” Research Supervisors from various Schools of SASTRA attended the programme.

Computational Fluid Dynamics

A one-week Faculty Development Program (FDP) on Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) was conducted at School of Mechanical Engineering, from June 12-17, 2017. Lectures and hands-on sessions with emphasis on familiarizing fundamentals of CFD and exposure to commercial CFD tools (ANSYS - Fluent /CFX) were organised.

Dr. R. Shivashankar, Assistant Director and Program Monitoring Officer of EDI highlighted the achievements of EDI since its inception and its future course of action. Mr. Vishwanath, Co-founder, Forge Accelerator and Business Incubator at Kumaraguru College of Technology (KCT), Coimbatore also addressed. Certificates were distributed to members of EDI Hub, Thanjavur who have participated in the Startup Competition conducted by Forge Accelerator at KCT, Coimbatore in April 2017.

A refresher course for research supervisors of SASTRA University was conducted on January 26, 2017. Dr. B. Ilango, Former Vice Chancellor, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore was the resource person. He spoke on “The Art of Writing a Thesis.” Research Supervisors from various Schools of SASTRA attended the programme.
Bio-technology gave an elaborate input on research engagement and the rules and regulations to be followed at SASTRA University.

In the post-lunch session, Dr. V.S. Shankar Sriram, Associate Professor, School of Computing briefed on the IT infrastructure at the University. Shri. R. Adhi Sundar Rajan, Joint Librarian, SASTRA University explained the existing online and physical library resources. Dr. L. Crescenta Shakila Motha, Assistant Professor, Department of Training & Placement and Student Counselor briefed on mentoring students.

SASTRA University Thanjavur, IIT Chennai and PSBB group of Schools, Chennai, jointly organized a programme in Research Science Initiative, at IIT Chennai, from April 26 to June 8 2017. The objective of the programme, targeting the 11th standard students, was to enhance their conceptual understanding and skill sets in basic sciences – Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry & Biology – and nurture their scientific temper.

The participants visited SASTRA between May 4 and 7, 2017. They were taken round the various laboratories of SASTRA, the Ramanujan Museum at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, Kumbakonam and BHEL. Senior faculty members of SASTRA delivered lectures to them on various topics. Dr. R. Srikanth coordinated the programme at SASTRA.
Shri M. Raja Subramanian, Administrative Officer, Department of Training, Placement & International Relations, SASTRA attended a course on 'Management of Internationalization' at Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany from March 28 to April 5, 2017, as part of the DAAD fellowship.

30 participants were selected for this course around the world and he is one of the 2 Indians who attended this prestigious course. This fellowship includes 8-day course in Leibniz University and a visit to Humboldt University and Freie University in Berlin. Three of SASTRA’s students were sent to DAAD participant Universities to do their Research Internship. They had successfully completed their Internship at Malaysia and Ecuador.

Knowledge sharing reached new heights at SASTRA with a net reach crossing the 1 Million mark this May, through Wiksate platform. SASTRA has been the proud user of Wiksate-Informal learning platform for over 2 years now. During this time, the community of learners has grown steadily and recently crossed 4000 students, engaging in meaningful learning exchanges on a variety of topics—not just on courses.

Wiksate is a powerful way to engage with the community outside class walls anytime, anywhere, in any device in an asynchronous mode.

SASTRA students use Wiksate to share interesting technical facts, ask questions, join/create groups of interest and engage with other fellow learners, seniors, alumni and faculty. In May 2017, SASTRA was the first institution in the country to cross a reach of 1 MILLION on the platform.

Faculty members use Wiksate to share resources and engage the students actively during their course delivery.

The Department of Training and Placement provides practice quizzes, monitors progress and intervenes to help out students facing challenges in standard placement process steps like aptitude, interview questions and so on through the platform.

Wiksate is also providing Management with rich analytics, which is helping identify areas to improve engagement and learning experience at SASTRA.

Theta’17, a three-day National level Techno-Management Fest was inaugurated by Shri. K. Sivasubramanian, Deputy General Manager (Retd.), BHEL, Tiruchirapalli on April 1, 2017, at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre of SASTRA, Kumbakonam. "There is nothing impossible to the indomitable spirit of the student community,” said the speaker in his inaugural address. He added that the outcome of their intellectual efforts would benefit the society if they are guided well by socially conscious elders. Researches undertaken by the students should address social issues like Power scarcity and Water scarcity, the speaker said.

Earlier Dr. K. Giridharan, Head, Dept. of ECE/EEE, welcomed the gathering. Dr. T.R. Radhakrishnan, Convenor, THETA17, introduced the chief guest to the gathering.

Around 56 events were held in the three days of the Fest in which nearly 2000 students from various institutions participated. Prizes worth Rs.1.5 lakh were given to the winners of the various events.
The 16th Annual Day of Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre of SASTRA University at Kumbakonam was celebrated on April 12, 2017. Smt. Pooja Kulkarni I.A.S., Tamilnadu State Project Director, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, graced the occasion as the chief guest. In her address, she advised the students to believe in the beauty of their dreams and take special care of little things in life. She advised the students to develop faith and thereby avoid being a passive victim of self doubt. Universities should develop ‘vision beyond placement,’ she said and insisted upon employing education not only for development of knowledge but also wisdom. Preservation of culture and inculcation of positive values in life are vital for attainment of success in life, she added.

The Chief Guest gave away prizes worth Rs 2 lakh to the students for their outstanding performances in academics and also honoured the winners of various competitions held by the university for the school children, as part of the Founder Chancellor Shri Ramachandra Iyer Centenary Celebrations.

Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning & Development, SASTRA University presented the annual report of the centre highlighting the academic progress of SRC during 2016–2017, notable being the infrastructure addition to the tune of Rs.1.4 Crores, placement of over 300 students through campus recruitment and various achievements of students and faculty.

XVI Annual Sports Day was organized by SASTRA University at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre on April 10, 2017. Dr. P. Karthikeyan, Asst Professor, Dept of Physical Education, Annamalai University delivered the Sports Day Address and distributed the prizes.

Dr. V. Ramasamy, Dean i/c SRC welcomed the gathering. Sri K.Sathyamoorthy, Physical Director presented the Physical Education Annual Report for the year. Chi. M. Sanjeev, Sports Secretary proposed a vote of thanks.

SPECIAL LECTURE ON GST

Under the auspices of COM-MAN FORUM, a special lecture was organized by the Department of Commerce and Management Studies on 22nd March 22, 2017. Shri. C.A.J. Sadagopan, Chief Manager, Taxation, City Union Bank, Kumbakonam spoke on fundamentals of Goods and Service Tax (GST).

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

The Athenaeum of the Department of English at SRC organized a special lecture on “Vocational Guidance for Students of English Literature” on February 27, 2017. Shri. M. Kanmani, Cambridge Language Trainer, Dr. G. S. K. Memorial School Kumbakonam, and Smt. Sandiya Thomas of the school were the guest speakers. Shri. M. Kanmani threw light on five major areas such as Exploration, Career design, Risk Factors, Ideas to action, and Interviews. Smt. Sandiya Thomas encouraged girl students to pursue a career in teaching, highlighting the safety systems in place in different foreign countries.
SASTRA University jointly organized an Education Expo at Trichy along with the New Indian Express Group on April 1 & 2, 2017. Educational institutions from the central region of the state put up stalls in the expo, highlighting and explaining the available technical, arts, science and humanities curriculum. The first 1000 visitors to the expo were offered career counselling on engineering and other programmes. Experts offered interactive sessions to the parents.

NCC NEWS

NCC Officer Lt.T. Senthilnathan participated in a three day “Disaster Management Capsule” training held from June 27 – 29, 2017 at 4 BN NDRF, Suraksha Campus, Arakkonam. Basic life saving skill training was given in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), disaster operations, fire rescue, fractures and other accidents.

A Combined Annual Training Camp was held at Govt. Arts College, Kumbakonam from June 3 – 12, 2017, in which 8 SD and 9 SW SRC cadets participated. They underwent basic NCC trainings like Physical training, Drill, Weapon training, Map reading, etc. The Company bagged 20 Gold medals and 8 Silver medals in various competitions held at the camp.

The NCC Group Commander Col.R. Shivanathan visited SRC campus on May 26, 2017 and accepted the guard of honour given by the NCC cadets.