I am happy to inform the readers of ITIHAS that SASTRA University has been re-accredited by NAAC with “A” Grade. SASTRA always believes that accreditation helps advance academic quality and it has been offering itself for the accreditation process since 1995. Quality equates inputs in terms of admission profile of students, faculty standards, and infrastructure expansion. The stakeholders in higher education can also rely on and get benefitted by the accreditation. It is a matter of pride for us, that the School of Chemical and Bio-technology, has been ranked as the top private Bio-technology school in the country by the Biospectrum. All these are positive indicators of SASTRA’s right approach towards excellence in higher education.

In order to promote research by students and faculty members and to achieve our vision of being a research-intense university, SASTRA has taken some major initiatives. A Research and Modernization Fund with an initial corpus fund of Rs. 5 Crores and an Innovation Fund with a corpus of Rs. 2 Crores have been created. To identify and encourage the outstanding contributions made by students an Achievers’ Club has been started.

As SASTRA is entering into its Silver Jubilee year from April’08, a year-long celebration has been planned. An aptly-designed Silver Jubilee Logo has been launched for this purpose. Free laptop computers have been distributed to 300 faculty members at a cost of Rs. One crore, which will enhance the teaching-learning mechanism.

The current issue of ITIHAS features the National level technical and cultural festivals Daksh and Kurusastras organised in February - March 2008, MoUs signed with Wipro, Sankara Nethrayala and Seshasayee Paper and Boards Ltd., and the achievements by staff and students.

As the academic year is coming to a close, I wish the student-community of SASTRA a very good score in the examinations and a bright future.

Prof. R. Sethuraman
Vice-Chancellor
SASTRA’s Accreditation History

Realizing the importance of maintaining quality and standards in higher education, SASTRA has been offering itself for the accreditation process by various agencies. As early as 1995 SASTRA offered itself for accreditation by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA), constituted by AICTE. Immediately after the statutory body’s formation, SASTRA was inspected and was awarded excellent grade. The institution was re-accredited by NBA with grade “Excellent” in 1999-2000. SASTRA was selected as a Centre of Relevance and Excellence in Advanced Computing and Information Processing during the year 2000 by the Government of India and was elevated to the status of a Deemed University in April 2001. SASTRA also hosted the Chairman of the Washington Accord Team in 2005, who left SASTRA with a positive impression.

Accreditation by Industries

- SASTRA has been accredited by TATA Consultancy Services Ltd., (TCS) with the maximum of “A” Grade.
- All the eligible Engineering programmes of SASTRA have been accredited by the Institution of Engineers, Kolkata.
- An independent survey conducted by the biotechnology magazine Biospectrum has ranked SASTRA University’s School of Chemical and Biotechnology as the top private bio-tech institution in the country for the year 2006-07.
- During August 2006, SASTRA has been selected by AICTE for the establishment of a National Facility in Engineering and Technology with Industrial collaboration, jointly with M/s Brakes India Ltd.

COMMENDATIONS BY NAAC PEER TEAM

The Peer Team expressed satisfaction about the genuine interest and approach of the University in maintaining quality and standards in its educational activities. It also commended the University for its several good practices and achievements, some of which in particular are:

- The Science & Technology curricula adopted have importance in the context of the demands of the industrial sector
- The University has the flexibility to design & develop its own curriculum for various courses of study
- The University has good infrastructural facilities for teaching & research in multi disciplinary areas
- The process of admission is widely published and admission is made purely on merit
- Advanced learners have option to take extra courses leading to Honours in B.Tech. programme
- Slow learners are given special coaching and bridge courses are offered by the faculty
- Examination results are declared within 10 days of the completion of examination
- Networking of the campus with 1 GB fibre optic and wi-fi enabled campus to provide seamless Internet connectivity to 18Mbps internet leased line for the students and faculty.
- The University has strong tie-ups with the national & international Institutions for research
- University has MoU with industries In India and overseas Universities for collaborative work
- External research funding is commendable
- Attempts by the University to obtain patents is appreciable
- The endeavour of the University for its quality provision is visible from submissions for assessment by external quality assurance agencies
- Constant efforts are made by the Institution to upgrade the Institutional performance at each stage through an internal quality assurance system
- University maintains constant link with alumni, students, parents & industries
- Management is responsive to the needs of the local community and has involved in activities for their
DAKSH '08

DAKSH '08, a National Level Technical Contest was organized by SASTRA between February 25-27, 2008. This event drew participation from over 3,000 students from 300 institutions across the country, making it one of the largest technical contests in the country.

Mr. K. Ananthakrishnan, Chief Technology Officer, TATA Consultancy Service inaugurated the event. In his address he emphasized the need for celebrating with an innovative spirit to improve the quality of living. Prof. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning & Development, SASTRA University, welcomed the gathering and Chi. Mayank Agarwal, Student-Coordinator, Daksh proposed a vote of thanks.

DAKSH 2008 comprised various events in different categories titled “CompSense, Chro-moXone, RoboTricks, Envisage and Nirmaan” and tested the intelligence and innovative capabilities of young students from all over the country. Cash prizes worth Rs.7.00 lakhs were distributed to various winners in more than 50 events that were organized.

Apart from these design contests, workshops were conducted to train students in certain specialized areas like, Robotics, Aero-modelling, Digital Film Making, etc. The Robotics workshop was conducted by Technophilia Solutions, Mumbai, Digital Film Making Workshop by First Time Film Makers, Ahmedabad, and the Aero-modelling workshop by professionals from Coimbatore and Bangalore Flying Club. Events like Robot Race, Robotic Acqua Soccer, Tom 'N' Jerry Robotics etc. were the centre of attraction amongst all other events. The Robot racing track designed and constructed by the students is the longest racing track in India for a technical event like this. The track measuring 110 metres containing all possible terrains making the Robot race interesting and challenging. Acqua Soccer was also another major event where Robots were designed to play football on water.

The aero-modelling workshop concluded with an aero-show in which designer aircrafts, helicopters and gliders maneuvered the skies of SASTRA to the applause and joy of thousands gathered.

DAKSH 2008 provided a platform for healthy exchange of ideas through discussions on various technical issues. The events also proved to be a perfect platform for cultural exchange as it drew students from various parts of the country.

DAKSH 2008 was also the first design contest in which the solutions to various competitions were discussed as a part of the post-event workshop thereby educating all the participants.

DAKSH 2008 was sponsored by DELL, UTI Mutual Fund, WIPRO, Cognizant Technology Solutions, TATA Consultancy Services Ltd., Elsevier, and Siemens. The PapyrusClubs was the on-line media partner for this event.
KURUKSASTRA '08 – a four-day national level cultural festival was organized by SASTRA from 6th – 9th March, 2008. The festival was inaugurated in a grand and colourful manner by Shri N. Kamakodi, Executive Director, City Union Bank Ltd., Kumbakonam. Various events in the areas of English literature, Tamil literature, Hindi literature, music, dance, fine arts etc. were organized. Over 1,000 students from 50 institutions across the country participated. The inaugural events featured a light music concert and variety entertainment by the SASTRA Cultural Team.

KURUKSASTRA came to a grand musical finish with a mind blowing light music concert by playback singers Karthik, Mahathi, Pop Shalini, FM Suchitra and Rajesh Nambiar accompanied by a professional orchestra, on 9th March 2008.

The Cultural team of NIT, Trichy, bagged the overall shield for Kuruksastra '08 which was handed over by Shri Venkatraman Krishnan, Head, Cognizant Academy, Cognizant Technology Solutions, Chennai who was the Chief Guest for the valedictory function.

Major events like VIBES and Trayodaya (Western & Eastern Dance), Ooh La La, SASTRA Talkies (MIME) besides other Arts, English, Hindi and Tamil literature events provided a variety of choice for various student participants to exhibit their talents.

The photo hub (photo club of SASTRA) came out with two outstanding short films that were screened during the event which captured the hearts of the audience, gathered in thousands.

A culturally vibrant campus, enthusiastic student community supporting state-of-the-art infrastructure, challenging events and colourful pyrotechnics that lit the sky were some of the hallmarks of Kuruksastra '08. Chi. R. Chandramouleswaran was the Chief Student Coordinator of the event. Kuruksastra was sponsored by Airtel, UTI Mutual Fund, TCS, CTS, Philips and Asian Paints.
SASTRA SILVER JUBILEE LOGO LAUNCHED

SASTRA University launched its Silver Jubilee Celebrations Logo and Faculty Laptop Scheme on 8\textsuperscript{th} February, 2008. Launching the logo, Mr. S. Balasubramaniam, Chairman, City Union Bank Ltd. commended SASTRA on its rapid growth in the field of higher education carving a special name for itself and occupying a place of pride in the national scene making Thanjavur district proud of its existence.

EX-GRATIA TO STAFF MEMBERS

In view of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations the management has granted an Ex-gratia of Rs. 1,500/- every month from April, 2008 to March, 2009 to all teaching & non teaching staff members of SASTRA, SRC, Kumbakonam and Shanmugha Polytechnic College, Thanjavur.

FREE LAPTOP FOR FACULTY

Mr. S. Balasubramaniam, Chairman, City Union Bank Ltd. on 8\textsuperscript{th} February, 2008 launched the free Laptop Scheme. He distributed laptops to faculty members in that function.

The laptop scheme, at a cost of Rs. 1 Crore offers laptop computers (Dell Vostro 1400 Model) to 300 faculty members encouraging them to fully utilize the Wi-Fi and Networked environment at SASTRA which provides seamless access to a dedicated 18Mbps internet facility. This shall also enhance the teaching-learning mechanisms at SASTRA. Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor, presided over the function and Prof. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning & Development, welcomed the gathering.
BioSpectrum Magazine in its Biotech Schools Survey 2008 (Part - 2) conducted during November - December, 2007 ranked the School of Chemical & Biotechnology, SASTRA University as the Top Private BT School in India.

The Ranking Parameters include Faculty, Infrastructure, Industry-Interaction and Placements. In terms of infrastructure SASTRA was ranked number one with a score of 58.96. SASTRA got the third and fourth rank in terms of Faculty Score and Industry-Interaction respectively.

The survey results appeared in Volume 6, Issue 2, February 2008 of BioSpectrum..

### Top Private BT Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Institute</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Faculty Score</th>
<th>Industry Interaction Score</th>
<th>Infrastructure Score</th>
<th>Placement Score</th>
<th>Overall Score</th>
<th>Rank 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School of Chemical &amp; Biotechnology, SASTRA University</td>
<td>Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>44.15</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>58.96</td>
<td>34.01</td>
<td>45.83</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Biotechnology, School of Bioengineering, SRM University</td>
<td>Chennai, Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>33.96</td>
<td>36.37</td>
<td>50.16</td>
<td>46.73</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Biotechnology &amp; Bioinformatics, Jaypee University of Information Technology</td>
<td>Solan, Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>27.01</td>
<td>53.92</td>
<td>51.16</td>
<td>34.98</td>
<td>40.8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Biotechnology, Jaypee Institute of Information Technology</td>
<td>Noida, UP</td>
<td>39.42</td>
<td>35.02</td>
<td>40.58</td>
<td>42.42</td>
<td>39.59</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amity Institute of Biotechnology, Amity University</td>
<td>Noida, UP</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>24.89</td>
<td>57.01</td>
<td>36.64</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Biotechnology, The Oxford College of Science</td>
<td>Bangalore, Karnataka</td>
<td>22.28</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44.43</td>
<td>81.64</td>
<td>35.74</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Biotechnology, R V College of Engineering</td>
<td>Bangalore, Karnataka</td>
<td>46.90</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>68.11</td>
<td>33.13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Biotechnology, Solan University</td>
<td>Solan</td>
<td>14.67</td>
<td>16.79</td>
<td>57.68</td>
<td>34.75</td>
<td>31.8</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Management has established a Research and Modernisation Fund with an initial corpus of Rs.5.00 crore to be used exclusively for the purpose of conducting research and modernization of facility.

SCHEME: 1

Proposals will be invited from all the Schools (Civil, Chemical & Biotechnology, Computing, EEE, Mechanical, Management), CARISM and SRC. The Management reserves the right to add or delete entities from this list. A sum of Rs.10.00 lakhs each will be given to the top four proposals. This sum must be utilized for conduct of research leading to publication in reputed international journals, patents, product commercialization, etc. The allocated funds can be used only for on-campus research and cannot be utilized as travel grant, salary or for any other non-productive purpose. Enough care must be taken to utilize the fund for necessary modernization, if necessary. The fund should be used to modernize existing facility and this modernization must encourage conduct of research.

The duration of the research must not exceed two years within which the grant must be utilized properly. If the grant is utilized properly at the end of one year, the School is eligible for re-application for the next year; provided a satisfactory utilization certificate is submitted. However submission of satisfactory utilization report is independent of the School's decision to apply for the grant for the next year.

The selection will be done by an expert committee which will review the progress of each project on a periodical basis.

SCHEME: 2

Proposals will also be invited from individual faculty members for conducting research and based on the request received, top ten proposals will be selected for a grant of Rs.1.00 lakh each, every year. The guidelines, mentioned above, are applicable to individual grant also.

Grant of financial assistance will be purely on the basis of merit and response to the request for proposals.

SASTRA has created an “Innovation Fund” with a corpus of Rs.2.00 crore. The aim of this fund is to encourage creativity and innovation amongst the student community of SASTRA. Faculty members are also eligible to make productive use of this fund.

Proposals will be invited from faculty and students on various innovative ideas that may lead to product commercialization. The top ten proposals will be selected and a grant of Rs.2.00 lakhs will be awarded for each idea to be done as a project work carried out under the guidance of a faculty. The duration of the project cannot be more than one year and can be treated as a final year project. In the case of faculty, the duration shall be two years and the nature of the project must also be comparatively advanced.

The selection will be done by an expert committee which will review the progress of each project on a periodical basis.

Grant of financial assistance will be purely on the basis of merit and response to the request for proposals.

An Achievers' Club has been started for students of SASTRA belonging to any UG / PG degree course. The purpose of this club is to identify and honour outstanding contributions made by students in various forms - curricular, co-curricular and extra curricular.

Benefits of being a member of the Achiever's Club
1. Honour Certificate from SASTRA University
2. Achiever's Club membership card
3. Exclusive benefits on services provided by SASTRA University to its graduates
4. Celebration dinner with top management
5. Exclusive benefits from select organizations while availing hotel, travel and other select services.

This list shall be modified as and when additions are made.

Dr. S. Swaminathan, Director, Centre for Nanotechnology & Advanced Biomaterials (CeNTAB), SASTRA delivered an invited lecture at the International Symposium on "BioNano technology & Pharmaceuticals" jointly organised by Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad and Discover Park, Purdue University, USA at CCMB premises between March 13th & 14th, 2008. The topic of Dr. Swaminathan's Lecture was "Nanomaterials for Bone and Neural Tissue Engineering."
MoU WITH WIPRO

Wipro has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SASTRA University, to take its ongoing collaboration with the institution to the next level.

Wipro has chosen to partner with SASTRA University as it is one of the premier engineering institutes in the country. The MoU envisages a set of planned activities and interactions addressing various stakeholders namely students, faculty and the management. These activities and interactions include faculty development programmes, technical sponsorships and student workshops and many more. For instance, one of the programmes is a student workshop that is structured with the primary goal of emphasizing the importance of creative thinking that is of paramount importance to succeed in the corporate world today.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Chandrasekhar Dharuman, Vice President and Location Head, Chennai Development Centre, Wipro Technologies, and Prof. S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning & Development, SASTRA.

Commenting on the occasion, Dr. Chandrasekhar Dharuman said that “the objective of this MoU is to build industry – academia relationship and empower students to gear up for the challenges of the corporate world”. Dr.Chandrasekhar appreciated the infrastructure facilities available at SASTRA which could be utilised for joint research.

Prof. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning & Development, SASTRA University assured that the relationship with Wipro will far exceed the expectations and set standards for other institutions to emulate. He also wished that this MoU will inspire other collaboration, research and development, capable of producing high quality research papers and products.

Mr. Kannan Ramiah, Mr. Viswanathan Venkatsubramanian and Ms. K.Aarthi were the other executives from Wipro, who participated in this function.

SANKARA NETHRALAYA SIGNS MoU WITH SASTRA

SASTRA University and Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai have entered into an MoU in the area of regenerative medicine and stem cell research in Ophthalmology. This MoU was signed on January 28, 2008 by Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor, SASTRA University, Dr. S. S. Badrinath, Chairman Emeritus and Dr. H. N. Madhavan of Sankara Nethralaya. The Vision Research & Medical Research Foundations of Sankara Nethralaya and the Centre for Nanotechnology & Advanced Biomaterials, SASTRA will identify mutual areas of interest in Ophthalmologic regeneration and will jointly conduct research that will lead to path-breaking solutions. The MoU also provides scope for regular interaction between students of SASTRA University and research professionals at Sankara Nethralaya. Qualified people from Sankara Nethralaya can also register for their Ph. D. programmes at SASTRA. The laboratories at Sankara Nethralaya have been recognized to be eligible for conducting research work for Ph. D. by SASTRA University.

MoU WITH SESHASAYEE PAPER & BOARDS LTD.

An MoU was signed between Seshasayee Paper and Boards Limited (SPB) and SASTRA University on 24th March, 2008.

The MoU envisages in-plant training for a batch of students of SASTRA every year at the SPB premises, and for doing final semester industrial projects at SPB for a period of two to three months. As part of the MoU industrial experts from SPB will share the expertise with the students and faculty of SASTRA.

The MoU was signed on behalf of SASTRA University by Dr.V.Badrinath – Dean i/c, Training and Placement and by Mr. Kasi Viswanathan, Director (Operations) on behalf of Seshasayee Paper & Boards Ltd.

Exchanging the copy of MoU
FELLOWSHIP TO SASTRA FACULTY

Dr. B. Parimala Devi, Professor at the Centre for Advanced Research in Indian System of Medicine (CARISM), SASTRA University has been selected for the BOYSCAST fellowship by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, New Delhi. The fellowship provides opportunities to the young Indian scientists to visit institutions abroad, and get trained in latest research techniques and conduct R&D in specially chosen frontline areas of science & technology for a period of twelve months.

Dr. Parimala Devi will be working on cancer chemotherapeutics with Prof. Daniel Sze, Director, Cancer Immunology Research Group at the University of Sydney, Australia for a period of one year from April 2008 onwards. The study is to undertake targeted bioassay-guided isolation of anticancer agents from traditional medicinal plants that have strong evidence for their successful treatment of cancers. This research reflects the broader research environment in the health area, including in the National Research Priority II of Promoting & Maintaining Good Health. It will aid the discovery of new medicinal agents, with a focus on those agents that can address the need for new cancer chemotherapeutic agents. Furthermore, the project can be applied for the testing of the Indian herbs for anti-cancer screening once an initial phase of Australian Aboriginal Herbs screening has been completed. There is ample scope of utilizing the natural resources by applying this newer trend. Mankind will be more benefitted by the upcoming of newer drugs in the field of medicine for ailments like cancer.

POSTER PRESENTATION IN USA

Shri Rudhra Prakash Ojha, a full time research scholar at CARISM made a poster presentation in the International Conference on Oxidants and Antioxidants in Biology organized by Oxygen Club of California 2008 World Congress at Fess Parker's Double Tree Resort, Santa Barbara, California, from March 12-15, 2008.

His Poster titled “Modulation of Mitochondrial Complex I activity and nNOS expression in experimental model of Parkinson's disease- Neuroprotective effect of Haridra (Curcuminoids)” was co-authored by Dr.G.P. Dubey, Manish Roeastogi & Dr. G.V. Rajamanickam.

Shri Ojha’s paper was well received by the audience and the organizers and they showed a very keen interest on alternative system of medicine. As he was the only Ph.D. Scholar who attended the conference while the other delegates were Professors, and Post Doctoral Fellows, the organizers waived the conference registration fee of 150$. They have also awarded 200$ and provided free accommodation for him.

SASTRA University gave him a partial travel grant of Rs.20,000 and AYUSH, of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India has also agreed to provide him travel assistance.

SASTRA STUDENT REPRESENTS ASIA PACIFIC AT WORLD WIDE EDUCATION & RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Chi. Kumar Abhishek, a student of III year Computer Science and Engineering, SASTRA, who is the Sun Campus Ambassador for SASTRA, has been selected as one of the five students by Sun Microsystems Inc. as the student delegate at the Worldwide Education and Research Conference 2008 (WWERC '08) which was held in San Francisco from 25th to 27th February, 2008. He has been invited to represent the Asia-Pacific countries at WWERC '08.

For more than 20 years, Sun Microsystems has brought education leaders and leading technocrats together at the Worldwide Education and Research Conference (WWERC) to discuss the evolution of technology in education. WWERC '08 was represented by the global leaders from the field of education and research to discuss the power of growing communities in education, Eco-computing in campus, and future of education in the light of rapid development in technology, Internet and open contents.

The four other students who accompanied him were Ezequiel Singer from Argentina, Gregory Corbin from Pennsylvania, USA, Sergjes Pisarenko from Sweden and Vincent Ding from China. Chi. Abhishek, during his trip, visited Stanford University and Sun Research Lab in Menlo Park, Silicon Valley.
BE@S, Bioengineers@Sastra organized a national level technical workshop, TECHNOVISTA'08 on 2nd & 3rd February, 2008.

Dr. Mohan Das, President, Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Mr. Rajesh Trivedi, General Secretary, Amenity Lifeline Emergency Response Team (ALERT) participated in the inaugural function. The crowning feature of the event was the Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) workshop organized by the ALERT group. The star attraction was the enlightening and informative lectures delivered by eminent personalities, ranging from a lecture on Drug Delivery by Dr. T.S. Sampath Kumar, IIT Madras, Biomimetics by Dr. Kasi Nehru, Centre for Biomimetic systems, Ewha University, South Korea, Medical Instrumentation by Dr. Sivakumaran, NIT Trichy and a lecture on Entrepreneurship by Dr. Geetha, TREC-STEP, Trichy.

The two-day fiesta was adorned with rhapsodical technical events like Quiz, Ig Nobel, Technical Ad zap, Sci-Fi writing, Book Review etc., with a large number of participants from various colleges across the country.

A one-day workshop on “Precast and Prestressed Concrete Structures” was organized by the School of Civil Engineering, SAASTRA on 18th March 2008.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Alfred A. Yee, President Applied Technology Corporation, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. In his inaugural address Dr. Alfred A. Yee said that India should use the precast and prestressed concrete technology on a larger scale. He also spoke on the basic design of precast composite construction of various structures and precast and prestressed concrete usages in ocean platforms and other related areas. These methods can be used effectively in housing for the masses, disaster management and rehabilitation projects.

Jian Han Kang, Chief Engineer, Precast Design Consultants, Singapore delivered a lecture on Computer application in precast & prestressed concrete structures. Toh Poh Keong, Director, SRS Pretech Engineering(S) Pvt. Ltd., Singapore, Er. T. Sivakumaran, Project Director and Er S. Salai Kumaran, India Land & Properties Ltd., Chennai, also spoke.

Earlier Prof. J. Venkataramana welcomed the gathering and Prof. S. Ananthapadmanaban, Dean of the School introduced the Chief Guest and Prof. N. Anantharaman, Registrar gave the presidential address. Dr. K. Saravana Raja Mohan proposed a vote of thanks.

The School of Management, SASTRA University organized a one-day workshop on “Tools for Business Data Analysis - SPSS Applications in Social Science Research” – on 29th March 2008. Prof. N. Anantha Raman – Registrar delivered the inaugural address. Dr. P. Vaijayanthi, Dean i/c, School of Management, SASTRA University, welcomed the gathering.

Dr. K. Seetha Raman, Reader, Engineering Wing, Computer Science, Annamalai University, Chidambaram and Dr. D. Joseph Anbarasu, Reader in Commerce and Bursar of Bishop Heber College, Trichy were the resource persons for the workshop. 58 participants from all parts of Tamil Nadu attended the workshop. The resource persons enlightened the participants with the application of various statistical tools in the functional areas of research with the help of SPSS Software.

Dr. C. Vijaya Banu, Assistant Professor, and Mr. K. A. Shreenivasan, Lecturer, School of Management, SASTRA were the conveners of the workshop.
A panel discussion on the Union Budget '08 was organised by the Business Line Club of the School of Management, SASTRA on 5th March, 2008.

Dr. V.B. Athreya, Adviser, Food Security Studies, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, Shri G. Shankar, Vice President - Corporate Finance, Brakes India Limited, Chennai participated as panelists. Prof. S. Vaidhyasubramaniyam, Dean, Planning & Development, and Prof. N. Anantharaman, Registrar, SASTRA also participated in the discussion.

Government of India. Department of AYUSH sponsored this programme. 10 participants from various Centres of CCRAS like New Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Kolkata, Uttrakhand, Pondicherry, Chennai, attended the course.

The Department of Training and Placement organized a pre-placement training for all the pre-final year students of UG & PG numbering around 2500 is being conducted by M/s.Blue Lotus and Productivity Reach in a phased manner from 15th March 2008 to 3rd May 2008 to equip the students on the skills required to attend the forthcoming Campus Placement drive for the 2009 batch. Special emphasis is given on areas like Aptitude, Logical Reasoning, Verbal Ability, Mock Interviews and Group Discussion.

M/s.Tata Consultancy Services conducted a Soft Skills Training for the Pre-final year students on 1st and 2nd February 2008 in our campus. Nearly 1800 students benefitted from this training programme.

A Short-Term Training Course on evaluating the Heavy Metals & Pesticide residue in Siddha, Ayurvedic drugs using Spectroscopic and Chromatographic Techniques utilizing Central Sophisticated Instrumentation Facility of CARISM, SASTRA University, was organized from 10th to 20th March 2008 for the Staff Members of the Department of AYUSH, Tamil Nadu.

The participants during a practice session

Mock interview

The participants during a practice session

Group Discussion

Mock interview

Group Discussion

SASTRA UNIVERSITY
SASTRA EMERGES FIRST IN RIVIERA '08

The SASTRA University Cultural Team, Thanjavur, emerged as overall winners at RIVIERA - 2008, a National Level Cultural Festival conducted by the VIT University, Vellore, from Jan 31 to Feb 2, 2008.

The team beat more than 80 institutions that participated from all over the country in this event and emerged as winners with a comfortable margin of over 50 points. It made a clean sweep in the English literary events once again. Besides, many prizes were won by the team in various Arts, Music and Tamil Literary events.

LAURELS IN IBM CONTEST

A team of students from Computer Science and IT departments of SASTRA participated in the Great Mind Challenge Contest conducted by IBM recently. IBM is conducting this contest as part of its academic initiatives. The participants get an opportunity to work on 'Real World Projects' and get recognized for the same by IBM. The students and faculty members can win rewards and recognition at the National level. Our students who participated this year made it to top 20 winning teams among the 1859 colleges that participated in this contest. Our university was among the top 30 colleges to receive a certificate of appreciation and trophy for maximum participation (our ranking among 30 colleges is nine). Chi. P.V. Kedarnath IV B.Tech CSE, Chi. V. Jambunathan IV B.Tech IT and Chi Anil Kumar Puluguratha IV B.Tech IT who participated in the events won an Ipod and a certificate of appreciation. Shri Rajaraman Srinivasan of the IT department guided them.

CAMPUS WIDE WI-FI FACILITY

Shri K. Ananthakrishnan, Chief Technology Officer, M/s. TATA Consultancy Services Ltd. launched the Campus wide Wi-Fi facility at SASTRA on 25th February, 2008. The Wi-Fi facility created at a cost of Rs. 1 Crore enables free internet access to all academic, administrative and hostel blocks, for staff and students. This facility is a boon to the users as it has all state-of-the-art features capable of transforming the teaching - learning mechanism at SASTRA. SASTRA is the only university in India to have a facility of this type and this facility is the largest installation by Siemens in Asia-Pacific region.

WIRELESS CAMPUS RADIO

Shri K. Jayaramakrishnan, Vice-President, M/s. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. launched 7 CUBE (The Wireless Campus Radio at SASTRA) on 25th February, 2008. 7 CUBE, the Wadio, runs in a fully equipped wadio room manned by Wadio Jockeys (WJs) exhibiting their oratory and presentation skills. The Wadio airs multilingual shows in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. daily. It is being streamed throughout the campus on the Wi-fi Network.
THE NINTH NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Ninth National Youth Parliament Competition for Universities 2008 (GROUP LEVEL), organized by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, New Delhi, was held at SASTRA on March 16, 2008. As many as 55 students participated in the programme taking up different roles as the Speaker, Prime Minister, Opposition Leader and other ministers of the Treasury Bench. The most contemporary and relevant issues were discussed during the parliamentary session. Topics like Chandrayan and Space Programme of India, problems related to Rural Employment, Reorganization of constituencies, and the distribution of River water flowing through both India and Pakistan, formed the focus of the Question Hour. The incident of shooting of an 8th std. student at Euro National School of Gurgaon and similar events following that which threatened the whole world; India's Nuclear deal with the US (123) Agreement; the state of Primary Education and Teachers in India and Foreign Direct Investment in the Retail Sector of India were some of the other issues of concern discussed during the session.

The performance of all the participants was awesome especially that of the Speaker (Nitesh), the Prime-Minister (Rajni), Water Resource and Development Minister (L.N.Pandey), Rural Development Minister (Himanshu Jha), Home Minister (Komal), Finance Minister (Vineet Shukla), Foreign Minister (Mohit), Opposition Leader (Srinivas), Opposition Member (Dhara) to mention only a few.

The whole event was judged by a panel consisting of Prof. S. A. Sankaranarayanan, Head of the Department of English, Govt. College for Men, Kumbakonam, (Academician), Shri Singaravelu, Ex.M.P. (Parliamentarian), and Ms. S. Subha, Lecturer, Sanskrit, Seethalakshmi Achi College for Women, Pallathur (Group Coordinator,Tamilnadu Zone comprising five Universities). The judges remarked that the performance of SASTRA team was exuberant, and the arguments were excellent. They also added that this will serve as a very good model for how a parliament session should be held and also said the students have the makings of true parliamentarians in them. Smt. S.Pramila, Sr. Lecturer, English was the coordinator.

M.A. ASTROLOGY COURSE LAUNCHED

M.A. Course in Astrology (Jyothisha Sastra) offered through Distance Mode was launched on 9th February, 2008.

Prof. K.G. Seshadri, Dean, Humanities and Sciences delivered the inaugural address. In his lecture he said that SASTRA is one of the very few universities in India conducting courses in Astrology under the Jyothir Vigyan Scheme originally funded by the University Grants Commission. Now SASTRA is offering the M.A. Degree in Astrology. He traced the growth of Astronomy and Astrology in Western countries.

Ph.D. AT SASTRA

Smt. K. Thenmozhi, Assistant Professor, School of EEE defended her Ph.D., thesis titled “Studies on Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) Implementation at the Physical Layer on a Wireless Platform,” at a public viva voce exam on 28th February 2008. Dr. V. Privithiviraj, Professor, Dept of ECE, Pondicherry Engineering College, who is an approved guide at SASTRA was her Research Advisor and Dr. R. Varadharajan, Professor, School of EEE, SASTRA was the Co-Advisor.
COMPUTER TRAINING FOR IAF STAFF

A ten-day training programme on MS-Office and Internet Preliminaries was conducted by the Department of Computer Applications, SASTRA University for the staff members of the Indian Air Force, Air Force Station, Thanjavur from 28th January to 28th February 2008. The programme was aimed at enhancing the computer literacy of the Air Force personnel as part of their national training policy.

Hands-on training was provided to them at our MCA laboratories, between 5.00 pm and 8.30 pm for two days a week during the training period. This service programme was offered as part of our Industry-institute interaction, based on their request. 30 IAF officers attended the training. The valedictory function was conducted on 28th Feb, in which Wing Commander JK Chandna, Air Force Station, Thanjavur participated and received the participation certificates on behalf of the participants. The feedback received from the participants has been very encouraging.

REPUBLIC DAY

The 59th Republic Day was celebrated at SASTRA with usual gaiety. Prof. N. Anantharaman, Registrar unfurled the national flag and took the salute by NCC cadets. The NSS units organized a blood donation camp. Dr. Subbulakshmi of Thanjavur Medical College and Dr. Radhika Michael of Raja Mirasudar Hospital supervised the camp. 289 units of blood were collected during the camp.

PONGAL GIFT TO VILLAGERS

In view of the Pongal Festival, a bag comprising 5kg rice, 1 kg jaggery and ½ kg dhal each was distributed to 1600 families of Tirumalaisamudram, Vallam Pudur, Munnaiyampatti and Kuruvadipatti villages. Prof. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development, Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean, Sponsored Research and Shri C. Swaminathan, Deputy Registrar (Admn.) participated in these functions and distributed the bags to the beneficiaries.
THE TRIAL SCENE OF THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Under the auspices of the Nonesuch Readers’ club of the Department of English, ten students of the first year B.Tech course enacted the trial scene of Shakespeare’s “The Merchant of Venice” on 21st March, 2008. They worked as a team, rehearsed the play, took advice and improved their performance. With the aid of costumes and properties, they made a very impressive performance. The students who made the presentation deserve special mention. They were Swaminathan Narayanan, Krishnan Narayanan, R.Vamsi, G.Ramkumar, Anuradha, Divya Ravishankar, Harish Shreyas, Aswath Karthikeyan, Kailash Prasad and Joseph Danny.

Prof. K.G.Seshadri, Dean, School of Humanities and Sciences, Dr.K.N.Sivaraman, Dr.B.Krishnamurthy and other faculty members of various schools graced the occasion. Prof. N.Anantharaman, Registrar spoke in appreciation of the students and gave away the prizes to them. Ms.V.Subbulakshmi, Lecturer in English, had originally identified their abilities and encouraged them.

NCC ACTIVITIES

Senior Division & Senior Wing NCC cadets of SRC attended a Combined Annual Training Camp conducted by 8 (TN) B N N C C, Kumbakonam at Govt. Arts College, Kumbakonam from 6th to 15th January, 2008 and won several medals in various competitions.

34 Senior Division & Senior Wing NCC Cadets of SRC attended NCC Certificate ‘B’ examination on 23rd March 2008 at Govt. Arts College, Kumbakonam.

As part of social service activities, the NCC cadets involved themselves in temple cleaning at Kabartheswarar temple in Thiruvalanchuzhi on 14th March 2008 on the eve of the Kumbhabisegham of the temple.

B.Ed. SOCIAL SERVICE CAMP

A two-day Social Service Camp was organized for the B.Ed students at Nathan Koil by the School of Education. The camp was inaugurated by Dr.S. Seshadri, Dean, SRC on 23rd January 2008. Activities like temple cleaning, school campus cleaning and a lecture on Scouts and Guides kept the students engaged for the whole day. As a fine gesture on the part of the management of SASTRA University, a gift pack containing a notebook, a pencil and a pen was distributed to each of the students of the Government Primary School at Nathan Koil.

On 24th January 2008, Shri A.C. Balasubramanian, a Yoga Therapy Consultant gave a lecture cum demonstration on Yoga. Certain Asanas that are capable of breathing fresh air into the dry bones of the human body proved to be the highlight of the session. In the after-noon session Dr.S.Ravi, ENT Surgeon, Kumbakonam spoke on Health Education. A Cultural show by the students of the School of Education marked the successful completion of the camp. Shri R. Sekar, the Camp Officer and the members of the Staff of the School of Education organized the camp.

FIELD TRIP

The students of the School of Education were taken to places of historical and environmental importance at Vedanayam as part of their curricular activities. The members of the staff of the school accompanied them.

IGNOU WORKSHOP

Shri K. Govindarajan, Lecturer in Education was sponsored to attend the workshop on Researching Distance and Online Learning held from February 20-22, 2008 organized by the Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education, Indra Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi.

WORKSHOP ON OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT

G. Venkatraman, Senior Lecturer, Department of English attended the International Workshop of “Introduction to Objective Measurement: Theory and Applications in Education and Human Sciences,” conducted by Dr. Sivakumar Alagumalai, Dean, School of Education, University of Adelaide, Australia at the Department of Educational Technology, Bharathidasan University, Thiruchirappalli, on 30th March 2008.
ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

ELECTRA 2008: Elcom Dais, the Students Forum of ECE Department organised Electra 2008, a two-day interdepartmental Technical-cum-Cultural Fest on 28th - 29th March 2008. Shri L. Kannan, General Manager, B.S.N.L. Kumbakonam inaugurated the function. On the technical side events like Access Denied, Heal it (Hardware & Software debugging) D-sign – art (Poster Designing), C2C (Campus to Corporate – Managerial Quiz) High –Q, Paper Presentation were held and Cultural Contests in J.A.M., idea Mani, Group Dance, Solo Singing, Best Manager, Tamil Lits, English Lits and Variety Entertainment were also organized by the Forum.

WORKSHOP BY COM-MAN FORUM

The Valedictory function of the activities of COM-MAN Forum for the year 2007 – 08 was held with a workshop on Tuesday, 18th March 2008. Dr. G. Balakrishnan, former vice–principal, St. Joseph College, Trichy delivered a lecture on “Communication for Commercial Purposes” and Dr.N.Balasubramanian, Professor, K.A.P. Medical College, Trichy spoke on “Adolescence to Adult – Psychological Adjustments.”

BIOFEST-2008

GENECHEM, the Biopioneers Association of the Department of Chemistry and Biosciences at SRC organized BIOFEST’08 on 19th and 20th March 2008. Competitions like Quiz and Poster Presentation were held as part of the celebration. Dr. T. Thirunalasundari, Reader NFMC, Bharathidasan University was invited by the Association to speak on 'Recent Trends in Immunological Techniques'. The lecture proved to be quite useful to the P.G. Students and to the research scholars as well.

I-QUBE’08

The ExACT Association of Computer Science and Engineering Department organized a Technical Festival I-QUBE on 21st March 2008. Various events like Brain-Scratcher, Logo-Tech, Emulsion, Assist Athena, Boxoffice.com, Ping a Pong ,Mute Action etc., were organized. Prof. B.Palaniappan, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Annamalai University, delivered the valedictory address. In his address, he spoke on advanced computing technologies viz. distributed computing, grid computing, pervasive or ubiquitous computing and mobile computing. He also addressed the needs of these technologies and how these pervaded daily life. He wanted the students to explore the various avenues of research in these areas because of their prevalence in every walk of life. He gave away the prizes for the winners in various events.

AWARD FOR PUBLICATION

Mrs. R. Amudha, Senior Lecturer, Department of Commerce, SRC, published a research paper (co-authored by Dr.C.Vijaya Banu, Assistant Professor School of Management, SASTRA) titled, “Service quality in banking with special reference to ICICI Bank Ltd., Tiruchirapalli District” in the international journal, Asia Pacific Business Review, Vol III, No.2 July – Dec.2007, Pp.18-26. Mrs. R.Amudha was awarded a Cash Prize of Rs.3000 by the journal for the paper.

INVITED TALKS BY FACULTY

Prof. T. Jeyadoss, Head of the Department of Chemistry and Bio-Sciences was invited to give a lecture on 'Life is Chemistry' in a state level seminar on Mathematical Bio-Chemistry organized by Govt. College for Women (Autonomous), Kumbakonam on 10th March 2008. The lecture was attended by M.Sc. and M.Phil Students of Mathematics, Chemistry and Zoology.

Shri D. Narasimhan, Sr. Lecturer, Dept. of Mathematics was invited to deliver a lecture on 'An Introduction to Cryptography' on 11th March 2008 by Govt. College for Men (Autonomous) Kumbakonam.

FREE MEAL TO ORPHANAGE

The SRC Rotaract Club volunteers provided free meal to the inmates of Annai Karunai Illam at Melacauvery, Kumbakonam on 5th April, 2008. A gift pack containing stationery items was also given. Shri G. Sethuraman, Lecturer, Department of Commerce organised the programme as the staff advisor of Rotaract Club at SRC.
NCC GUARD OF HONOUR

The Group Commander Col. G.K. Jacob, NCC Group, Trichi and Commanding Officer of the 4 TN Girls Battalion NCC, Tiruchi, and Col. Sanjay Anand, visited SASTRA University on 10th January, 2008. Cadets of Army Wing and Air Wing accorded the guard of honour to the vice-chancellor of SASTRA, Prof. R. Sethuraman, and the Group Commander respectively. Thereafter the vice-chancellor discussed with the Group Commander the improvements and achievements made by the NCC Wing of the University.

Col. Jacob motivated the NCC cadets to excel in their respective fields. The cadets were overwhelmed with joy when he honoured them with medals for their outstanding performance.

TIES 2008 – ACHIEVEMENTS

SASTRA's Best Physique team were the Runners-Up in the Best Physique event in the Tamil Nadu Inter Engineering Sports (TIES) Meet held at Mohamed Sathak Engineering College, Kilakarai on 8th February 2008 and won the Mepco Schlenk Engineering College Faculty Shield.

Chi. P. Pandiyarajan, III Biot won the Gold Medal in 60 kg category in best Physique competition and Chi. V. Ravikumar, IV ECE won the Silver Medal in 56kg category. Our Chess team (Men) secured the third place.

Chi. H. Balakrishnan, IV MIBT won the 9th place in All India Inter-University Weight Lifting Competition held from 18th to 23rd January 2008 at Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College of Punjab University, Anandpur Sahib, Punjab.

MAGAZINES BY STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

NUCLEO

The third volume of Nucleo, the magazine by Biotikos, the students Biotechnology association of SASTRA has been released. Entire work of the 112-page multi-colour magazine with a CD, was done by the students. 5000 copies have been printed and specimen have been sent to colleges and universities in India. The present issue contains interviews by eminent personalities, articles on biotechnology by students and others and many other interesting features. Kum. P. Divya was the Editor-in-Chief & Overall Coordinator of the issue.

CEREBRATION

Issue 3 of Cerebration, a magazine brought out by the Electrical & Electronics Engineering Students Association, ELECTRA, has been released. This issue has a number of articles on technical and general interest, interviews, quiz and many useful titbits.

NSS SPECIAL CAMP

NSS Special Camp was organized by the NSS Units at Munniyampatti and Kuruvadipatti villages from February 8-17, 2008. Free Eye Camp was conducted on 12th Feb. 2008. Doctors from Mahatma Gandhi Eye hospital, Tiruchirappalli conducted the camp in which about 100 persons had their eyes tested. Four were taken to Tiruchirappalli for IOL operation and IOL lens worth Rs 3000 was fixed freely.

An AIDS awareness rally was organized on 14th Feb. 2008. A Herbal Camp was conducted for arthritis and body pain by Dr. T. Dakshinamoorthy and his team. Around 75 persons were treated in the camp. NSS Officers Shri P. Balasubramaniam and G. Saravanan Moorthy organized the camp.

SNIPPETS FROM SHANMUGHA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE

NSS SPECIAL CAMP
24th SPORTS DAY

The Twenty Fourth Sports Day was held on 13th March, 2008. Dr. K. Thiyagarajan, Dean, School of Mechanical Engineering, SASTRA delivered the Sports Day Address and distributed the prizes.

24th INSTITUTION DAY

The Twenty Fourth Institution Day of Shanmugha Polytechnic College was held on 13th March, 2008. Dr. S. Seshadri, Dean, Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA, Kumbakonam delivered the Institution Day Address and distributed the Kamakoti Award (Gold Medal) and the Special awards and prizes.

Book Prizes worth Rs. 55,000/- were distributed to 230 students towards academic prizes and for their achievements in extracurricular activities. The Kamakoti Award (Gold Medal) was presented to Chi. G. Balaji, III Mech. Engg. He also received the Prof. K.G. Seshadri Award of Rs. 500 instituted by Shri. G. Venkatraman, Dept. of English, SASTRA, for the best all-rounder of the Final year diploma classes.