Message from
VICE-CHANCELLOR

Students are at the crossroads of professional college admissions and despite a number of opportunities available for them they are confronted with a high level of uncertainty. But not in SASTRA, as admissions are made purely based on merit. SASTRA has ensured transparency in admissions both in the preparation and release of rank list and during the time of counselling. The punch line for our admission policy is: THINK MERIT, THINK TRANSPARENCY, THINK SASTRA. The rush for admission to various B.Tech programmes offered at SASTRA continues to be unabated year after year, as our merit-based admission policy and the quality education provided at SASTRA serve as the lodestar for the parents. This year the counselling for admission was conducted from 14th to 18th June 2008.

The kind of education, the necessary technical skills and the soft skills training we provide to our wards enable them to secure jobs in top-notch companies. In the placement festival conducted this year, 1111 offers have been made to the 2009 batch. The placement still continues with more companies visiting this academic year.

SASTRA has added one more feather in its cap with the 8-crore Central Animal House Facility, inaugurated by Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, DST, New Delhi on April 24, 2008. A high level delegation from the University of Missouri and Sankara Nethralaya visited SASTRA on June 27, 2008 to pave the way for tripartite research and academic collaboration. The Knowledge Leadership Forum conceived in connection with the Silver Jubilee of SASTRA will attract the best minds to SASTRA.

Sri Sri Padmavati Srinivasa Thirukkalyana Utsav organized jointly by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams and SASTRA was celebrated on April 25, 2008 at our SRC Campus, Kumbakonam for universal prosperity and harmony.

The present issue of ITIHAS comes to your hands with the regular features -- the VII University Day, Endowment Lectures, Workshops and Seminars organized by different Schools and so on.

SASTRA COUNSELLING FOR B.TECH ADMISSIONS

Counselling for admission to various B.Tech courses for the year 2008-09 at SASTRA University was held from 14th to 18th June, 2008. Earlier SASTRA released the merit rank list for admission. This merit list was for 70 per cent seats to be filled by SASTRA following the process of normalization based on +2 marks. The rank list was drawn from over 15,000 applications from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, New Delhi, Bihar, U.P., West Bengal, Maharashtra, Assam, and several other states for admission to 1200 seats. The rank list was released on June 07, 2008 at 9.00 p.m., 3 hours after the deadline to receive completed applications forms. The remaining 30 per cent will be filled through AIEEE ’08.

The first admission letter was handed over to Kum. Patturi Mridula of Andhra Pradesh by Shri D. Suresh Kumar, Asst. Editor - Education, Times of India.

SASTRA's Gesture to Thanjavur, Trichy Students

SASTRA offered 20 per cent of B.Tech. seats to students belonging to Thanjavur and Trichy districts (10% each). This gesture of SASTRA is in response to genuine requests from parents and general public who belong to Thanjavur and Trichy districts.
Counselling at SRC

Counselling for admission to various B.Tech. courses at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, Kumbakonam was held on 23rd June, 2008. Kumari Sowjanya who was ranked first in the merit list received the first allotment letter from Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean, Sponsored Research, SASTRA.

Educational Loan

Special Educational Loan Campaign was organized by City Union Bank (CUB), Thanjavur. CUB sanctioned loans for 75 students which includes 39 girl students, to the tune of Rs. 1.75 crores. The CUB also sanctioned Rs.62.5 Lakhs to 42 students admitted at SRC.

VII UNIVERSITY DAY

The Seventh University Day of SASTRA was held on 11th April 2008. Shri K. Chandrasekaran, Chief General Manager, Indian Overseas Bank delivered the University Day Address and distributed various awards and prizes.

Delivering the University Day address Shri Chandrasekaran emphasized the need for the student-community to develop communication skills, discipline and character in all walks of life. He appreciated the developments at SASTRA and its contribution to develop a student into a rounded personality.

Chi. R. Chandramouleswaran, a student of IV B.Tech Computer Science and Engineering was awarded the Kamakoti Award - a gold medal, for his overall excellence in academic, sports, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. 1060 students were presented book-prizes worth Rs. 2.61 lakhs for their outstanding performance in academics in various courses.
A cash incentive of Rs. 5000 each was given to the 60-member cultural team that won FESTEMBER and RIVIERA in 2007-08. Chi. Aswin Ramakrishnan who scored 99.92 percent in CAT and has got call letter from all the IIMs in India was presented a cash incentive of Rs. 5000.

Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor presented the Annual Report for the year 2007-08. Chi. Mayur Verma, Chairman, Students' Forum welcomed the gathering and Kum. R. Pavithra, Students' Secretary proposed a vote of thanks.

**Cash Incentive for Ph.D.**

Shri K. Chandrasekaran, Chief General Manager, Indian Overseas Bank handed over a cheque of Rs.1 lakh each for the following seven faculty members of SASTRA who acquired Ph.D. degrees without sacrificing their regular academic work:

Dr. D. Valavan, Dr. K. Murughu Mohan Kumar, Dr. N. Baskar (School of Mechanical Engg.), Dr. K. Thenmozhi (School of Electrical & Electronics Engg.), Dr. R. Renganathan (School of Management), Dr. V. Shrihari (School of Civil Engg.), Dr. S. Adlin Princy, (School of Chemical & Biotechnology)

**SPORTS DAY**

The 24th Sports Day was held on 4th April, 2008 at SASTRA Campus. Shri Abash Kumar, IPS, DGP, Thanjavur Range delivered the Sports Day Address and distributed the prizes. Shri V. Paramasivam, Physical Director, presented the Physical Education Annual Report. The SASTRA rolling shield was presented to the BLUE House which secured 82 points. Chi. M. Muzhaffer Hussain of III ECE got the individual championship for men and Kum. Priyanka of III E&I, for women.

Dr. S. Swaminathan, Director, Centre for Nanotechnology & Advanced Biomaterials (CeNTAB), SASTRA University went to Iran as part of the Indian delegation led by Prof. C.N.R. Rao, Honorary President, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research during April 28-30, 2008. Dr. S. Swaminathan delivered an invited lecture on “Novel Nanomaterials for Regenerative Medicine” where he highlighted the importance of tissue scaffold materials and topography for bone and neural tissue engineering. Dr.
SASTRA University has established 'Jiva Janthu Pariksha Kendra' (Central Animal House), at a cost of Rs.8 crores. One of the six of its type in the country, this facility adheres to the highest standards of animal laboratory care with state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology inaugurated the facility on 24th April, 2008. In his inaugural address Dr. Ramasami advised the young researchers to have mathematician Ramanujan as their role model and work out their own path through the oriental model of inductive logic to visualise the power of integration and the knowledge of different systems.

The Centre was planning to engage 1.20 lakh students in various scientific research schemes in the next five years and proposed to award a stipend of Rs. 1 lakh to students after completion of X and XII Standards and engage them in programmes oriented towards scientific research.

Dr. Ramasami addressing the audience

Dr. Ramasami inaugurating the Animal House Block

Dr. Ramaswami visiting the Automated Biochemical Analyser facility at the Animal House

Swaminathan’s visit to Iran is another feather in CeNTAB’s cap and reflects the growing recognition of the research work being carried out at this Centre.
VISIT OF HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION FROM UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

A high level delegation from the University of Missouri, led by its Chancellor Dr Brady J Deaton and a research team from Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, led by Dr S.S Badrinath visited SASTRA University on 27th June, 2008.

The visit was aimed at exploring the possibility of a tripartite research and academic collaboration between SASTRA, Sankara Nethralaya and the University of Missouri in the field of Nanomedicine and Nuclear Engineering.

Dr S.S.Badrinath, Director of Sankara Nethralaya recorded his satisfaction with the resources at SASTRA and expressed happiness and interest in creating a tripartite agreement among the University of Missouri, Sankara Nethralaya and SASTRA.

Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor, expressed SASTRA’s strong commitment to quality education and research and its willingness and readiness to grow with renowned industry-academic partners. Towards this, a team of professors and researchers from SASTRA would be visiting the University of Missouri to finalise a working proposal on common areas of interest, he added.

THE KNOWLEDGE LEADERSHIP FORUM

The Knowledge Leadership Forum conceived in connection with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of SASTRA University was inaugurated on June 27, 2008.

Prof Kattesh V Katti, Director, Cancer Nanotechnology Platform, University of Missouri, Columbia, who visited SASTRA as part of the high level delegation from Missouri, delivered a talk on "Design and Development of site directed green nanoparticles for molecular imaging and therapy".

His talk outlined the applications of nanoparticles in renewable energy, medical imaging, cancer therapy, smart material design, fast computers, heat transfer and environmental restoration.

Dr. Kattesh V Katti is the winner of the coveted 'Outstanding Missourian' award for his work in cancer research, Nanomedicine and Green Nanotechnology, and the coveted ‘2007 Outstanding St. Louis Scientist Fellows Award' by the Academy of Science of St. Louis.
ENDOWMENT LECTURES

Third Shri Narayanan Memorial Lecture

The Third Shri V. Narayanan (Former Chairman, City Union Bank Ltd.) Memorial Lecture was organized at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA, Kumbakonam on 2nd February 2008. Prof. R. Vaidhyanathan, Professor of Finance and Control, IIM Bangalore, delivered the lecture on the topic ‘Emerging Trends in the Financial Markets’. Prof. Vaidhyanathan explained how three powerful forces namely Globalization, Information Technology and Convergence have impacted the global financial system in a fundamental way.

Earlier Prof. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development, SASTRA welcomed the gathering and introduced the chief guest. He made a special mention of the gentle qualities of Shri V. Narayanan who is remembered as an epitome of sincerity, simplicity and service-mindedness. Prof. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam described Shri V. Narayanan as a gentleman who redefined the concept of customer relationship in the banking sector. Prof. N. Anantharaman, Registrar, SASTRA University proposed a vote of thanks. The function was attended by the members of the staff and students of SASTRA and the officials of City Union Bank, including Shri N. Kamakodi, Executive Director and Shri. Balasubramanian, General Manager.

Eighth Shri S. Ramachandra Iyer Satabhishekam Endowment Lecture

Prof M.S. Valiathan, former Director of Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram and former Vice-Chancellor of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), delivered the Eighth Shri Ramachandra Iyer Satabhishekam Endowment Lecture on April 11, 2008. He took the audience into a spellbinding journey of "The Story of the Chitra-TTK Heart Valve Prosthesis". He described the various sequential steps involved in the development of a heart valve that include selection and characterization of materials, toxicological tests, fabrication protocols and functional tests followed by pre-clinical & clinical trials. He explained in detail the rationale behind the design and choice of materials for the four models of heart valves developed at Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences. His talk was followed by an interactive session with the students. The lecture served as a primer for the students to pursue research in this exciting area.

A Centre for Advanced Research in Environment (CARE) has been established at SASTRA. The Centre was launched by Shri K. Chandrasekaran, Chief General Manager, Indian Overseas Bank on 11th April 2008.

Considering the need for research in the field of environment, SASTRA University has established the Centre for Advanced Research in Environment (CARE). This shall be a Centre of Excellence catering to the R&D demands in all spheres of environment. The mission is to enhance the quality of life by ensuring environmental security for all, by providing necessary Research and Development inputs. The focus of CARE is to provide a vehicle for the rapid dissemination of information of interest to professionals in academia, industry, government and consulting firms who are involved in research in environmental quality control or design and operation of waste treatment processes or process modification for pollution prevention or improved energy efficiency. Protected water supply to rural and urban communities and water quality surveillance, which is presently not given due importance, will be one of targeted tasks for the CARE.
XIV ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING


The Council appreciated Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean (SR) & Director (CeNTAB) for introducing the programme of M.Tech. Medical Nanotechnology for which the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, has granted financial assistance, which includes Fellowship for 20 students with valid GATE scores, at the rate of Rs.5,000 per month and Rs.25,000 towards contingency.

The programme of Nuclear Engineering has been designed in consultation with the expertise of Prof. V.S. Ramamurthy, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT, New Delhi, Dr. Amit Roy, IUAC, New Delhi, Dr. S. Kailash, BARC, Mumbai, Dr. C. Anand Babu and Dr. P. Puthiavinayagam, IGCAR, Kalpakkam.

The programme of Nanoelectronics has been designed in consultation with the expertise of Prof. Rajanna, IISc, Dr. M.S. Ramachandra Rao, IIT and Dr. A.K. Arora, IGCAR.

The scheme of Choice Based Credit System for students admitted in 2007-08 has been approved by the Council for all undergraduate programmes. This enables students to finish all the course work within seven semesters and carry out a six-month full-time project work either at SASTRA University or in an industry or in a research organisation. Students will also have a wide choice of departments and open electives providing flexibility to specialise and explore in their desired field of interest. The open electives would include special courses like IPR, Systems Thinking, Finance for Engineers, Building Technology, etc.

The Council has also approved the rules and regulations for conferring D.Sc. and D. Litt. Degrees on outstanding researchers.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. R. Sethuraman presided over the meeting.

Dr. P.V. Vaidhyanathan, former Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University, Dr. B. Ilango, former Vice-Chancellor of Bharathiar University and senior academicians from SASTRA participated.

SASTRA – TIMES OF INDIA WORKSHOP ON CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN NANOTECHNOLOGY

A Workshop on "Career Opportunities in Nanotechnology" was organized by SASTRA University jointly with the Times of India group at the Music Academy in Chennai on June 22, 2008. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize the students on the plethora of research and career opportunities available in the field of Nanotechnology. The workshop was addressed by eminent persons from industry and academia. The list of speakers included Dr. Rama Mukherjee, President, ARA Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon, Dr. T. Pradeep, IIT Madras, Dr. Arup Kumar Chaterjee, CEO, Innovation Centre for Applied Nanotechnology, Kolkata, Mr. S. Anand, Frost & Sullivan and Dr. S. Swaminathan, Director, Centre for Nanotechnology & Advanced Biomaterials (CeNTAB), SASTRA University. More than 600 students attended the workshop.

Ph.D. BY FACULTY

Shri R. Arul Gnanaraj, Assistant Professor, School of Chemical and Biotechnology, was awarded Ph.D. for his thesis entitled “Heat and Mass Transfer Studies in Solid Waste” in May 2008. He carried out his research programme at the Department of Chemistry, NIT, Trichy under Bharatidasan University, Trichy.

Ph.D. AT SASTRA

Shri V. Venkatraman, Senior Lecturer in Mathematics defended his Ph.D thesis titled “Study of a few Two Phase Fluid Flow Problems in the Presence and Absence of Magnetic Fields” at a public viva-voce examination conducted on 11th June 2008. Dr. K. Kannan, Professor, Department of Mathematics was his research advisor.
SASTRA University and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams jointly conducted Sri Sri Padmavathi Srinivasa Thirukkalyana Utsav on 25th April 2008 at 4.30 p.m. at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, Kumbakonam. Srinivasa Thirukalyana Utsav is an event conducted all over the country by the Dharma Prachara Parishad Tirumala under the guidance of the Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams, with the noble aim of reaching out to the devotees of the Lord and to enable them to have His darshan, witness His Thirukkalyanam and to receive His Grace. The Thirukkalyanam was organized with a view to providing the people of Kumbakonam and the neighbouring places an opportunity to witness this celestial wedding. Around twenty thousand devotees had the rare good fortune to attend the Utsav organized for universal prosperity and harmony. Thambulam bags and Prasadham packets were distributed to all devotees who attended the Utsav.
Wedding gifts and offerings being brought in for the function

Vivaha Sankalpam

A Section of the devout gathering

Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre in a blaze of glory
SASTRA WINS VIJAY TV’S EQ-2

The Cultural Team of SASTRA won an allround victory over the College of Engineering Guindy, Anna University in the finals conducted from 29th to 31st March, 2008 in the Vijay TV’s famous cultural competition EQ-2. SASTRA team won the Rolling Crystal Trophy and a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakhs. SASTRA was one among the 54 teams selected for audition from colleges all over Tamil Nadu. Our team maintained its lead in all the four rounds securing maximum points. In the grand finale SASTRA team secured 85 points and won the award. In each round a team has to participate in music, dance and variety events. In the first round our team got the individual Best Performance Award for all the three categories and in the semi finals the Best Male Performer Award.

STTP ON RECENT TRENDS IN HIGH VOLTAGE ENGINEERING

A 5-day AICTE-ISTE sponsored Short-Term Training Programme on “Recent Trends in High Voltage Engineering and Applications of Power Electronics to Power Systems” was conducted by the Department of EEE between June 2 - 6, 2008. It was attended by 30 participants from various Engineering Colleges in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Karnataka. The resource persons were drawn from W.S. Test Systems, Bangalore, N.I.T. Tiruchi and SASTRA. There were 12 Technical Sessions and 4 Lab Sessions, apart from an Industrial Visit to the 110 KV Substation at Vallam. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. S. Gopal, Executive Director, W.S. Systems, Bangalore.

Dr. R. Sankaran and Dr. V.Dharmalingam, School of EEE, were the Coordinators for the programme.

WORKSHOP ON CASE WRITING AND CASE METHOD OF TEACHING

The School of Management, SASTRA University, organized a one-day workshop on “Case Writing and Case Method of Teaching” on 12th April 2008. Shri. K.M. Padmanabhan, PRERANA Educational Media Pvt. Ltd., Chennai, a Trainer and a Chartered Accountant, Mrs.R. Sujatha and Ms.M. Banumathi, Faculty members from PSG Institute of Management, Coimbatore - all of them trained in IIM-Ahmedabad in Case Method of Teaching - were resource persons for the workshop. 47 participants from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka attended the workshop. There were extensive floor participation and the resource persons enlightened the participants with typical case studies and threw more light on how to draw effective participation at the class room level. The participants opined that the workshop was a unique one.

Dr.R.Renganathan, and Shri.K.A.Vijay Raghavan, Assistant Professors, School of Management were the workshop conveners.
AMITY UNIVERSITY - SASTRA MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD

AMITY Center for Olympiad and Technology, Noida U.P. and SASTRA jointly organized the third Mathematics Olympiad Workshop. This workshop was conducted in the Amity University Campus at Noida, from May 14 to 25, 2008. Dr. R. Srikanth and Dr. K. Kannan faculty of Mathematics, SASTRA were the resource persons for the workshop. The valedictory function was held on 25th May, 2008 in which Dr. S.C Arora and Dr. V.B. Kamble from DST, New Delhi participated.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Four one-day Faculty Development Workshops for the lecturers of various schools of SASTRA are being conducted to keep faculty members abreast of the latest and best teaching practices in higher technical education. Two workshops in the series were conducted on 21st June and 28th June 2008 for the teachers of the School of Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Management and Humanities and Sciences.

Outside experts and senior professors from SASTRA acted as Resource Persons. Dr. B. Ilango, Former Vice Chancellor, Bharathiar University, inaugurated the workshop and delivered the key-note address. In his key-note address Dr. Ilango said: “The technical education in our country is growing horizontally than vertically and many of the institutions only produce graduates, not skilled engineers. To leave the graduates unskilled is a flaw on the part of the institutions.” He commended SASTRA which cares for quality of education and also spoke high on the advanced research facilities provided at SASTRA, especially in Nanotechnology. Dr. Ilango also praised SASTRA’s efforts to train the faculty members periodically.

WORKSHOP ON SOFTWARE TESTING

A three-day workshop on “Software Testing” was organized by the Department of Computer Applications for the Final year MCA students from 27th April to 29th April 2008. Quality Test Professional (QTP) Testing Tool was introduced to all participants and hands-on training was given.

BRIDGE COURSE FOR LATERAL ENTRY STUDENTS

With a view to facilitating the Diploma Engineering students who aspire for admission to the B.Tech courses acquire fundamental knowledge of the basic subjects, a Bridge Course was organized for 45 days from May 5th, 2008. Technical Communication Skills, Mathematics and Programming Languages C & C++ were taught during the course. This free course was conducted, recognizing the need for providing an exposure to the diploma engineers on par with their peers. 126 students admitted into various branches of II B. Tech. attended the programme.
**VII UNIVERSITY DAY AT SRC**

The VII University Day of SRC was held on 11th April 2008. Dr. Raman Srinivasan, Head, IGNITE M/s TATA Consultancy Services, Chennai was the chief guest. In his University Day address he advised the students to employ their full potential constructively for their growth and for the growth of the nation. He also distributed the academic prizes and special awards to meritorious students. Dr. S. Seshadri, Dean, Engineering presented the Annual Report for the year 2007-2008. Earlier the students' chairman Sri. Vaidyananth welcomed the gathering and student's secretary Selvi Charumathi proposed a vote of thanks. The celebrations came to a close with a musical ensemble by Nadhabramam.

**VII SPORTS DAY AT SRC**

The VII Sports Day was celebrated at SRC on 12th April, 2008. Shri S. Seshadri, Dean Engineering presided over the function and distributed the prizes and trophies to the students proficient in sports and games. The winners of various sports and cultural contests conducted by the University for the schools and colleges in Thanjavur, Nagapattinam and Thiruvur Districts were also honoured. Shri P. Senthilkumar, the Physical Director of the centre presented the physical education annual report.

**88th RAMANUJAN REMEMBERANCE DAY**

SASTRA University observed 26th April 2008 as the 88th Ramanujan Remembrance Day. Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India inaugurated the one-day Symposium organized by the Department of Mathematics at SRC.

Dr. T. Ramasami, in his inaugural address, highlighted the great mathematical prodigy's contribution to the world of Mathematics and compared him to Mahakavi Bharathi and Aadi Sankarar. Prof. K. Srinivas, Institute of Mathematics and Sciences, Chennai, Prof. R. Padma, DMIT, Chennai and Prof. K. Srinivasa Rao, SASTRA spoke on different topics related to Ramanujan Mathematics. Earlier Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor welcomed the gathering.

*Book Release*

Dr. T. Ramasami released the book “Mathematical Genius Srinivasa Ramanujan” translated into English by Dr. K. Srinivasa Rao, DST Professor, SRC, SASTRA. Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor received the first copy.
115th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF KANCHI MAMUNIVER

SASTRA University celebrated the 115th birth anniversary of Kanchi Mamunivar, His Holiness Shri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Swamigal on 17th June 2008 at SRC, Kumbakonam. Food packets were distributed to 500 poor people on the occasion by the NSS volunteers.

WORLD FOREST DAY

200 saplings were planted at the University Campus in Kumbakonam as a mark of celebrating the World Forest Day on 29th March 2008 by the NSS units at SRC. Major A. Balasubramaniam, Principal, SoE inaugurated the programme and Dr. S. Seshadri, Dean, Engg. SRC presided over the function. NSS volunteers rendered their services in planting the saplings.

NSS ACTIVITIES

Pulse Polio Immunization programme was inaugurated by Dr. Prabakaran, Municipal Medical Officer, Kumbakonam on 6th January, 2008. 30 NSS volunteers joined hands with the Dept. of Health and Municipal Corporation, Kumbakonam and rendered their services to the public at the Railway Station, Bus Stand and other places.

Shri Jaikumar, Assistant Manager, Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation Accident Prevention Cell spoke on Road Safety Measures on 7th January 2008. Shri A. Ravindran, Traffic Inspector, Kumbakonam, also spoke.

A Blood Donation and Blood Group Identification Camp was organized on 8th February 2008 in which 50 units of blood were donated to the Government Hospital, Kumbakonam. Dr. Abdul Mohideen Khadar and his technical team rendered their services in identifying blood groups of 100 students.

40 NSS volunteers were deputed by the NSS Units at SRC to assist the traffic police in controlling the crowd during the Thaipoosam Festival on 22nd January, 2008, at Swamimalai.
NSS SPECIAL CAMP

The N.S.S. Units of SASTRA at SRC Kumbakonam organised a Special Camp at Maruthunallur, Karuvalarcheri and Nandhivanam from 14th March 2008 – 23rd March 2008, insisting on the theme 'Healthy Youth for Healthy India'. Apart from social service activities like Tree Planting, Free Medical Camp for the poor and needy of the locality, several awareness raising lectures were given by various experts. On 15th of March 2008, Dr. T.R. Sivarama Krishnan, Dean Research, SASTRA delivered a lecture on 'Environmental Enigma' The General Medical Camp was inaugurated by Dr. S. Raghu Raman N.S.S. Coordinator on 16th March, 2008.

Shri A. Balasubramaniam, Yoga Therapy Consultant, Spoke on 'Yoga'. Sports Competitions were held for village school children and prizes were distributed. Sri. G. Ramamoorthy Reddiar, a land lord at Marudhanallur shared his experience in agriculture with the village farmers. On 21st Prof. N. Anantharaman, Registrar, delivered a special lecture on Healthy Economy for Wealthy Life. Shri. S. Sayee Prasanna and Shri S. Meganathan, NSS programme officers organized the camp.

NCC ACTIVITIES

The NCC cadets of SRC both boys and girls participated in Thalsainik Camp conducted at Trichy by 2(TN) Arms Sqn NCC from 18th to 30th May 2008.

SRC NCC Cadets attended 8 (TN) BN NCC Shooting Competition held at Govt. Arts College, Karaikudi on 4th and 5th June, 2008. Two Girl Cadets namely SGT R. Saranya of II CCS and Lance Corporal M.C. Vidhya of II MCS were selected for Zonal Shooting Capsules to be held from 7th to 16th August, 2008 at Coimbatore.

14 NCC Cadets of SRC took active part in Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC) organised by 8 (TN) BN NCC, Kumbakonam from 4th to 13th June, 2008 at Govt. Arts College, Kumbakonam. SGT J. Vaidhyanathasamy of III BBA won the Gold Medal in the Shooting Competition.

SGT R. Sarnya III CCS won the II Best Cadet Award in the whole of Trichy NCC Group in the Inter Unit Competition Camp conducted by Trichy NCC Group H.Q. from 13th to 22nd June, 2008 at the camp held in National Institute of Technology, Trichy.

NSS SPECIAL CAMP

A ten-day NSS Special Camp was organized at Kuruvadipatti, Nattani, Vallampudur and Munnaiyampatti villages from March 28 to April 6, 2008. The camp was inaugurated by Prof. N. Anantharaman, Registrar on 28th March. Dr. Ravichandran and Dr. Saghayam of CARISM conducted the Siddha Medical Camp on 29th March 08. Temple cleaning, road formation and planting of saplings were some of the works undertaken by the volunteers of the three NSS Units. They also conducted English and Hindi classes for the students at the Elementary School, Vallampudur. NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. V. Vaithiyanathan, Programme Officers Shri D. Manivannan, Shri R. Ramasubramanian and Shri Bhargava coordinated the camp activities.
SASTRA-IGNOU JOINT PROGRAMMES

SASTRA University and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), under the Convergence Scheme of Open & Distance Learning, offer 31 programmes through distance education mode, including MBA - Master of Business Administration, MBF - Master of Business Administration (Banking & Finance), MTM – Master of Arts (Tourism Management), BHA – Bachelor of Science (Hospitality & Hotel Administration), and various Post-Graduate, Certificate and Diploma Programmes. SASTRA may use the instructional material of IGNOU initially for a period of three years. After conducting the terminal examination, degrees will be issued jointly by SASTRA and IGNOU.

Under the scheme, the regular students of SASTRA University are also allowed to enroll for the degree of the same level in IGNOU under Dual Degree Programme and in such cases, credit transfer will be given due consideration. The courses commence from July 2008.

SASTRA BIOTECH PARK DESIGN WINS AWARD

The designer of SASTRA’s Biotech Park, OSCAR & Ponni Architects, Chennai, has won the Indian Buildings Congress Award for Excellence in built - environment for the project executed for SASTRA University. This is an exquisite, sleek, high-tech expressionist building blending technology and innovative design and planning. This 2,00,000 square feet building houses the laboratories, gallery type class rooms, a 500-seater auditorium and an animal house. This building has been designed with the state-of-the-art engineering, with special foundations and mechanical systems tailored for sensitive laboratory experiments.

The award was received by Oscar G. Concessao, Principal Architect, from Mr. Jaipal Reddy, Union Minister for Urban Development, at New Delhi on May 8th, 2008.

SASTRA PROFESSOR AS RESOURCE PERSON IN UGC ACADEMIC STAFF COLLEGES

Dr. N. Seshadri, Professor, School of Education, SASTRA served as a Resource Person for the Orientation Programmes intended for the University and College teachers conducted by the U.G.C. Academic Staff Colleges of Bharathidasan, Bharathiar and Pondicherry Universities on 10th May, 2nd June and 21st June 2008 respectively. Dr. Seshadri spoke on “Professional Ethics and Code of Conduct for the Teachers of Higher Education.”
Kum. K.P. Gayathri, a III MCA student of SASTRA had displayed her art works and paintings at a two-day exhibition, at Hotel Femina, in May 2008.

At a time when abstract expressions within frames are in-thing in art arena, K. P. Gayathri's works made an impact with expressive and defined features. Forty-five paintings, each vying to catch every eye's attention, make it incredible to deem it as her maiden exhibition.

Of all, murals mesmerized the visitors with their clarity and aesthetics. A 'Dancing Ganesha' in mural takes the cake for its sheer magnificence. Colours sink in so well in paintings on deities and fail to strike people at the first look.

Splashes of auburn on patchwork paintings demanded attention and not surprisingly, the works had many takers. Rustic woman carrying pots in mural made an aesthetic statement with sharply delineated features.

Thanjavur paintings were rich with precious and semi-precious stones and gold foils. Standing apart was a painting on Krishna, which was attention-grabbing for the minute details given on the skin shades. Gurjari and Warli, tribal paintings of Gujarat and Maharashtra, were also tried out by Kum. Gayathri with success. She has tried her hands on a plethora of media – from velvet and sand to cloth and wood.