Message from
VICE - CHANCELLOR

Towards improving the quality input of students getting admitted to SASTRA University’s B. Tech programmes, the Academic Council of SASTRA resolved to adopt a new admission policy. According to this policy, from 2014-15 onwards, 70% of the students will be admitted on the basis of the normalised aggregate of marks in +2 examinations conducted by various boards across the country and their performance in JEE Main (Joint Entrance Examination); the rank calculated on 75% weightage to +2 marks and 25% to the JEE score. The remaining 30% of the admissions will be based on the normalised aggregate of +2 marks alone.

Dr. Peter Scholze of the University of Bonn, Germany is the winner of the prestigious SASTRA-Ramanujan Award for the year 2013. Instituted in 2005, the award is conferred every year on a young mathematician of great achievement. At the age of 25 now, he is already one of the most influential mathematicians in the world.

The School of Law, SASTRA University, organized ‘LAWGICAL CONNECT,’ a panel discussion of eminent legal luminaries at Chennai on October 26, 2013 on the topic, “Does the Judicial Commission Guarantee Judicial Independence?” It aimed at sensitizing the legal community and the citizenry on the need for legal independence in the matter of appointment of judges and freedom to act independently on merits of the case, rather than functioning as committed judiciary. Legal luminaries Shri Anil Divan, Shri K. Parasaran, Shri Soli Sorabjee and Shri Ram Jethmalani were the panelists.

Another major event of this quarter was the Shri Narayanan Memorial Lecture on December 27, 2013, delivered by Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. He spoke on “The Global in India and India in the Global.” The eminent economist and orator predicted a growth rate of 8% for our country in the near future, provided we remain globally integrated, and produce adequate energy and fuel indigenously.

It is a happy news that the students of the School of Law won the 16th S.C. Javali Memorial National Moot Court Competition held at Dhawad in October, 2013. In yet another significant achievement, Chi. Karmugilvannan of the final year M. Tech. Medical Nanotechnology branch bagged the first prize in the ‘Wiki Loves Monuments India 2013’ contest organized by Wikipedia. It is a matter of pride for all of us that his prize winning photograph is a breathtaking panoramic view of Sri Brahadeeswara Temple at Thanjavur, a UNESCO monument.

The present issue of ITIHAS covers all these events and many more in detail.

Wish you all a happy New Year 2014!

Prof. R. Sethuraman
Vice-Chancellor

PROF. PETER SCHOLZE, UNIVERSITY OF BONN RECEIVES SASTRA-RAMANUJAN AWARD 2013

The ‘SASTRA-Ramanujan Award 2013’ was presented to Professor Peter Scholze of the University of Bonn, Germany on December 22, 2013, at the International Conference on ‘Number Theory & Galois Representations’ held at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA University, Kumbakonam. The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize was established in 2005 and is awarded annually for outstanding contributions by young mathematicians to areas influenced by the genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. The age limit for the prize has been set at 32 because Ramanujan achieved so much in his brief life of 32 years.

Prof. T.K. Chandrashekar, Secretary Science & Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi presented the award to Prof. Peter Scholze. The award carries $10,000 and a citation. Speaking at the function, Prof. Chandrashekar asked SASTRA University to send a proposal to the Department of Science and Technology to start a Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA University, Kumbakonam. Prof. Chandrashekar added that Kumbakonam will be an appropriate location for the centre as Ramanujan spent most of his formative years there.

Prof. Krishnaswamy Alladi of the Department of Mathematics at University of Florida, USA and the
Chairperson of the Awards Committee read out the citation. The SAstra-Ramanujan award has become one of the most prestigious and coveted ones in the world and the international community of mathematicians has recognized it, said Prof. Alladi.

The international panel of experts, who formed the 2013 SAstra Ramanujan Prize committee, were Professors Krishnaswami Alladi – Chair (University of Florida), Kathrin Bringmann (University of Cologne), Roger Heath-Brown (Oxford University), David Masser (University of Basel), Barry Mazur (Harvard University), Ken Ribet (University of California, Berkeley) and Ole Warnaar (University of Queensland). The committee unanimously selected Prof. Peter Scholze, aged 25 for the award. The prize was in recognition of Prof. Scholze's unusually original and remarkable Master's thesis at the University of Bonn in which he gave a new proof of the Local Langlands Conjecture for p-adic local fields that was published in two papers. The prize also recognised his revolutionary Ph.D. thesis at the University of Bonn, said Prof. Alladi.

Earlier Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean, Sponsored Research, SAstra University welcomed the gathering. Dr. Swaminathan said that this year's winner was the youngest among the awardees. Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice- Chancellor, SAstra University proposed a vote of thanks.

The SAstra Ramanujan Prize Awardee and other dignitaries at the bust of Ramanujan.

From left: Dr. K. Kannan, Prof. Michael Rapoport, Prof. Krishnaswami Alladi, Prof. T.K. Chandrashekar, Prof. R. Sethuraman, Prof. Peter Scholze & Dr. R. Swaminathan.
Peter Scholze is awarded the 2013 SAstra–Ramanujan Prize for his pathbreaking contributions that lie at the interface of Arithmetic Algebraic Geometry and the Theory of Automorphic Forms, and especially in the area of Galois Representations. The prize recognizes his unusually original and remarkable Masters Thesis at the University of Bonn in which he gave a new proof of the Local Langlands Conjecture for $p$-adic local fields that was published in two papers in Inventiones Mathematicae in 2013, and generalizations of these methods to $l$-adic representations of Shimura varieties in collaboration with Sug–Woo Shin that appeared in two papers in the Journal of the American Mathematical Society in 2013. The prize recognizes his revolutionary Ph. D. thesis at the University of Bonn in which he initiates the theory of perfectoid spaces, to prove an important case of the weight monodromy conjecture of Fields Medalist Pierre Deligne, and discusses far reaching ramifications of the study of perfectoid spaces in Hodge theory, and spectral sequences, as described in his monumental paper in Publications Mathématiques de l’IHES, and his 2013 paper in Forum of Mathematics, $\pi$. The prize also recognizes his important collaboration with Jared Weinstein extending earlier work of Rapoport–Zink on moduli spaces of $p$–divisible groups. Finally the prize recognizes his most recent work on the existence of Galois representations for mod $p$ cohomology of locally symmetric spaces for linear groups over a totally real or CM fields that has surprising implications on the Betti cohomology of locally symmetric spaces. Scholze’s breakthrough is the first progress in this direction in 40 years.

Peter Scholze was born in Dresden in December 1987- at the time of the Ramanujan Centennial. At the age of 25 now, he is already one of the most influential mathematicians in the world. As a student he was a winner of three gold medals and one silver medal at the International Mathematics Olympiads. He finished his Bachelor’s Degree in three semesters and his Masters courses in two semesters. He was made Full Professor soon after his Ph.D. at the University of Bonn, Germany. His work has been estimated by experts to possess the quality of the timeless classics and expected to have a major impact in the progress of mathematics in the coming decades.

Peter Scholze was the unanimous choice by the Prize Committee to receive the award this year. The international panel of experts who formed the 2013 SAstra–Ramanujan Prize Committee were Professors Krishnaswami Alladi – Chair (University of Florida), Kathrin Bringmann (University of Cologne), Roger Heath–Brown (Oxford University), David Masser (University of Basel), Barry Mazur (Harvard University), Ken Ribet (University of California, Berkeley), and Ole Warnaar (University of Queensland). Previous winners of the SAstra–Ramanujan Prize are Manjul Bhargava and Kannan Soundararajan in 2005 (two full prizes), Terence Tao in 2006, Ben Green in 2007, Akshay Venkatesh in 2008, Kathrin Bringmann in 2009, Wei Zhang in 2010, Roman Holowinsky in 2011, and Zhiwei Yun in 2012. By awarding the 2013 prize to Peter Scholze, the SAstra–Ramanujan Prize continues its great tradition of recognizing the most exceptional work in mathematics by a young mathematician.

Place: Kumbakonam
Date: December 22, 2013

Prof. R. Sethuraman
Vice-Chancellor
An International Conference on ‘Number Theory & Galois Representations’ was held at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA University Kumbakonam on December 21 & 22, 2013.

Prof. Michael Rapoport, Mathematisches Institut, der Universitat BONN, Germany, inagurated the conference and delivered the plenary lecture on “The Drinfeld p-adic halfplane”.

The following world-renowned mathematicians spoke on various topics:

1. Prof. Krishnaswami Alladi, University of Florida, USA – Gollnitz (Big) partition theorem and its dual
2. Dr. K. R. Thangadurhai, Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad – Schaunel’s Conjecture
3. Prof. Michail Rassias, ETH Zurich, Switzerland – A cotangent sun associated to the zeros of the Estermann zeta function
4. Prof. N. Saradha, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai – Squares in products of factorials
5. Prof. Sinai Robins, NTU, Singapore – Cone theta functions, volumes of spherical polytopes and their relations to classical theta functions
6. Dr. Larry Rolen, University of Cologne, Germany – Weierstrass mock modular forms and elliptic curves

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE

After receiving the award on Ramanujan's birthday (22nd December 2013), Prof. Peter Scholze delivered the Ramanujan Commemorative lecture on ‘What is the Langlands reciprocity conjecture?’ In his lecture, the speaker mentioned that Langlands reciprocity conjecture is one of the key open problems in modern number theory. As a special case, it contains the relation between elliptic curves and modular forms, objects which were studied extensively by Ramanujan. This special case was known to imply Fermat's Last Theorem, and is now known by work of Wiles, Taylor-Wiles, et al.

Previous winners of SASTRA- Ramanujan Prize

1. Manjul Bhargava (Princeton) & Kannan Soundararajan (Michigan) in 2005 (two full prizes)
2. Terence Tao (UCLA) in 2006
4. Akshay Venkatesh (Stanford) in 2008
5. Kathrin Bringmann (Cologne) in 2009
6. Wei Zhang (Harvard) in 2010
7. Roman Holowinsky (Ohio) in 2011
8. Zhiwei Yun (Stanford) in 2012.

The SASTRA-Ramanujan Prize continues its great tradition of recognizing the most exceptional work by a young mathematician.
The School of Law, SAstra University in association with The Times of India organized Lawgical Connect on October 26, 2013 at Le Royal Meridien, Chennai. SAstra brought four living legends of the country's legal community – Shri Anil Divan, Shri K. Parasaran, Shri Soli Sorabjee and Shri Ram Jethmalani - on one platform to discuss the topic 'Does the Judicial commission guarantee judicial independence?'

Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development, SAstra set the ball rolling by pointing out that together the four senior advocates had nearly three centuries of legal practice behind them. He said that the School of Law at SAstra University is known for its tryst with legends of the Indian judiciary. The Nani Palkhivala Research Chair on Legal Anthropology, Justice M. Patanjali Sastrī Memorial Scholarship, Shri G. Ramaswami’s entire library collection at the School of Law, makes SAstra’s bonding with legal luminaries uniquely enduring. Continuing its tradition to associate with India’s foremost jurists, Lawgical Connect was conceptualised by the Law School of SAstra University to sensitise the legal community and the citizenry in general on the need for judicial independence in the proposed Judicial Commission for appointment of judges, said Dr. Vaidhyasubramaniam.

Columnist Shri S Gurumurthy, who moderated the round table discussion, cited Jethmalani’s speech in the Rajya Sabha to describe the JAC Bill as a "great constitutional fraud." Admitting that the existing collegium system of appointing judges had failed for want of transparency, Shri Gurumurthy said that even the media was taking the issue casually unlike the 1973 upheaval when the media, public and legal community denounced supersession of reputed SC judges.

Shri Anil Divan said that the Centre was emboldened to bring the bill due to dissatisfaction over the manner in which the collegium system worked. Shri Divan, who is president of the Bar Association of India (BAI), said the forum had sent several representations against the move. The state, its agencies and the bureaucracy, who were the biggest litigants before courts, pushed the bill taking advantage of the general dissatisfaction, he said. He wanted India to follow the UK and South Africa models in appointments to higher judiciary. Expressing serious doubts about the composition of the proposed JAC, Divan said through ordinary laws Parliament could alter the composition anytime, thereby making judges a minority in JAC. "It is the gravest threat to judicial independence," he said.

Shri Parasaran, dubbing the bill 'hopeless', said: "Without independent judiciary, the democracy is finished." Those appointing judges and those who are appointed should be independent, he said, adding, "It is agonizing and painful when a sitting Chief Justice of India says judiciary is not untouched by corruption."

Talking about the genesis of the collegiate system, Shri Soli Sorabjee, former Attorney General, referred to the concept of a committed judiciary that rose in the 1970s. "While the collegiate system is not satisfactory, it should
have a predominant voice, if not an exclusive voice. When I talk of judicial independence, it also means that a judge should be free of his own biases," said Sorabjee, who felt that the Judicial Commission is being pushed for with haste.

Shri Ram Jethmalani, former Union Minister for Law and Rajya Sabha MP, stressed on the difference between a democracy where power is vested in Parliament and a democratic republic (such as India), where sovereignty is vested not only in the elected members, but also its people.

"The older system, which we came to hate, also produced illustrious judges. The fault is not of the system, but the people who man the system," he said.

Summarising the powerful exchanges of the day, Shri Gurumurthy felt that the panelists agreed that the judiciary requires not only independence from the executive, but also requires all other forms of independence for its healthy functioning.

Shri. Ninan Tharian, Vice President and Response Head, The Times Group who proposed a vote of thanks called this a rare moment when a media house, law school and eminent jurists came together on one platform.

The eminent speakers were presented a traditional Thanjavur Veena each by the Management of SAstra University. Vice Chancellor, Prof. R. Sethuraman, Cho. Ramaswami, Editor and Eminent Political Analyst were among the select audience present during the discussion. Fifty two students from the School of Law, SAstra participated in the event. They described the event as thrilling and that interacting with such legends was a great learning experience.
Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India, delivered the Ninth Shri Narayanan Memorial Lecture on 'Global in India and India in Global,' at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA University, Kumbakonam on December 27, 2013.

Delivering the lecture, Shri Ahluwalia said that India can bounce back to a growth rate of 7.5 per cent to eight per cent from the present five per cent, provided it makes use of the turnaround taking place in the global economy and solves its own economic problems. The country's growth rate in 2008-09 was 6.3 per cent after the global economic crisis and 9.3 per cent in 2009-10. But during 2011-12, the growth rate dipped to 6.3 per cent, and in 2012-13 and 2013-14 to five per cent.

“We cannot say that the global economy doesn’t have an impact on the Indian economy. We should be much more globally integrated. The global economy is stabilizing now. When we achieve nine percent growth rate, obviously we will benefit from the global boom,” said Shri Ahluwalia.

Talking about domestic problems, Shri Ahluwalia said the power situation was very important. Though investments in the power sector have increased, along with generation of power, investments in fuel supply did not take place. Fuel supply agreements had not been implemented. India is an energy deficit country, he said.

“People can pay for power. It need not be cheap. But they have every right to ask for uninterrupted quality power [supply],” he said. He called for infrastructure development and management of the energy economy. He also regretted that the country is not generating as much employment as it should.

Despite the inevitable uncertainties of general elections now, India can hope to achieve a 7.5 per cent to eight per cent growth rate, provided it takes measures to do so, he said.

Mr. Ahluwalia appreciated SASTRA University for converting the house of Srinivasa Ramanujan into a monument, after purchasing and renovating it.

Earlier, Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development welcomed the gathering and Dr. N. Kamakoti, CEO & Managing Director, City Union Bank proposed a vote of thanks. Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor, SASTRA presented a memento to Shri Ahluwalia. Shri S.Balasubramanian, Chairman, CUB and senior officials from CUB and faculty from SASTRA attended the lecture.
Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia visiting Ramanujan’s house at Kumbakonam purchased and maintained by SASTRA

Our VC receiving the guests

A section of the audience

Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia at the Ramanujan Museum at SASTRA campus

Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia talking to a school girl in front of Ramanujan’s house
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATA MINING AND SOFT COMPUTING TECHNIQUES

An International Conference on Data Mining and Soft Computing Techniques was organized by the School of Computing, SASTRA University on October 25&26, 2013. Shri.N Prabhakar, Chief Controller (R&D), Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) inaugurated the conference.

In his inaugural address Shri Prabhakar said that the computing capability has increased manifold in recent decades. There is enormous data, however data in itself is meaningless unless it is analyzed. Data mining is a promising area for study and research, he added. “The way to process or correlate the data is the challenge. The available algorithms do not answer such questions. New ways of computing is necessary. Soft computing is one of the tools that could give an answer,” he added.

P.Srikumar, Outstanding Scientist and Director, Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bangalore, spoke on “Command Control Communication Computers, Intelligence Target Acquisition & Reconnaissance”.

Dr.P. Balakrishnan, Professor, University of Texas at Dallas, USA spoke on “Tele Medicine & Data Analytics”.

Dr. A. Rajaraman Former Professor, IIT-M gave a talk on “Heritage & Heritage Mining”.

Shri R. A. Krishnakumar, Executive Director, Dalmiya Cements explained the intricacies of “Business Intelligence”. Shri Santosh Kumar Durairaj, DC E&R Manager, Infosys, Chennai outlined the techniques of handling Big Data in Cloud.”

Dr. Pethuru Raj, Cloud Infrastructure Architect, IBM sensitized the audience to “Cloud Computing & Data Mining Challenges”.

73 research papers were presented through parallel sessions.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY & HUMAN WELFARE

An International Conference on Biotechnology and Human Welfare was organised at the School of Chemical and Biotechnology in collaboration with Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai during December 6-8, 2013. The International Conference was sponsored by DBT, DST and Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India. The conference, which focussed mainly on the abundant natural resources that can be explored for novel drugs, brought together leading scientists, technologists and clinicians from pharmacology, pharmaceutical chemistry, biomedical sciences and pharmacy in a single platform to share their experiences and to discuss cutting-edge discoveries.

The following eminent scientists from India and abroad spoke on various thrust areas of the conference: Prof. Luc Pieters, Editor in Chief, Planta Medica from University of Antwerp, Belgium; Dr. Robert Scheiman, University of Colorado Denver, U.S.A; Dr. K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore; Dr. Sanyog Jain, Assistant Professor, NIPER, Chandigarh; Dr. D.Chandra Mohan, NIO, Goa; Dr. Narendra Nath Jena, Meenakshi Mission Hospital Research Centre, Madurai; Dr. N. Udupa, Professor and Principal, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal; Dr. Amalados Anburaj, Research Scientist, Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore; Dr. A. Biju Kumar, Professor, University of Kerala; Dr. N. Selva Kumar, Former Head, TB Research Institute, Chennai; Dr. Vanaja Kumar, Former Head, TB Research Institute Chennai; Dr. Shivaprasad, Scientist, NCBS, Bangalore; Dr. T.S. Keshava Prasad, Scientist, Institute of Bioinformatics, Bangalore; Dr. N. Narayanan, Former Joint Director of Medical Education, Chennai; Dr. K. Dharmalingam, Director-Research, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai; Dr. Shail K Chaube, Associate Professor, Banaras Hindu University, India; Dr. S. Karuthapandian, Dean-Research, Alagappa University, Karaikudi; Dr. J. Balasubramaniam, Manager, RA Chem Pharma Ltd.
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WIRELESS SENSOR NETWORKS AND INFORMATION SECURITY

An International Conference on Wireless Sensor Networks and Information Security was organized by the School of Computing on December 20 & 21, 2013.

Delivering the inaugural address, Prof. J. P. Gupta, Vice Chancellor, SHARDA University emphasized that continuous research should be undertaken by students and teachers in emerging areas of science and engineering.

Dr. Sanjoy Paul, Managing Director, ACCENTURE Technology Labs, India explained the security related issues in Wireless Sensor Networks. Shri S. A. V. Satya Murty, Group Director, IGCAR, Kalpakkam detailed the implementation issues of Wireless Sensor Network in a Nuclear Plant. Prof. B. Prabhakaran from the University of Texas, USA spoke on “Designing Augmented Reality Environment.” Prof. Raman Adaikkalavan from Indiana University, USA explained the intricacies of “Secure Data Stream Processing”.

29 peer reviewed research papers were presented during the conference.

GRADUATION DAY @ NRITHYODAYA

Graduation Day was held at Nrithyodaya, Chennai on October 27, 2013 to award degrees to the students of BFA & MFA in Bharatanatyam Courses offered jointly by SAstra University and Nrithyodaya, through distance mode.

Dr. C. S. Radhakrishnan, Professor and Head, Department of Sanskrit, Pondicherry University presided over the function and distributed the degree certificates. Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Hony. Director, C. P. Ramasami Aiyar Foundation was the Chief Guest. Dr. Padma Subrahmanyan, Director, Nrithyodaya explained the course concept and introduced the teaching faculty. Dr. N. Seshadri, Director, DDE, SAstra welcomed the gathering and Dr. Gayatri Kannan, Principal, Nrithyodaya, proposed a vote of thanks.

17 BFA and 11 MFA students received their degrees at the convocation. Select BFA & MFA graduates staged a dance performance on the occasion.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING ADMISSION TO B.TECH. 5-YEAR INTEGRATED M. TECH. PROGRAMMES 2014-15

- As per the new policy, 70% of the students will be admitted based on performance in JEE (Main)-2014 and +2 examinations conducted by various boards across the country.
- The applicant’s rank will be calculated based on 75% weightage to the normalized aggregate +2 marks and 25% weightage to the JEE (Main) scores.
- The remaining 30% of admissions will be based on the normalized aggregate +2 marks alone.
- The existing system of reserving seats for Tamil Nadu, Trichy & Thanjavur will continue.
- Students are advised to register for JEE (Main) – 2014 for which online registration has commenced at www.jeemain. nic. in.
- The last date for applying to JEE Main-2014 is December 26, 2013.
- Likewise, admission to the following programmes will be done as under:
  - 5-Year Integrated Law Programmes – CLAT-2014 Score & Aggregate +2 Marks
  - MBA– CAT/AIMAT/XAT & Qualifying Degree scores
  - M. Tech. – GATE-2014 & Qualifying Degree scores

SAstra Admission process will begin during first week of March’2014. Kindly look out for newspaper advertisements and visit the website.
SASTRA STUDENT WINS “WIKI LOVES MONUMENTS INDIA 2013” CONTEST

Chi. Karmugilvannan, of the Final Year M. Tech. Medical Nanotechnology branch at SASTRA University, bagged the first prize in the “Wiki Loves Monuments India 2013” (WLM) contest organized by Wikipedia. The prize winning photograph was selected by an eminent jury from a pool of 11,786 images. The jury head said that the photographs were judged based on the quality, unique perspective with special emphasis on places that were not prominent. The prize winning photograph by Chi. Karmugilvannan depicted a breathtaking panoramic view of Sri Brahadeeswara Temple (Big temple) at Thanjavur that impressed the jury.

The WLM contest is held simultaneously at different countries throughout the world and the winning photographs will be judged by an international jury. The winner will get to attend Wikimania, the annual meeting of Wikimedians in London in July or August 2014.

The WLM has been certified as the largest photo competition in the world by Guinness World Records.

The Management of SASTRA University congratulates Chi. Karmugilvannan for his achievement.

APPRECIATION FROM PUBLIC

Shri K. Madhavan of Thiruvarur District has sent a letter appreciating the achievement of Chi. Karmugilvannan. The letter is reproduced below:

இந்துப் புத்தர் விள்ளியர்கள், அதுயாது புனிதப்படி விள்ளியர்கள் குறிக்குகி, வெள்ளை கொறையானப் போட்டுக்குப் போட்டுக்குடனும் குறிக்கு குறிக்கு போட்டுக்கு போட்டுக்கு, காந்தி திருவருணப்போட்டுக்கு இறாவாக்கிக் குறிக்குப் போட்டுக்கு போட்டுக்கு போட்டுக்கு போட்டுக்கு போட்டுக்கு போட்டுக்கு போட்டுக்கு!

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மேலும், வேலையாளர்

காந்தி துர்களா, அந்து அதிகரிய - 614 019
SASTRA LAW SCHOOL WINS S. C. JAVALI MEMORIAL NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

SASTRA University Team comprising Pavitra C.R., Nandheni V, and Andal R, IV year B.A.,LL.B. (Hons.) won the 16th S. C. Javali Memorial National Moot Court Competition. Pavitra C.R. walked home with “Best Lady Advocate” award. The competition was held on October 11&12, 2013 at Karnataka University’s Sir Siddappa Kambali Law College, Dharwad. Hon’ble Mr. Justice Altamas Kabir, Former Chief Justice of India and Hon’ble Mr. Justice B. S. Patil, Judge, High Court of Karnataka presided over the finals. 28 colleges including National Law Universities from various states in India participated in the competition. Hon’ble Mr. Altamas Kabir who handed over the trophies, praised the winners’ performance, and said that he was impressed by the level of competition. The former Chief Justice advised the law students to be sensitive to the needs of society, and do their best to reach out to marginalised sections.

LAURELS IN NANI PALKHIWALA NATIONAL MEMORIAL TAXATION MOOT COURT


Akshaya P Sachin was awarded the best researcher award along with a cash prize of Rs. 5000 and a trophy. Aishwarya Krishna Iyer was ranked the fourth best speaker among 52 speakers.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON EMERGING TRENDS IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWS

A two-day National Seminar-cum-Workshop on ‘Emerging Trends in Intellectual Property Laws’ was organised by the Continuing Legal Education Centre, School of Law, SASTRA University on October 25 & 26, 2013. 45 delegates from across the country attended the seminar. Various areas of Intellectual Property laws such as Copyrights, Patents, Trademarks and Geographic Indications were deliberated during the workshop. Chi. Afzal Badr Khan of Symbiosis Law School, Pune bagged the Best Presenter Award, a cash prize of Rs. 5000.

MoU WITH MICROSOFT INDIA GLOBAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT CENTRE

SASTRA University signed an MoU with Microsoft India Global Technical Support Center (India GTSC) on December 18, 2013. Microsoft India GTSC will collaborate with SASTRA to facilitate access to technology, provide infrastructure, training and curriculum support, and hardware + software support through the setup of a training lab to provide students with hands-on experience and knowledge in a technical services environment.

Microsoft Technical Services Lab

As part of the MoU, the ‘Microsoft Technical Services Lab’ has been established at SASTRA. The lab was inaugurated by Shri Thomas Payyapilli, General Manager, Microsoft India Global Technical Support Center on the same day. The Lab will be leveraged as a training facility, equipped with tools customized for students, including PCs and servers, loaned for a period and will be designed to provide students with a complete experience of working in a technical services environment on campus.
Dr. N. Gowrishankar, Director, Materials Research, India Pistons Ltd., Chennai spoke on 'Materials and processes for automotive components' at School of Mechanical Engineering on October 23, 2013. The speaker focussed on the evolution of various advanced processes in the manufacture of pistons and piston rings. He also explained the importance of new design and the increasing demand for efficient IC engine materials and processes. The various material options and the precision die casting processes were also discussed. He emphasized the need for a thorough knowledge of various materials and their properties for its suitable application in the automotive sector.

A lecture on 'Molecular Simulations on Nucleosome (Mis) Positioning and Chromatin folding' was delivered by Dr. Thomas C. Bishop, Louisiana Optical Network Initiative Associate Professor of Chemistry & Physics, College of Engineering and Science, Louisiana Tech University, USA on the 13th December 2013.

This talk organised by the School of Chemical & Biotechnology dealt with the high performance – high throughput workflows for simulating arbitrary collections of mononucleosomes. The lecture also detailed the simulations involved in understanding chromatin folding. Dr. Thomas C. Bishop is collaborating with Dr. M. Vijayalakshmi and the Chromatin Epigenetics Lab in the School of Chemical & Biotechnology in simulating modified nucleosomal complexes and arrays.

Prof. M. Parameswaran, Director, Institute of Micromachine and Microfabrication Research, Simon Fraser University, Canada delivered a talk titled "Microfluidics Technology and its applications to Medicine and Diagnostics" on December 20, 2013. He explained the state-of-the-art in fabrication of microfluidic devices on PDMS and PMMA substrates. The applications of microfluidic devices for antibiotic susceptibility testing, electrophoretic separation, detection of hybridization reaction, etc. were discussed. Prof. Parameswaran highlighted the promise of microfluidic technology platform for cancer diagnosis through detection of disease markers.

Dr. Kalpagam Krishnan, BC Cancer Agency, Canada delivered a talk titled, "Medical Image Processing for Radiation Therapy" on December 20, 2013. During her presentation, the mathematical methods for processing medical images to extract specific features for the purpose of diagnosis were highlighted. While discussing the advancements in medical imaging, Dr. Kalpagam Krishnan highlighted the importance of engineers and practising doctors working together for better health care system.

FACULTY VISIT TO SPAIN & GERMANY

Dr. M. Vijayalakshmi, Associate Dean in the School of Chemical & Biotechnology presented her research work on Colorectal cancer epigenetics at the premier research conference on 'Cancer Epigenomics' organised by the Cell Press at Sitges in Spain between the 6th and 8th October 2013. The work was received well by the renowned oncologists and cancer biologists at the conference.

Earlier, she visited the Institute of Pathology, University of Erlangen, Germany between the 29th September and 4th October 2013 as a part of her ongoing research collaborations with the Schneider Stock laboratory at the Institute.
The poster titled “Study of ZnO:Ag Films on Limiting the Adhesion Activity of S. aureus” presented by Ms. S.R. Geetha (M. Tech. Medical Nanotechnology – 2011-13) won the best poster award at the TACT-2013 International Thin Films Conference held at Grand Hotel, Taipei, Taiwan during 05 – 09 October 2013. The conference was organized by Taiwan Association for Coatings and Thin Films Technology. Over 600 participants across the globe participated in the conference and about 350 posters were presented during the conference. Her research work was well appreciated by the academics and industries. Ms. Geetha carried out her project work at the Functional Nanomaterials & Devices Laboratory under the supervision of Prof. M. Sridharan. The award includes a certificate and a memento. This paper will also be published in the journal “Surface and Coatings Technology (SCI)” after peer review.

A research paper authored by Dr. S. Gopalakrishnan and Shri M. Raja of the Department of Computer Applications, titled “A Genetic Algorithm for Graph Coloring using Single Parent Conflict Gene Crossover and Mutation with Conflict Gene Removal Procedure” has won "Best Paper Award" in the track "Soft and Evolutionary Computing” in the International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Computing Research" conducted by IEEE Madras section at Vickram College of Engineering, Madurai in December 2013.

A Workshop on 'In silico, in vitro and in vivo methods in Drug discovery' was organized at the School of Chemical and Biotechnology on Dec 11, 2013. 25 participants comprising faculty members, research scholars and PG students from various disciplines of the School of Chemical and Biotechnology attended the workshop. The sessions were highly interactive and also brought into fore the roadblocks and opportunities on developing new drug molecules. The workshop was organized by Dr. T. Sivaraman and Mr. D. Sivakumar, SCBT.

A Workshop on 'Computer Aided Design of Evaporators and Condensers' was organized on October 5, 2013 by the Indian Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ISHRAE) Student Chapter, School of Mechanical Engineering, SASTRA. The event was sponsored by ISHRAE Chapter, Chennai. 70 students from SASTRA and nearby colleges participated in the workshop.

Shri S.V. Venkatachalam, Scientist/Head, AC & Mechanical, ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore delivered the keynote address.

Along with the theoretical sessions, a practical hands on demonstration on brazing techniques was held in the afternoon.

A two-day workshop on “Embedded Systems” was held at School of EEE during December 8 & 9, 2013. Around 20 faculty members from ECE, EIE & EEE branches of SEEE, Shanmugha Polytechnic and SRC campus, Kumbakonam attended the workshop and gained insights into the theory as well as hands-on practice. There were three lecture sessions on: Heart of Embedded systems, ARM Core Architecture & Programming and Application & System design using ARM on the first day of the workshop. On the second day, participants had hands-on sessions on Embedded -C, Assembly level coding on ARM with KEIL, MDK software and LPC2140 evaluation boards.
TCS - EXITE TELECOM CAMPAIGN

TCS - EXITE Telecom, an awareness campaign in telecom trends was conducted at SASTRA campus on December 23, 2013. Shri Pathy graced the occasion as Chief Guest along with Ms. Subashini from Telecom Business of TCS. They spoke on continuous technical transformation and information waves and on how the telecom industry can adapt itself to the requirements of the new age in the changed environment and achieve high growth in the next decade.

ACCENTURE HEADSTART FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

Accenture organised the “Headstart Foundation Programme” at SASTRA Campus from December 4-23, 2013. Participants included Accenture selects of 2014 batch from SRC and Main campus. 292 students attended this elective course and all of them have successfully cleared the online exams conducted by Accenture.

ORIENTATION BY UNIVERSITY WEST, SWEDEN

Professors and Officials from the University West, Sweden visited SASTRA University on October 31, 2013. In the orientation session, they provided information about admission to MS and other courses at University West, Sweden. Around 60 students attended the session and interacted with the officials.

LECTURE ON SPIRIT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurship Development Cell, School of Management, organised a special lecture on “Spirit of Entrepreneurship” on October 16, 2013. Dr. L. S. Ganesan, Dean, IIT, Madras addressed the students of Management and Law on the avenues for entrepreneurship.

Lecture on “Entrepreneurship – Mission with Passion”

The School of Management organised a Knowledge Leadership Forum lecture on “Entrepreneurship – Mission with Passion” by Shri. E. Sarath Babu, Founder & CEO Food King India Private Limited and the winner of the CNN-IBN ‘Young Achiever Award’ and PEPSI Award for Entrepreneurship on 17th October 2013. Shri. E. Sarath Babu addressed MBA students and spoke about the hurdles he had faced to achieve this successful entrepreneurial life.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARENESS CAMP

Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Government of Tamilnadu organized a three-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp at SASTRA University, in association with Entrepreneurship Development Cell, SASTRA from October 17-19, 2013. The camp was inaugurated by Shri. E. Sarath Babu, Founder & CEO Food King India Private Limited. In his address he referred his mother as his role model who inspired him to become an entrepreneur. Food King was started just with Rs.2000/-
as seed capital and is now making an annual turnover of 9 crores, employing 250 staff members.

Dr. V. Srinivasakumar, Dr. A. K. S. Sukumaran, School of Management, SASTRA University and Prof. Balasubramanian, HR Consultant, Dr. Purushothaman, Senior Manager, IOB, Mr. Natarajan, Assistant Engineer, DIC spoke on different topics like project planning, idea generation, funding support, licensing procedure etc.

Mrs. Rani Muralidharan, Chairman CII, Trichy Zone delivered the valedictory address. She advised students to pursue entrepreneurship as a career to make India a Global Super Power. Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, School of Management, Director, Training & Placement presided over the function, Mr. D. R. Albin, Assistant Professor, School of Management proposed a vote of thanks. 120 students of SASTRA University participated in the camp.

**VIDEO CONFERENCING WITH INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FINANCE**

School of Management conducted a lecture through video conferencing mode from Mumbai on “Strategies to succeed in Indian Institute of Banking and Finance examinations” on October 22, 2103. Dr. R. Bhaskaran, CEO, Indian Institute on Banking and Finance, Mumbai addressed II year MBA students and had interactions with the students about the examination pattern and the manner in which they should prepare themselves for the examinations. Dr. S. T. Surulivel, Senior Assistant Professor, School of Management organised the programme. Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, School of Management had discussion with Dr. R. Bhaskaran about the features of the course which laid the foundation for the preparation for the examination by the students.

**BOOKS PUBLISHED**

Dr. Chandrasekhara Rao Professor of Mathematics, SRC has authored a book titled, "Matrix Operators Involving Sequence Spaces." The book has been published by Lambert Academics Publishing.

'English for Vedic Pandits,' a course book in English for Advanced Diploma in Vedic Studies, offered through Distance mode by the Department of Vedic Studies and Research, has been published in October 2013. Dr. B. Krishnamurthy and Dr. G. Venkatraman of the Department of English are the editors of the book.

**ALUMNI MEET IN CHENNAI**

An Alumni Meet was held on October 2, 2013 at P.S. School Auditorium, Mylapore, Chennai. After the official networking meeting, a drama titled “Idhu Namma Naadu” (a political satire by Thugalk Sathy) was enacted by T.V. Varadarajan troupe.

More than 120 alumni of SASTRA along with their family members attended the meet. The alumni comprised 1988 (First batch) batch to 2012 batch students of SASTRA. During the alumni meet teachers who have handled classes for the first batch students and served at SASTRA for more than 25 years were honoured with special awards.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADVANCES IN PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS**

The Department of Mathematics, SRC organized a two-day National Conference on Advances in Partial Differential Equations on December 13 & 14, 2013.

Dr. N. Ramanujam, UGC Emeritus Professor, Department of Mathematics, Bharathidasan University, inaugurated the conference.

Eminent professors like Dr. S. Kesavan, IMSc., Dr. N. Ramanujam, Bharathidasan University, Dr. K. Balachandran, Bharathiar University, Dr. R. Sahadevan, University of Madras, Dr. B. R. Nagaraj and Dr. A. S. Vasudevan, TIFR-CAM, Dr. P. Balasubramaniam, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dr. Sashikumar Ganesan, SERC, IISc and
Dr.P. Saikrishnan, NIT, Trichy talked on various topics related to the theme of the conference. Around 150 UG&PG students from various institutions attended the conference.

The Department also organized a pre-conference workshop to motivate the Post Graduate students to gain in-depth knowledge of Partial Differential Equations so that quality research work shall be undertaken by them at doctoral degree level.

In the pre-conference workshop Dr.A.Ramesh Babu, Dr.Sashikumaar Ganesan, Dr.D.Narasimhan and Dr.K.Kannan, Dean, Humanities and Sciences handled various sessions.

**Lecture on Teacher Qualifications, Competences and Employability**

Under the aegis of the Athenaeum, the Department of English, SRC, arranged a special lecture for M.A., B.Ed. (English) students on December 23, 2013. Dr. P. N. Ramani, formerly of Pondicherry University spoke on 'Teacher Qualifications, Competences and Employability.'

He surveyed the qualification requirements in various Commonwealth countries. In most of these countries, along with the basic degree in the core subject, some teacher training certificate, diploma or degree is a prerequisite for the teacher aspirants, at various levels of education – primary, secondary and tertiary.

He said that pre-service training constitutes only an entry ticket or passport to the profession. It does not guarantee the necessary competences. These remain to be developed among teachers to continue and function effectively in the profession. To achieve them, in many countries, Induction programmes and hands-on training as apprentice teachers are insisted on before they are absorbed into the regular cadre.

The speaker urged the teachers, present or potential, to strive to meet the benchmark standards for gaining greater mobility. He emphasized that a teacher is a learner for life time. The requisite competences are academic and non-academic skills, team building skills and personal attribute skills.

**Bharathi Vizha**

The activities of Poigai Tamil Mandram were inaugurated by Dr.Saraswathi Nagappan, Professor, Tamil Nadu College of Education, Thirupathur on August 12, 2013. The Mandram organised Bharathi Vizha on September 11, 2013. Dr.K. Sembian, presided over the function and distributed prizes to the winners of Bharathi Quiz and Paper Presentation. The students also staged a play titled Meendum Bharathi.

**NCC / NSS News**

Representing NCC Group, Trichy, SGT.M. Madumitha of II M.Sc Mathematics participated in IGC State Directorate level camp held at Yadava College, Madurai from September 28 to October 7, 2013. She has also participated in three CATC cum RDC, IGC training camps during this academic year.

Three SD Cadets participated in National Integration Camp held at Govt. Arts College, Kumbakonam from October 4-15, 2013. LCPLA, Tamil Selvan of I BCA won a gold medal in the cultural competitions held during the camp.

**Disaster Management Training Camp**

Five NSS volunteers, namely J.Thamarai Selvan (III B.Com.), A.Arokyaraj (II B.Com.) G.Rajasekar (II B.Com.), Kaliyaperumal (I B.Com.) and Rajkumar (I B.Com.), participated in a State-level Disaster Management Training Camp organized by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, from December 20-22 at Sirkazhi.

**Blood Donation Camp**

The NSS and the NCC Wings at SRC jointly organized a blood donation camp on October 7, 2013. Col. L.J.S.Matharu, Commanding Officer, 8(TN) BN, NCC inaugurated the camp. 130 units of blood were donated by the volunteers to the Govt. Hospital, Kumbakonam.
Workshop on Mathematics Made Easy

110 students belonging to various arts, science and engineering programmes participated in a one-day workshop on Mathematics Made Easy organized by the NSS wings at SRC on December 31, 2013. Shri K.M. Sahul Hameed, Teacher Educator, Trichy served as the resource person.

IFC Research Fellowship

Dr. A. Ramesh Babu, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mathematics at SRC was granted Visiting Research Fellowship by Indo French Centre for Applied Mathematics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on the basis of the research proposal submitted by him on “Perturbed Delay and Advanced Differential System.” He is doing a collaborative research on the growth of malignant tumor cells with Dr. Sashikumaar Ganesan, Research Faculty, Super Computer Education and Research, IISc, Bangalore.

WORKSHOP ON NS-3

A one-day workshop on Network simulator-3 (NS-3) was conducted on October 19, 2013 by S-FOSS Community at SRC. Dr. V.R. Sharma from Anna University, Trichy served as the resource person. Around 120 students belonging to B.Tech CSE, ECE and MCA programmes attended the workshop.

SNIPPETS FROM SHANMUGH Polytechnic College

Shanmugha Polytechnic College signed an MoU with M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Limited on December 13, 2013. The MoU facilitates collaboration with M/s Mahindra & Mahindra for training the final year Mechanical and Automobile Engineering students of the Shanmugha Polytechnic. The company will provide training to the students at the Shanmugha Polytechnic campus for three months every year. For this purpose, an exclusive training centre designated as “Mahindra Corner” is being set up at the Automobile Laboratory of the Polytechnic in a 1000 sq. ft. area. The company will provide trained staff, equipment and study materials for this purpose. The training programme is a combination of both theory and practice. The faculty of the Polytechnic and the trained staff of Mahindra will offer the theory part of the training at the Polytechnic campus and the hands-on practical training will be offered at the nearest Mahindra dealer facility. On successful completion of the training, M/s Mahindra & Mahindra will select the students for employment based on their performance.

M/s Mahindra and Mahindra partners with Shanmugha Polytechnic College as part of their “Mahindra Train the Faculty & Students of the Institute Programme.”

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

A Faculty Development Programme was organised by the Training & Placement Department of SASTRA from November 19-22, 2013 to the faculty of Shanmugha Polytechnic College. The programme aimed at improving the quality of teaching, encouraging participatory / activity based learning, stress on hands-on experience to impart practical knowledge to the students, updating the subject knowledge etc.

Topics like: Effective and Innovative Teaching, Teaching Effectiveness, Better Teaching Methods, Interpersonal Skills, Team Building, Leadership and Motivation, Instructional Technologies, Competency Mapping, Skill Gap Analysis, Fluency Development, Faculty Engagement, Art of Teaching Science, Developing Effective Communication Skills, Student Psychology & Counselling were handled by senior faculty members of SASTRA. Dr. V. Badrinath, Director, Training & Placement coordinated the event in which 62 faculty members participated.

LAURELS IN BASKET BALL TOURNAMENT

The basket ball team of Shanmugha Polytechnic College won the first place in the IPAA Divisional level tournament held at Subramanian Polytechnic, Rayavaram, Pudukkottai district on December 19, 2013. This is the seventh consecutive win for the college, in the event.
UPCOMING EVENTS

January 30 & 31, 2014

The 2nd edition of the annual Education Conclave, organized by SAstra in association with The New Indian Express, will be held on January 30 & 31, 2014 at ITC Grand Chola, Chennai. Eminent academicians, thinkers, social scientists and India’s top political and corporate leaders will come together to brainstorm for two days on the challenges and opportunities faced by India’s education system.

National Seminar on Forensic Sciences
February 1, 2014

NATIONAL CONFERENCE on SRIMAD RAMAYANA (NCR2014)
17th & 18th February 2014

SAKSHAMA’14 - Go Green and Frugal
8th Feb, 2014
A national level technical symposium organized by School of Mechanical Engineering

SEDS India National Conference
March 18 & 2, 2014

A platform, especially for student space enthusiasts, to expose their potential and widen their knowledge in Space Science & Technology. SINC 2k14 organized by SEDS SAstra, to be held at SAstra University, is one of its kind. The conference will be of national stature and will bring the Indian students into direct contact with the leaders of Space Research.