



SRM
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The Chancellor of SRM University, Dr. T.R. Pachamuthu welcomed freshmen to the college in his welcome address

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The best place to experience learning -Chancellor Pg 3



Prof. R.P. Satyanarayanan, President of SRM University, encouraged students to build a vision for their future in his speech



Freshmen (students) listening in rapt attention



Muthamizhchelvan, Director (E & T) at SRM University addresses the gathering



The audience stand for the Tamil Thaivazhthu

A Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Step

Adrian Pereira

Induction ceremonies are the launch pad into the journey of an undergraduate. Apart from familiarizing freshmen with the University, orientation serves to welcome students to the latest chapter of their lives.

The Chancellor of the University, Dr. T.R Pachamuthu stressed on the importance of dedication and hard work while encouraging students to play an active role in research and innovation. The University boasts of tie-ups with eminent foreign institutions, facilitating research on a global level. Students were visibly excited to learn about the programs offered such as the Semester Abroad Program (SAP), Dual Degree Program and Student Exchange Programs. Previous

participants of these initiatives were called upon to share their experience and insight.

Faculty members spoke of the important aspects of academic life such as the credit system, mode of evaluation, research projects etc. Prof. R.P. Satyanarayanan, President of SRM University, encouraged students to build a vision for their future while also addressing the all-important topic of placements.

Senior students acquainted those in attendance with the co-curricular and extra-curricular activities on offer at the University. Freshmen were also introduced to student bodies prevalent at SRM.

Parents graced the stage with their presence and were quick to express their satisfaction and heap praise on the University's

excellent record in both research and infrastructure.

Vice Chancellor, Dr. M. Ponnaivaiko emphasized on the need for students to be inquisitive in a classroom environment. Curiosity is the mother of invention, after all.

The induction concluded with department orientations where students had the opportunity to connect with their respective departments. Senior students organized the events to build a bond with the freshmen.

"Activities were planned to make the juniors comfortable. They were encouraged to come out of their shells", says Dhiraj Kumar, a 4th year IT student. "The issue of ragging was also dealt with to ensure they don't hesitate to approach us."

SRM Welkinsat Ascends, Yet Again!

Shruti Ganesh

A team of ten SRM students did the university proud by bagging second place at the annual CANSAT competition

held recently in Burkett Field, Texas. Organised by the American Astronomical Society (AAS), American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and sponsored by NASA, the mission of CANSAT 2014 was to simulate a sensor payload that surveys the atmospheric conditions of the Earth in its descent. To add to the contest's complexity this year, students were asked to design a payload that is not battery powered, while adhering to a weight constraint of 600g.

SRM's team 'Welkinsat'

designed, reviewed, built and tested their unit over a period of six months. "We used to throw the unit from the library building repeatedly to see if it worked," laughs Manik Narang a team member from the Department of Information Technology. "Teams from other countries used different materials and produced 3D printed designs for their models. Some even used wind powered dynamos to control the descent speed," he says.

The rocket was constructed

to have a re-entry container and payload that was to descend at pre-defined speed and controlled from the ground station, without breaking an egg! The team boasts of never having broken an egg, which put more pressure on them to live up to sky high expectations at the event.

Furthermore, the landing of the payload could not be tempered using parachutes, para-foil or steamers. The Welkinsat satellite was powered using flexible solar panels and was built with a specialised

poly-carbonate sheet. This made the system compact, lightweight and fairly less expensive. The Welkinsat project was a unique experience for those involved. As faculty advisor of the Welkinsat team, Dr. A. Rathinam, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Electronics aptly put it, "The competition gave students an overall sense of real-time adaptation of concepts and practical knowledge, which cannot be simulated in a classroom."

SRM, the best place to experience learning -Chancellor

Aishwarya. R

Education has become so competitive that in the very near future admission into SRM University could well be along the lines of the top ranking institutions in places like New Delhi where the cut off marks for entry is one hundred per cent, said the Founder Chancellor, Dr. T.R. Pachamuthu.

Speaking to the Freshers of the Faculty of Science and Humanities on the theme “Dream of SRM”, the Chancellor stressed that if the University had a name outside the state and the nation it was on account of the extensive infrastructure facilities together with putting in place a robust academic programme that went beyond books and examinations.

“The dream of SRM is to make itself, in reality, the best place to experience learning. The first step to that is being laid today by the Faculty of Science and Humanities, as we welcome our freshers, who will be making the change”, said the Chancellor in his address. Personally he made the point that he was known outside in political circles first as “Chancellor” of SRM University in spite of the fact of having a political party of his own.

One of the dreams of SRM University

was to encourage “elite” thinking students and parents, not in an economic sense but in an intellectual fashion, the Chancellor maintained. Dreaming to make it big in life, over 1000 buds, entered the T.P.Ganesan auditorium on Wednesday, 9th July, all set to blossom as graduates from this prestigious institution at the end of their respective courses. The students were accompanied by anxious, yet encouraging parents who made the rightful choice of admitting their wards here at SRM.

“Each one of you has to have an aim in life, and we at SRM bring you closer to it. We maintain excellent faculty-student rapport and this helps students stay on track and achieve their goals with ease. So, I wish that you all exploit the knowledge of your teachers as much as possible and make the best use of it”, said the former Vice Chancellor, Mr.Ponnaivaikko, instilling a sense of confidence in the young minds. He also emphasised on the importance of education and how SRM promotes the cause, rather than compromising on it. The parents and students were amazed to hear the success stories of SRMites and were more than glad to be a part of a renowned family like this.

“There is so much diversity in FSH



Dr. T.R. Pachamuthu, Founder Chancellor of SRM University and Dr.Balasubramanian, Director of the FS&H welcomed incoming students to the School of Science and Humanities

and this proves the standard of the institution and its astonishing reputation. It gives us so much pleasure to see you all here with great aspirations, taking a step forward to get closer to it. We assure you that SRM will do its best to support you”, said the Director of the Faculty of Science and Humanities, Dr.Balasubramaniam.

The Director made the point that SRM is a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic campus that has to its credit students from all continents of the world and in the process defining what diversity is all about.

Dr.N.Sethuraman, the Registrar, convinced the audience as to what great an ambience SRM offers to its

students and how well they are trained to become professionals in their fields of study, rather than manufacturing graduates. The senior official of the University pointed to the several laurels the students have earned in their period of study at the University as for instance in Journalism and Mass Communications four students were selected on a short term fellowship to Japan and one student on a State Department Fellowship to the United States. All these, showed the parents that their children were placed in the right hands, and the students, that they are going to be what they desire to be – the best, and a cut above the rest!

Welcome to the SRM family!

“Intern Internationale” from SRM Research Institute

Balasubramanian Prithviraj and Nirmala Khuman

It is a fact that The SRM’s International academic ventures knew no bounds. This year one of our Ph.D candidate, S.Sakthivel, from

SRM Research Institute has got an opportunity for a summer internship program at Hiyoshi Ecological Services, Shiga Prefecture, Japan. It was under the guidance of Dr.Paromita Chakraborty, Asst. Professor Research Institute, such an impressive feat is possible for any humble research candidate.



Dr.Paromita Chakraborty



S.Sakthivel

An eminent figure in the research of Persistent Organic Pollutants representing the university and the country on a global map, her peer reviewed publications stands out in the field. Mr. S.Sakthivel is working on “fate and transport of persistent organic pollutants under tropical climate in India”. It is an area that is drawing attention of science personalities and policy makers due to its toxic properties causing life threatening health issues. Every year Hiyoshi selects only three out of several hundred candidates who apply for the internship. The company is well known for its services in solving environmental problems. Mr.Sakthivel is the only candidate selected from a private university this year, a fact that adds a jewel to the shining SRM’s crown in academic excellence.

Kudos to SRM Nightingale

Staff Writer

We are happy to inform that Prasanna Kumar.G of SRM Nightingale Mat. Hr. Sec. School has secured 98/100 in Tamil in Std X board examination during the academic year 2013-14. The Chennai Tamil Sangam has proposed to felicitate the students scoring first and second ranks in Tamil. Honourable Education Minister, Thiru Veeramani, Principal Secretary to Government, Department of School Education, Tmt.Sabitha, IAS and secretary to Government department of Tamil development, Thiru Rajaram, IAS, have given consent to be the Chief Guest on this occasion which will be held at R.K Swamy auditorium, Sri Sivasami Kalalaya Senior Secondary School, Mylapore.



Our appreciation to the Tamil department and team of SRM staff

Private sector will have to play a very important role - A.N.Rai

Staff Reporter

A total of 591 students were handed their degree certificates at the 10th Graduation Day of Valliammai Engineering College, including 24 Anna University Rank holders.

Director of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), A N Rai, was the chief guest. He said, "51 per cent of enrollments in higher education as of today are in aided and unaided private institutions"! While governments have embarked on capacity expansion during 11th and 12th plan with an objective to reach a GER of 30 percent, the private

sector will have to play a very important role in realising the target, he explained. "A general overview of the current scenario shows that GER, indicating access in higher education, is just about 20 per cent", he added.

Elaborating further, Rai said, "At the time of our country's independence, we had 26 universities and 595 colleges. Today there are more than 700 degree awarding institutions (651 universities) and more than 35,000 colleges. This is to increase further if we are to meet our targeted GER of 30 per cent".

The director of NAAC also spoke of assessment and



Director of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), A N Rai, handing over the degree to a student at the 10th Graduation Day of Valliammai Engineering College, Kattankulathur. Also seen are Founder Chancellor of SRM Group, Dr.T R Pachamuthu, Director of VEC, T P Ganesan, and Principal, B Chidhambararajan.

accreditation. "Till date only 30 per cent of universities and 15 per cent of colleges are accredited, largely because assessment and accreditation has been voluntary till 2012. The

NAAC has traditionally adopted an institutional grading approach whilst the NBA (National Board of Accreditation) has adopted programme accreditation approach", he added. Director of

VEC, T P Ganesan, Principal, B Chidhambararajan and founder Chancellor of SRM Group, T R Pachamuthu, current Chairman, Ravi Pachamoothoo, were present.

■ It is a golden opportunity provided to the students by SRM. They have been extremely helpful and flexible in order to allow us to get the most out of this opportunity. ■

Carnegie Mellon Beckons

Rahul Jain

The International Relations Office of SRM University provided students with an opportunity to pursue internships at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). Potential candidates had to be approved by a panel of seven members after fulfilling necessary criteria, which was based on their academic performances along with their extra-curricular activities.

Sandeep Agarwal and Sumanth Reddy Pandugula from C.S.E. and Arnab Dash from E.C.E. have been selected to pursue the internships at CMU. Sandeep and Arnab will be working as a team in the growing field of Mobile Computing while Sumanth will work in Educational Technologies. "The panel focussed on our previous internships and our inclination towards research and learning more than any

other factor," stated Sandeep.

Students were made aware of the opportunity by the FLLW-ME service which also provided information about the qualification criteria. The project has a duration of six months, from August 25, 2014 to February 24, 2015. Selected students have the opportunity to broaden their learning by getting a hands-on experience in the renowned university, which boasts excellent research portfolio and lab facilities. Sandeep is extremely enthusiastic. "It is a golden opportunity provided to the students by SRM. They have been extremely helpful and flexible in order to allow us to get the most out of this opportunity. We are aware that this is a chance to represent the potential of our university internationally and we hope to live up to the expectations the board has thrust on us."

Mathematics is the Science of all Sciences

Staff Reporter

Mathematics, which is a Science by any criterion, is an efficient and necessary tool being employed by all Sciences. All these Sciences progress only with the aid of Mathematics. So it is aptly remarked, "Mathematics is the Science of all Sciences". Mathematical skills are crucial for a wide array of analytical, technological, scientific, and economic applications. Training students to become adept users of mathematics and to appreciate its usefulness is of paramount importance for the future. To

achieve this, engineering students should learn to visualize the abstract concepts of Mathematics and learn to apply them in their respective domains.

To understand the applications of Mathematics in Engineering; Department of Mathematics, SRM University Ramapuram campus, has organised "An interdisciplinary Mathematical Modelling Competition based on Engineering Applications" for the students. More than 135 teams registered, out of which 50 selected teams participated with many innovative ideas.

Dr. K. N. Raghavan, I M.Sc, Chennai, Dr. S. Vijayakumar, IIIT (D & M) and Dr. Shalu M.A, IIIT (D & M) were the judges. While announcing the prizes, the judges mentioned that the models displayed in the competition were of high standard and advised the students to continue their efforts. They appreciated the Department for conducting the competition, thereby initiating the students to learn the applications of Mathematics in Engineering. Dr. R Narayanasamy, Director, Ramapuram campus and Dr. V. Subbiah Bharathi, Dean, congratulated the Department of Mathematics for stimulating the research interest in students and said that it is very important for the students to understand the importance of Mathematics in Engineering. Siddharth Balomic and the Team of Mechanical Department won the 1st Prize. Rohith Dubey and the Team of EEE Departments and Kripa Shankar and the Team of Mechanical Department, shared the 2nd Prize. Ravi and the Team of B. Arch Department, and Prashanth kumar Giri and the Team of Mechanical Department shared the 3rd prize.



Students display their models during the interdisciplinary Mathematical Modelling Competition based on Engineering Applications

Of Innovation, Design and Hard Work

Satamitra Ghosh Dastidar

“Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life - think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. This is the way to success”- Swami Vivekananda

Innovation Challenge: India Analog Design Contest 2014, a competition by Texas Instruments, was held recently. 1750 teams across the country participated in the event conducted by the American semiconductor manufacturer. Students were required to design products using at least three Texas Instruments Analog ICs or two Texas Instruments Analog ICs and a Texas Instruments Embedded processor. The two-tiered design contest started at the college level across India and ended with a national level contest. National level winners received a prize of ₹ 5.38 Lakh (\$10,000) and a trophy.

The SRM team consisting

of three students from the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and a student from the Power Electronics and Drives secured the ‘Most Popular Video Award’ at the event. The team also featured in the top nineteen award winning teams.

The group worked under the guidance of Assistant Professor, C. Bharatiraja of the EEE department, who espoused the team’s hard work rather than their laurels. “The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand” he said. With the competition’s next iteration to be announced soon, Assistant Professor C Bharatiraja is looking forward to a new team of bright young minds from ECE, E&I and EEE with fresh and innovative ideas to contribute.



Faculty members of SRM University and JUSE gathered together for a joint international seminar on TQM

Intricacies of implementing Japanese Principles

Staff Reporter

SRM University has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with JUSE (Union of Japanese Scientists and Engineers since 1997 to promote Total Quality Management in India). As a part of this initiative, SRM University and JUSE conducted a joint International Seminar on TQM at SRM University. It is to be noted that the content of this seminar is the same as the prestigious JUSE annual seminar conducted by JUSE in Japan.

Also this is the first time in the history of JUSE that this seminar is being held outside Japan.

Dr. Katsutoshi Ayano of Tokai University who is a key speaker in all the JUSE

seminars was the chief presenter during this seminar. Dr. Ayano has many decades of experience in consulting for TQM implementation and for industries aiming for the prestigious Deming Prize for TQM awarded by JUSE.

Besides Dr. Ayano, Dr. N.R. Ravichandran, Sr. VP of Lucas TVS which is one of the earliest recipients of the Japanese Quality Medal has also addressed the participants on the practical aspects of TQM implementation. Some of the sessions were addressed by SRM University personnel well versed in TQM implementation.

The key benefits to the participants in this particular edition of the seminar are:

- Opportunity to learn about TQM from regular JUSE

seminar speaker, Dr. Ayano.

- For the first time understand intricacies of implementing Japanese principles in Indian cultural setting on visiting Indian Deming Grand Prize winners.

All these benefits at a subsidized cost without the need to spend for overseas travel.

The valedictory ceremony of this seminar was presided over by our Vice Chancellor and the Director General of Japanese Export Trade organization (JETRO) who also gave away the certificates of participation. The event was organized under the Center of Excellence in TQM with Prof. S.K. Manivannan as convenor, Prof. Dr. Srinivasan Latha as coordinator and Prof. S. Sundararajan as a resource person.

Igniting Minds

Adrian Pereira

IGNITRON organised by the SRM-ASME chapter was held recently. A variety of events were held as part of the fest. The event provided students with a platform to showcase their technical expertise in their respective disciplines.

One of the events was Real Steel. Teams were tested on their knowledge in the field of automobiles through a quiz. The final round was a mystery round wherein participating teams had to give presentations on topics provided on the spot. Another full-fledged quizzing event, Auto Quiz witnessed 53 teams participating. The final was a five stage event.

Tech Treasure was organised exclusively for the freshmen of SRM University to familiarise them with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The

final round was a treasure hunt. Teams were required to answer certain questions to get clues and gain points.

A BOT-related event called Mind Your Way was next. Participants were given specifications to build a BOT that could maneuver through a maze within a stipulated time. Four teams out of seven qualified for the final round which took place in two stages. The first stage had participants being questioned on the design and other working aspects of their model, whereas the second stage was a one-on-one battle.

Mechanically Innovative Brains, provided a platform for students to be innovative. A questionnaire round followed by a ‘prototype building’ successfully rounded off the events. The final event called ‘Be a Presenter’, gave students the opportunity to give technical presentations on various topics.

Hatching ideas into businesses

Shruti Ganesh
Satyaki Ganguly

How does one realise an idea? The Visionate Club of SRM University, in collaboration with Nurture Talent Academy and the School of Management, organised a two-day workshop based on the theme ‘Idea to Execution’, to answer the same.

Beginning with basics such as idea generation and progressing all the way to domains such as partnership building and e-marketing, the workshop was the first of its kind in the university.

Mr Amit Grover, CEO and founder of Nurture Talent Academy, India’s first institute

for entrepreneurs, conducted the workshop. He utilised game-based models to stimulate the creativity of the 250 participants in attendance.

The workshop provided insight into the process of getting started as an entrepreneur. It aimed at teaching students how to capitalise on their ideas and build effective business plans. It also dealt with fundamentals such as profit and loss and debt versus equity among others. The sessions also shed light on the various legal structures of a company such as copyright, trademarks and patents.

Anshuman Mohapatra, founder of the Visionate Club said, “Start-up is such a Gen-Y

word. How do you actually get started? You need exposure and confidence to focus on constructive ideas and make them happen.” Thanking the management for its active support, he added, “We are grateful to Dr. Jayashree Suresh, Dean, School of Management and Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan, Director, E&T, for their cooperation and enthusiasm.”

The event concluded with participants being grouped into teams. Each team was then asked to pitch its business ideas within a minute. The winners of the competition are to represent SRM University in the national talent hunt event TECHUNT 2014, to be held in IIT Madras later this year.



Lighting of kuthuvilaku during the Inaugural of first year B.Com & BCA programme in Ramapuram campus

Effort Determines Success, Not The Circumstances

Spectrum Reporter

The inaugural function for the under-graduation courses B.Com and B.C.A was held at the TRP Auditorium, SRM University (Ramapuram Campus), Chennai.

The welcoming address was given by Dr. V. Subbair Bharathi, the Dean of SRM University (Ramapuram Campus). The Dean welcomed the chief guest Mr. Abishek Paul, M.B.A (IIT Madras), Principal of Education and Training Assessments, Infosys, Chennai.

The other dignitaries present on the dais were Dr. N. Sethuraman (Registrar), Dr. Balasubramaniam (Director, Science and Humanities), Dr.

R. Narayanasamy (Director of Campus), Dr. L. Antony Michael Raj (Vice Principal, Academic), Dr. Jagadheesan (Vice Principal, Administration) along with Dr. C. Sundar (HOD, MBA) and Mr. Dhilipan (HOD, MCA).

Mr. Abishek Paul gave an inspirational kick start by igniting the incidents that happened in his college life. He made sure that he caught the attention of the entire auditorium with his brilliant sense of humor. He quoted "Success is the reward for our effort". He motivated the students by asking them to analyze themselves on what they wanted to do. He quoted "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". He gave an example about a personality

named Mike Horn who is a Swiss explorer and an adventurer from Johannesburg, South Africa because he wanted to tell us how important Mike was playing a key role as a psychologist and a mentor for the victory of Kolkata Knight Riders (Indian Premier League 2014). He wanted students to know the purpose of life by quoting a poetic verse from "Changing the world".

The Registrar, SRM University said that the University is committed to imparting Quality Education and Skill Sets with Ethics and developing as Excellent Professionals and responsible citizens to promote industrial progress and societal transformation.

Change begins with a smile

Priyankadevi Mohankumar

A recent initiative 'Sponsor a Child's Day Out' by the social change organisation Initiating Fusion (IF) reached out to more than fifty children. IF is composed primarily of students from the Department of Information Technology. The children, ranging from the ages of 3 to 13 years, were all from the Sudorali Church Orphanage in Kelambakkam. They were accompanied by five staff members of the church.

The trip included two meals, snacks and transportation cost of approximately ₹ 200 per person. The children and volunteers spent the day in Vandalur Zoo where various games and activities were organised. The only damper to the day's merriment was the failure to catch a glimpse of a lion, a favourite among the children in attendance.

While the day out provided children of the orphanage a

much needed reprieve from their daily routine, a lot of work remains to be done to make a lasting impact on their lives. This was evident from the fact that a few kids walked barefoot in the hot sun, prompting a number of volunteers to donate their footwear.

All those present were sad to see the day draw to a close. As the kids were quick to point out, "Nobody has spent time with us like this before. We enjoyed every minute of it. Also, the food provided was a feast for us."

Small acts of love and kindness do not cost much but have the potential to bring about immeasurable change in the lives of the less fortunate. As Priyanka Jain, a second year student of Software Engineering attests, "A day spent in Express Avenue, Sky Walk or a cinema would never have been so memorable and heart-warming."



Students spend time with disadvantaged children as part of Initiating Fusions's 'Sponsor a Child's Day Out'

A new chapter for SRMSAT

Adrian Pereira

The satellite SRMSAT-1 was launched in October 2011. An innovative project, it was initiated to monitor greenhouse gases over the Indian sub-continent. While it was launched with a life expectancy of one year, it has been successfully in orbit for two and a half years and counting.

Not ready to rest on their laurels, the SRMSAT team is all set to launch the second chapter of their project with

SRMSAT-2. Two ambitious proposals regarding the satellite are awaiting the nod from the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) before their implementation. They are a Lunar Mission as well as Rendezvous and Docking.

The Lunar Mission is a dream project of the SRMSAT team. The team wishes to send a nano-satellite to the moon with a few technologically evolved aspects included in it. Hence, it will be called the Piggy-Bank Launch. The satellite aims at using 60% less propellant and

low energy transfer. "The team's long-term goal is to successfully reach the moon on its own," says Anand, a member of the SRMSAT team. The group is in a quest to fix errors that have occurred during previously attempted launches of national space vehicles.

Rendezvous and Docking, on the other hand, proposes to solve a major problem faced by astronauts all over the world, which is successfully returning to their space vehicle. Rendezvous and Docking involves making a few technical changes which

will help in the setting up of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) antennas to aid the astronauts to come back safely to their vehicle.

The SRMSAT team is working hard to make sure that their

second mission is an even bigger success than the first one, with 32 students currently working on the project under the guidance of the Director of Research Prof. D Narayana Rao.



The SRMSAT team hopes to launch SRMSAT 2, which will include a lunar mission as well



The Registrar and Director of the FS & H, SRM University felicitating the chief guest

Improving Technical Knowledge

Staff Reporter

“Knowledge has to be improved, challenged, and increased constantly, or it vanishes.” This is the main idea behind ISTE – SRM STTP program, which is successfully conducted at SRM University, Delhi – NCR Campus. This Short Term Training Program has been done in association with Indian Society for Technical Education for faculty members of various Universities and Institutions all over India coordinated by Dr. Prof. R. P. Mahapatra, Associate

Dean and Head, Department of CSE. The topic of this programme was “Virtualization Technology using VMware”. The faculty of different institutions attended this six day workshop. NCR Campus celebrated the Valedictory session with chief guest Dr. N. Sethuraman, Registrar, SRM University and Dr. R. Balasubramanian, Director, Faculty of Science and Humanities. Dr. Prof. Manoj Kumar Pandey, Director, SRM University, Delhi - NCR Campus felicitated the chief guest.

During the event Dr. N.

Sethuraman addressed that these kinds of workshops are organized by ISTE in all our campuses time to time and this is an opportunity for faculties to improve their technical knowledge. Dr. R. Balasubramanian praised on Dr. Mahapatra's conduct of this workshop and encouraged him to make such kind of events time to time.

The main idea of conducting this program is to provide innovative technical information to faculty members. So that youth of India can be aware of technical changes.

Team RUDRA hovers at the top

Gaurav Sarma

SRM's Team Rudra recently participated in the University Rover Challenge and won accolades. The team stood 5th overall and 1st in the Asian category.

The University Rover Challenge is a Mars Society organised robotics competition for college students to design and build the next generation Mars rover that has the potential to work alongside human explorers in the field. Team Rudra left for the challenge; which was held in the Martian Analog site near Hanksville, Utah, USA; on May 20 and returned on May 31. The University Rover Challenge consisted of five rounds to test the versatility of the rovers. The rounds were the sample return, astronaut assistance, equipment servicing, terrain traversing and the presentation task. The judges applauded the team's performance, especially in the terrain traversing round, in which the rover was successful in entering a one metre deep pit with ease and also managed to

move swiftly across the rugged desert terrain. Rudra developed creative ideas which included a laptop being mounted on the rover for calculating the probability of life on Mars dynamically.

Ravi, one of the team members shed light on their challenges. “We had to accommodate plenty of changes in the rover in order to maximise efficiency and ensure that it is able to sustain itself in harsh conditions. The hardest job while developing the rover was to control it from a remote location.

He also believes that engineering requires knowledge of all the branches. “It is only then that you can make your decision regarding which field you want to join. Once you make your decision, you should stick to it and make sure that you know everything about your branch” Ravi concluded. Though the academic year has just begun, Rudra has started its recruitment process for new members. After all, hovering on top is hard work!

Off to Harvard!!!

Khushboo Agarwal

“Let your dreams be bigger than your fears and your actions louder than words”,

-Anonymous

Students from the School of Bioengineering have been selected to join Harvard University where they will carry out their final year project for six months, starting from October.

The students of the School of Bioengineering were asked to apply for this opportunity during the last week of May. The selection process involved a formal SAP Seminar with the Department of International Relations. The students then faced an interview panel consisting of the Dean of School of Bioengineering, HODs of various departments,

and two officials from the Department of International Relations. Students were judged based on their academic performances, research ideas, internships and enthusiasm level. After the selection, the students were contacted by the Faculty of Harvard University via Skype during which the students could select the laboratory of their interest.

Vishruthi Vaikundan, Vineeth Krishna, Aparna Chakravarti and Ashwin Gurunathan of the Department of Biotechnology are amongst those students selected to go to Harvard University. They were visibly excited about the opportunity that awaits them there and credit their respective class-in-charges and HODs for the support and encouragement extended towards them.

Mangalyaan: The Desi Videsi

Radhika Venkatraman
Khushboo Agarwal

For years, humans have wondered if the red planet contains traces of life. ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) is a step closer to fulfilling this goal by completing 75 percent of Mangalyaan's journey, which commenced on November 5, 2013.

For the uninitiated, Mangalyaan aka MOM (Mars Orbital Mission), is ISRO's first mission to Mars; set to place India's rocket launch and operational capabilities among the ranks of NASA and the Soviet Space Agency.

So the question arises; what is it in Mangalyaan that has caught everyone's attention?

First and foremost, all material used in building the rocket has been manufactured in India. That's about as desi as it gets. Now hold on, don't shed those tears of pride just yet! Another staggering factor that caught our eye was that it was completed

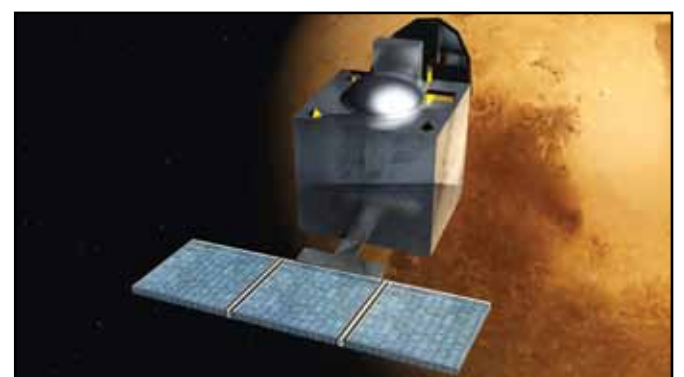
in a mere eighteen months. NASA took half a decade to launch their Mars Mission - Maven, fourteen days after MOM's launch.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. NASA splashed out \$671 million on Maven compared to the measly \$75 million spent on Mangalyaan. It's safe to say MOM didn't really burn a hole in the government's pocket.

ISRO made all the right moves to make Mangalyaan cost effective. A modular approach towards development

as evidenced in the re-design of the Vikas engine (acquired in the 1970s via French amicability) meant reduced financial strain. Testing was kept to a minimum while pumping out the maximum results. Also, a key strength lay in constructive time management, emphasized by the 20+ hours a day put in by the elite scientific brass of our country to make this dream a reality.

When MOM and Maven land on the red planet in September we know we will be rooting for David, not Goliath!



Mangalyaan, ISRO's first mission to Mars is a leap forward for our country with regards to the space race



Capping a fantastic first ha

Spectrum Reporter

2014 continues to be another year of incessant successes for SRM University. From international seminars delivered by faculties from world class universities to medical conferences discussing neoteric advancements in the field and education fairs that literally offered the best of the world on a platter to students,

no stone has been left unt

Furthermore students continue to proudly flaunt the SRM name and flag high winning myriad laurels at sports meets, creative endeavors and technically challenging international competitions. This auspicious start is any to go by, 2014 will be a that promises even brighter tidings ahead.

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An honour for Ramapuram Student

Spectrum Reporter

Krishna Thiruvengadam is a 4th year mechanical engineering student of SRM Ramapuram Campus. He is an innovator seeking engineering solutions for everyday problems. He has actively participated in several national level project expos and won awards. He was awarded the First prize at the Ingenuity 2012 at the National Institute of Technology (Kurukshetra) and a prize for the Best Model in Daksh '12 at SASTRA University for his project 'Conical Helix Penstock for small hydro power'. He also won the best stall award in the social stream at the Innovator 2012 conducted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for his paper on implementation of bicycle commuting for the Indian scenario. Recently he has been ranked in the first quarter in the Valeo International 'smart car' innovation challenge and was shortlisted the second time at the Innovator 2014 for his project on inexpensive ultra low water toilet systems. He has been selected (one in four in India) as a community teaching assistant (CTA) at the University of Pennsylvania -USA in a Coursera MOOC course 'creativity, innovation and change' for which he secured a Distinction last year. In one of his ambitious personal projects, he has traced his ancestral roots with a collection of 768 individuals and 248 families spanning across 250 years. He proudly says "It's a record in history that I have contributed to the heritage of my family". Apart from heritage, it also serves as a medical record of hereditary conditions.

He got turning points in life when he pursued his internship in the International township of Auroville (near Pondicherry), where he got a multi-cultural exposure. There he was trained in the design and installation of solar power systems at Sunlit future. He got his part in wind technologies after his internship at MinVayu (auroville) where he was involved in the system design and installation of micro wind turbines with data logging and remote monitoring. He also pursued an internship at Integral Enterprises and was involved in the product design and development of patented 'wee dryer' project which is a quick low cost clothes dryer running on minimal power designed for hospitals. Recently, he got selected for summer internship at the national innovation foundation (NIF) in Value addition, research and development (VARD) Wing. NIF is a unit of Dept of Science and Technology (DST) under the Ministry of Science and Technology. He worked with the Product development, R&D of grassroots technologies developed by innovators without professional education as well as IGNITE awarded innovations developed by school children. There he worked with multi disciplinary engineering Projects related to food processing, agriculture, safety devices and sports trainers. He worked in the Product development of such grass roots technologies that were given national awards by the President of India and hosted by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. He is still working with the organization in his continued research.



P.S. Vasudevan, a corporate trainer addresses final year students from the School of Science and Humanities on interview etiquette

The art of professional sophistication

Karthik Shankar

P.S. Vasudevan, a corporate trainer addressed the final year students of the School of Science and Humanities on how to successfully present themselves in interviews.

Mr Vasudevan won over students with his high octane energy and witty anecdotes. He presented several disaster interview scenarios to illustrate personality related impediments that can get in the way of securing a good job. For instance, he instructed students to display a confident but not an arrogant body language by play acting instances when the latter did occur. He also advised students, in a group discussion, to moderate their tone; listen to what others were saying; and avoid perceived

■ ■
Dressing tells someone that you're out to get a job. You can never be too formal with your clothes, but you can be too casual. ■ ■

narcissistic actions such as leading the discussion.

He ably described how to tackle the weighted question of stating one's strengths and weaknesses to an interviewer. "Don't state clichés such as 'I work well with people' for strengths. Companies take it for granted that you work well with groups. For weaknesses, do be honest but make sure you don't go for perceived deal breakers.

If you say 'I'm very lazy' as your weakness, no company will hire you!"

He also clarified dressing tips. "Dressing tells someone that you're out to get a job. You can never be too formal with your clothes, but you can be too casual. Girls should avoid revealing attire or chunky jewellery because interviews are not the place to make a fashion statement."

Mr Vasudevan's slides were also interspersed with humorous videos which managed to convey valuable insights in a few minutes. Throughout his presentation, he reiterated the importance of personality, saying "Personality counts!" If the audience reaction was anything to go by, his personality definitely won over the students.

From the Desk of The Chairman, SRM Group

The Chairman of the SRM Group of Educational Institutions, Mr. Ravi Pachamoothoo, has asked the SRM Community to send in their complaints, concerns and suggestions to him at srmchairman@gmail.com or through sms to 99400 88414 (text messages only)

Global award for research scholar of the SRM Medical Research Centre

Spectrum Reporter

Mr A Ganesan, a PhD student of SRM Medical Research, had been identified as 'a promising young scientist' by the Japan Society of Nephrology, for his work on the CD2AP gene mutation, in Children. He was one among the only 15 young

scientists, globally selected, after a keen competition.

As part of this award, he was invited to give a presentation in the 57th annual meeting held in Yokohama Japan, on 3 July 2014. Full hospitality was afforded by the organisers to him, including travel



The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Medical) Dr. Thangaraju with the Research Scholar

The Inaugural at Vadapalani

Spectrum Reporter

The inaugural function of the 2014-2015 B. Tech batch was organised on the 21st of July to welcome the new batch of students to the engineering program being offered by the SRM university Vadapalani campus. The function commenced with the rendering of Tamil Thaivazhthu to invoke the blessings of the God Almighty. The traditional Kuthu Villakku was lighted to make an auspicious beginning to the new academic session. The occasion was graced by the honourable Chancellor, SRM University and Director-Engineering and Technology, SRM university. The Dean



The Chancellor is among the dignitaries present for the inaugural function of the 2014-15 B.Tech batch

Engineering and technology, Vadapalani campus, welcomed the gathering of parents and students and the dignitaries for

gracing the occasion.

The inaugural and presidential address was delivered by the Chancellor, SRM University. The

Chancellor described the growth of the university and assured the parents of the university's ability to provide state-of-art

education to their wards. The director engineering and technology in his special address outlined the B.Tech programs of the university and the unique initiatives of the university like the Student abroad program and faculty abroad program. One of the students, Mr Bharadwaj of CSE department who underwent the student abroad program also spoke about his achievements in the program and its benefits. One of the parents Mr Selvaraj, Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya No 1, Colaba, Mumbai, also came forward to express his confidence in the systems and processes of the SRM university. The inaugural ended with the National Anthem.

Racing with the "Right" Angle

Satamitra Ghosh Dastidar

With their latest racing car – CR14 tuned and tested, Camber Racing successfully defended their title of National Champions at SUPRA SAEINDIA 2014 held recently at the Madras Motor Sports Club's Irungattakottai race track (MMRT). The competition which included the participation of around 90 engineering colleges from across the country comprised two days of technical testing and two days of racing. Camber Racing beat Vamos Autocross from Sinhad Institute of Technology for the overall 1st position. They also secured 1st position in Skidpad and Fuel Efficiency/Economy section and 2nd in the Endurance section.



Despite being reigning National Champions, the team needed to work on a lot of fields since competition rules have changed.



Camber Racing was formulated in 2009 as the only Formula Student team of SRM University. The team comprises of engineers from various departments. In only their second event, Camber Racing was declared National Champion.

Despite being reigning National Champions, the team needed to work on a lot of fields since competition rules have changed. Improvements were made to rectify mistakes in previous designs such as in the chassis, powertrain and wheel assembly. The main objective was to shed as much weight as possible to make the vehicle more competitive. Each department worked with various materials to ensure the required strength was attained at the least possible weight. High performance tyres were selected for improved grip. The total weight reduction over the previous vehicle is a massive 130kgs.

The team's success has been recognized by sponsors like automobile giants Bosch, Stanley DeWalt, Case New Holland, JK Tyres etc. as well as the world's leading energy drink Redbull which helped burn midnight oil while building their vehicle.

SRM aims to fly higher than ever

Anand.M

The Department of Aerospace Engineering at SRM University conducted a week long Short Term Training Programme (STTP) from June 23 to 27. The event, sponsored by the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), was inaugurated by Dr. C Muthamizhchelvan, Director (E&T). The theme of the event was 'Challenges in Space Technology'. It was attended by teachers from engineering colleges from across the country.

The teachers were educated on some of the current problems facing the growth of the space industry like space exploration, positioning of satellites in their respective orbits and GPS systems among several others. The event was headed by Mr.

V Krishnamurthy, a highly celebrated scientist with three decades of experience with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Currently a project officer at SRM University, he gave a lecture on the topic 'Basics of Orbital Mechanics and Application of Satellites'. He encouraged more students to take up research. Dr. Lakshmi Narasimhan, an expert in project management, shared his expertise on 'Successful Management of High Cost Space Projects'. He stated that it was essential to manage the available resources in a productive way to achieve the desired results.

The event, spread over five days, illuminated various aspects of space technology like rocket systems, launch of complex systems, cryogenic engineering

and nuclear applications in space. Dr. Ramamoorthy, Deputy Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, ISRO, enlightened the audience with his knowledge of rocket testing, safety management and machine challenges.

The final day of the event was graced by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. M Ponnavaiko, who gave away the certificates. The HOD of Aerospace Engineering, Dr. R Vasudevan, remained confident of a bright future as he spoke of an upcoming project to build a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) in collaboration with the Indian Meteorological Department and a proposal to build an aviation hub in the near future.

"It is a very ambitious project and there is nothing wrong in dreaming big." - Dr. R Vasudevan



Participants at the Valedictory of SRM-ISTE-STTP on 'Challenges in Space Technology'



Prof. Dr. P. Thangaraju, Pro Vice Chancellor (Medical) of SRM University and Dr. Samuel JK Abraham, Director NCRM sign an MoU to foster joint research on blindness prevention

Indo-Japanese tie-up between SRM University and NCRM for world class research towards blindness prevention

Spectrum Reporter

“Addressing corneal and retinal degenerative diseases using stem cells to be the main areas of focus”

SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Centre, SRM University at Kattankulathur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chennai based Indo-Japan Institute Nichi-In Centre for Regenerative Medicine (NCRM) to foster

joint research on enhancing ways to find a cell therapy based cure for potentially blinding corneal and retinal diseases. The landmark MoU was signed by Prof. Dr. P. Thangaraju, Pro Vice Chancellor (Medical) of SRM University and Dr. Samuel JK Abraham, Director NCRM.

India is the “Blind capital of the world”, with more than 15 million blind people of which, about 4.5 million corneal blind people are waiting for someone to donate eyes. Prof. Dr. S. V. Swamy Raj and Dr. Syed Asghar Hussain, the lead investigators at SRM

University, said that blindness due to corneal diseases is an increasing burden due to lack of donor corneas. The supply is abysmally low compared to the demand. If the present trend continues, it is expected that the number of corneal blind individuals in India will increase from 8.4 million to 10.6 million by 2020. The world class expertise of NCRM, in having transported corneal endothelial precursors across the country in a simple manner and the transplantation in pilot studies with success have given

us hope that it can be expanded to other patients too.

In addition, blinding retinal conditions such as Retinitis Pigmentosa and Age-related Macular Degeneration have become some of the leading causes of blindness in millions of people across India; for which stem cell therapies hold the key for a cure; for which the SRM-NCRM tie-up aims to endeavour.

For further queries please contact:

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Mr. R. Senthilkumar, Research Officer, Nichi-In Centre for Regenerative Medicine (NCRM), Chennai, TN

Mob. No. : +91- 94440 83550 / Email ID: rsk@nichimail.jp



Dr. Krishnamurthy Prabhakar a professor from SRM University was among a select few to be chosen for the I.S.E.O summer school in Italy.

At the I.S.E.O Summer School, Italy

Spectrum Reporter

Dr. Krishnamurthy Prabhakar, Professor, SRM University felt humbled to be accepted as a scholar with scholarship, at the I.S.E.O Summer School, Italy, one of the ten best summer schools in the world where the courses are taught by Professor Robert Engle (Nobel 2003), Professor James Mirrlees (Nobel laureate, 1996) and Professor Michael Spence (Nobel laureate, 2001) and international economists with the theme “Shaping the future: towards a sustainable global economy”

Medical students shine at sports fest

Spectrum Reporter

The elegant students of SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre participated in the Intercollegiate sports festival coined as Stanlea 14 held at Govt. Stanley Medical College. More than 70 students

participated in various events and 11 of them won laurels. First place was won by Kaviya Shri, Sheha.S for Chess, Sanghavi.S and Sudharshan.K for Shotput, Sarath Sadayappan.M for 50mtr and 100-mtr Butterfly swimming, Sahaya Jency for discus throw. Second place



The proud medical students team with Pro Vice Chancellor (Medical), Dean, Medical Superintendent and staff advisor, HOD Forensic Medicine

was won by Basith.M for Shotput and Yogesh.S for discus throw. Third place was won by Solai Raj.S for Swimming. In Felicitating them Deputy Dean & VP highlighted that the left half of brain is for linear thinking mathematics and calculation whereas right half of brain is for spatial thinking, sports & music. To be a creative person one should stimulate both halves. SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre & SRM University offers splendid opportunity for students to employ both halves of their brain to generate creativity.

...the left half of brain is for linear thinking mathematics and calculation whereas right half of brain is for spatial thinking, sports & music.

Now... A Law School at SRM

Staff Writer

A long time dream of the Founder Chancellor, Dr. T.R. Pachamuthu has been fulfilled—SRM University at Kattankulathur will have a School of Law. The Bar Council of India has given its nod for a five year Honors B.A. LLB and B.Com LLB and a Three year Honors LLB courses starting this academic year 2014-15. A team from the Bar Council of India visited SRM recently and went away convinced that SRM did indeed have the required infrastructure, Library and teaching facilities to start the legal programmes.

Aside from the academic programme for the courses that has been approved at the last sitting of the Academic Council, SRM University will be insisting that students in the law programme do as many internships as possible with a view to making them “ready” at the time of completion of the courses. To this effect several top law firms have been identified that will also serve as recruitment potential upon graduation.

The School of Law which will function in the Annexe Building of the School of Management will be in the Faculty of Science and Humanities. A noted legal luminary, Dr. N. Balu, former Vice

Chancellor of the National Law College at Cochin and former Professor of Legal Studies at Madras University will be the Dean of Law School.

“We have in place a full fledged team to run the programmes and ensure that the School of Law at SRM will find its place among the top law schools in India and overseas. The legal and non-legal courses that will be taught apart, we will make sure that students have a holistic education that keeps the needs of society in an ever-changing India”, said Dr. R. Balasubramanian, Director of the Faculty of Science and Humanities.



The Registrar, the Director (FS&H) and Dean, School of Law interacting with the members of the Bar Council of India



Shanna Dietz Surendra, Cultural Affairs officer at the American Consulate, hands out a Semester Abroad offer letter to a student as Muthamizhchelvan, Director (E & T) at SRM University looks on

SRM University Semester Abroad Programme offer letters released

Staff Reporter

Connections made during international education experiences last a lifetime. International students enrich classrooms, campuses and communities in ways that endure long after students return to their home countries. “We encourage US schools to continue to welcome more international students to their campuses and to do more to make study abroad a reality for all of their students”, said Shanna Dietz Surendra, cultural Affairs officer at the Public Affairs Section of the American Consulate, Chennai.

She further said American campuses have realised that efforts to increase international student enrollment help produce graduates better prepared to engage and lead in the new global economy.

Semester Abroad Programme was started by the university in 2008, students under this programme go to educational institutions located in countries like USA, UK, France, Germany, Sweden and others and study there for one semester at the foreign university and return to continue their studies in the university here.

Currently under this programme, around 100 students of SRM University will be going in August-September this year to prestigious institutions like Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard Medical School, UC Davis and others for studies. Pro-vice chancellor and vice chancellor incharge of SRM University T P Ganesan and director (E & T) at SRM University Dr. Muthamizhchelvan were among those present.

Ethics in Journalism is not about moralising

Ramalingam. Va

“Ethics come into play when moral values conflict,” said Jan Leach of the Kent State University who had come down to SRM University, Kattankulathur for a workshop session with the students of Journalism & Mass Communication.

The session revolved around two factors vital to Journalism—Ethics and Gender Based Violence. She listed out several statistics pertaining to crimes against women and noted that more than half of the crimes go unreported.

She brought out a comparative analysis of reportage between the US and India while raising an important question pertaining to revealing the identity of the

victim. She was of the opinion that it is worthwhile debating whether identifying the victims would help them in recovering from the trauma.

Jan Leach attempted to explain the prevalence of GBV in India by means of several direct and indirect reasons; some of them are deep rooted in our tradition such as dowries, and the perceived superiority of males.

Being a former journalist herself, she explained the practical difficulties that arise while covering instances of Gender Based Violence. She said journalists are prone to Post Trauma Stress Disorder (PTSD) especially dealing with stories on heinous crimes.

Sidelining this she went on to discuss ethics pertaining

■... ethics are a moral basis to resolve dilemmas and it is a rational process ... ■

to GBV. She meticulously explained the Do's and Dont's while interviewing rape victims. She also stressed that stories, especially those dealing with GBV, must not be sensationalised.

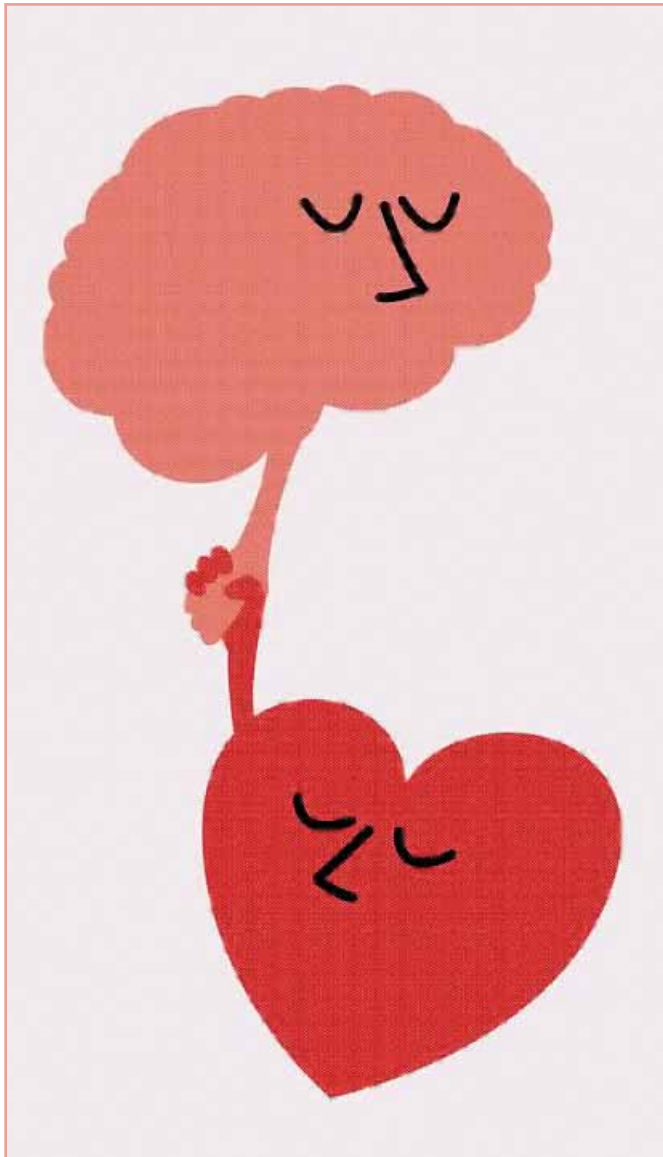
She defined ethics as a “moral basis to resolve dilemmas and it is a rational process founded on certain agreed-upon principles”.

Jan Leach visit to India was funded by the US State Department to conduct workshops related to Gender Based Violence across colleges and universities across the country.



Jan Leach a professor from Kent State University addressed students on Ethics and Gender Based Violence





*The cool rationality of your mind is
no match for the emotions of your heart*

Your Aorta Knows You Better Than Your Cranial Nerves!

Nandita Adithyan

“Every form has its own meaning. Every man creates his own meaning and form and goal. Why is it so important - what others have done? Why does it become sacred by the mere fact of not being your own? Why is anyone or everyone right so long it's not you? Why does the number of those others take the place of truth?”

There exists no catechism to satisfy Howard Roark in Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* but it does not taint his convictions even by the slightest degree. The daily struggle between what you should do and what your heart really wants you to do, a common thread in our country, does not deflate his passion in any way.

Why is it so difficult to follow your heart? Coming from a land with a remarkable history and a multifarious culture, creative

arts open up a lot of doors for us. It might not lead to cushy jobs with air-conditioned offices, scented cabins and heavy teakwood furniture, but it gives us an opportunity to wake up in the morning and go to work with a smile. It is similar to how P.T periods and dance classes in school would keep us going despite Monday morning blues.

The satisfaction of doing something you are passionate about definitely beats going for the rote and routine. Nothing replaces the ecstasy of composing good music or clicking breathtaking pictures. The ‘sink-in’ moments of winning a tennis match or a motocross race more than make up for the initial anxiety caused. Conviction is what always keeps us going, even when the world may conspire against us. Quoting Ayn Rand yet again, “Men hate passion, they hate great passion”.

Keeping Guindy Green

Gaurav Sinha

On July 6, a human chain was organised at Besant Nagar Beach in support of an online petition to halt construction work in ecologically sensitive areas near Guindy National Park (GNP). Students from all over Chennai took part in the event. SRM University was represented by the NGO The Green Nest, which also brought in volunteers from other institutes.

The petition and the human chain were prompted by the announcement of a ‘nil’ buffer zone around the park in order to allow IIT-Madras to construct buildings in close proximity to GNP. Activists argue that the buffer zone proposal around GNP and Vedanthangal bird sanctuary benefits builders rather than conservationists. They also point out that the proposed buildings will not only have detrimental effects on the local ecosystem but upon quality of life as a whole.

“Birds use Vedanthangal as a resting place and their feeding grounds are spread out over a large area. Protecting the resting



*A child holds up a banner at Besant Nagar beach
as a part of the Save Guindy National Park campaign*

grounds without ensuring the integrity of their feeding grounds is useless,” said Vijay Kumar, an organiser of the Save GNP Campaign.

The petition asks that land be allocated elsewhere to construct a satellite campus, akin to IIT-Delhi and the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. “A college building can be constructed anywhere. Rare forests cannot be moved

and endangered animals such as the Blackbuck cannot have their habitat compromised” said Daya Lakshmi, who coordinated the campaign and authored the petition.

Copies of the petition with 7000 signatures were collected and handed over to the Tamil Nadu Government's Principal Secretary of the Environment & Forests department.

Hope Versus Reality

Rahul Jain

“I am coming to your college, brother!” exclaimed Hemanth to Sunil who was still lost in the digital charms of FIFA. “Now I am your peer, not your little brother. Don't you think about ragging me” said Hemanth, clearly lofty after getting admission in his desired branch in one of the top universities in the country. “Ragging isn't prevalent in the campus.” “Oh well, I will still get to interact with a lot of seniors in fests.” You won't have time to participate in all the fests if you join an extra-curricular activity.”

“Oh alright, I can still go to nearby vacation spots during the weekend.” said Hemanth, slightly crestfallen. “You will have four sets of tests in a semester, and three practical labs. Between that and the odd errand you will have to run, consider yourself lucky if you manage to visit the city twice” told Sushil, enjoying

the discomfort it was causing his brother.

“You know what, who needs groups or interactions, I will have an awesome girlfriend and have Nishayan and Gaurav as roommates.” said Hemanth, trying to be defiant. “If they are interested and not committed already. Also, you don't get to choose your roommates in the first year.” Sushil had paused the game now and was positively joyous at his sibling's discomfort. “I also suggest you eat what mom has cooked because you won't have a lot of good food over there.”

Hemanth was absolutely silent as he realized what being a ‘grown-up’ actually entailed and how things differed from his big plans and hopes. College wasn't the Bollywood portrayal he had dreamt of. Sushil realised the hopelessness his little brother was feeling and decided to change tact. “It's not all bad. You will get to meet a lot of different people and opportunities



*Sober your expectations
about college*

will be abundant. You will get to try things you have never heard of. The fun moments will come in the form of you and your classmates bent over your charts as you try to meet deadlines and crack jokes at each other's expense. As a movie character said, College is a chance to restart life and reinvent yourself. Just be open to experiences and things will happen.”

“Just the way you change Damini's name to Dushyant every time you come home?” teased Hemanth. The conversation ended abruptly as one brother chased the other around the house.



108 students admitted in 2014 have been awarded scholarships by SRM University

SRM University Awards Sports Scholarship

Staff Reporter

Keeping with its tradition, SRM University has awarded sports scholarship amounting to ₹ 4,40,65,000/- to one hundred and eight (108) sportsmen and women admitted in 2014 to its various programs in Engineering and Technology, Management, Science and humanities, etc. This scholarship is given to them

as full waiver of tuition fees, hostel accommodation, and mess and transport fees. The university provides a total sports scholarship of nearly Seven (7.0) crores in a year by including the existing senior class sportsperson.

The awardees were selected in the selection trials conducted in a transparent manner on

5th and 6th April 2014, and further on 13th to 18th May 2014 in which more than six hundred (600) sportspersons participated. The trials were conducted in Cricket, Basketball, Volley ball, Foot ball, Hockey, Badminton, Ball Badminton, Tennis, Table tennis and Chess by experts from inside and outside the university.

The university is proud to have selected many national and international players such as Mr. Siva Krishna (International volleyball player), Mr. S. Stany (International player in chess), Mr. Sushmit Sriram (International player in Table Tennis), Y. Monicha, Varsha, and Neelaamsingh (International Ball Badminton Players).

The scholarship award function was held at the SRM University Vadapalani campus on 10.07.2014 at 12.00 Noon. The chancellor of the university Dr. Pariventhar presided and gave the admit cards to the awardees. The Chairman, Vice chancellor, Registrar and the Director of Sports were present along with other university officials.

The Bicycle Clubs

SRM students proved their mettle in two cycling events.

Spectrum Reporter

The first was a brevet, a randonneuring event. Randonneuring is a long distance cycling sport typically covering a distance between 200 and 1,200 kilometres,

Brevet involves passing through predetermined "controls" (checkpoints) every few tens of kilometers. Riders aim to complete the course within specified time limits, and receive equal recognition regardless of their finishing order.

Achievement: A 400 km brevet was conducted by Madras Randonneurs. This was completed in 26 hours 25 minutes. The medal was awarded from the Madras Randonneurs which is affiliated to the international governing body for randonneuring – Audax Club Parisien (ACP).

The second was a criterium cycle race. Tamilnadu Cycling Club (TCC) conducted the first Criterium cycle race jointly with Madras Motor Sports Club (MMSC) for 4 different categories viz. Boys, Women, Men's open & Men's elite. A criterium, or crit, is a bike

race held on a short course, usually less than 5 km, and in a closed circuit, where riders complete multiple laps. Race length will be determined by number of laps.

The race was conducted at the MMSC race track, Irungattukottai, Sriperumbudhur. The technically demanding 3.75 km track is 11 meters wide and has 10 major curves apart and 3 straights with the longest one being 250 meters. This gives ample opportunity for riders to demonstrate their riding skills (cornering ability as well as sprinting ability).

In a first of its kind for a cycle race, all bikes were fitted with high precision transponders and timings were calculated up to the third decimal.

Achievement: First position in the Mens Open (6 Laps ~22.5Km)



SRM students did the college proud by gaining honours in two cycling events



The brevet medal was awarded by the Madras Randonneurs

Fresh Experiences...With a Touch of Soul

Vaishali Suresh

When asked what sits atop my bucket list, my ingrained response is 'skydiving'. But if asked what it is followed by, I wouldn't have a definitive answer. It so happens that when asked about this, I am lost in a sea of endless possibilities (albeit limited by the bounds of my knowledge), in pursuit of the perfect suitors for the positions 2,3,4 and so on - of the said bucket list.

Looking from a broader perspective, I guess a considerable portion of this sea of possibilities falls under 'Travelling', with the ones I hold close to my heart of course. And when I say travelling, I mean every facet of it - right from the journey, the laughs and jokes to the new places discovered and people met.

To get a better idea, picture this - You've been successful in planning a trip to go watch the Northern Lights. The tickets booked, bags packed, you're all set. The day of departure has



Aurora Borealis, The Northern Lights over Finnmark, Norway

arrived in all its glory and the air is thick with excitement. Even the ride to the airport is something to look forward to, because let's face it: airplane journeys are awesome, the take-off feeling - top notch. A smile plays on your lips when you look down at your

city from a height and an even wider smile when you get the first glimpse of your destination. (Fast forwarding to the part where you've arrived at the said location...) Never would you have set eyes on something so breathtakingly beautiful in the sky. Covered

in a blanket of tranquillity and love from the people around you, listening to 'Midnight' by 'Coldplay' with THAT view above you - the sky putting up a spellbinding show, lights of variegated hues that tingle your senses, entwining and interlacing in a slow dance of

sorts -- the very thought makes me want to drop my pen and hop aboard the next flight to the place. Sigh. One day, I will. That's a promise.

Travelling, exploring diverse locations and lifestyles, figuring out the way around previously-foreign lands, meeting new faces, exchanging delightful anecdotes - there is SO much to learn, so much knowledge to be acquired. Such experiences have the power to move a person mentally and emotionally, enabling him or her to look at life itself from a whole new perspective, and makes one rich and wealthy, in their own wonderful way. The raw beauty and novelty (in some cases) of all blesses one with memories that will be carried forward and cherished for life.

And what I've mentioned here, is just one place. As my old pal Robert Frost would say, 'And miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep'.

Not so Super After All

Satamitra Ghosh

"A superhero is a type of fictional stock character possessing extraordinary talents or superhuman powers as well as a dedication to protect the public." That's what the dictionary will quote, when you search for a meaning. But, well, isn't the job a little less mundane?

You've got super strength, super speed, invisibility, psychic powers and even near indestructibility in some cases. You fear nothing, except the possible exposure of your secret identity and rogue super villains. There are drawbacks to these super cool powers, after all. Like Uncle Ben always said, "With great power comes great responsibility."

Our geeky side dreams about taking on the mantle of these personalities, replete with capes and tights. However,

apart from cleaning up the streets and dwelling into their intricately mustered back-stories, what troubles do these heroes actually face?

Here's a list of possible problems that riddles our so called saviours:

1. Sweat: Don't you think running around the town, or muscling through foes would leave you vulnerable to a little perspiration? Be it our friendly neighbourhood Spiderman or the Dark Knight, those tights hardly come with any ventilation.
2. Lack of a pocket: As invincible as the Man of Steel might be, his trademark red underwear that he sports so lovingly doesn't come with a pocket for either his cell-phone or wallet.
3. Not having enough clothes: Danger lurks at every nook and corner, and the call of

duty is ever present. So what about their day-to-day clothes? Whenever the Hulk gets into one of his emotional breakdowns or Mr. Clark Kent needs to fly off, the apparels get strewn to litter. Just imagine the money it takes to maintain that wardrobe. Eeks!

4. Flying Sickness: Doing somersaults, plummeting from heights and all the other superhero-ey manoeuvres; what happens if these daredevils by any chance catch the fly bug or (god forbid) a hangover? Oh my! What a day it would be.
5. Stains: Fighting crime is a dirty business. Blood, guts, gore and grease, are all part and parcel of the deed. Imagine cleaning up at the end of the day. Even superheroes have to face the wrath of the laundry.



Being a superhero isn't as easy as it looks

6. Getting hit on by acquaintances: Mr. and Mrs. Fantastic have a fantastic love life. It's not so rosy for the others. Some, like the Thing and the Punisher are wrecked in their own personal tragedy. But some like the Human Torch and Shazam like to flex their muscle to woo the other gender. Even Ms. Amazon was wooed by the charm of Superman. Imagine sharing space with someone as domineering as yourself.
7. Misuse of their beacons:

Imagine Commissioner Gordon getting drunk and signalling the bat for a good time. What if the Flash gets a call from his friend at the lab about his surprise birthday party? Pretty savoury, right?

8. Traffic: All the superheroes prefer flying, teleporting or just dashing off rather than commuting along the streets. Believe me, congestion spares no one.

Makes me wonder if being a superhero is all it's cracked up to be? Guess we'll never know!