Open-House *cum* Science-Fair 2015

*School of Natural Sciences, Shiv Nadar University, Dadri*

November 7, 2015

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**Event Report**

The *School of Natural Sciences* (SoNS) organized an *Open-House cum Science-Fair Event* on November 7, 2015 (Saturday) at the *Shiv Nadar University* (SNU) Campus in Dadri. The aim of this event was to spread awareness about the ever increasing career prospects in the Natural Sciences (Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematics and Physics) in the 21st century. The event was also meant to expose motivated high-school students to a research driven, multi-disciplinary University, one of its kind in India. It highlighted *research activities, scientific demonstrations, and career track avenues* in Natural Sciences for young minds, and connected them with resident Undergraduate/Postgraduate (UG/PG) and PhD students for practical discussions regarding these aspects. More than 220 school students and their Science teachers, including some Principals (total count about 240) from various reputed schools in the *Delhi-NCR area* (*Bharti Public School*, New Delhi; *Cambridge School*, Greater Noida; *Kendriya Vidyalaya*, Greater Noida; *Ryan International School*, Greater Noida; *Step by Step*, Noida; *The Sri Ram School*, Gurgaon) and *beyond* (*VidyaGyan*, Bulandshahr and *VidyaGyan*, Sitapur) participated in the event. Including in-house
participants, the event was attended by about 360 people, making it a major milestone for the School! Free Meals & Registration, Prizes & Participation Certificates and Transport for some schools were arranged. The event was co-organized by Dr. Parthapratim Munshi (Chemistry), Dr. Neha Gupta (Mathematics) and Dr. Subhra Sen Gupta (Physics), with some support from other Faculty Members, Student Volunteers and the SNU Administration. The event was partially sponsored by GE Healthcare, Indian Scientific Instruments & Calibration Test House (Partner of ThermoFisher Scientific), SciFinder A CAS Solution, Eppendorf and Bentham Science.

The event started with Registration & Breakfast for all participants. The majority of the sessions were hosted in the state-of-the-art auditorium, B315, in SNU campus (B-block). It started with a detailed welcome address by the Director of the School, Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, which also was an invitation address to kindle young minds to take up Science as a Career. Dr. Nikhil Sinha, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, also welcomed the participants with a short speech. Prof. S. N. Balakrishnan, the Chancellor of the University, also graced the occasion with his presence in the morning session.

It was followed by two sessions of Career Talks (by Faculty Members), UG speeches (by UG students) and Subject Quizzes (by UG/PG Student Volunteers), with a refreshing tea break in between. The First Session included Career Talks in Chemistry and Environmental Sciences (chaired by the HoD of Chemistry, Prof. N. Sukumar) and on Life Sciences (chaired by the HoD of Life Sciences, Prof. D. Sehgal), finally followed by a combined quiz on the three disciplines. The Career Talks were delivered by Dr. Subhabrata Sen (Chemistry), Prof. Jyoti Sharma (Environmental Sciences) and Dr. Richa Priyadarshini (Life Sciences), while the UG speeches were delivered by Ms. Keerthana A K (Chemistry) and Ms. Piu Banerjee (Life Sciences).

The Second Session started with Career Talks in Mathematics (chaired by the Director, Big Data Analytics Centre, Dr. Santosh Singh) and Physics (chaired by the HoD of Physics, Prof. S. Dhar), finally followed by a combined quiz on the two disciplines. The Career Talks were delivered by Prof.
Amber Habib (HoD, Mathematics), and Dr. Samarendra P. Singh (Physics), while the UG speeches were delivered by Mr. Deewang Bhamidipati (Mathematics) and Mr. Shahrukh Ahtar (Physics). This was followed by a Photo Session and a sumptuous Lunch for all Participants, intended to rejuvenate them for the happening afternoon session!

The afternoon session resumed with OUR (Opportunities for Undergraduate Research) Poster Presentations by SNU undergraduates. OUR is a unique program at SNU that allows these young minds to interact with world-class research faculty members and participate in approximately year-long research project, sometimes culminating in publications! This ran in parallel with Laboratory Tours in Chemistry, Life Sciences, Mathematics and Physics, which showcased the innovative undergraduate & research laboratories in SNU. Both these activities really captivated the attention of the students and many of them conveyed the feeling that “this was their first exposure to practical science, which transcends textbooks and may motivate them to pursue a career in Science perhaps!” Some of them, who were planning to leave somewhat early, just did not want to leave! Many teachers said that “they were really interested in planning future visits with some of their other students in the near future!” Such positive feedback indeed leaves a sense of satisfaction that can only come from sharing knowledge with young minds, which in the end was the very purpose of the event!

The grand event was finally ended in an Interactive Session of the school students and their teachers with our faculty members and the Director of the School, and culminated in Concluding Remarks by the Director. It was then the time to say goodbye to the guests, who had so livened the day, with Participation Certificates, Mementos and Snack Boxes to keep them going for their return journey!

We sincerely look forward to the successors of this event in the years to come, when even more young minds can be motivated!
Some of the Speakers at B315

Glimpses of Activities at B315

OUR Poster Presentation

At Science Laboratories

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