Whistling Teal

Words of Wisdom by Dr. Raghuram Rajan and Ms. Vanitha Narayanan

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Cover Image:
Blue Pansy butterfly, a regular visitor at the Shiv Nadar University campus, was clicked by Prof. Amber Habib, Head - Department of Mathematics, School of Natural Sciences, Shiv Nadar University. Read more about Blue Pansy in Flora-Fauna section on Page 9.
The current issue of *Whistling Teal* is special in ways more than one, as we gear-up for another year of achievements, and accomplishments.

The quarter gone by called for celebrations at Shiv Nadar University with the second Convocation ceremony held on 7 May 2016. Dr. Raghuram Rajan, Governor, Reserve Bank of India and Ms. Vanitha Narayanan, Managing Director, IBM India attended the event.

The Words of Wisdom section will take you through excerpts from the dignitaries’ address and Campus Beat will show a glimpse of the event in pictures.

A total of 223 undergraduate and 64 post-graduate degrees were awarded to students who successfully completed the Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree programs.

Ninety one per cent of the graduating class has received job offers from coveted recruiters like Amazon, Dell, and Zomato and several students from the Class of 2016 have been selected for higher studies by world’s leading universities including Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business; University Of Massachusetts, Boston; University Of Illinois; and University of Texas, Arlington.

Shiv Nadar University also conferred an Honorary Doctorate on Mr. Deepak Parekh, Chairman of HDFC for his outstanding contribution to the Banking and Financial Services sector, and his pioneering initiatives in corporate philanthropy and social commitment.

Showing their mettle in both academics and extracurricular activities, students at the University have received various rewards and honours during the quarter which you will find listed under Accolades section.

As we bid one Class goodbye, we take a moment to welcome the young and inquisitive Batch of 2016 for a new journey of excellence.

Moving forward, it is heartening to see the University Grants Commission’s (UGC) Expert Committee report recognise Shiv Nadar University’s commitment and vision of accomplishing world-class education through a multidisciplinary approach.

The University is always brimming with various activities, organised by both students and faculty. *Whistling Teal* brings to you such news and events, along with providing a glimpse of the campus life and the rapid development of the University under the Campus Buzz section.

Work and play - as it all happen at the lightning speed, we believe, soon the newly arrived batch will soak in the spirit of Shiv Nadar University.

Editorial Team

*Whistling Teal*
Mr. Nishant Mishra, Assistant Dean of Student Welfare and Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, Shiv Nadar University, received the Best Faculty Advisor Award at Nirman, National Level Go Kart Championship held on 11-12 April 2016 at Pune.

Araf Sheikh (Class of 2019), Rohan Verma (Class of 2018), Karan Sharma (Class of 2017), and Vijay Nandwani (Class of 2017), Students from the School of Engineering, Shiv Nadar University were selected for the Google Summer of Code held on 23 April 2016. Araf is now working under Python Software Foundation and will be sponsored by the Euro Python Society to attend the Euro Python Developer Conference in Bilbao, Spain from the 17-24 July 2016.

Prof. Geetanjali Kolanad, Professor, Department of Art Design and Performing Arts, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University has been selected for the Singapore Creative Writer Agency and has been awarded Singapore International Creative Writing Residency for 2016 with the National University of Singapore from August 2016 - January 2017.

Ms. Akanksha Singh, Basketball Coach & Sports Officer, Shiv Nadar University, was awarded for her excellence in sports by the Uttar Pradesh government on 3 May 2016 in Varanasi. The award included an honorarium of ₹ 5 lakh and a letter from the UP government. Ms. Singh has also been nominated for the Arjuna Award, the second highest sports award in India.

Christopher R. (Class of 2016), Mechanical Engineering graduate, Shiv Nadar University, secured 1st and 2nd rank in Product Design and Transportation (TAD), respectively, at Delhi based National Institute of Design. He holds a minor specialisation in Design as well.

Kartika Brakaspathy (Class of 2017), Computer Science Engineering student, Shiv Nadar University has been selected for the Viterbi-India Program. It is a summer research internship program offered in partnership by Indo - US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) and the Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California. The program scholarship include a stipend of $3000 and airfare.

Prof. Shubhro Sen, Director, School of Management & Entrepreneurship and School of Extended Education and Professional Development, Shiv Nadar University, is featured among the 100 Most Influential Directors of India (Education) by World Education Congress - 23 June 2016 at Mumbai.
In Focus

Shiv Nadar University is fully-focused to pave the path of an academic research-based legacy. The hard work and dedicated drive is getting its due rewards and recognitions, making the way forward extremely promising. Congratulations to all the faculty members. This section includes the details of Approved Projects for Funding (April-June 2016)

3 New Projects    |    41 Active Projects

Research Grants and Projects

School of Natural Sciences

Department of Life Sciences

Dr. Deepak Sehgal

**Project title:** Development of an in vitro system for HEV propagation to study polyprotein processing and experimental infection in murine model.

**Funding agency:** DST

**Budget:** ₹ 58 lakh (Tentative)

**Duration:** 3 Years

Dr. Gouriprasanna Roy

**Project title:** Structural Characterization and inhibitor development of HEV Methyl transferase.

**Funding agency:** DBT

**Budget:** ₹ 48 lakh (Tentative)

**Duration:** 3 Years

Department of Chemistry

Dr. Gouriprasanna Roy

**Project title:** Metal chelators derived from imidazole thiones and selones for detoxification. CEFIPRA, Indo-French Scientific Collaborative Research Program.

**Budget:** ₹ 1.35 crore (Tentative)

**Duration:** 36 months
Taking a cue from Harvard Philosopher Michael J. Sandel’s book - *What Money Can’t Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets*, Dr. Rajan pondered upon Sandel’s ideas about money and markets. According to Sandel, the expansion of anonymous monetary exchange breaks down social cohesion, and thus, money’s role should be reduced.

Dr. Rajan, on the other hand explained, the central virtue of money is its anonymity, which Sandel seems to ignore. In a free market, money is a great equalizer that has enabled many people across history to acquire resources and invest them to make the world we live in, Dr. Rajan said. “Rather than prohibiting the use of money and wealth, let us think about increasing society’s tolerance for its use.”

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Dr. Rajan further added that while inequality between countries is diminishing, inequality within countries is increasing. Even well-run market economies seem to be favouring those who already have plenty. In part, this is because the skills and capabilities have become much more important in well-paid jobs, and those born in good circumstances have a much better chance at acquiring them.

To restore faith in the markets, we need to provide effective access to schooling and healthcare for all; a non-discriminating job market with many jobs; equal opportunities for further advancement regardless of gender, race or background. All of this will increase the perceived legitimacy of wealth and society’s willingness to broaden the areas where the wealth is spent.

Thoughtful philanthropy, as reflected in the founding of this school, can further enhance society’s acceptance of great wealth.

Dr. Rajan acknowledged, private education across the world is expensive, especially in high-quality research universities because of fewer resources, and good professors. He proposed two solutions to address the issue - one is technology. While technology-led classes seem theoretically attractive, completion rates are abysmal. Online courses still need to figure out not only the ways to get student commitment but also how these courses can provide the learning support that a university community and environment offers.

The second solution, he offered, is to dispense with research and to have teachers who do not do research. He didn’t seem completely convinced with the solution, saying that while researchers might not necessarily make great teachers, what they are teaching might be more up-to-date and relevant to the current world.

Knowing, the cost of education at high quality research universities may not come down for years to come, Dr. Rajan stressed upon making degrees affordable in order to broaden access to the deserving.

“One part of the solution is student loans, but we have to be careful that student loans are repaid in full by those who have the means, while they are forgiven in part for those who fall on bad times, or those who take low paying public service jobs,” suggested Dr. Rajan.

“We also should make sure that unscrupulous schools do not prey on uninformed students, leaving them with high debt and ‘useless degrees’; he added.

“Part of the solution is philanthropy, not just by the founders, but by the successful students from a university. Giving back to the university is a way of subsidizing the costs of future generations and acknowledging the subsidies you received from the founders when you got your degree. I hope we develop a strong culture of alumni giving in India,” the RBI Governor emphasised.

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Dr. Rajan concluded by stating, “India is changing, in many ways for the better. You will be able to help shape our country, the world, and your place in it. By all means set ambitious goals for yourself. But remember that, as both ancient Indian philosophers and modern day behavioural psychologists say, the achievement of narrow personal goals, greater wealth, rapid promotion, or increasing renown, rarely brings you anything other than brief pleasure.”

“I don’t claim to know the secret of happiness, but this seems obvious, if you like the journey, if you get pleasure from the work you do, it matters far less when, or indeed whether, you reach your destination. You have far more control over the journey you choose. And often the most enjoyable journeys are those where your goals are broader and where you take others with you, especially others who could not make it without your help. In doing so, you will make this world a better, and more stable place;” said the renowned scholar.

To the Graduating Class, Dr. Rajan specifically advised, “As you embark upon careers that are likely to be very successful, you should earn by creating perceptible value and, equally, spend to create value.”
Ms. Vanitha Narayanan, Managing Director of IBM India, shared inspiring life-lessons with the Graduating Class during the Convocation ceremony held on 7 May 2016. Ms. Narayanan drew from her life lessons speaking about the uncertainties in life, importance of learning, and more. Excerpts from her address.

Ms. Narayanan began her address by stating, “The world today is changing at an extraordinary pace, and as time lapsed, we as humans have become wiser by learning and thinking.”

“Moving forward, the world that you will all lead and grow in will not only have men and women who can learn and think but also learning systems which can learn and think by themselves. And this is a world that’s going to be a world of knowledge and those who adapt, leverage, and continue to learn are the ones that are going to be more successful in this world,” said Ms. Narayanan.

And as we look at the world of learning or cognitive systems, these will help us do things better. Thus, in future, the world will look different than it is right now. “Two decades from now many of you will be holding jobs that probably don’t exist today. This is a world where you will live at the confluence of technology, domain, industry, and specialty. So, a multidisciplinary education is more important than ever before because it will help you build context — context to whatever you do,” Ms. Narayanan added.

Elucidating on the importance of learning at all times in life, Ms. Narayanan said, “The ones who succeed and lead will be the ones who become learners, so any of you who thought today I have graduated and I have a job and I have just stopped learning, welcome to the new world; you just started learning and that’s not going to end.”

Highlighting the uncertainties in life, Ms. Narayanan said, “sometimes the journeys we plot, the plans we make don’t quite workout exactly the way we hoped they would.”

“I graduated with a decent qualification in India and moved to the US in 1981. I had a degree in Marketing and Advertising and wound up in Houston Texas, which in 1981 was not exactly the Advertising capital of the world. So my very first job was at the nearest Mall as a minimum wage earning shop-floor clerk. Now this was not exactly part of my plan; I had hoped to be in Chicago studying marketing and doing a Ph.D. under the shadow of Philip Kotler.”

It could have really derailed me but as it turned out, at the age of 22 there were remarkable lessons to be learned, Ms. Narayanan said. “It introduced me to a country and a culture in a very real way. I learnt the art of selling, knowing my customers, understanding their motivations, and drivers. The two and a half years that I spent at the departmental store not necessarily put me on a strong career path but taught tremendous life lessons,” revealed Ms. Narayanan. “It allowed me to learn to be adaptive and be successful in a new country with the odds that have been served up with. Very often we take a label and define ourselves as driver, shop-floor clerk, dishwasher, waiter, managing director, governor, or a president. These are just labels and sometimes what we wind-up being is not entirely in our control but how we do, what we wind-up doing is entirely in our control. So don’t be defined by the title you have at any point in time; instead define yourself by how you do that job at any given point in time,” suggested Ms. Narayanan.

Pulling out another thread from her life, Ms. Narayanan spoke about how it is important to acquire a learner’s attitude. “I am a liberal arts major and today I head one of the oldest computer companies in the world. IBM is filled with many distinguished technologists mostly engineers, computer scientists, and researchers. So when you are a liberal arts major with not a very strong technical foundation and you find yourself working for IBM in St. Louis, Missouri, you just tend to be a little insecure when you are walking around really smart people.”

“Don’t look at a job description or a title very narrowly. Part of being successful is to be adaptable.”

“A year after my starting with IBM, my manager said, ‘Vanitha you have had a terrific year, Congratulations!’ I was blown away, I frankly couldn’t understand what I had achieved and what I had contributed to. Then he said, ‘You never waited for me to tell you exactly what to do. This entire year as a trainee, I haven’t given you as much time as I should have but I saw you putting yourself to work, learning following anybody who would give you something to do and making yourself useful to anything that the team needed.’ This is the quality that will hold you in good stead. Don’t look at a job description or a title very narrowly. Part of being successful is to be adaptable.”

“Change and comfort, and growth and comfort don’t go together”. So, on any given day, be just a little bit uncomfortable and insecure because that will push you further,” urged Ms. Narayanan.

“So when you look at a role, define the role for yourselves. Don’t create artificial boundaries or definitions. It is all about learning. And when you stretch those boundaries and take risks that’s okay because when you take risks you are either extraordinarily successful, which builds your confidence, or sometimes not so successful, which acts to your learnings. So either way you are not losing.”

Concluding her address she said, “Finally, it’s about giving back. You are among the privileged ones, and the difference between being privileged and being entitled is how you carry the privilege. It eventually comes to giving back or paying it forward. The giving back can be to your alma mater, family, or country depending on the need of the hour.”

“You all have a tremendous amount to contribute and for any of you that are thinking that it is several decades away, no. Even a small contribution can have an impact. You are digital natives and the advantages that you bring to this world are tremendous. So, once again, congratulations and I wish everyone of you an outstanding future. And as you traverse that path, have a lot of fun.”
School is done, a new chapter awaits
Eager faces ready to test their fates
Freshmen swarm in, as bold as brass
Hanging out in dorms, ready for class

With all of you, I share a piece of news
The next years are those you don’t want to lose
Take it from us, the seniors, lessons well-learned
No party should be skipped, no credit left unearned

These years will be a ride of unparalleled glee
For here you will learn how it feels to be free
No curfew, no rules, just your own street smarts
I sincerely hope you will have a great start

Attend each class but bunk for good reasons
Wear the same clothes again, no matter what season
Whatever you do, don’t forget to call home
There are people worrying, while you decide to roam.

Make new friends, give them weird names
After all, what’s life without a few stupid games?
Write your papers the night before they’re due
One at night is the perfect time for breakthroughs

But above all this, hold your memories fast
In the blink of an eye, these years will pass
So cherish each experience, every single day
Live life to the fullest, that is all I want to say.

Musings

College Life

The Chat Box

The chat box I open
again and again
To read our conversation
from beginning to end
The lies we’ve told to look cool?
Should have rather played 8 – ball pool.
And now,
It’s not you in my notifications
but some silly candy crush invitations
We’ve been ‘friends for five years’
Still your voice could never echo through my ears
At the internet cafe,
The 20 bucks I’ve spent on you?
Should have rather played Dota 2.

Nimisha Upadhyay (Class of 2019),
B.A. (Research) in English

Harsha Vytla (Class of 2019),
B.A. (Research) in English
Panel Discussion on LPG for all
A panel discussion on “LPG for all: Towards clean cooking in India” was organised by the Center for Public Affairs and Critical Theory. The discussion aimed at brainstorming on issues related to affordability, accessibility, subsidy, and modality of LPG supply.

Interactive SNU
“Interactive SNU” - a faculty led discussion forum for the Shiv Nadar University Community was inaugurated by Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Vice Chancellor. The forum aims to inspire conversation, discussion and debate. The objective is to examine the intersecting worlds of scholarship and citizenship.

Poetry reading
The Department of English at Shiv Nadar University organised a poetry reading session by writer Ms. Aditi Rao. She read from her book The Fingers Remember (Yoda Press 2015) and other works.

Chemistry Symposium
The Department of Chemistry organised a one-day symposium on “Emerging trends in translational research in India”. The symposium provided a platform for research scholars to share new information, advances and outlooks on interdisciplinary research in India. Scholars in chair included Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Vice Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University; Dr. Sudhanshu Vrati, Dean, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) Faridabad; Dr. Asit K. Chakraborti, Dean National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Chandigarh; Prof. N. Sukumar, Head, Department of Chemistry, School of Natural Sciences, Shiv Nadar University.

Recycling Junk
“World of Recycle”, exhibited by Dr. Sreedeept Bhattacharya, Fellow, Center for Public Affairs and Critical Theory, School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Bhattacharya showcased his visual project on a metal junkyard in India International Center. It’s part of the India Photo Archive Foundation’s initiative to fund and bring together works of young photographers on the theme of reuse and recycle.

Corruption from an economist’s eye
Stimulus: A talk on “Corruption - an economist’s perspective” was hosted by Dr. Nishant Chadha, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics. He discussed how corruption has become a popular topic of political and social importance; has galvanised a mass movement that spawned a political party and a half, and made governance a focal point of 2014 parliamentary elections.

House of Habers
The Department of Chemical Engineering inaugurated its technical Society “House of Habers H2O”.

Interactive SNU @ Natural Resources
Under the Interactive SNU series, a discussion with Prof. Girish Agrawal, Associate Director (Strategy and Planning), School of Engineering was organized on the topic – “Whose state is it, anyway?” He detailed the conflicts that have emerged to gain control over natural resources.

Translation Workshop
The Department of English conducted a Workshop on Translation, introducing students to the joys and precision of the intellectual pursuit of ideas and the effective ways to write and present them. The workshop was followed by an open competition wherein the participants applied the insights from the workshop along with their creativity to translate selected text. Mr. Abdur Rehman Khans (Class of 2019), B. A. (Research) in English was awarded a book voucher worth ₹ 3000.

VC @ Interactive SNU
Under the Interactive SNU series, a session on “The Scientific Methods” by Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Vice Chancellor of Shiv Nadar University was organized.

Campus Caravan
The university’s first independent student-run e-Newspaper Campus Caravan was inaugurated in the presence of the President of Shiv Nadar University, Mr. Rajiv Swarup, who was also the Chief Guest for the occasion. The event was hosted by students and members of the editorial board – Ms. Somya Arora and Ms. Tanmaya Murthy, (Class of 2018), B. Tech. Computer Science and Engineering; and Ms. Gayathri Menon (Class of 2018), B. Sc. (Research) in Economics along with the entire Editorial Board, Design and Writing team of Campus Caravan.

Fullbright Outreach Program
Fullbright Fellowships / Grants Outreach Program was conducted by the United States - India Educational Foundation (USIEF), the Fulbright Commission in India at Shiv Nadar University campus.
Conference on Inequality

A conference on the topic “Caste, Class or Race? Inequality in India and the United States” was hosted in the memory of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar under the Duke – Middlebury SNU series of conferences. The conference shed light on different aspects of inequality: understanding, measurement, impact and pervasiveness.

Workshop on Big Data

The Big Data Analytics Center organised a workshop on “Big Data Analytics: Trends shaping the future in Academics and Industry”. Speakers invited for the workshop included Dr. Ravi Kothari, Chief Scientist, IBM Research-India; Prof. R.L. Karandikar, Director C.M.I.; and Dr. Ashwani Upadhyaya, CRIS Ministry of Railways.

Interactive SNU @ Religion

A session on “The Dreamed Mosque” was held by Prof. Deepak Mehta, Head, Department of Sociology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The session discussed how conversion is part of a network of everyday sociality, one where the absent Babri mosque occupies a pivotal position.

AIS Matrix Analysis

The Department of Mathematics organized an Advanced Instructional School (sponsored by National Center of Mathematics) on Matrix Analysis with 33 outstations and 4 participants from Shiv Nadar University. The speakers were renowned mathematicians in the mentioned area of research and included Prof. Rajendra Bhatia (ISI Delhi); Prof. R.B. Bapat (ISI Delhi); Dr. Tanvi Jain (ISI Delhi); Dr. Sivaramakrishnan Sivasubramanian (IIT Bombay); Dr. Shreemayee Bora (IIT Guwahati); and Dr. Priyanka Grover (Shiv Nadar University).

Yogathlon

First Yogathlon at Shiv Nadar University was conducted by Mr. Nishant Mishra, Assistant Dean of Student Welfare and Mr. Lopal, Yoga Trainer. The Yogathlon encouraged people to challenge their limits with Yoga Asanas by doing 51 continuous Surya-Namaskars and Meditation.

Mathematics Training and Talent Search (MTTS)

The Department of Mathematics hosted MTTS, an intensive residential summer training program at the University campus from 30 May to 25 June, 2016. Prof. S. Kumarasen is the Director of the programme. Local Coordinators include Dr. A.V. Jayanthan, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, IIT Madras; Dr. Shankar Prasad, Local Coordinator MTTS 2016, Department of Mathematics, RIE Manasagangotri, Mysore; and Dr. A. Satyanarayana Reddy, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Shiv Nadar University.

International Yoga Day

International Yoga Day was celebrated at Shiv Nadar University. The celebrations were organized by the Dean of Student Welfare office. The event saw active participation from students, staff and faculty members.
Flora-Fauna

Blue Pansy

You can frequently spot Blue Pansy (*Junonia orithya*) fluttering around on the campus on any winter day. The nymphalid butterfly comes with many subspecies from Africa, through Southern and South-Eastern Asia, and in Australia. In Uttar Pradesh it has been found in Lucknow and Mirzapur districts, and in Delhi. More common during winters, it is found in dry open areas. Its hind wings are a brilliant blue and its fore wings are brown and black with two distinct white bands. Males are dazzlingly colored and females are dull colored. It is seen here on a cover crop plant growing in the campus, *Wedelia trilobata* (*Sphagneticola trilobata* (L.) Pruski), commonly known as Creeping Daisy.

Puncture Vine

Puncture Vine (*Tribulus terrestris* L), as the name suggests is capable of puncturing one’s feet, animal hooves and even bicycle tires. Popularly known as ‘Gokhru’ (in Hindi), it bears the caltrop like fruits which are full of thorns. It is a branched prostrate annual herb with silky-hairy young shoots. Leaves are opposite, stipulate, paripinnate, leaflets 4-7 pairs, up to 12 mm long. Stems are round and hairy and bear solitary, axillary yellow flowers. It has been widely used in the Ayurvedic as well as traditional system of medicine in India and other parts of the world for centuries. It is one of the ingredients of famous ayurvedic health tonic ‘Dasamoolarishta’. *Tribulus* has been widely used in Ayurveda for the treatment of sexual dysfunction and dried seeds and fruits of the plants are used for the treatment of various urinary disorders. The Greeks used *Tribulus terrestris* as a diuretic, and in China and Vietnam it has been used in the treatment of post-partum hemorrhage, epistaxis and gastro intestinal bleeding.
and the idea is to not compromise, even if it takes a little bit of time. The seed has been chosen carefully. There are no short-cuts to excellence, and the fundamental point is: “Excellence attracts excellence”, and so the challenges. Our search for resources and talent is all over the world. We are working on a multipronged strategy to overcome these challenges. Our system will enable and empower them, to let them do what they do the best, towards the vision and mission of the University. This is a challenge in the higher education sector in the country.

For this dream output, the important factor is of course what goes in, or the resource that the University commands. One obvious resource that a forward-looking university needs is of financial nature, including infrastructure – our University has been fortunate on this count, thanks to the generosity of the Shiv Nadar Foundation. The Foundation’s focus has been to create iconic institutions of excellence across the education spectrum. Still, there has to be a continuous, active endeavor to maintain the strength on this front, since research, particularly in Science and Engineering, is extremely expensive.

The second, and the crucial input for a great university, is human resources – finding and keeping the right kind of people engaged. Once we have the right kind of faculty at the University, our job is done. Our system will enable and empower them, to let them do what they do the best, towards the vision and mission of the University. This is a challenge in the higher education sector in the country. We are working on a multipronged strategy to overcome these challenges. Our search for resources and talent is all over the world. The fundamental point is: “Excellence attracts excellence”, and so the seed has been chosen carefully. There are no short-cuts to excellence, and the idea is to not compromise, even if it takes a little bit of time.

How do you see the University growing over the next few years?

The growth of the University is not in terms of numbers, but it is essentially about quality and intellectual strength. In every scenario, the peaks of excellence are extremely fragile. You need to have a broad and sufficiently high base to sustain these very fragile peaks of excellence. We have started with a great vision, and have made a tremendous progress in this short span since our inception. Looking at our scholarly activities and their impact in the immediate neighborhood and/or in the country and/or in the world, some peaks of excellence have indeed started to appear. The idea now is to take stock, consolidate, position and push forward all-round quality such that the overall output goes up, the impact is felt, and the sharp peaks of excellence are sustained in the important areas of our choice. Our model is quite unique in the country, and given the support we have from the Shiv Nadar Foundation and all our well-wishers and partners, we cannot afford to not deliver the dream.

What do you think are the challenges ahead of the University and how do you plan to overcome them?

For the right kind of people, the challenge of this place should be the main attraction, and the work satisfaction the driving force. Our unique features – the holistic, multidisciplinary curriculum, the teaching-learning principle we believe in, research-led learning at all levels starting from the undergraduate, guided learning outside the classroom in a 24x7 residential campus, with diversity as one of its agenda – are the challenges, which we consider as opportunities for us.

How do you see the University’s global partnerships evolving in the coming years? And what kind of partnerships are you looking at?

For any partnership, the first thing to look for is a matching philosophy, a shared ideology towards education, research & innovation. We then identify complementary resources, and strive for equity in partnerships.

We are looking at partnerships that can lead to student-focused and/or faculty-focused joint or exchange programs. The programs can be curriculum based and/or research based.

Our curriculum is already globally bench-marked, but continuous review of the curriculum, based on feedback and/or new knowledge, is a must.

For research collaborations, the essential steps are to (a) identify area(s) for collaboration, on the strength of each partner, (b) organize...
joint meetings/workshops with domain experts to identify research questions, and (c) call for joint proposals, review, select and award grants. This is what we have initiated successfully with our partner, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA. We are running four excellent joint research projects with Duke. In each project, one faculty member from Shiv Nadar University is working with one faculty member from Duke on a problem of mutual interest that got selected after a very thorough scrutiny.

We are also interested in the sharing of trends and best practices in faculty development programs, and in admin support; in the introduction of technology in the higher education system, etc.

Our founder’s vision is to also bring the industry and the academia closer together for mutual benefit, in select areas.

The International Office at Shiv Nadar University has been set up recently to assume a significant role in the context of internationalization of higher education. The Office will enable collaborations and exchange programs with our existing/potential international partners, liaison with Embassies & international funding agencies as necessary, and facilitate international recruitment & placement.

What are the key areas Shiv Nadar University needs to focus on to become a globally recognized institution?

There is no place for complacency if we wish to reach the top, and then stay at the top. There are some standard, key parameters used globally to judge the standing of a university – for example, teaching-learning resources, research productivity & impact, IPR, student placement (in research & industry), outreach & inclusivity, and perception. We are cognizant of these. So the activities of the University involve research, teaching, and also targeted engagement with the economic and social structure that we are part of, through, say, select public outreach & societal projects on one hand and innovation translation on the other.

We cannot forget the context where we are placed, and our mission of creating tomorrow’s leaders with social responsibility – developing and educating the path-shapers of tomorrow, who can shoulder the challenges of globally responsible, and ethical leadership in the 21st Century.

On a different note, not only a strategic vision, but I think there are two primary operational features needed in a global institution. First, there has to be an autonomy for continuous, internal professional assessment/review and accountability. Second, an in-built flexibility in all sections of the system is essential, for implementing changes as and when required, to stay relevant in this fast-changing world.

How are research and teaching inter-linked at Shiv Nadar University?

There is a strong synergy between teaching and research that we exploit at the University. A major component of the mission of any university has to be creation of knowledge (by researching), and not just disseminating it (by teaching). In a traditional set-up of teaching by lecturing, the learning by the students tends to be memory-based, and is hence not very effective or lasting, however brilliant the lecturer might be. But if research is made an integral part of the pedagogy at the university, and the style of education is student-centric and active or participatory, the students learn by doing, and develop the skill of creative problem-solving. This problem-solving skill equips them to face today’s world and the unknown challenges in their career. This learning, as opposed to memory-based learning, stays with them as an asset. Thus the quality of education goes up, and so does the quality of research, as the researchers are in constant touch with young inquisitive minds.

Rapid Fire

Favorite hangout spot

A Hungarian pastry shop in New York City, a café in Paris, and now my office!

Favorite cuisine

My mom’s Bengali cooking, North Indian Tikka, some French and Chinese preparations as well – my taste is eclectic.

Favorite film

Pather Panchali, Kiss of the Spider Woman, A Beautiful Mind, Lagaan - I have a diverse taste....

Favorite pastime

Music – singing, playing instruments, or simply listening

Favorite author and book

Richard Feynman, Rabindranath Tagore, Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay - their entire volumes, The God of Small Things, The Upanishads, again, a varied taste.

Any advice for the incoming batch of 2016?

I congratulate the incoming class for making the right choice in joining this University!

I want to ask every newcomer: What is your aspiration in life? Where do you want to be in the future? We provide an enabling environment, but the future is now for you to build, with your dedication and hard work, guided by our outstanding faculty, supported by our committed staff members. Find and follow your passion, and excel in it.

While you move towards your goal, the path is also very important – the path you follow to reach your destination. May you have the awareness and strength to do ‘the right thing’ always. Doing the right thing is not always the most convenient thing but that’s the only way forward. The choice of the right thing may not always conform to a conventional ‘moral’ stand – in every situation our collective wisdom at the University decides what the right thing is, and there are codes to be followed in our system. And SNUites will always choose to do the right thing even when nobody is watching, as they love to do the right thing.
Cross Country Run - 8 April 2016

Night of Champions - 15 April 2016

Convocation - 7 May 2016

Irtiq - 14-16 April 2016

Farewell - 6 May 2016

Explorations - Event by T.E.S.T students - 14 June 2016

International Yoga Day - 21 June 2016
30+ students received offers for Higher Education from institutes of global repute for courses from Masters to Doctorate

“My experience at Shiv Nadar University has been intellectually rewarding. I really liked the idea that senior year was reserved for research which not only gave me a head start for grad school aspirations but also helped me understand advanced concepts.”

Achal Awasti (Class of 2016), B. Sc. (Research) in Physics, has admission offers from Ohio State University; University of Washington, Seattle; and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

“What contributed most to my intellectual betterment was the environment that allowed graduate and doctoral students to stay in constant interaction with the undergraduates. It was crucial for my research. SNU enabled me to present my work at an International Conference which played a pivotal role in securing admissions from few of the best places in the world.”

Sharnic D. (Class of 2016), B. Sc. (Research) in Economics has admission offer from University College London - Institute of Education

“The purpose of university education is to train oneself to think and reason critically. As a skill, critical thinking is what leads to advancement in research in any field, growth in business, or even ability to understand the social norms better. I believe my undergraduate education has served me well. At Shiv Nadar University, I found this skill to be the bedrock of many courses that were offered across a variety of disciplines.”

Sundar Ramanujam (Class of 2015), B. Tech. Electronics and Communication Engineering is pursuing M. A. in Democracy and Governance from Georgetown University.
Faculty publications and scholarly activities (April-June, 2016)

**BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS**

**School of Engineering**

**Department of Civil Engineering**

Prof. Dinesh Mohan

Transport planning & traffic safety: Making cities, roads, & vehicles safer; G. Tiwari & D. Mohan (Eds.); CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group

“Understanding the road safety performance of OECD countries” in Transport planning & traffic safety: Making cities, roads, & vehicles safer; G. Tiwari & D. Mohan (Eds.); CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group

“Human tolerance to injury: role of biomechanics and ergonomics” in Transport planning & traffic safety: Making cities, roads, & vehicles safer; G. Tiwari & D. Mohan (Eds.); CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group

“Road traffic injury as a public health problem” in Transport planning & traffic safety: Making cities, roads, & vehicles safer; G. Tiwari & D. Mohan (Eds.); CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group


“Speed and its effects on road traffic crashes” in Transport planning & traffic safety: Making cities, roads, & vehicles safer; G. Tiwari & D. Mohan (Eds.); CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group


“Public transport and safety” in Transport planning & traffic safety: Making cities, roads, & vehicles safer; G. Tiwari & D. Mohan (Eds.); CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group

Dr. Girish Agrawal


**Department of Mechanical Engineering**

Nishant Mishra

Book Edited – Workshop Practice by Cengage Learning

**Department of Electrical Engineering**

Dr. Madan Gopal

Control Systems Engineering (Sixth Edition); I.J. Nagrath and M. Gopal; New Age Publisher

**Department of Electrical Engineering**

Dr. Naveen Babu

Babu Gnanamoorthy Naveen, and Richards Joe Stanislaus; “Propagation of electromagnetic waves guided by perfectly conducting model of a tape helix supported by dielectric rods”; IET Microwaves, Antennas & Propagation

**Department of Computer Science and Engineering**

Dr. K. Shashi Prabh


**School of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Department of History**

Prof. Ajay Dandekar

Book review - Artefacts of History: Archaeology, Historiography and Indian Posts; Seminar in July 2016

**Department of Art, Design and Performing Arts**

Prof. Gitanjali Kolanad

Short Story “Egg Curry” accepted for publication in Sangam House Anthology 2016; Sangam House

**Department of English**

Subhashim Goswami

“Knowing and Representation: Unraveling Contexts through Images and Conversations” in Towards a New Sociology in India; Bandyopadhyay Mahuya and Ritambhara Debbar (eds.); Orient BlackSwan

**Department of Sociology**

Dr. Mekhala Krishnamurthy

“Fields, Markets and Agricultural Commodities” in Contributions to Indian Sociology (2017); Deepak Mehta and Yasmine Arif (eds.); Sage

**School of Natural Sciences**

**Department of Chemistry**

Dr. Subhabrata Sen

“Role of Molecular Docking in Computer Aided Drug Design and Development” in Applied Case Studies and Solutions in Molecular Docking-Based Drug; Rahul Agarwal, Ashutosh Singh and Subhabrata Sen; IGI Global
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of History
Dr. Ajay Dandekar

Ajay Dandekar; "Contested Spaces Democratic Rights: The people and the forests today"; Economic and Political Weekly

Department of English
Dr. Vikram Kapur

Vikram Kapur; "Dead Fathers"; Litro
Vikram Kapur; "Delhi: 21st Century City"; World Literature Today; University of Oklahoma

Department of Sociology
Dr. Nalini Mehta

Nalini Mehta; "Redefining ‘Azadi’ in India: The prose of anti-sedition"; South Asian History and Culture; Routledge
Nalini Mehta; "Watching, Streaming, and Other Things to Do with TV"; Technology and South Asia; Harvard South Asia Review

School of Natural Sciences

Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh
A. Chatterjee and R. Ghosh; "A nonlinear displaced Kerr state and its nonclassical properties"; Journal of the Optical Society of America

Department of Life Science
Dr. Koyell Mapa
Banerjee R., Jayaraj G.G., Peter J.J., Kumar V., Mapa K.; “Monitoring conformational heterogeneity of the lid of DnaK substrate-binding domain during its chaperone cycle”; FEBS J

Department of Chemistry
Prof. N. Sukumar

Pinaki Saha, Amol B. Rahane, Vijay Kumar, N. Sukumar; “Analysis of the electron density features of small boron ring clusters and the effects of doping”; Physico Scripta

Prof. N. Sukumar and Dr. Sudeep Bhattacharya (Mathematics)

Dr. Subhabrata Sen and Dr. Parthapratim Munshi
Chandramohan Bathula, Sayantan Tripathi, Ramprasad Srinivasan, Kumar Kumar Jha, Arnab Ganguly, G. Chakraborty, Shailja Singh, Parthapratim Munshi, Subhabrata Sen; “Synthesis of novel 5-arylidenethiazolidinones with apoptotic properties via a three component reaction using piperidine as a bifunctional reagent”; Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry; Royal Society of Chemistry

Dr. Subhabrata Sen

Dr. Subhabrata Sen

Dr. Richa Priyadarshini and Dr. Ashutosh Singh
Priyanka Gupta, Nilanjana Bairagi, Richa Priyadarshini, Ashutosh Singh, Deepika Chauhan and Deepthi Gupta; “Bacterial contamination of nurses’ white coats made from polyester and polyester cotton blend fabrics”; Journal of Hospital Infection

Department of Physics
Dr. Sajal Kumar Ghosh

Dr. Susanta Sinha Roy
R.K. Upadhyay, P.R. Waghamare, S.S. Roy; “Oil-swollen surfactant gel based synthesis of metal nanoparticles: An attractive alternative for the conventional Sol gel synthesis”; Ceramics International
R.K. Upadhyay, P.R. Waghamare, S.S. Roy; “Oil-swollen surfactant gel based synthesis of metal nanoparticles: An attractive alternative for the conventional Sol gel synthesis”; Ceramics International
R.K. Upadhyay, P.R. Waghamare, S.S. Roy; “Oil-swollen surfactant gel based synthesis of metal nanoparticles: An attractive alternative for the conventional Sol gel synthesis”; Ceramics International
R.K. Upadhyay, P.R. Waghamare, S.S. Roy; “Oil-swollen surfactant gel based synthesis of metal nanoparticles: An attractive alternative for the conventional Sol gel synthesis”; Ceramics International

Dr. Aloke Kanjilal

Dr. Aloke Kanjilal and Dr. Sajal K. Ghosh

Department of Mathematics
Prof. N. Sukumar (Chemistry) and Dr. Sudeep Bhattacharya (Mathematics)

Dr. Richa Priyadarshini and Dr. Susanta Sinha Roy (Physics)
Ravi Kant Upadhyay, Amita Dubey, Prashant R. Waghamare, Richa Priyadarshini, Susanta Sinha Roy; “Multifunctional reduced graphene oxide coated clothes for oil/water separation and antibacterial application”; RSC Adv.

Dr. Bimlesh Lochab

Department of Sociology
Dr. Nalini Mehta
Nalini Mehta; “Redefining ‘Azadi’ in India: The prose of anti-sedition”; South Asian History and Culture; Routledge
Nalini Mehta; "Watching, Streaming, and Other Things to Do with TV"; Technology and South Asia; Harvard South Asia Review

Department of Mathematics
Prof. N. Sukumar (Chemistry) and Dr. Sudeep Bhattacharya (Mathematics)

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In Media

**How to Choose Your College**

Five takeaway points students should consider before short-listing the university they want to study at.

*By S N Balakrishnan, Chancellor and Chairperson of the Executive Council, Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida*

- What resources does a college need to offer an order for it to be a good fit for your personality? What are you passionate about studying? Does the institution offer the degree options you want? There are some of the many factors to consider when choosing a college. Here are my top five:
  1. **Your choice of career.** It always helps to have a clear and definite idea about what you want to do, as it is easier to choose when you have a clear idea of what you want to achieve.
  2. **Your choice of degree.** It is important to choose a degree that you are passionate about and will help you in your future career.
  3. **Your choice of location.** It is important to choose a location that is convenient for you and your family.
  4. **Your choice of institution.** It is important to choose an institution that is well-respected and has a good reputation.
  5. **Your choice of fees.** It is important to choose a college that offers fair and affordable fees.

**Race Against Time**

Ever since V N Raja, adventurer and urbanulator wrote about multiple points to note before choosing a college, many students have been inspired to choose the best college for them. But in this fast-paced world, time is of the essence.

- **HRD ministry to focus on three key budget announcements**
  - **Set up 20 world-class universities**, a higher educatiion finance expert and digital academic repository is being considered among others.
  - **Pedal to the metal**
    - Expansion of networked learning with five state universities and engineering institutes are already underway as part of the government’s scheme.

**The Hindu**

- Closing passion, students look beyond brand name
- Raghuram Rajan favours tolerance for wealth

**The Financial Express**

- Raghuram Rajan favours tolerance for wealth
  - **Raghuram Rajan favours tolerance for wealth**
    - "Nothing is more important than the preservation of our democratic system," he said.

**The Times of India**

- Smart thinking, students look beyond brand name

**Dell and Shiv Nadar University sign agreement to drive research and innovation**

- **Under the agreement**, Dell will engage with the university to deliver breakthroughs in cloud computing and data science.

**Kolkata: Shiv Nadar University to offer scholarship worth 35 crore to under graduate students**

- **Under the agreement**, Dell will engage with the university to deliver breakthroughs in cloud computing and data science.
Whistling Teal appreciates the Shiv Nadar University Community for their valuable inputs and contributions.

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As on 30 June 2016

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