14 New Funded Projects
₹6 crores of grants in 2014-15

Open Studio
by Students of Art Design and Performing Arts

U.S. Ambassador
Mr. Richard Rahul Verma's visit to Shiv Nadar University

SNU's own Botanical Garden

Global Learning Semester

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Pg 8
Pg 9
Pg 10
Pg 17
Dance and shimmer again and again
Like beautiful pictures,
Only to drift away with the current again.

Just ahead, the pair of whistling teal,
Fan their wings in the sunshine ...  
... Amid the rippling water.

Jatindra Nath Duwara,
“The Boatman Rows Downstream”
Welcome to the first edition of the Shiv Nadar University’s newsletter, the Whistling Teal.

Every year, different species of birds visit the campus. *Dendrocygna javanica* or the Lesser Whistling Teals are visitors from South, Central and Eastern India. Gregarious by nature, they fly in flocks, often in a V shaped formation, and are a delight to watch. They are known to make a loud, sharp, whistling sound in flight and when the flock whistles together, in chorus, the collective sound has a wonderful musical quality. Inspired by the Teals, the Whistling Teal intents to bring to you the sights and sounds of the SNU campus. The newsletter, will cover news and events at the University, alongside regular features, providing glimpses of campus life and developments at the University.

This first edition of the Whistling Teal covers the Spring and Summer Semesters of 2015, but also reports on research and publications over the entire AY 2014-15. From the current semester onwards, we plan to bring out a quarterly edition of the newsletter.

This has been an exciting first half of 2015 for the University, full of research collaborations, publishing successes, pedagogical innovations, academic achievements and fascinating campus events.

At the end of the Spring Semester, the University said farewell to the founding undergraduate class, the Class of 2015, who have gone on to launch careers with some of the best national and international organizations, including 30 plus students who have chosen to pursue higher education at top-ranked global universities. For the second year in a row the learning semester at Duke-Kunshan University enabled our Undergraduate students to intellectually and culturally explore new opportunities while several of our MBA students went to Beijing University’s Shanghai campus for summer study. We also welcomed 488 undergraduate and 97 graduate students, taking our total student strength to 1812. And, with the addition of 51 new faculty members since January, we now have a faculty strength of 186.

The University continued to grow its pool of externally funded research projects and our faculty continued to publish and present their scholarly and creative works at national and international venues. We also witnessed the successful conclusion of Season One of our path-breaking ‘Opportunities for Undergraduate Research’ program, which opens the door for our undergraduate students to conduct original research with faculty.

The University’s impact beyond the campus was also given a boost with the launch of the part-time diploma in Theatre for Education and Social Transformation, aimed at working professionals in the school education environment. On campus, the much awaited ‘Residential Complex’ was opened enabling faculty and staff members to live on campus, another major step in building a vibrant campus community.

I’d like to thank the editorial team for taking the initiative to launch this newsletter and publish this first edition in a very short period. This is very much a newsletter in the making so feedback from readers will be important to the editorial team as they continue to refine the content, look and feel of the Whistling Teal. I’m looking forward to the next edition and hope that it will grow to be an important communication link both within and beyond the campus.

Nikhil Sinha
Vice Chancellor
Shiv Nadar University
Dr. Ramesh Vaddi received second prize in Design Contest at the 28th IEEE VLSI Design conference, Bangalore, India, 3-7 January 2015.

Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Director School of Engineering (SOE) and School of Natural Sciences (SNS), Dean of Research & Graduate Studies, received Rupa Chakraborty Memorial Silver Medal as Eminent Scientist from the Alumni Association (Sammilani) of Bethune College, University of Calcutta on 20 February 2015.

Professor Alok Bhattacharya, Distinguished Visiting Professor in Life Sciences, SNS, received the Aryabhata Medal 2015 by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), for his outstanding contribution in sciences. The award consists of a gold-plated copper medal and a citation. Dr. Bhattacharya’s research interests are well known in the field of Parasitology, Basic biology, Computational biology and Bioinformatics.

Dr. Swati Garg (DST-INSPIRE Fellow), Assistant Professor, Department of Life Sciences, SNS, got selected for Rajiv Gandhi Gold Medal Award 2015, for her extraordinary contribution in health sciences.

A paper titled ‘Promoting Peace through Social Marketing’, by Paromita Goswami, Associate Professor, School of Management and Entrepreneurship (SME) and Partha Sarathi Roy, Assistant Professor, SME, got accepted at the World Conference of Social Marketing Australia, 2015.

Dr. Shailja Singh, Dr. Parthapratim Munshi and Dr. Subhabrata Sen from SNS collaborated along with their students (Ganesh Prabhu, Shalini Agarwal, Vijeta Sharma, Sanjay M. Madurkar) and published an article in January 2015 in European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry titled, “A natural product based DOS library of hybrid systems”, reflecting a transnational nature of research at SNU.

Dr. Gyan Vikash, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, SOE, received the DST Grant for his project on “Experimental Investigation of Diffusion Process during CRS Consolidation under Monotonic Loading and Cycle of Unloading Reloading”. The grant is till 2017.

Dr. Nitin Banker, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, SOE received the DST Grant under Fast Track Young Scientist Scheme for his project on Design and Development of Refrigerator using a Phase Change Material based Heat Exchanger. In his research, he endeavours to look for options to reduce the energy consumption of refrigerator.

Dr. Goutam Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, SNS received the Ramalingaswami Fellowship (2015/19) for investigating the Secret Killer: Chronic Inflammation. Dr. Chowdhury works at the interface of chemistry and biology, studying the effect of small organic molecules on biological systems and understanding, “the molecular mechanisms of toxicity of various agents including drugs, pesticides and environmental agents”.

Dr. Parthapratim Munshi, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, SNS, was appointed as the Science reviewer of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory’s (ORNL) Neutron Sciences Directorate (NScD) for three years on 23 September, 2014. He is the only Indian representative in the committee. Dr. Munshi has also been awarded a three-year research grant in June 2015 under the Extra Mural Research Funding (Individual Centric) scheme by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Indian Government. The project titled “Quantitative Studies of Hydrogen Bonding and Electrostatic Interaction Energies in Proteins: Insights from Advanced Charge Density Analysis”.

#CelebratingFaculty
... and Students

STUDENT RECOGNITION AND AWARDS [JAN-JUN]

Swapnil Shukla, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Chemistry received the Best Oral Paper Award at the International Conference on Green Initiatives in Science and Technology (GIST-2015). The poster titled, "Sustainable Benzoxazines - Alternatives to Phenolic Resins" was awarded in the Green Materials section of the conference held on 15 January 2015 at Manav Rachna College Of Engineering, Faridabad.

Mr. Ravi Kant, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Chemistry, SNS, received the best oral presenter award for the presentation on "Heavy metal ion detection using reduced graphene oxide" prepared by green synthesis approach: R. Upadhyay, S. Deshmukh and S. S. Roy, National Conference on Nano-device (Modelling, Simulations and Fabrication), held at the Hindustan Institute of Technology, 18-19 April 2015.

Rahul Majethia, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SOE, is one of the few students from a private institution to get the prestigious Ph.D. Research Award for his outstanding performances and significant contribution to the project, "HumanSense: Towards context aware sensing, inference and actuation for applications in Energy and Healthcare" funded by Information Technology Research Academy (ITRA), Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.

Chintam VVS Narayana, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Chemistry, SNS, received the Best Poster Presentation Award at the National Symposium on Interfacing Chemical Biology and Drug Design 2015 (NSICBDD). The title of his presentation was "Efficient Synthesis of N-acetyl glucosamine derived carbasugar analogues for biological application".

Vijeta Sharma, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Life Sciences, SNS, got an opportunity to present a poster at the “Gordon Research Seminar and Gordon Research Conference”, held at Galveston, Texas, USA, from 7-13 March 2015. Her work unveils a DOS-mediated exploration of small molecules with novel structural motifs that culminates in identifying a potential lead molecule against malaria. Vijeta’s work is part of an interdisciplinary collaborative work of Dr. Shailja Singh and Prof. Subhabrata Sen from the School of Natural Sciences.

Pradeepkumar Sundarraj, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Mechanical Engineering, SOE, received the prestigious Bhaskara Advanced Solar Energy (BASE) Fellowship Award. From June till December 2015, Pradeepkumar would be working at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), U.S. as part of this fellowship. Jointly funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, and the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF), it provides fully funded internship for the best and brightest Indian students and scientists to promote research and capacity building in the frontline area of solar energy to address India-centric issues.

Amrita Dubey, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Life Sciences, SNS, received the Best Poster Award in the Medical Biotechnology Section of the “International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biotechnology (ICETB 2014)” held at Jawaharlal Nehru University between 6-9 November. The title of the poster was, “Role of amidase in cell morphogenesis: new insights from Caulobacter crescentus.”

#RealizingDreams
Shiv Nadar University is now registered with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR). This recognition from DSIR puts SNU on the register of exemplary research.

In Focus: Faculty Research

NEW GRANTS, NEW PROJECTS

14 new projects sanctioned and ₹-6 Crores of grants in 2014-15
Congratulations to all the faculty members!

School Of Natural Sciences

Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh received a three year grant (Feb 2015-Jan 2018) of ₹ 1.2 crore [₹ 39,90,391 (to SNU) + € 111,729] from the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research for the project titled: Monomode and multimode phase sensitive amplification and light storage Collaborative research project with Fabien Bretenaker (LAC, Orsay, France)

Dr. Parthapratim Munshi received a three year grant (2015-2018) of ₹ 53 lakhs from SERB / DST / EMR4 for the project titled: Quantitative Studies of Hydrogen Bonding and Electrostatic Interaction Energies in Proteins: Insight from Advanced Charge Density Analysis

Dr. Goutam Chowdhury received five year funding (2015-2020) of ₹ 32.5 lakhs from DBT (Ramalingaswami Fellowship) for the project titled: Role of 8-nitroguanosine and its analogs in chronic inflammation associated cancers.


Dr. Swati Garg received DST- INSPIRE Faculty Award of ₹ 83 lakhs (Research grant + salary) for 5 years (Oct 2014-2019)

Dr. Richa Priyadarshini received three year funding (2015-2018) of ₹ 17.54 lakhs from DST for the project titled: Investigating the role of Lactobacilli in inhibiting the development of periodontal biofilms.

Dr Naga Suresh Veerapu (SNU) and Dr Rakesh Agarwal (Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute) received three year funding (2015-2018) of ₹ 65.64 lakhs (SNU share- ₹ 61.74 lakhs) from DBT for the project titled: Developing novel, robust genotype-3 Hepatitis C Virus in vitro culture system through Bioselection.

Dr. Aloke Kanjilal received Equipment Grant of 20,000 Euro (₹15.60 Lakhs@ Rs.78/Euro) for three years from Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for the project titled: Study the dewetting property of chemically etched Si nanopillars.

School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), Centre for Public Affairs and Critical Theory (C-PACT)

Dr Dipankar Gupta received funding of ₹ 66.39 lakhs for five months (15 Jan 2015-30 June 2015) from Population Foundation of India for the project titled: Cost of Inaction in Family Planning
In Focus: Undergraduate Research

The Opportunities for Undergraduate Research (OUR) Programme was started at SNU in 2014 to foster research and expand the scope of education at the undergraduate level. This program is a great attraction amongst SNU students. In sync with the pedagogic architecture of the University, the students have the flexibility to choose OUR project across disciplines to learn innovative ways of problem solving. The programme has seen noticeable increase in the number of participants — 44 projects in 2014 to 71 projects in 2015.

Some examples of the projects are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Faculty Advisor</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saumya Bhatt</td>
<td>Prof. Jyoti Sharma</td>
<td>Quality of Water in Upper Ganga Canal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.A.(Research)English</td>
<td>Environmental Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School of Natural Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhargavi Gopalan</td>
<td>Ms. Aadya Kaktikar</td>
<td>Embodying Kinesthetics of a Dancing Body: A study in Odissi and Bharatnatyam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.Tech. Electrical and</td>
<td>Arts Design &amp; Performing Arts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Engineering</td>
<td>School of Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Arunjunai Rajavel</td>
<td>Dr. M B Ragupathy</td>
<td>Transformation to GST from VAT in Food Industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.Tech. Mechanical</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>School of Management &amp; Entrepreneurship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S E Balakumaran</td>
<td>Dr. Dipak Maity</td>
<td>Development of Solar Parabolic Trough Collector and Advanced Receiver for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.Tech. Mechanical</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Direct Steam Generation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>School of Engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pranjay Shyam</td>
<td>Prof. Ranendra Biswas</td>
<td>Single Phase Smart Energy Meter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.Tech. Electrical and</td>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Engineering</td>
<td>School of Engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harish Venkatesh</td>
<td>Dr. Amit Ray</td>
<td>Research &amp; Concept, Development of new Pencil Design: Spencil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.Tech. Electrical and</td>
<td>Arts Design &amp; Performing Arts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Engineering</td>
<td>School of Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Ranjitha</td>
<td>Dr. Ashish Gupta</td>
<td>Cloning of Tumor supressor protein TIP60 in fluorescent-tagged mammalian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.Sc.(Research)Biotechnology</td>
<td></td>
<td>expression vector and its characterisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School of Natural Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why do you love the ocean?

Because it never takes coming ashore as a sign to stay, but in going away it returns. Because beneath its ceaseless waves its heart, I am told, is as constant as it is deep. Because it looks to have made a solemn peace with being way too big to keep.

Anannya Dasgupta teaches in the department of English at SNU. She loves the ocean, and while landlocked she is grateful for the water bodies and creatures of the wetlands that SNU has at the heart of its landscape.

[Varun is typing]

Varun: Hey how have you been? You know just last week I had been thinking of you
Varun: Listen hey I'd been meaning to tell you something for a while but
Varun: Hey I saw you near PVR Saket the other day and I was going to
Varun: Hi Uday, have you seen Margarita, with a Straw. Would you want to go this week?
Varun: I don't know how to say this but I'm just going to
Varun: Hiiiii
Varun: Hi

[Uday is typing]

Uday: Hiiii I'd just been thinking about you, where have you been
Uday: Hellooo you, long time!
Uday: Uday!!!
Uday: Hi, you know I saw you near PVR Saket the other day and was going to say hi but
Uday: You know you have a long life, I was just
Uday: Hi

Akhil Katyal is a writer and translator based in Delhi. He teaches English literature at Shiv Nadar University. His first book of poems Night Charge Extra came out in August, 2015.
Events @Shiv Nadar University

05 January

Darius Cooper visits SNU
The Department of Communication, SHSS, organized a talk by Darius Cooper (author of the Cinema of Satyajit Ray) titled, ‘From the Archives of a Cinophile: On the Stuff Dreams are made of’.

08 January

Talk on “Grey Zones: Performances, Perspectives and Possibilities in Kashmir”
A talk by Nadita Dinesh was organized by the Department of Education, SHSS. The talk highlighted aesthetic, pedagogical, and ethical frameworks that come into play when theatre is used across / between the ‘victim’ / ‘perpetrator’ binary in Kashmir.

10 January

Exhibition on "Unearthing Pattanam: Histories, Cultures, Crossings" at the National Museum in New Delhi
Jaya Menon, Professor, Department of History, SHSS, led the Delhi curatorial team in organizing the exhibition that focused on the early historic site of Pattanam on the Kerala coast that has been conjectured as ancient Muziris of the Greco-Roman texts and the Muciri mentioned in Tamil Sangam literature.

15 January

Poetry Reading Event
A poetry reading by Delhi Poet, Aditi Rao (author of The Fingers Remember), mesmerized the audience. This event was organized by the Department of English, SHSS.

16-19 January

Workshop by Kaite O'Reilly and Philip Zarrilli
The Department of Art Design and Performing Arts, SHSS presented a series of workshops and talks by the internationally renowned writer, playwright and poet Kaite O'Reilly, and Philip Zarrilli, Professor Emeritus, Performance Practice, University of Exeter, United Kingdom.

20-24 January

International Workshop on USPEX (Universal Structure Predictor: Evolutionary Xtallography)
Department of Physics, SNS, in collaboration with Stony Brook University, NY, USA, organized the 8th USPEX workshop at SNU. Organized first time in India the workshops is designed as pedagogical event aimed at training a new generation of users and developers of crystal structure prediction techniques.

December - February

Critical Juncture at Kochi
Sharmila Samant and Tushar Joag, Associate Professors, Art Design and Performing Arts, SHSS were part of this art exhibition. Mr. Joag’s work was called ‘Washing D’Arty Linen’ and Ms. Samant’s work was titled ‘Kochi Weaves’. This work exemplified social intervention through art.
9 February and 10 March

“Oceanic Turn in World Literatures” - A Mentored Seminar and Workshop on “Theory of the Novel”
The one-of-its-kind student workshop-cum-seminar was organized by the department of English, SHSS. The students from several universities in Delhi were trained to write an academic paper on the theme of the “Oceanic Turn in World Literatures” and got an opportunity to present their work at the culmination of the workshop. In addition, Professor Jonathan Arac, University of Pittsburgh, PA also gave a public lecture on “Novels and Their World” at the India International Center.

10 March

Fulbright Nehru International Education Administrators Seminar (F-NIEAS) delegation visits SNU
As a part of the F-NIEAS Seminar, a delegation of higher education administrators from universities in the U.S. visited SNU and interacted with the senior leadership and administrators. The seminar funded by the U.S. Department of State and the Government of India aims to strengthen bilateral academic ties between the two countries.

10 March

Seminar on “Urban Experiences: Bilbao and Delhi”
SNU in collaboration with India International Centre organized this unique seminar which saw the participation from renowned architects, urban planners, administrators and scholars from Delhi. Distinguished representatives of the Basque Government, Spain exchanged ideas and urban experiences of Bilbao and Delhi.

10-11 March

Research Scholars Workshop -‘Field & Anthropology’
This workshop was organized by the Department of Sociology, SHSS. The event was facilitated by the Research Scholars of the department. Graduate students across Delhi participated as presenters or audience. The event was intellectually stimulating and around 19 papers of ongoing research work were read and discussed.

19 March

A Workshop on ‘Women’s Safety & Street Survival’ at SNU
The students and faculty from SNU took part in a workshop organized by Street Level Awareness Program (SLAP) as part of the ‘Lest We Forget’ Campaign. The participants were trained and educated on personal safety.

20 March

A National Seminar on “Smarting Streets of Haider” by The Shakespeare Society of India
Anannya Dasgupta, Assistant Professor, Department of English, SHSS, co-presented a paper with Gokulnath Govindan, B.A. (Research) English at the Ashoka University. It was a matter of pride for SNU to have Gokulnath as the only student panelist amongst the scholars.

20-22 March

Interdisciplinary Conference on the Science & Applications of Networks organized by the School of Natural Sciences at SNU
The three day conference was inaugurated by Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Director, SNSS and SoE and Dean, Research and Graduate Studies. With the keynote address of the Technical Sessions by Dr. Somdatta Sinha, IISER Mohali, the event brought together researchers and eminent personalities from across the country working in diverse areas such as Graph Theory, Structural Biology, Genomics, Bioinformatics and Systems Biology, Physics and Chemistry.

26 -27 March

International Conference on Enabling Pedagogies in Higher Education in India at SNU
The project E-QUAL (Enhancing Quality, Access and Governance of Undergraduate Education in India)’s first academic conference titled, “Enabling Pedagogies in Higher Education in India”, focused on an enriching mix of theoretical engagement with ways to enable collaboration between universities as well as discussions and demonstrations of pedagogies that work. The four year international collaborative project is funded by the European Union and the British Council.
26-28 March

Workshop, “VisionMix: Artists, Filmmakers and Curators”
Department of Art Design and Performing Arts, SHSS, in association with School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and the VisionMix network conducted a five-day workshop, “VisionMix: Artists, Filmmakers and Curators”, mentored by the acclaimed artist, Ranbir Kaleka. The students of SNU shared the results of the project through films, photographs etc.

2 April

Inauguration of IEEE Student Branch, SNU and Launch of Research Seminar Series
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), world’s largest association of technical professionals that works with an objective of educational and technical advancement of engineers in Electrical and Electronics, Telecommunications, Computer Science and allied disciplines started the SNU Student Branch. The inaugural ceremony was followed by launch of Research Seminar series. Dr. Madan Gopal, Professor and Director Emeritus, SoE, gave the first lecture on Machine Learning: “Current State-of-the-Art and Futuristic Role in Big Data Analytics”.

10 April

Release of the 2nd Issue of The Freewheeler
The Shiv Nadar University students along with their Faculty Advisor, Vikram Kapur (Associate Professor, Department of English) released the second issue of the student literary annual magazine The Freewheeler. In the second issue, the magazine continued to celebrate the power of the word. The nine stories that make up the issue investigate the nature of belief, foray into the gritty side of town, reveal fascinating worlds of imagination, meditate on forbidden love, sound a warning against the excesses of corporate culture and uncover the many layers that make up relationships within extended families.

11 April

Symposium on “Current Trends in Drug Discovery Research in India”
The Department of Chemistry, SNS organized a one day symposium sponsored by RSC London, Bruker and Inkarp. Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Director, SNS & SoE, and Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, highlighted the need of inter- and multi-disciplinary research to find possible solutions of unanswered scientific problems in drug discovery.

11 April

Workshop on LaTeX was organized by the Mathematics Society, SNS
170 participants registered for the Workshop which aimed at providing a hands-on LaTeX experience useful for typesetting documents all over the world.

4 May

Screenings and Conversations on the Life and Aesthetic Pursuit of Kumar Shahani at India Habitat Center (IHC) and SNU
Department of Communications, SHSS in collaboration with LILA Foundation organized the event on the work of one of India’s most gifted filmmakers. The event traced Kumar Shahani’s creative journey as an artist and the challenges he faced with the digital media.

5 May

Open Studio by Students of Art Design and Performing Arts
The event was organized by the Department of Art Design and Performing Arts, SHSS, to exhibit the art work by MFA students during the academic session 2014 – 15.

7 May

SNU Town Hall
As part of the tradition at SNU, Dr. Nikhil Sinha, Vice Chancellor, led a town-hall with the faculty and the staff. He shared a detailed report on the state of the University and way forward. Dr. Sinha’s presentation was followed by a Q &A session.
8 May

Book Release
Behind a Billion Screens: What Television Tells Us About Modern India by Nalin Mehta (Associate Professor, Department of Communications), was released at a power-packed launch function in Delhi. Present among the panelists were Jawahar Sircar, CEO of Prasar Bharti; Rajdeep Sardesai, Consulting Editor India Today Group and Vanita Kohli-Khandekar, event moderator, author and Consulting Editor, Business Standard.

U.S. Ambassador Mr. Richard Rahul Verma’s visit to Shiv Nadar University
It was a moment of great honour for Shiv Nadar University to host Mr. Richard Rahul Verma, the U.S. Ambassador to India. The students were highly motivated listening to the life experiences that Mr. Verma candidly shared. He shared his perspective on higher education, the value each individual can create and, thereby make a difference in their own lives, their country and the world at large. Addressing many interesting questions from the students, the Ambassador expressed great confidence that India is already a regional leader and now the onus is on the young demographic dividend of the country to take it to greater heights. He highlighted the fact that even the Indian Diaspora are well integrated in the American society. The fact that the senior leadership of the two countries are making every effort to strengthen the bi-lateral ties is an indication of the inherent potential of the Indo-U.S. ties. The visit by the U.S. Ambassador to SNU left the students enthused to live their dreams.

15 May

PeopleSoft Campus Solution module went live
To improve the administration and operations of the University, PeopleSoft (a prominent university management platform) ERP implementation project (Project SOLAR) was launched in September 2014 and went live from May 2015. The PeopleSoft campus solution supports the entire life-cycle of student management, including student registration, records, financials, grade book, academic advising, class scheduling and alumni relations.

January-June

Movie series on Nationalism & Violence
In the last semester, The Research Scholars Group of Sociology Department (Shagufa Kaur Bhangu, Deepak Prince, Gideon Thomas Mathson, Nishpriha Thakur and Piya Chakraborty) organised Movie Series I, II and III on ‘Nationalism & Violence’ for the SNU community. Reading material was circulated amongst the registered participants, in advance. The screenings were followed by vibrant discussions among the graduate scholars and participants. An attempt was made to trace the themes in reading material with the narrative structures of the movies while also emphasising on the presence of the nation in the most intimate spaces of an individual’s life and psyche.
THE UNIVERSITY’S OWN BOTANICAL GARDEN

The work on the SNU Biodiversity Park is in full swing; envisaged as a thematic Botanical Garden for research, education and extension purpose. It has live collection of 75 species of plants, belonging to 40 plant families, a good number of aquatic plants, including white water Lily (*Nymphaea odorata* Aiton). 5 of the 14 themes will be established in the initial phase: Cacti & Succulents, Gymnosperms, Palms, Fruit trees and Bamboos.

The floristic diversity of SNU Campus is rich and diverse with over 161 wild plant species belonging to 41 families and about 90 per cent of the identified plants have medicinal properties. A few interesting plants which are growing naturally are trees of *Cordia dichotoma* G Forst. (Lasora), *Mitragyna parvifolia* (Roxb.) Korth. (Wild Kadamb) and *Holoptelea integrifolia* Planch (Indian Elm/Chilbil). Of all the plants there are a few which are new records to this region. The most interesting find is a species of *Equisetum ramosissimum* Desf., commonly known as horsetail, snake grass, puzzlegrass, is a “living fossil” of the entire class Equisetopsida. According to Dr. Jyoti K Sharma, Professor, Environmental Sciences & Natural Resources Management, SNS, “We will shift a few plants to the Botanical Garden and conserve the remaining population in the area. I am intrigued by the occurrence of *Equisetum* at SNU as this does not occur in this region.”
“Walking together and talking with Maya Krishna Rao”

The SNU Committee on Sensitization of Gender, Prevention, and Redressal of Sexual Harassment organized an impactful event comprising of Maya Rao’s performance, “The Walk” was followed by an engaging interaction led by Maya Rao, Anannya Dasgupta & Akhil Katyal.

The Rainbow Tree by SNU Queer Collective

The SNU Queer Collective made up a beautiful rainbow tree on campus and TOI featured it in its print and online editions on 1 March 2015. While the world celebrated love in their own ways on the 14th of February this year, the SNU Queer Collective celebrated by wrapping wool of the seven colors of rainbow on a Date Palm tree standing lonely in the middle of a field. The Rainbow Tree, also called the Queer Tree is a beacon of queer hope, unity and fulfillment for SNU Queer Collective.

Felicitation of Sportspersons

In a first event of its kind, SNU felicitated sportspersons for the year 2014-15. Anmol Choudhary was honored with the “Athlete of the Year” Award and Varun Ravikumar got the “Scholar-Athlete of the Year” Award. The event was attended by Arjuna Awardee and Olympic Wrestler Anuj Choudhary; Indian Volleyball Player and Arjuna Awardee Sanjay Phogat; former Indian Basketball Captain and current team player Prashanti Singh.
Inauguration of the Residential Complex

The founding chancellor Mr. TSR Subramaniam inaugurated the much awaited Residential Complex for SNU faculty and staff. The Apartments in the Residential Complex are equipped with facilities to meet the daily needs of the residents. Facilities like Bank, Post Office, Utility Store, Salon, Basic Health care, Food Court, Coffee Shop all are walking distance from the Residential Complex. In addition, the campus has excellent outdoor sports facilities for everyone to use.

The Duke Talent Identification Program hosted by SNU

The Summer Studies Program in India, co-sponsored by Duke TIP and SNU, provided exciting academic opportunities and dynamic residential and social experience to 180 students of seventh and eighth grade from all over India. The three-week program gave a unique learning environment designed to motivate and challenge academically talented students through varied fields of engagement.
Founding Batch Graduates

The first and only batch that graduated from SNU attracted some of the established names in the industry for placements. SNU students received full and partial scholarships for further studies from 29 universities of global ranking including Columbia University, Boston University, New York University, Georgetown University, National University of Singapore and Dartmouth College amongst many others. Out of 226 students who opted for Industry placements, 215 began their work lives with 57 Industry giants including Cognizant, Mitsubishi, Larsen & Toubro, Amazon, IBM, Risk Management Solutions, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Synopsys, Siemens, Schindler, Dell and Shapoorji Pallonji Engineering & Construction.

Farewell

The 2011 batch is the founding batch of Shiv Nadar University. The farewell ceremony of the batch of 2011 was celebrated with the entire founding family, Shiv Nadar University faculty, staff and students gathered at the University Campus on 11th April. The street beside the library was named “2011 Street” in honour of the batch of 2011.

Escapade 2015

March marked the beginning of a new tradition at SNU: Intra-college fest ‘Escapade’. The fest was packed with events organized by the diverse pool of clubs and societies at SNU and involved students from all the four years.
Dr. Ashish Gupta from the Department of Life Science, School of Natural Sciences was awarded the INSA Medal for Young Scientist (2015) by the Indian National Science Academy.

The INSA Medal for Young Scientist, considered to be the highest recognition of promise, creativity and excellence in a young scientist for notable research contributions in the field of Science and Technology.

**Q:** Hello, congratulations on your commendable achievements. What sparked your interest in research and in particular Malaria Biology?

**A:** Thank you! My interest in research was kindled while pursuing Master’s in Biochemistry at Jiwaji University, Gwalior. When I applied to a Ph.D. programme at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, I was accepted to the Centre for Molecular Medicine and worked with Professor Suman K. Dhar, one of the leading scientists of Malaria Biology in Delhi. My interest in the field was sparked by my desire to work on Malaria and solve a problem prevalent in India.

**Q:** How did your research proceed? Was it received well in the academic community?

**A:** I specifically worked on the replication aspect of Malaria which at that time was considered as a parasitic disease, capable of generating large progenies, while replicating inside the human host. Neither the mechanism nor the molecular players were known. My work focused on finding the molecules that are involved in the replication of Malaria virus inside the human host. The results were published in Molecular Microbiology and was well received especially by F1000 (Faculty of 1000 is a group of leading faculty members in Biology and Medicine in the world).

After completing Ph.D. in 2009, I joined Dr. A. Dutta’s lab at the University of Virginia to work on Breast Cancer Research. I was awarded the U.S. Army Postdoctoral fellowship Award-2011, USA.

**Q:** How did you get to know about Shiv Nadar University and what has been your experience thus far?

**A:** In 2013, I planned to come back to India and heard about SNU from my supervisor in JNU. I visited SNU and was happy to see the state-of-the-art lab facilities and a motivating academic environment. After an encouraging conversation with the Director, SNS & SoE, Professor Rupamanjhari Ghosh, I joined in July 2013. It took me a year to establish the lab properly. As I continue to work on Malaria and Cancer Biology, it’s encouraging that in the last 2 years, we have received four external grants and I have received three prestigious awards.

1. The Professor M. B. Mirza Award from the Indian Society for Parasitology in 2014 in Lucknow.
2. Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award-2014 by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, on my proposal to work on the Malaria parasite.
3. INSA Medal for Young Scientist-2015 by Indian National Science Academy.

**Q:** What is different about working in SNU than in any other well-known institution? Do you think that this difference affected your work?

**A:** Making a decision to join SNU was not easy. Prior to joining SNU, I believed that joining a well-established institution would make life easy. However, I am happy that SNU has encouraged me to pursue my passion for both research and teaching.

**Q:** Any word of advice for the students?

**A:** SNU is a great place brimming with enthusiasm and opportunities. With world-class faculty by their side, I would urge students to make the most of their time at the University.
Shiv Nadar University is excited to be part of the international collaborative project titled Enhancing Quality, Access and Governance of Undergraduate Education in India (E-QUAL) in 2013. The project is in its third year now. The highlight this year was E-QUAL’s first academic conference in March 2015, titled, “Enabling Pedagogies in Higher Education in India”, organized with a key objective to understand and address the challenges in classrooms across India. The conference was an enriching mix of theoretical engagement with ways to enable collaboration between universities as well as discussions and demonstrations of pedagogies that work.

At SNU, project E-QUAL has resulted in creating many platforms to allow meaningful dialogues in undergraduate teaching across disciplines through meetings, workshops, conferences and opportunities to constantly examine pedagogical methods along with developing innovative modules and courses keeping in mind—excellence, access and critical thinking from a variety of lenses: logical, mathematical, scientific, philosophical, lexical / linguistic. Thus, allowing a lateral traversal across disciplines to develop a rounded academic learning experience for the Shiv Nadar University undergraduates.

Project E-QUAL Team:

Partha Chatterjee (Faculty Coordinator); Ram K. Sharma (Project Coordinator); Samuel Berthet; Jaideep Chatterjee; Anannya Dasgupta; Ashokankur Datta; Paromita Goswami; Amber Habib, Deepa Hazrati
Global writing partnerships are at the frontiers of higher education and one of the richest areas for potential growth. Writing-based partnerships are especially significant as means of promoting cross-cultural exchanges and facilitating collaborative interdisciplinary research between SNU- and Duke Faculty and students.

**Role of Cell Wall Hydrolases in Biofilm Formation of Staphylococcus aureus**

Faculty collaborators: Richa Priyadarshini (SNU), Vance G. Fowler (Duke) & Batu K. Sharma Kuinkel (Duke)

Most bacteria in the environment are found as complex matrix enclosed aggregates known as biofilms. National Institute of Health (NIH), USA, estimates that more than 80% of all chronic infections are due to bacterial biofilms. The project involves the study of the role of cell wall hydrolases in establishing S. aureus biofilms and evaluate the potential use of these hydrolases as biofilm dispersal agents and help in designing better strategies to combat biofilm mediated disease.

**Development of Composite Ceramic - Silver and Red Mud Water Filters to Control Biological and Arsenic Contamination in Drinking Water**

Faculty collaborators: Marc Deshusses (Duke) & Susanta Sinha Roy (SNU)

Water contamination effects health of billions of people in less developed countries. In this collaborative project, the scientists aim to develop composite ceramic / red mud / silver-based water filtration systems for the removal of arsenic and micro-organisms in drinking water.

**Safe Spaces for Women to be Physically Active in Greater Noida City: A Mixed Method Approach**

Faculty collaborators: Prasad Pathak (SNU), Gatha Sharma (SNU), Neha Pagidipati (Duke) & Truls Ostbye (Duke)

India is undergoing rapid urbanization with a concurrent rise in cardiovascular diseases. One of the reasons is decrease in physical activities due to lack of accessible and safe spaces. This project aims to create an interactive map of places for physical activity in Greater Noida City, and to overlay safety perceptions of women onto that map to give an understanding of environmental barriers to women from being physically active.
Global Learning Semester

The Shiv Nadar University has collaborations with Duke Kunshan University, China; Carnegie Mellon University, USA; Babson College, USA and University of Pennsylvania, USA.

We are proud of our five students who did well at Duke Kunshan University during their term from February till June, Aman Agarwal (B.Tech. ECE) - Batch of 2011; Ashwanth A R (B.Tech. ECE) - Batch of 2011; Kirithigaa K (B.Tech. ECE) - Batch of 2011; Sabarish Shankar (B.Tech. ECE) - Batch of 2013; Suryakant S (B.Tech. EEE) - Batch of 2011. While three students from Shiv Nadar University are currently at Babson College.
Faculty Publications [2014-15]

14 BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

School Of Engineering

Civil Bikash Parida Geostatistical and Geospatial Approaches for the Characterization of Natural Resources in the Environment: Challenges, Processes and Strategies

School Of Humanities

English Akhil Katyal The Double Game of Sexuality: Idioms of Same-Sex Desire in Modern India
Sambudha Sen Transvisualities: The Cultural Dimension of Visuality Vol 2
Gatha Sharma A Conice Introduction to Linguistics, 4th Edition
Tulika Chandra Folk Belief and Traditions of the Supernatural

Sociology Nalin Mehta Behind a Billion Screens: What Television Tells Us About Modern India Media at Work in India and China (Eds.)

Art Design Prakash Kumar Research into Design across Boundaries Volume 2
& Performing Arts

School Of Natural Sciences

Life Sciences Ashish Gupta Developments in Medical Biotechnology: Present and Challenges
Pawan Dhar Systems and Synthetic Biology (Editor)

Chemistry Sonali Bhandari An Enchanting Trail through Wilderness- Insights into the Web of Life

Group of Environmental Sciences and Natural Resource Management

Group of Jyoti K Sharma Plant Biodiversity: Present Situation and Future Scenario. Eds

School Of Management and Entrepreneurship

Kaushik Chaudhuri Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology, Third Edition

78 JOURNAL ARTICLES

School Of Engineering

Civil Sumedha Moharana Journal of Intelligent Material Systems and Structures
Bikash Parida Geophysical Research Letters, Agricultural and Forest Meteorology

Mechanical Dipak Maity Journal of Refrigeration, Air conditioning, Heating and Ventilation, RSC Advances
Harendra International Journal of Intelligent Engineering Informatics
Ramesh Gupta International Journal of Engineering Science
Ramesh Vaddi IEEE Journal on Emerging and Selected Topics in Circuits and Systems (JETCAS)
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<tr>
<th>Field</th>
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Mail Today featured **Professor Rupamanjari Ghosh**, Director, SNS & SoE, Dean, Research and Graduate Studies in the story titled ‘How enrolling for a liberal arts programme can help you stay relevant in your job’

**Dr. Gopal Krishna Gandhi’s (CPACT) published ‘Poke Me: The sham and dangerous ‘secular debate’ in The Economics Times, Keep the Republic’s taper burning bright and tall - 23 January 2015 in The Hindustan Times**

**Dr. Kiran Karnik published ‘Why Isro succeeds: It’s not that hard, other government departments must exploit its ABCD formula’ - The Times of India**

**Dr. Siddharth Varadarajan (CPACT) published ‘Why India should say no to US demand to dilute its nuclear liability law’ - January 25th, 2015; ‘Fall Of A Strongman’ - January 12th, 2015 - The Times of India**

**Dr. Dipankar Gupta (Distinguished Professor & Director, Department of Sociology and C-PACT) published ‘Swachh Bharat as Swasth Bharat: If Europe looks glamorous now that’s because it became hygienic /f.shortirst’ – The Times of India; ‘Blinded by the Sun: How the activism of Hindu zealots has undermined BJP’s success’- The Times of India; ‘Voters need a good enemy’- The Hindu; Democracy’s last mile’-The Times of India; ‘When it’s right to be wrong: Political attractions of regularising the irregular - colonies, farm loans, corporate debt’ - January 3rd, 2015- The Times of India**

**Dr. Sreedeepr Bhattacharya published ‘Killing farmers, framing facts: Macro data busts several myths around farmer suicides- The Political Indian; ‘JNU revolutionaries: Left out, left behind, left in between’**
SNU in the Media

**Behind a Billion Screens: What Television Tells Us About Modern India**

A book by Nalin Mehta (Associate Professor, Department of Communications) is national bestseller, features in New York Times. Leading magazines and newspapers like Mint, Outlook, Business World, Scroll, Yahoo etc. have also carried long extracts and stories about the book.

**Is taking a gap year from studies a waste of time?**

Or, does it give you a perspective of what you really want to do in life? Two of our students - Ashwanth AR & Laavanya Gupta, were invited by NDTV Prime to share their perspective.

**If India has to realize the potential of its youth, should it focus more on short-term skilling programs or encourage pursuit of academic excellence amongst them?**

Can the two co-exist? Our students - K Kirithigaa and Suryakant Srivastava, were invited by NDTV Prime to share their perspective.
We need to focus on building research capability of universities

Nikhil Sinha

Introducing the choice-based credit system will offer students flexibility to adopt an interdisciplinary approach towards learning.

Why CBGS

• The CBGS is aimed at ushering in a multi-disciplinary approach to undergraduate curriculum, providing students a strong foundation across multiple subjects. It also enables them to palm mastery of a subclass of their choices.

• Under the new CBGS, students will now be able to select courses from a wide range of disciplines and have them count towards their degree. For example, an undergraduate student doing her honours in economics or physics can choose courses in mathematics and vice versa.

• The guidelines mandate that students wishing to take electives not offered at their institution can do so at other colleges or universities, and receive credits that would count towards their degree. The new system also opens up opportunities for student mobility, thus allowing them to take credits earned in one university to another institution to which they transfer.

• If a student slows down in a particular semester due to unforeseen circumstances, she can decide to take a fewer number of courses, earning fewer credits. She can compensate for the shortfall in the next semester, or put in an extra semester of

To build a world class university in Noida

Nikhil Sinha

India Today | Jan - July 2015
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Image: Lesser Whistling Teal
Photo Courtesy: Abhishek Gulshan (Nature & Wildlife Enthusiast)