

SPICERIAN NEWSLETTER

Students on campus

This academic year (2022-2023), after the covid- 19 restrictions have been withdrawn, the campus has exploded into life with the inflow of students from various parts of the city, state, country, and even beyond. The university buzzes with activity and excitement as students, faculty, staff, and administration resume physical exchange and interaction. Two batches of students are setting foot on the campus for the first time, while others are returning with nostalgia after two whole years. The roads are no more deserted, the classrooms are filled with chatter, the sports courts and grounds are filled with youthful energy, and the church resounds with the singing of a congregation. It's good to have the university back in full swing once again.

Campus Road Pavement

A few months ago, riding around the campus was a bumpy ordeal due to wanting repairs. However, following the ground-breaking ceremony on 28th February 2022, The campus has transformed into a well-paved neighborhood. Campus residents and visitors now enjoy the smooth road connecting various parts of the campus. The project was taken up by Contractor Mr. Michael Gaikwad.



SASDA house construction

The SASDA campus is a residential area where many of the faculty and staff reside. The most recent development project is constructing new houses to replace the tin houses that stood in their place. Mr. Michael Gaikwad was the contractor in charge of constructing these houses. The project consists of four units, with each unit having two houses back-to-back, each of which is a 1200 square feet built-up area. The houses consist of two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and a toilet. Two of the four units are ready for occupancy.

The inauguration ceremony was held on March 11, 2022, and attended by officers of the Southern Asia Division, members of the University Board, Administrators, Faculty, and Staff of the university. A short devotion was taken up by Dr. R. N. Prabhudas (Director of Education), followed by the inauguration of the houses by the Division President, Pr. Ezras Lakra. The families will be blessed as they occupy these houses and enjoy an improved living environment.

Inauguration of 'Elder Maxwell S. Paul Computer Centre

Elder Maxwell S. Paul and his wife Mrs. Jiju Paul inaugurated the computer center on March 25, 2022. Forty computers were unboxed and installed in two computer rooms in the Management building. Elder Maxwell Paul also introduced a scholarship program to sponsor six students every year, one from each division. The recipients would be students who are sincere in academics and in need of financial support to continue their education.

Third Convocation 2022

The Third Convocation of Spicer Adventist University was held for three days, from Friday, March 25 to Sunday, March 27, 2022, at the University House of prayer. On Friday, the consecration service was graced by Mrs. Mirdula Lakra (Director of children's ministries), and the Baccalaureate on Saturday by Mr. Maxwell S. Paul (President and CEO of Capital Hotels Investment Group, USA). The Annual Commencement Exercise was held on Sunday, where the graduating class was addressed by Dr. Ezras Lakra (President of Spicer Adventist University) and the Chief Guest Shri. Sudhakar Gande (Chairman, US India SME Council Inc., USA). The guests of honor also gave their remarks, and degrees were conferred to a total of 252 received in person and absentia.



Departmental co-curricular activities

Fresher's Welcoming Program: The Seniors (Third & Second Year) organized a Fresher's party on 17th March 2022, to welcome the Juniors (First Year) into the Psychology Department. The event was held in the University Auditorium.

Study Tour to Oriental Watchman Publishing House: Department of English arranged a study tour on April 29, 2022, for the senior M.A. students to visit Oriental Watchman Publishing House (OWPH), Salisbury Park, Pune. The students had first-hand experience of the whole process of publishing, printing, print-formats, book binding, and shipping; it was an eye-opening experience for the students.

The Division of Performing Arts arranged an educational trip and recreational trip for the Senior (Fourth Year) students in April 2022. The students and teachers had a wonderful time interacting with each. Hiking and sightseeing activities were arranged for everyone.



Internship: The Third Year B A, Department of Psychology students did a one-week Internship from April 11-18, 2022, for their project work on “*Community-based Service Learning*’ at Aashayein.

Senior Students Educational Trip to Lonavala and Malavli: An educational trip to historical places in Lonavla and Malavi was arranged on May 3, 2022, for the MA English students. These places were about 70 km from Pune City, Shivali fort, Malavli cave, and Tungarli lake were the points of visit.

Personality Workshop: A Workshop on Personality was conducted on May 3, 2022, Tuesday at 12:30 pm in the University Auditorium. The event was conducted by the Second-Year students of the Psychology Department, and it was led by a team of three senior students - Mihika Bhore, Anagha Deshpande, and Leo Steve, under the guidance of the department faculty.

The Department of History organized a study tour for their students to Sinhagad Fort and National War Museum, Ghorpadi, Pune on May 8, 2021.

A Field trip to Mahableshwar was organized by the Department of English & Psychology, from May 9-10, 2022. This was the first field trip after COVID. This trip has given all the teachers and students the much-needed break to rejuvenate themselves, where entertainment and learning went side by side as they renewed themselves amidst nature.



The Division of Sciences organized a field trip to the Konkan coast for three days. The Dean, teachers, and the students of the departments were able to interact with the NGO leaders working for the tribal upliftment of the villages near Devgad.

Further, the students interacted with the forest officials to gather information on medicinal plants. The teachers and students had a great time of learning and fun at Devgad. Health and Wellness Camp organized by Sociology Department for the Division of Arts & Social Sciences on 20th May 2022.

The Geography department organized a field trip to Harihareshwar. It is a small coastal town in the district of Raigad, the western part of Maharashtra; with Sahyadri mountain on one side and the Arabian Sea on the other. The students were shown various rock formations: the Honeycomb rock formation.



On June 13, 2022, the Division of Performing Arts organized a recital, a practical examination for the Music students, at the university's main auditorium. The Alumni of the Division, teachers, parents, and friends are invited to grace this occasion. The students' performance covered from the *Baroques to Contemporary style of Piano, Vocal and Guitar*. The duration of the program is three hours, where 22 students participated. It was a grand event where all the students waited eagerly to perform since This was the first recital after the Covid 19 restrictions were lifted.

On June 14, 2022, the First and Second Year students of the Division of Arts & Social Sciences organized a farewell program in the S B Auditorium, for the outgoing Senior students of the English, History, Psychology & Sociology Department.

Teachers Orientation Programme on July 11, 2022, at 9 am in the University Auditorium, Dr. Sanjeevan Arsud, Vice Chancellor of Spicer Adventist University was the keynote speaker. The teachers' orientation program ended with a delicious fellowship lunch for all the ancillary staff, office staff & faculty of Spicer Adventist University.

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

Spicer Adventist University registered online with NAAC on June 8, 2021, and registered successfully, after which the university proceeded to fill the IIQA (Institutional Information for Quality Assessment) Form and submitted it online. Following the submission of IIQA form, the university received two sets of Clarifications on different occasions which were duly fulfilled and submitted. The Self Study Report (SSR) was submitted on August 25, 2021.

A five-member NAAC Peer Team visited the university from May 29th to 31st 2022. They have listened to the presentations from the Vice Chancellor to the Deans and the IQAC director; interacted with alumni; visited all the divisions, departments, and units on the campus; more importantly, they interacted with the students, staff, and teachers. After all the deliberations, they have presented a sealed envelope to the Vice-Chancellor at the exit report meeting, to be opened only after the results were declared on the HEI portal on the NAAC website. The University was awarded “B” Grade from the National Assessment & Accreditation Council of India on June 7th, 2022.



ADVENTIST ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION (AAA) REGULAR VISIT

The Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA had their regular accrediting visit of Spicer Adventist University from October 12-14, 2022.

The Visiting Committee, appointed to review the function of Spicer Adventist University (SAU), reviewed the documents submitted by the institution (SSR), interviewed the board representatives, administration, departmental leaders, faculty, staff, and students and conducted on-site observations after which an exit report was presented to the administration and faculty.

The visiting committee consisted of the following members:

1. Dr. Mike M. Lekic, Chair, Retired Associate Director of Education, General Conference.
2. Dr. Faith-Ann McGarrell, Editor, Journal of Adventist Education, General Conference
3. Dr. Andrew Mutero, Director of Education, East-Central Africa Division.
4. Dr. German Lust, Associate Treasurer, General Conference
5. Dr. Ronald Vyhmeister, Senior Systems Analyst, Loma Linda University

6. Dr. Anil Kumar Chillimuntha, Executive Vice President, METAS Adventist Colleges and Hospitals

7. Dr. Roy Jemison Injety, Former President, Flaiz Adventist College, Narasapur



During the time spent on campus, the Visiting Committee met collectively with the administration and representatives of the faculty, staff, and students. The Visiting Committee members also conducted individual interviews related to various areas. Members of the Visiting Committee had an opportunity to tour the campus as well as faculty offices, classrooms, library, computer labs, and other major buildings.

In addition to the institutional *Self-Study*, the Visiting Committee had access to other important documents like the latest edition of the University Bulletin, the Faculty/Staff Handbook, including job descriptions for administrators, faculty, and staff, the Student Handbook, minutes of the University Governing Body and the Administrative Committee for the last three years, all audited annual financial statements since the last regular accreditation visit, the current institutional budget, a year-to-date financial operating statement, etc.

The visiting committee made several commendations and recommendations related to the 12 Areas which were under review.

At the end of the exit report, The Visiting Committee expressed sincere thanks to Spicer Adventist University, the administration, faculty, staff, and students of the University for the warm welcome and excellent hospitality extended during the time of this visit, and for all the efforts made to facilitate the visit and to help the team's work proceed smoothly and efficiently.

--Reported by Dr. Mohanraj Israel, Coordinator, SAU AAA visit.



Southern Asia Division Quinquennial meeting

The 23rd Division Council of the Southern Asia Division of SDA was held at Spicer Adventist University from 10- 12 August 2022. The meetings were held in the recently refurbished Auditorium as well as the Council room in the Management building. The meetings were broadcasted live on Hope Channel. This was a meeting of great importance as the trajectory of the next 5 years would depend on the decisions made in these few days. Spicer Adventist University is privileged to have hosted esteemed delegates from all across Southern Asia Division whose stay extended into the weekend as they joined the Spicer family for sabbath.



Auditorium Renovation

"The SUD Division Council is being held in the Spicer Auditorium. The Auditorium looks the best I've ever seen it. New paint job, new doors and curtains on every window. Fans have been installed on the side walls. Some things never change though. The pulpit, the benches remain the same though they have a fresh coat of polish."

Dr. Gordon Christo.



Farewell

Employees Retired:

Ms. Mary Davy

Mr. James Haokip

Mr. Mohan Rao

Mr. Suresh Waghmare

Mrs. Shiny Prashanta

Mr. Suresh Gaikwad

Mr. Manoharan Nandikad

Mrs. Vimalbai Kamble

- Faculty/ Dean, Division of Performing Arts
- Attendance Officer
- University Driver
- Estate Worker
- Associate Registrar (SMC)
- Faculty, Division of Education
- Worker, SCPS
- Estate worker

Alumni Contribution 2022

Dr. David Koilpilli

Mrs. Hilda Henry,

Mrs. Juthika Pahan

Lasalgaon Ex- Students Welfare Trust

Pr. A.M. Franklin

Mr. Maxwell S. Paul

Mr. Nirmal Ravindra

Mount Zion Education & Welfare Trust

Koramangala, Bangalore

Mr. Sanjay Kakade

Mr. Andrew Franklin

- SASDA House Renovation.
- Road Repair
- Road Repair
- Road Repair
- Road Repair
- Computer Lab and Student Scholarship
- Water Cooler
- Water Cooler
- Men's Hostel Repair Work
- Painting of Compound Wall