



VIBRATIONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NISH



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPEECH & HEARING

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“ No enterprise can exist for itself alone. It ministers to some great need, it performs some great service, not for itself, but for others; or failing therein, it ceases to be profitable and ceases to exist. “ - Calvin Coolidge



Dear reader,

It is my pleasure to present you with one more issue of 'Vibrations'. During the previous three months, the activities were low because of the examinations and post-semester vacation time on campus. Before the end of the last academic year, our Fine Arts degree students had their Degree Show' which is a highlight in this issue. From July onward, our new academic year is in full swing. New students have come on campus in all courses. 'Colors of Independence' was a new program attempted outside the campus. Media covered the program well. From what I heard in the debriefing session, the students are planning more activities in the community. Thank you students for the new initiatives. That means, the readers can expect a lot more in the upcoming issues!

We have highlighted some of the organizational changes brought about for the functional needs with in our organizational structure. Whatever is our function, we work as a team! We declared 2014 as the year of collaboration and I can see that spirit in everything we do - inside the campus and outside. I am proud of our team's achievements.

Enjoy the 'Vibrations' !

Thanks

Dr Samuel N. Mathew
Executive Director



A Special Website for Assisting the Specially Abled

Student team from School of Information, Univeristy of Michigan and NISH collaborated to create web resource on disability information about disability services, policy information in India. This was launched to the public by **Dr M.K. Muneer**, Minister of Social Justice on June 25.

Indian partners for this project: Center for Internet & Society, Bangalore and Inclusive Planet for Disability & Policy, Chennai.

Team involved: Elysee, Catie and Kevin from Univ of Michigan. Dr. Anne, Jumin and Anju from NISH.

NISH Team for Ongoing Support: Shaji S.V., Nirmal Sugathan, Babloo Kumar, Jumin Mary Joseph, Arya Chand and Silvy Maxi Mena.



Launching of Accesshub



Elyse



Catie



Kevin



From left: Mr Shaji S.V, Ms Jumin Mary Joseph, Ms Arya Chand, Dr Anne Varghese, Mr Nirmal Sugathan, Dr Samuel N. Mathew, Mr Babloo Kumar and Ms Silvy Maxi Mena.

[Click here to open the site](#)



Degree Show - 2014

Mr Syamaprasad, Film Director, inaugurated the Degree Show, 'Beyond Language' on May 19, 2014. The third batch of Bachelor of Fine Arts (HI) students conducted the degree show.



Mr K. Ramachandran retired after three and half years at NISH and **Mr A.B.Reghunathan Nair** took the responsibility as Administration Officer. He was previously the Addl. GM at KSIDC for many years.



Mr K. Ramachandran Mr A.B.Reghunathan Nair

New Faces in the NISH Family



Ms Lekshmi V. Faculty, MACS
Ms Sangeetha G. S. Clinical Supervisor, ASLP
Ms Sherin Jude Administrative Asst
Ms Veena P. Mohan Clinical Supervisor, ASLP
Ms Sherin Rahman Faculty, MACS

New Roles



Ms Shirly G Head, New Initiatives. In charge of the Training & Industry Placement (TIP) Department at NISH.
Ms Praveena Davis Head, ASLP
Ms Sapna K In charge, Early Intervention Programme
Mr Rakesh P. S. In charge, Department of Fine Arts



Ms Raji N.R. Incharge, Dept of Computer science
Ms Raji Gopal Head, MACS Dept
Dr Suja K. Kunnath Head, Autism Spectrum and Related Disorders

Although NISH has been providing intervention services for children in the Autism Spectrum, a separate department of Autism and Related disorders (ARD) was set up with **Dr Suja K. Kunnath** as the Head. She will focus on developing programs for professional preparation as well as courses for children with ASD.

Expert Visit at NISH

Dr Timothy S. Mescon, President, Columbus State University, Georgia, USA visited NISH along with **Mr Abraham George**, Chief Technology Officer and **Ms Kristin Williams-Griffin**, Director of Graduate and Global Recruitment. They had discussions with **Dr Samuel N. Mathew**, Executive Director for possible future partnerships.



Mr Abraham George (left), Dr Timothy S. Mescon (middle) & Ms Kristin Williams (right)

Integration with a Difference



Mr Joseph Paul took a year off from work and volunteered to train and mentor degree students and staff.

Major contributions: Created a quiz program for the deaf students. Guidance on projects and student-run seminars. He is an inspiration for all those who wish to make a difference in others.

Mr Joseph Paul
Manager, Suntec Business Solutions



Mr Joseph Paul with B Sc.(HI) students

Recognition of Talents

For the first time, NISH faculty submitted papers to International Conferences and thirteen have been accepted. Congratulations!

ASHA Convention in Orlando, Florida USA in November , 2014.



- “ Habilitation of children with Hearing Loss- Evidences from a Multicentric Longitudinal Study in India” - Ms Jeena Mary Joy ,Dr Suja K. Kunnath, Ms Sita Sreekumar, Dr Samuel N Mathew, Ms Lekha, Mr Ashraf T.P.
- “Effect of Hindustani Vocal training on Voice Measures” - Ms Manju. S, Ms Sangeetha Mohan, Dr. Suja. K. kunnath, Dr Samuel N. Mathew

Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) annual conference 2015,Orlando, Florida.



- “Develop reading skill in non-early intervened deaf adults” (Oral) - Ms Shirly G.
- “ Enhancing functional communication in cerebral palsy - a case study”(Poster)- Ms Sita Sreekumar

2014 Clinical AAC Research Conference, , St.Louis, Missouri, USA



- “Predictors in the selection of AAC system- An evidence based report on overcoming the challenges” - Ms Sita Sreekumar, Dr. Suja K Kunnath, Vineetha Sara Philip, Dr Samuel N. Mathew

ICTEPIT 2014 (International Conference on Teacher Education Practices and Innovtive Trends) organised by School of Education Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, India

- “Guiding the non-early intervened deaf adults in academics –Practices followed in NISH” - Ms Shirly G.

I World Congress on Ear and Hearing Care, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India, February 2015

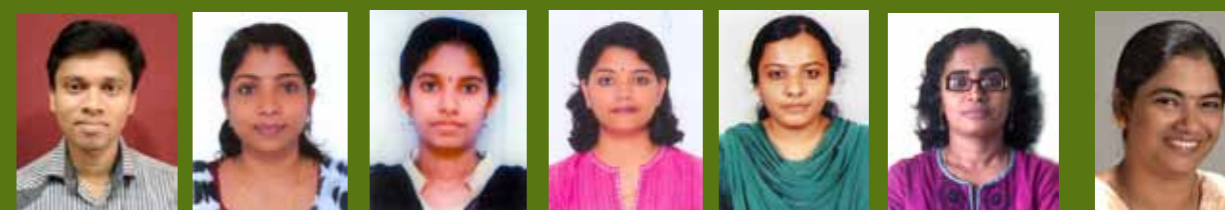


- Auditory working memory: A comparative study between normal hearing children and children using cochlear implants - Ms Sreebha Sreedhar, Ms Reshma J

British Academy of Audiology Annual Conference 2014 London, UK.



- “DPOAE amplitude changes in Pre-mature, Pre-term and Term Infants”. -Ms Saumya Sundaram, Ms Sara Kurian
- ‘DPOAE amplitude reduction – A forerunner to genetic testing in Connexin 26 gene mutation?’ - Ms PraveenaDavis, Ms Sreepriya
- Study of Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emission and its Contralateral Suppression in Painters Exposed to Organic Solvents- Ms Sreena E N, Ms Praveena Davis
- Evaluation of Medioolivocochlear Predicts the Susceptibility to Auditory Threshold Shift - A Pilot Study - Ms Sreena E.N., Ms Praveena Davis, Ms Arya S.S.
- ‘Audio-Visual Perception: A Comparative Study between Children with Normal Hearing and Cochlear Implant’ - Ms Sreebha, Sreedhar, Ms Reshma J., Ms Anjana
- ‘A Screening Audiological Profile of Traffic Police’- Ms Sreebha Sreedhar, Ms Praveena Davis, Mr Abey Alex.



Mr Abey Alex Ms Anjana Ms Arya S.S. Ms Jeena Ms Lekha Ms Manju S. Ms Praveena



Ms Reshma Dr Samuel Ms Sara Kurian Ms Saumya Ms Shirly Ms Sita Ms Sreebha



Ms Sreena Ms Sreepriya Dr Suja Ms Vineetha Ms Sangeetha Mr T.P. Ashraf

Colours of Independence

Students clubs – **Gravity and Karma** – organized a mass run, painting competition and awareness campaign at Kanakakkunnu palace as a part of 68th Independence day. A mass run from Kawdiar to Kanakunnu was the highlight. **Mr. G. Vijaya Raghavan**, Planning Board Member and Hon. Director, NISH flagged off the event attended by **Dr. Samuel N. Mathew**, Executive Director and other staff members. The event was coordinated by **Ms Alina Francis Lobo**, II yr BASLP & **Ms Nazeeba K.**, 5th semester BSc.(CS)(HI). Students from Fine Arts College, Trivandrum participated in a painting competition for both hearing and deaf students.



From the Students to the Students by the Students



Gravity Club, the club to promote integration at NISH, joined the program ‘**Padam Onnu oru kai sahayam**’ of **Club FM 94.4 Radio**. Books, pencils, bags etc for the school students was handed over to **Mr Vinod Kumar S.**, FM Radio Solutions Manager & **Mr Prasoon**, Club FM Producer. **Ms Alina Francis Lobo**, & **Ms Nazeeba K.**, provided leadership.

NISH Pace Setter - July, 2014

NISH Pace Setter program recognizes the staff who did something beyond their call of duty and thus set a positive example for others to follow. This program is just to say, “You set a good example. We salute you”.



Rejitha L. was instrumental in the empanelment of NISH in National CSR Hub. She took the responsibility through the necessary steps to apply to Tata Institute of Social Sciences who acts as the nodal agency for empanelment.

Ms Rejitha L. Social Worker

Small Hand in Afforestation

The students and teachers of NISH along with the Executive Director of NISH **Dr Samuel N. Mathew** planted a hundred saplings in the premises of NISH on June 5th, the Environment Day. The saplings were given names by the students. The passing out students also gifted saplings to their teachers asking them to remember them by giving their names to the saplings. The programme comes under the activities of **Bhoomithrasena Club**.

Ms Rejitha L., social worker and **Ms Silvy Maxi Mena**, faculty, MACS guided the students to coordinate the programme.



Dr Samuel N. Mathew with Mr Rod Solomons, Ex-Trade Commissioner, Australian High Commission in Bangalore and Present Board Member, Hear & Say Australia who visited NISH on 27 August 2014 for discussions on collaboration with Hear and Say, Australia.



The Consul General of Germany from Bangalore, **H.E. Joern Rohde**, visited NISH on 27th June, 2014. The details of various institutions in Germany who would like to partner with NISH in future was shared by the Consul General. **Mr Syed Ibrahim**, The Director of the German Centre, Thiruvananthapuram accompanied him.



Dr Sudesh Mukhopadhyay, RCI Chairperson, **Ms Poonam Natarajan**, National Trust Chairperson and **Dr Sudha Kaul**, Ex-President of ISAAC (International Society for AAC), current Vice-Chairperson of Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy visited NISH on 27th May 2014.

Joining Hands for a Good Cause



The students joined hands to set up a new volleyball court in the NISH campus by the side of the BFA building. The programme was organized by 'Karma'. **Mr Prasanth. R.L.**, faculty, Degree HI coordinated the programme.

Arty and Crafty



A one day camp named ' **Arty and Crafty**' was conducted on 10th May 2014 when thirty students from different schools in Trivandrum were given training in painting, crafts and animation by the BFA, B Sc. and BASLP degree students of NISH. The event was organised by **Gravity Club**. **Dr Samuel N. Mathew**, Executive Director, NISH inaugurated the camp. The programme was coordinated by **Ms Raji N.R.**, **Ms Sreeba Sreedhar**, **Ms Alina Francis Lobo** and **Ms Nazeeba K.**

NISH Parent Support Group

Nish Parent Support Group is a collaborative venture of professionals and parents of the integrated students of NISH to counsel the parents of HI children and to give maximum support in overcoming the barriers of disability. The group consists of **Ms Sapna K.**, **Ms Jayalekshmi** (Early Intervention Programme), **Ms Sita Sreekumar**, **Ms Sreena E.N.** (Dept of ASLP), **Ms Rejitha L.** (Social Worker), **Ms Jumin Mary Joseph** (Dept of Psychology), **Ms Saritha** & **Ms Sheela** (Parents).



Ms Sapna K. Ms Jayalekshmi Ms Sita Ms Sreena Ms Rejitha L. Ms Jumin Ms Saritha Ms Sheela

V – shesh Training



V-shesh session for the final year students of BSC and BFA commenced on August 11 at NISH. V-shesh is an agency in Chennai that provides employment services to persons with disabilities. This time 40 students have registered for the one month training which consists of practical and theory sessions in life skills, computers, interview and domain related skills.

Exploring Nature



The ASLP students went for a four day trip to Kodaikanal and Munnar from 17th May to 21st May. **Ms Silvy maxi Mena** accompanied the students.

Artistic Fellowship



Thirty three BFA students and five faculty members attended a painting exhibition ‘**Contemporary Surrealistic Works**’ by an upcoming artist **Mr Saneesh** at RLV College of Music and Fine Arts, Tripunithura. The team visited the Painting, Sculpture and Applied Arts Department in the College and interacted with the students and **Mr Abraham**, the head of the department.

Volunteering – A New Way to Share Knowledge



Twenty students of the Preparatory year at NISH are given the chance to be a part of the teaching programme by the volunteer group which started on 23rd August, 2014 with twenty five volunteers from **IISER – Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research**. **Ms Raji Gopal**, Head, MACS coordinates the programme.

Editorial team: Ms Silvy Maxi Mena, Ms Sapna K., Ms Swapna P



“Empower to Enrich, Include to Integrate”

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPEECH & HEARING, KARIMANAL P O,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA , INDIA
www.nish.ac.in email : nishinfo@nish.ac.in ++91-471-306-6666