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## Notice of Annual General Meeting

To:

Members of the Singapore Indian Education Trust

Notice is hereby given that the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Singapore Indian Education Trust will be held on:

**Saturday 4th July 2009  
at 3.00 pm  
at the SINDA Auditorium  
No.1 Beatty Road, Level 3, Singapore 209943**

### Agenda

- To confirm and approve the Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008.
- To consider matters arising.
- To receive and adopt the Annual Report of the Management Council for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.
- To receive and adopt the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.
- To elect two Internal Auditors for the one year period 2009/2010.
- To deal with motions submitted by members, notice whereof has been given to the General Secretary at least two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Management Council

**Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam**

General Secretary

27th May 2009

# Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting

## Annual General Meeting of Singapore Indian Education Trust - 2008

Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting, held on 12 July 2008.  
3 pm, at the SINDA Auditorium, SINDA Building, 1 Beatty Road, Singapore – 209943.

### Members Present

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Balaji Sadasivan            | 18. Mr. Uttam Pritamdas Kripalani |
| 2. Mr. V P Jothi                   | 19. Mr. Selvaganthan              |
| 3. Mr. Shabbir Hassanbhai          | 20. Mr. J Manickavachagam         |
| 4. Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam | 21. Mr. P Thirunal Karasu         |
| 5. Mr. Krishnasamy Ravendran       | 22. Mr. Mohamed Baisal            |
| 6. Mr. S Malaiappan                | 23. Mr. Sathesh Ramiah            |
| 7. Mr. Vasuthevan K Ramamurthy     | 24. Mr. Gopal Varutharaju         |
| 8. Mr. Bala Subramanion            | 25. Mr. R Rameash                 |
| 9. Mr. R Narayanamohan             | 26. Mr. V Giri Mudeliar           |
| 10. Mr. P Sachithanantham          | 27. Mrs. Indra Krishnan           |
| 11. Mr. R Asokan                   | 28. Mr. C S Balan                 |
| 12. Ms. Saraspathy Menon           | 29. Mr. Doraraj S                 |
| 13. Mr. Manogaran s/o Suppiah      | 30. Mr. N P Karthigayan           |
| 14. Mr. Prakash Anandan            | 31. Mr. M Ganesan                 |
| 15. Mr. R Dhinakaran               | 32. Mr. P Raveentheran            |
| 16. Mr. Predeep Menon              |                                   |
| 17. Mr. A Chockalingam             |                                   |

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 President of SIET, Dr. Balaji Sadasivan assumed the Chair and proceeded to conduct the meeting after confirming with the General Secretary that there was a quorum.
- 1.2 In his opening he touched on the importance of education and emphasized that education was fundamental for the well being and success of the community.
- 1.3 He also commended previous generation of leaders in the 60's and 70's for having the vision to realize the importance of education for the community and helping to form and build up an organisation like SIET.
- 1.4 Dr. Balaji also paid tribute to his predecessor Mr. S Chandra Das for having provided strong and stable leadership at SIET over the past 25 years.
- 1.5 He praised SIET for its efforts in providing monetary aid through bursary awards, achievement awards and local and overseas study loans as well as providing guidance to Indian youth through channels like its ConneXus Mentorship Programme.
- 1.6 Dr. Balaji noted SIET's partnerships with other community based organisations such as SINDA, PA Narpani Pearavai as well as the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and highlighted the recent joint event on Entrepreneurship as an example of such partnerships.
- 1.7 He mentioned that as a part of the renewal process, three Council Members had voluntarily stepped down and others have stepped forward to fill the positions in the Management Council.
- 1.8 It was noted that Mr. Ramesh Selvaraj, Ms. Shanthini Muthiah and Mr. Raveen Tilani have stepped down from the Management Council. The Treasurer Mr. S Malaiappan has stepped down as required under the constitution of the Trust.

## Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting

1.9 Dr. Balaji thanked all outgoing Council members on behalf of SIET for their contributions and wished them all the best in their future endeavours.

1.10 Dr. Balaji also alerted members present about the looming global recession and advised that people must accept that economies undergo cyclical changes and learn to cope with the ups and downs.

1.11 He noted that the downturn would be a challenging period for community organisations like SIET in terms of raising funds and added that SIET should work closely with other community organisations to overcome the setbacks.

### **2. To confirm and approve the Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting held on 19th May 2007 (appearing in pages 3 - 6 of the annual report, 2007).**

The Secretary confirmed that no notice of amendments was received and the minutes were adopted by members present as:

Proposed by: Mr. R Narayana Mohan and

Seconded by: Mr. R Asokan

### **3. To consider matters arising.**

There were no matters arising from the previous AGM Minutes.

### **4. To receive and adopt the Annual Report of the Management Council for the period ending 31st December 2007.**

4.1 Referring to the number of members, Mr. R Asokan spoke of the need to increase the number of ordinary members.

4.2 Mr. N P Karthigayan proposed a “member get member” program to be introduced.

4.3 Mr. P Raveentheran suggested that SIET adopt a system to encourage loan and award recipients to contribute back to SIET.

4.4 Mr. Bala Subramanion proposed that a new column be added to the membership records shown in the Annual Report to reflect the number of new members who have joined during the year. He also said that while SIET must be commended for being able to raise funds, it must continue to focus on increasing its membership base.

4.5 Dr. Balaji agreed that the points raised about membership were valid and that more can be done to increase the membership base.

4.6 Mr. N P Karthigayan referred to Page 57 showing outstanding amount of S\$ 3,850 from a loan granted to Mr. Muthukumaran s/o Vetrivelu in 1997. Mr. Karthigayan asked what steps have been taken to recover the loan.

Mr. V P Jothi responded that every effort has been taken to recover the loan including legal letters to the last known address. Despite the efforts Mr. Muthukumaran was not contactable. Instead of writing off the loan as bad debt the outstanding amount remains on record with the hope the money will be recovered one day.



## Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting

4.7 To a question on whether interest was charged on outstanding loans, Mr. V P Jothi replied that on loans outstanding after the 5 year repayment timeline, interest will be levied and that this condition was introduced 2 years ago.

4.8 As there were no further matters pertaining to the annual report it was adopted as :

Proposed by: Mr. P Thirunal Karasu and

Seconded by: Mr. Uttam Pritamdas Kripalani

**5. To receive and adopt the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2007 (appearing from pages 28 – 57 of the annual report, 2007).**

There were no questions related to the audited accounts and it was adopted as :

Proposed by: Mr. Uttam Pritamdas Kripalani and

Seconded by: Mr. P Raveentheran

**6. To elect the Management Council for the two year period 2008/2010. President read out the names of Members elected to the 15 positions.**



POSITION	NAME OF CANDIDATE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Chairman	Mr. V P Jothi	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam	Mr. Shabbir Hassanbhai
Vice Chairman	Mr. Shabbir Hassanbhai	Mr. V P Jothi	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam
Vice Chairman	Mr. Krishnasamy Ravendran	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam	Mr. V P Jothi
General Secretary	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam	Mr. Krishnasamy Ravendran	Mr. V. P. Jothi
Asst. Secretary	Mr. Prakash Anandan	Mr. V P Jothi	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam
General Treasurer	Mr. R Jaya Pal	Mr. S Malaiappan	Mr. V P Jothi
Asst. Treasurer	Mr. Sathesh Ramiah	Mr. V P Jothi	Mr. Shabbir Hassanbhai
Council Member	Mr. Manogaran s/o Suppiah	Mr. V P Jothi	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam
Council Member	Mr. Vasuthevan K R	Mr. V P Jothi	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam
Council Member	Mr. Mayur Ghelani	Mr. V P Jothi	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam
Council Member	Mr. Predeep Menon	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam	Mr. V P Jothi
Council Member	Mr. Selvaganthan	Mr. Krishnasamy Ravendran	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam
Council Member	Mr. Amarjit Singh	Mr. V P Jothi	Mr. Shabbir Hassanbhai
Council Member	Mr. Gopal Varutharaju	Mr. V P Jothi	Mr. Shabbir Hassanbhai
Council Member	Mr. R Rameash	Mr. V P Jothi	Mr. Shabbir Hassanbhai

## Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting

### 7. To elect two Internal Auditors for the one year period 2008/2009.

As there was no contest the following were declared to be elected to the two vacant positions:

POSITION	CANDIDATE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Internal Auditor	Mr. V Giri Mudeliar	Mr. V P Jothi	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam
Internal Auditor	Mr. Rajan V K Krishnan	Mr. V P Jothi	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam

### 8. To appoint Messrs Natarajan and Swaminathan, Certified Public Accountants as Statutory Auditors for the Trust for the year 2008/2009.

The President declared that this item cannot be dealt with as rule 26-1 provided for the Council to appoint the external auditor at its first meeting.

### 9. To deal with the following motions Proposed by Mr. Uttam Pritamdas Kripalani and seconded by Mr. Predeep Menon.

- Consider the appointment of a special committee led by a lawyer to review and consider the re-drafting of the constitution and by laws of SIET to bring these in line with current corporate governance requirements and guidelines.
- The appointment of the External Auditors to be approved by the General Body at the AGM rather than by the new Management Council at its first meeting as provided in Rule 26-1.

9.1 Motion (a) was passed unanimously.

9.2 Motion (b) was not passed as it was felt by the General body that it should be reviewed by the special committee formed to review the constitution. Dr. Balaji noted that the appointment of external auditors would carry on as per the current constitution.

### 10. Closing

10.1 Dr. Balaji Sadasivan read out the letter from President S R Nathan to the General Secretary commending SIET for its good work and emphasizing the need to be vigilant about recovering loans despite the very low incidence of bad loans.

10.2 Chairman Mr. V P Jothi noted that the challenge for SIET was to spend the funds of the trust wisely and ensure that money reaches deserving candidates. He also mentioned that the support from the community had been excellent and hoped this will continue.

10.3 There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3.50pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Recorded by: Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam  
General Secretary

Reviewed by: Mr. V P Jothi  
Chairman

Approved by : Dr. Balaji Sadasivan  
President

12 July 2008

## The Chairman's Message



I am pleased to report that the Trust has continued to provide financial assistance to needy students in the Indian community through various bursary and study loan programs over the past year. We have at the same time expanded our role through the provision of mentoring programs for students and at the same time challenging students who are doing well to strive to excel in their respective fields through the provision of achievement awards and special awards.

**Our key efforts have been in the following three areas:**

### **Additional Financial Support to Needy Singaporeans**

- In times of economic difficulties bursaries were given twice in 2008 with a record sum of \$204,200 being distributed to needy students.

- We have also embarked on a program where we have individualized meetings with bursary applicants and their parents if they have not done well in their exams to motivate them to take advantage of the various support mechanisms available to help them improve their academic performance.

### **Building a Culture of Active Community Participation Through ConneXus**

- We have embarked on expanding our mentor pool for ConneXus so that we can encourage more professionals who are doing well to serve and reach out to motivate and guide more students.

- Our mentoring efforts through ConneXus are also being supported through our active partnership with organizations like the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce.

### **Challenging Indian Students to Excel**

- We continue to motivate ITE students who are doing well to sustain their efforts and encourage their course-mates to do the same through meeting up with good students and providing deserving students Achievement Awards. A record number of 21 ITE students were given Achievement Awards in 2008. 35 other students from the University, Polytechnics and Junior Colleges were similarly recognized.

- We have also continued to provide awards to encourage talented Indian students to excel in the areas of sports and the arts. We have for the first time also given a special recognition award to recognize Jathishweran Naidu for his outstanding performance in the movie "My Magic" which was nominated and screened at the Cannes Film Festival.

Looking ahead, we need to continue to seek ways to raise funds to support Indian students. This is becoming even more critical as we face economic uncertainties with more families likely to be in need. Many have stepped forward to contribute in the past and on behalf of the Trust, I would like to urge all members to rally more financial support for this very worthy cause.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V P Jothi".

V P Jothi  
Chairman

## Your Council Reports

Your Management Council is pleased to present its Annual report for the financial period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008.

### 1 Composition of the Trust

For the period under review the Trust operated under the advice and guidance of:

POSITION	NAME
President	Dr. Balaji Sadasivan
Vice President	Mr. Sat Pal Khattar
Vice President	BG (Retd) Kirpa Ram Vij

The day-to-day management of the Trust was vested in the Management Council comprising:

POSITION	NAME
Chairman	Mr. V P Jothi
Vice Chairman	Mr. Shabbir Hassanbhai
Vice Chairman	Mr. Krishnasamy Ravendran
General Secretary	Mr. Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam
Assistant Secretary	Mr. Prakash Anandan
General Treasurer	Mr. Ramasamy Jayapal
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. Sathesh Ramiah
Council Members	Mr. S Manogaran
	Mr. Mayur Ghelani
	Mr. Vasuthevan Ramamurthy
	Mr. Amarjit Singh
	Mr. Gopal Varutharaju
	Mr. Selvaganthan P
	Mr. Predeep Menon
	Mr. R Rameash
Internal Auditors	Mr. Giri V Mudeliar
	Mr. Rajan Krishnan

### 2 External Auditor

Messrs T Ravi & Co graciously accepted the Management Council's invitation to be appointed as Honorary External Auditors with effect from 1 January 2008. The Honorary External Auditors are appointed at the 1st Management Council's meeting following the AGM as provided in the Trust's constitution.

### 3 Staffing

Administrative functions of the Trust are carried out by Administration Manager, Ms. Parul Sena and Administrative Executive, Ms. Vasanthi Logapragasam. The accounting function of the Trust continues to be outsourced and has been provided by Mr. V R Ranganathan of Mohan and Associates since January 2007.

### 4 Membership

The membership status of the Trust is as follows:

Membership Type	Number of Members in 2006	Number of Members in 2007	Number of Members in 2008
Benefactor Members	90	91	93
Life Members	426	427	428
Associate Life Members	4	4	4
Institutional Members	3	3	3
Ordinary Members	1	1	1
Total Members	524	526	529

## Your Council Reports

### 5 Bursaries

The Trust disbursed bursaries twice in 2008:

- The 7th Indian Community Bursary Award (ICBA) presentation was held on 1st March 2008 where SIET provided bursaries worth **S\$85,300** to 343 Primary and Secondary school students.
- The 8th ICBA presentation was held on 13th December 2008. 428 primary and secondary students received bursary awards worth **\$107,600** from SIET.
- The Trust also gave bursaries worth **S\$6,500** to 13 needy and deserving students from ITE, Polytechnic and JC and a further **S\$4,800** to 16 students at Northlight school.
- The Central Sikh Gurdwara Board's donation of **S\$10,000** is maintained by the Trust to benefit Sikh students who qualify for bursary awards. The principal amount is topped up annually after disbursements have been made. For 2008, the Trust awarded 21 students a total of **S\$5,200**.

### 6 Awards and Study loans

The Trust continues to identify deserving students for the various awards and study loan schemes which are being administered. In keeping with our goal to encourage Indian students to pursue areas they are talented in, the Trust has also provides awards for deserving students in the field of Sports and the Arts.

### SIET Achievement Awards for JC, ITE, Polytechnic and University Students

A total of **56** awards worth **S\$78,500** were given at the 4<sup>th</sup> SIET Achievement Award ceremony on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008 by Guest of Honour, Ms. Indranee Rajah, Deputy Speaker and Member of Parliament, Tanjong Pagar GRC. Eighteen awards went to University students, nine awards to Polytechnic students, eight to Junior College students and twenty one to ITE students. These awards recognize the all round performance of students and award recipients are encouraged to continue to excel while at the same time contribute to the community.

### SIET Special Recognition Award

A Special Recognition Award of **S\$1,000** was given to Jathishweran Naidu s/o Gopalan Naidu for his outstanding performance in the movie "My Magic" directed by Mr. Eric Khoo. The movie was nominated and screened at Cannes Film Festival. The Award was presented by the President of SIET, Dr. Balaji Sadasivan.

### Conference Awards

A total of **S\$3,500** was extended to two students to allow them the opportunity to present papers at international conferences.

### SIET – Sports and Arts Awards

A total of eight study awards totaling **S\$ 24,718** was extended to talented students from the Singapore Sports School and the School of the Arts in 2008.

### SIET Study Loans

Study loans totaling **S\$51,589.95** were awarded to six undergraduate students to support them in their studies.

### G Sarangapany Fellowships in Media

Fellowships worth **S\$5,000** each were awarded to two students pursuing their Masters in Mass Communication at NTU.

### SIET Global Immersion Programme (GIP) Scholarship at Nanyang Technological University

Two awards worth **S\$5,000** each was given by SIET for the first time to students studying at NTU under the GIP scheme which allows students to benefit from an attachment programme in a foreign country.

### NUS Tamil Language Society Tuition Programme (Saadhana)

Saadhana aims to enhance the performance of 'A' level Indian students by providing quality tuition at heavily subsidized rates. Saadhana 2008 was held in Yio Chu Kang Secondary School from May to October. **97** students benefitted from the program.

SIET continues to be a major provider of financial support for Saadhana and shares the NUSTLS's aim of ensuring that a greater number of Indian students excel in their A levels and qualify to enter Universities. Funding for this programme was **S\$10,000**.

## 7 Finance and Investments

### Financial Highlights

The Net Assets of the Trust as at 31st December 2008 was **S\$3,642,137** compared to **S\$ 3,932,046** in 2007.

Total Income	S\$ 331,997
Total Expenditure	S\$ 534,420
Deficit	S\$ 202,423

### Current assets Comprising:

Investments	S\$ 1,882,406
Cash at Bank	S\$ 1,731,315
Receivables	S\$ 16,309

Outstanding Study loans	S\$ 488,783
Loans repaid	S\$ 126,944
Scholarships, study loan, bursaries disbursed	S\$ 389,258

## 8 Investments

SIET's Investments portfolio was not drastically affected by the ongoing global financial crisis. SIET's investments fared significantly better than market averages. The investment committee of SIET is fully committed to preserving the value of its assets by following a prudent low risk investment policy.



## Your Council Reports

The portfolio continues to reflect a mix of investment grade fixed income securities and active use of cash via fixed deposits and preferred securities of local banks. Approximately S\$2 million in fixed income securities has allowed SIET to earn approximately **S\$60,000** in 2008 as current income.

The Committee is confident that the strategy of investing in relatively high yield fixed income securities with an avoidance of equities continues to be the right strategy for SIET. This strategy has allowed it to earn a current income of approximately 5% per annum with a principal protection and a strategy which avoids huge mark to market losses.

### 9 Endowment Funds and Donations

The Trust received the following contributions towards the Endowment Funds:

1. PA Narpani Pearavai Education Trust Fund – **S\$20,700**
2. Galaxy Education Trust Fund – **S\$4,994**

The Trust also received a significant donation of **S\$50,000** from the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club from the proceeds of a Charity Golf Tournament.

### 10 Conclusion

We have significantly increased our financial support to the Indian community in 2008 through our various schemes. Many have stepped forward to support the cause of the Trust and we are confident that even in times of economic uncertainty, we will continue to receive the support of the very many individuals and organizations that have been steadfast in their support of the Trust.

For and On-behalf of the Management Council

**Puvanaratnam s/o Ariaratnam**  
General Secretary



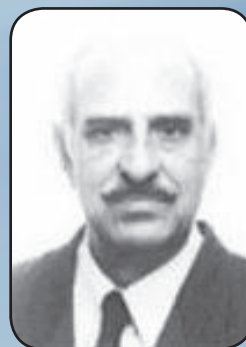
## Management Council Members



**Balaji Sadasivan**  
President



**Sat Pal Khatter**  
Vice President



**Kirpa Ram Vij**  
Vice President



**V P Jothi**  
Chairman

Executive Director  
Ascendia Linx Pte Ltd .



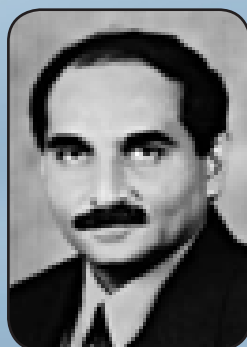
**Shabbir Hassanbhai**  
Vice Chairman

Director  
Indo Straits Trading  
Co P L



**Krishnasamy  
Ravendran**  
Vice Chairman

Advisory Director  
Temasek Holdings



**Puvanaratnam s/o  
Ariaratnam**  
General Secretary

Deputy Director,  
National Education &  
Planning,  
Ministry of Education



**Prakash Anandan**  
Asst. Secretary

Technical Services  
Engineer,  
ST Aerospace Ltd



**Ramasamy Jayapal**  
General Treasurer

Vice President,  
South East Asia  
& Pacific, Parker Randall



**Sathesh Ramiah**  
Asst Treasurer

Regional Director  
Finance, Honeywell  
International Inc



## Management Council Members



**Mayur Ghelani**  
Council Member

Managing Director  
Duetsche Bank



**Vasuthevan  
Ramamurthy**  
Council Member

Principal  
Bishan Sec. Sch



**S Manogaran**  
Council Member

CEO, SINDA



**Gopal Varutharaju**  
Council Member

Managing Director,  
Electra  
Singapore Private Limited



**Predeep Menon**  
Council Member

CEO & Executive  
Director, SICCI



**Amarjit Singh**  
Council Member

Group Vice President,  
United Test &  
Assembly Centre



**R Rameash**  
Council Member

HR Director,  
Tycoelectronics  
Singapore  
Private Limited



**Selvaganthan P M**  
Council Member

Air Force Officer,  
Singapore  
Armed Forces



**V Giri Mudeliar**  
Internal Auditor

Executive Director, Unity  
Capital Management  
(Singapore) Pte Ltd.



**V K Rajan Krishnan**  
Internal Auditor

Senior Vice President,  
Parsons Brinckerhoff  
International Pte Ltd

ConneXus launched in August 2006 is an initiative of SIET to promote a platform for Indian youth to build networking and interact. The web-enabled ConneXus Mentorship program aims to facilitate an exchange of information and enable guidance from experienced professional mentors to promising Indian youth.

### ConneXus Team

The ConneXus program is managed by ConneXus Team which consists mainly of past recipients of SIET awards. The ConneXus Team meets regularly to review the ConneXus program and explore ideas to further increase the reach and effectiveness of ConneXus.



ConneXus Team

### ConneXus gets a new face

In Sept 2008, we upgraded the ConneXus portal to support facebook users and facilitate the email forum. This has enabled seamless and easy communication between mentors and mentees.



Forum Board

Topic	Views	Posts	Last Post
Introduction	2	2	Thu May 01, 2008 12:15 AM
First Time Mentees	0	0	No Posts
Banking / Finance	0	0	No Posts
Mr. Ravi Krishnasamy	0	0	No Posts
Mr. Rama Chandra	0	0	No Posts
Engineering	1	4	Sat Feb 16, 2008 10:17 AM
Mr. Prakash Arundhan	0	0	No Posts
Information Technology	3	4	Sat Dec 13, 2008 9:12 AM
IT Experts	0	0	No Posts
Healthcare / Biotech	21	10	Mon May 05, 2009 11:15 AM
Dr. Ramesh Subramanian	0	0	No Posts
Teaching	0	0	No Posts
Mr. Pavan Arjapattam	0	0	No Posts
Law	3	10	Sat Jan 24, 2009 7:05 AM
Mr. Ramesh Subramanian	0	0	No Posts
Ms. Subha Shree	1	1	Sat Feb 07, 2009 8:18 AM
Mr. Ravi Karthik	0	0	Mon Feb 02, 2009 12:14 AM

## Dialogue Session With Polytechnic Students

### eMentoring

Mentorship in areas such as Medicine, Law, IT and Entrepreneurship has been active this year.

As a part of the mentorship program for medicine, a second hospital attachment was organized by Dr. S Ramesh for 6 students from various Junior Colleges and the Singapore Polytechnic. The students who were interested in the medical field were provided with an invaluable opportunity to gain an insight into the medical profession through a 5 day attachment at Changi General Hospital Orthopedic Unit, Flinders Practice, NUH Ophthalmology Unit, Singapore General Hospital Neurosurgery Unit, Singapore Medical Centre, and Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

The mentees have actively used the forum board to interact and to plan for their attachment and post feedback about their daily experiences. Mentors have found the forum board a time-saving tool to post logistical details about the attachment.

We want to attract more ITE and Polytechnic students onto this new platform. To further this objective a road show is being planned for 2009 jointly with the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce.



Mentor Dr. S Ramesh (extreme left) with 6 participants of Medical Attachment Program



## Mentors

A drive to increase the number of qualified mentors has been put in place. To keep the mentors engaged actively with ConneXus, a mentors get-together is being planned for 2009.

## 'GET CONNECTED'

ConneXus organized 'Get Connected'- dialogue session about the power of networking for polytechnic students at the NUSS Guild House, Suntec City on 31st May 2008.

Several speakers from different industries gave motivating talks to students on how to improve their career opportunities with the power of networking. It gave a valuable chance for students to mingle and to 'connect' with industry professionals. Students were also introduced to a panel of e-mentors from fields like aviation, medicine, law and the civil service and learnt how to use the e-mentoring portal to connect with mentors online. At the end of the session, students gained valuable insights on effective networking and got to know the mentors.

'Get Connected' - Participants



Since its launch in 2006, the ConneXus program has slowly gained momentum as it reaches out to more and more Indian youths. We hope that Indian youths will take advantage of ConneXus and the platform it provides to make greater strides in their academic and career pursuits.

## The ConneXus website:

<http://www.connexussingapore.org> has details of all upcoming events.

## New Website



## Achievement Award Presentation Ceremony 2008

The fourth annual achievement awards presentation was held on 1st November 08 at the SMU conference hall. Deputy Speaker of Parliament and MP for Tanjong Pagar GRC, Miss Indranee Rajah graced the event where students from Junior Colleges, Polytechnics, ITE and Universities were recognized for their all round excellence in both academics and extra-curricular activities.

A total of **56** awards worth **S\$78,500.00** were given out to students. A special achievement award was also presented to 12 year old Jathishweran for his performance in the local movie 'My Magic' that was screened at the Cannes Film Festival. Acclaimed film maker and director of the movie, Eric Khoo was also present as a special guest for the evening.

Singapore Idol finalist Mathilda de Silva performed an excellent rendition of the song "Heroes" which was dedicated to all the award winners of the evening.



Our SIET SOTA Award Recipients as emcees at the ceremony



Mathilda sings in praise of "HEROES"

## Our Achievement Awards Winners



Award Recipients





## Reflections of our Award Recipients

Eight years ago when I was taking my GCE “N” Levels, I never had a positive mindset. I was not focusing on studying and was always mischievous in class. My parents always told me to study hard so that I could get a high-paying job. I knew they had my best interest but nevertheless, I still continued to neglect my education. I did my GCE “O” Level’s in 2001 and only managed to secure 2 GCE “O” passes. My friends scoffed at me for not being able to move on to a polytechnic. Feeling humiliated and ashamed of myself, I started to drift away from them. I knew that that I brought it upon myself.



“What do successful students have that I lack?” I asked myself in 2007. I knew that there are no shortcuts to success. I made up my mind to work hard. I applied for a course in Nitec in Instrumentation in January 2007 and became the Class Chairman in 2007. My close friend, Sangeetha also advised me to join the Student Council as I can learn a lot of leadership skills and keep myself disciplined. I participated actively in my CCA by helping out in school events and organising events.

In March 2008, I was nominated President of ITE College Central Macpherson Student Council. I was also chosen as the Chairperson for Projects for the five campuses in the College Central Network. I have a much hectic lifestyle compared to what I had years ago but I am able to manage. The key? I am sacrificing some things in my life temporarily to achieve what I want permanently in my life.

I am holding two part-time jobs to support myself financially currently and am also building my own internet-based business to create income for me and my family. My next step is to secure a place in Singapore Polytechnic and pursue my full-time diploma studies in Electrical & Electronics Engineering.

When I received the SIET Award in November 2008, I was speechless. I had never received a prestigious award in my life before. I was featured in our Tamil Murasu newspaper twice & was also interviewed by the media from Vasantham Central. This significant experience has given me more self-confidence to excel in my future studies at the polytechnic and beyond.

**Logendran s/o Sugumaran**  
*Final Year Student, ITE Macpherson*



I was elated when I was informed that I was successful in my application for the NTU - Singapore Indian Educational Trust GIP Scholarship.

A 3rd year mechanical engineering student in NTU’s 4 year direct honors program, my course requires of me to perform a 22-week industrial attachment to attain a good hands-on experience in our respective sphere of interest. I applied to do my internship abroad in India, with one of Asia’s leading conglomerates, the TATA Group.

The SIET scholarship award has brought me closer to achieving my aspirations in life. Interning with such a reputable organization has

been such an enriching and rewarding experience so far and all this would not have been possible without NTU or SIET. My deepest heartfelt gratitude to both, NTU and SIET.

**Sunnypal S Sandhu**  
*3rd Year Mechanical Engineering Student, NTU*

## Reflections of our Award Recipients



Clinical Neuropsychology is a sub-specialty of Clinical Psychology that involves diagnostic assessment and treatment of patients with brain injury or neuro-cognitive deficits. Currently, I am focusing on the research aspect of this field through my Master by Research degree at the National University of Singapore. My research is on mild head injury patients. The support for educational endeavours to keep abreast with knowledge in one's research topic is quite limited in Singapore. This was where SIET stepped in.

I approached SIET with a request for conference funding as I was selected to present my research findings at the 7th World Congress on Brain Injury organized by the International Brain Injury Association. The conference was in Lisbon, Portugal from the 8th of April 2008 to the 12th of April 2008.

SIET came in a timely manner to assist me in my endeavour

**Amutha Meyyappan**  
*Masters Student, NUS*

After graduating from ITE, I will be entering the polytechnic to further my education. The SIET Award was a great help for me and my family.

I would like to express my gratitude to Singapore Indian Education Trust for selecting me. During the interview for the award, the interviewers were very encouraging and I noticed that they were very concerned about the education of Indian students.

I really appreciate SIET for helping needy and deserving Indian students in their education.

**Yogeswari d/o Mani**  
*Final Year Student, ITE East*



Last year SIET introduced a new award known as 'the Special Recognition Award'. This is the first time SIET has ever presented such an award. The 'Special Recognition award' was presented to me for my achievement in the film industry. I had recently played a role in a local film called 'My Magic' that won awards at the Cannes film festival. The movie had opened many paths for my future. I am happy and honored to receive the special recognition award from SIET. The award has also motivated me to excel in my studies and achieve greater things. I hope to serve as a role model to others so that they too can get recognized by the SIET.

**Jathishweran Naidu s/o Gopalan Naidu**  
*Sec 2 Student, Unity Secondary School*

## Our G Sarangapany Fellowship in Media Recipients



I have been in the local Indian media industry for the past 6 years, having worked in advertising and currently in channel promotions and branding. As my Bachelor's degree qualification was in Computational Finance and not very relevant to my current job, I decided to equip myself with the relevant industry skills and knowledge with a part-time Masters degree in Mass Communications.

It is very encouraging to see SIET giving out the G Sarangapany Fellowship Award in Media to

encourage individuals to develop themselves further and contribute in the field of media/journalism.

I am very proud and motivated to have received this Fellowship Award for 2008.

With the launch of Vasantham as a full fledged channel last year, the local Indian media industry is growing and requires more new talents to fill up the manpower needs in media production.

Fellowship Awards like these will surely encourage more Indian youths to join the media industry and contribute to the growth and betterment of the Indian media and community in Singapore.

**Thilagaraja s/o Manickam**

*Master of Mass Communication  
Nanyang Technological University*

As a student, I grew up avidly interested in mass media and aspired to be a journalist. I love creative writing and clever wordplay. I started writing Tamil poems at a very young age and wanted to excel in writing.

But as I grew older I started to sample and savour movies, documentaries and TV shows. I admired its creativity coupled with its power to influence and I knew that my career decision was made. I wanted to produce TV shows, which has the opportunity to move audiences through dramas, to educate them through documentaries, to entertain them with variety shows and to make them forget themselves and laugh out aloud with comedies.

I am now a scriptwriter at MediaCorp TV12

As TV media is going through an era of constant changing, I would like to be part of the Singapore Indian TV industry and its future. Pursuing my graduate studies in Master of Mass Communications at Nanyang Technological University is the next step in realizing my dreams.

I am especially grateful to SIET for selecting me as a recipient of G.Sarangapany's Media Scholarship award, which enabled me to pursue my graduate studies. SIET's continuing encouragement and support motivates me to excel in my field and to contribute back to the society. By taking on the role as a mentor for the mass media industry, I aim to help and steer more Indian students towards the creative industry that I love. THANK YOU SIET!

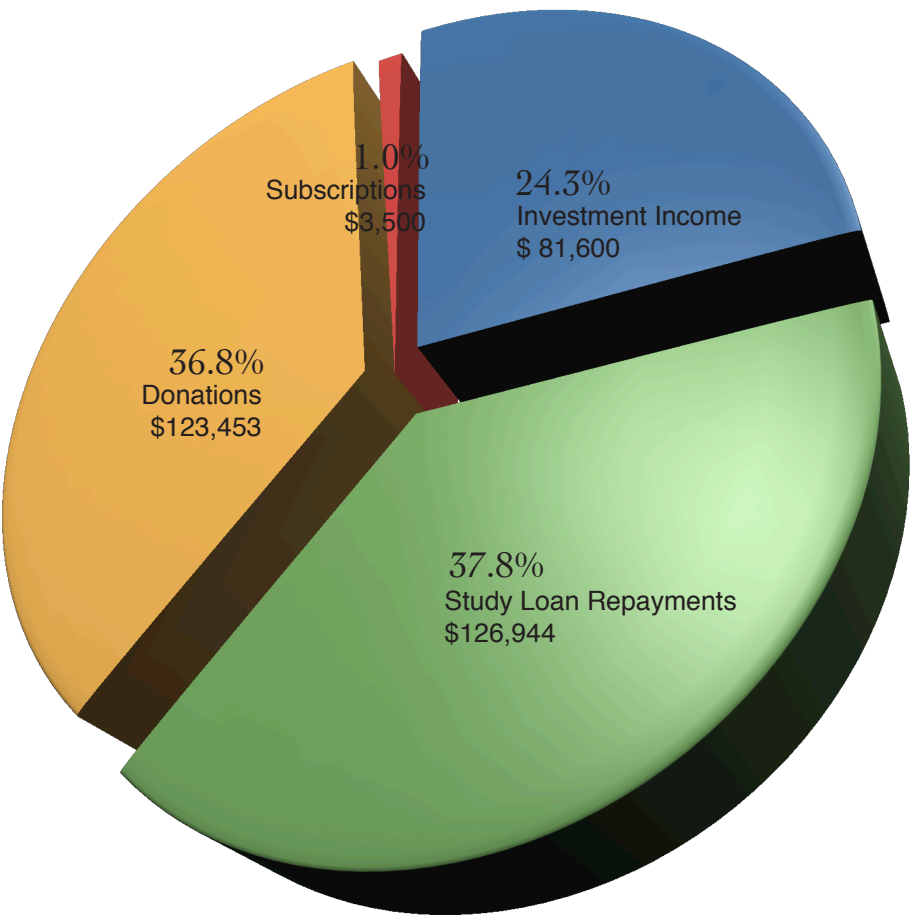
**Jaya Rathakrishnan**

*Master of Mass Communication  
Nanyang Technological University*

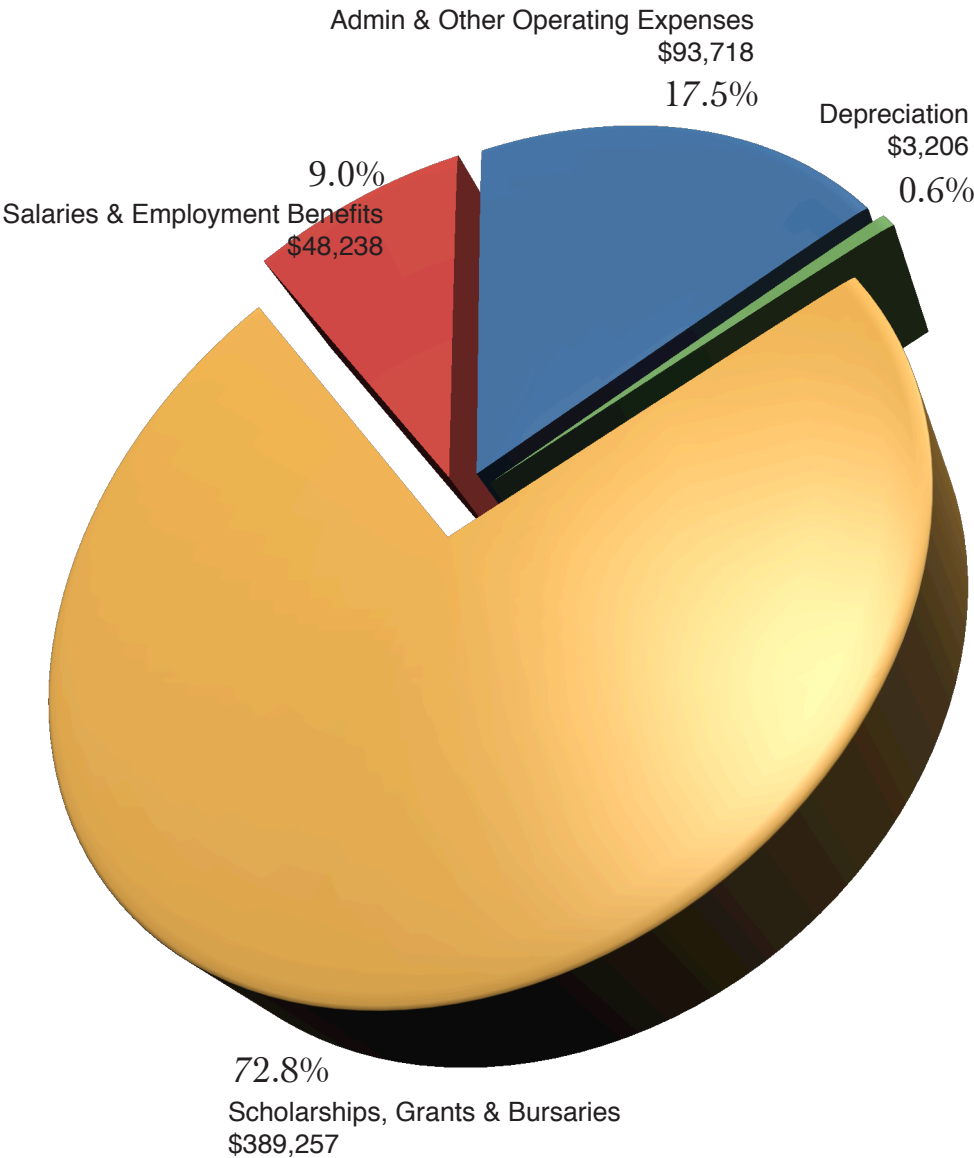


Our Financial Status as at December 31st, 2008

Income at a glance



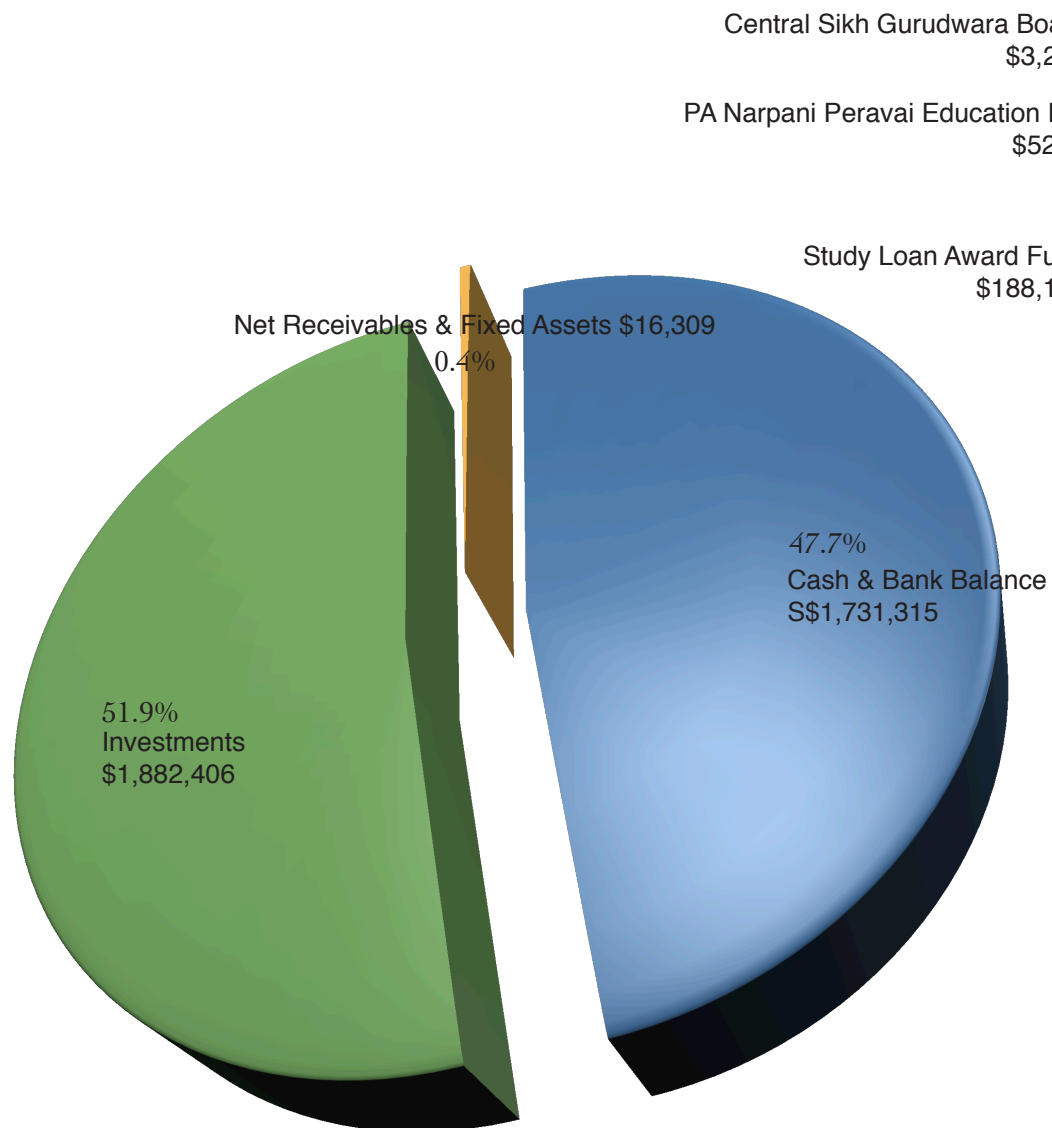
Expenditure at a glance



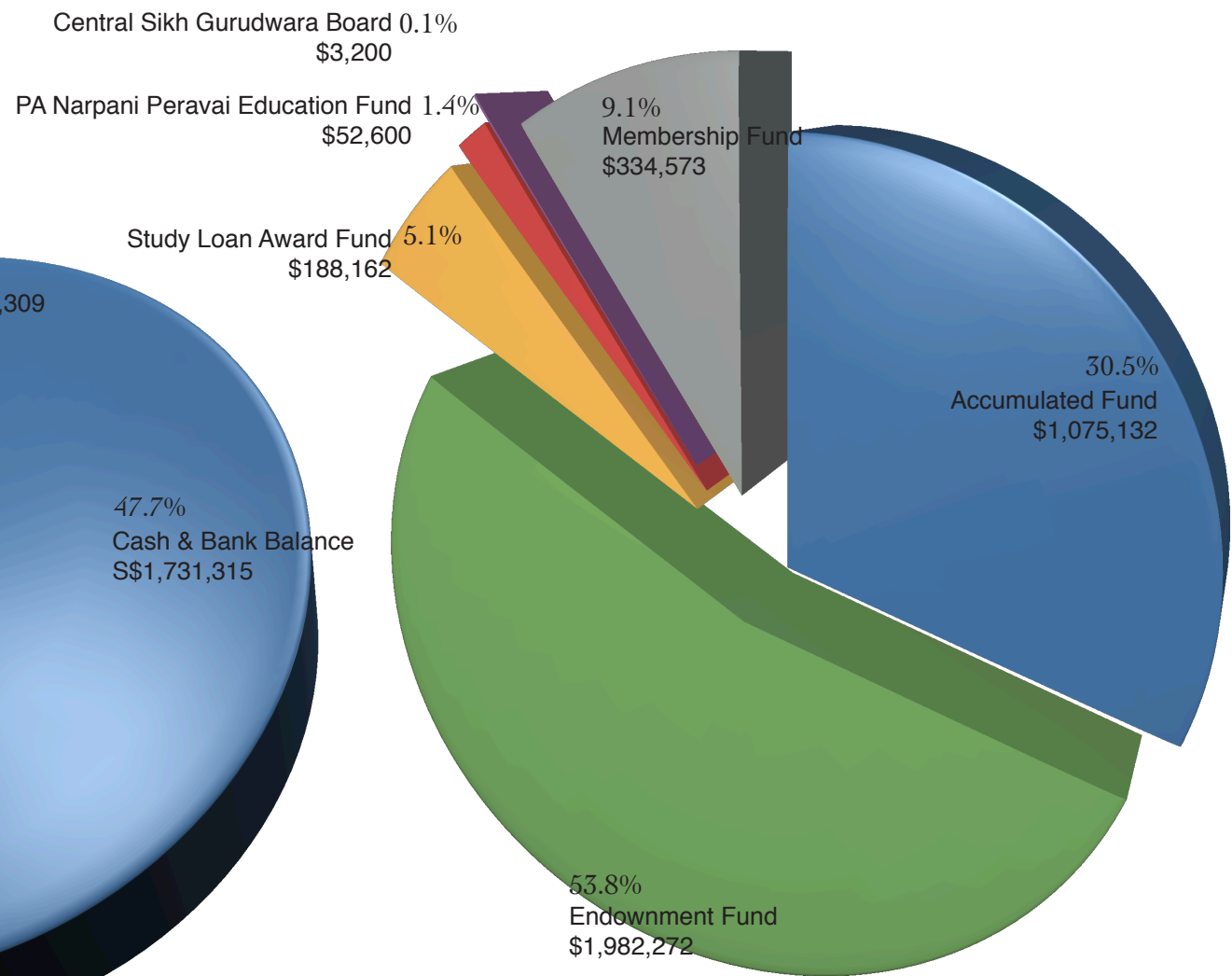


## Our Financial Status as at December 31st, 2008

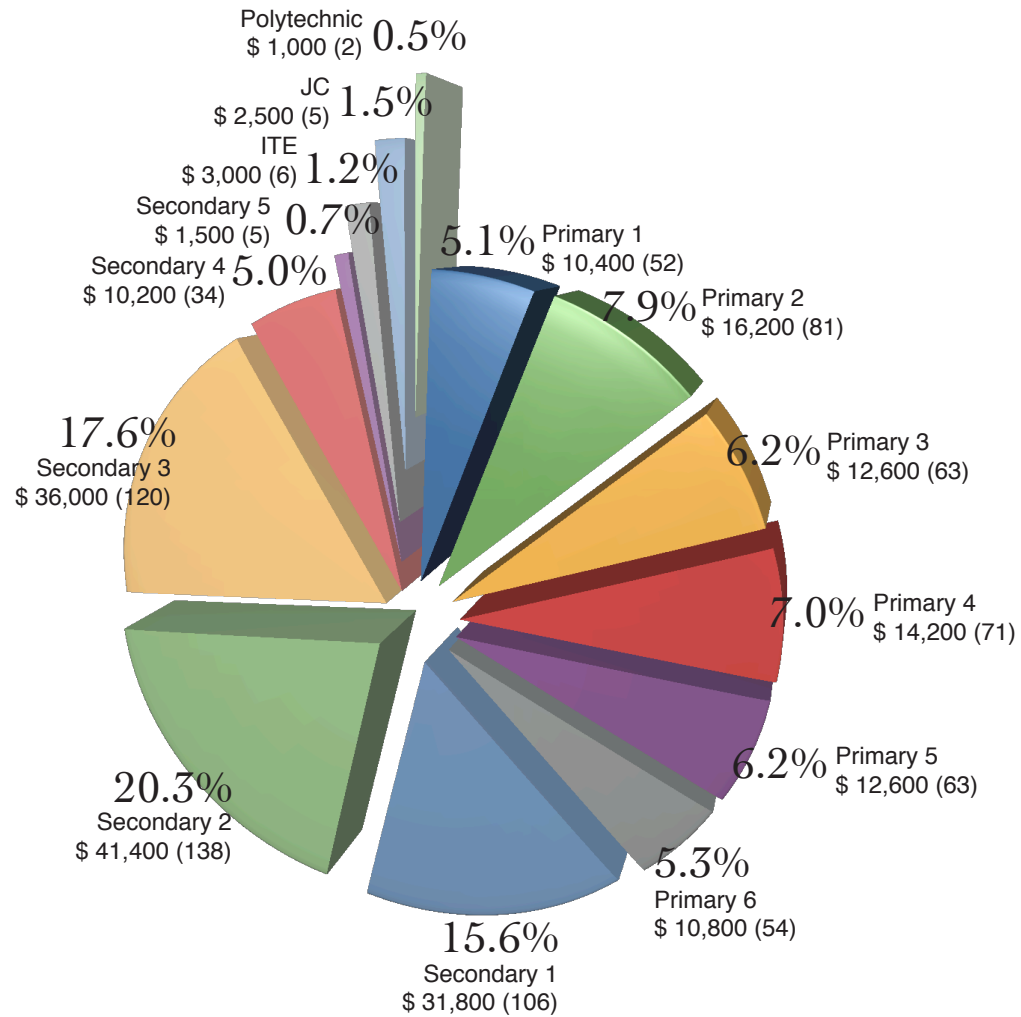
### Breakdown of Assets



### Net Assets Represented by



## Bursary Awards 2008



## Total bursaries given to students from 1969 to 2008

