



2006-07-4

# G R A P E V I N E



A quarterly newsletter of Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur for alumni and friends

## Institute Milestones

### IITK Ranked Top School Again

IIT Kanpur has been assessed as the best technical Institution in India according to a survey recently conducted by *India Today*. Details are available at: <http://www.iitk.ac.in/infocell/iitk/iitop.pdf>

### Convocation 2007

The 39th convocation of IIT Kanpur was held on June 1, 2007. Mr. G. Madhavan Nair, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), has graced this occasion as the Chief Guest. Prof. M. Anandkrishnan, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur presided over the proceedings of the convocation. A total of 913 degrees were conferred to the students, which included Bachelor of Technology (306), Master of Technology Dual Degree (5-year) (41), Master of Science (5-year integrated) (37), Master of Science (2-year) (85), Master of Business Administration (32), Master of Technology (312), Master of Design (14) and Doctor of Philosophy (86).

**Ravishankar Sundararaman** (M. Sc. 5 /PHY), **Aparna Singh** (BT/MME) and **Arunabh Chattopadhyay** (MT/EE) received the **President's Gold Medal**, **Director's Gold Medal** and **Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma Medal** respectively. Details are available at: <http://www.iitk.ac.in/doaa/convocation2007/>

Prof. **Pinaki Gupta-Bhaya** (Chemistry) is the first recipient of the **Gopal Das Bhandari Memorial Outstanding Teacher Award**. Dr. Gupta-Bhaya obtained his B. Sc. in 1964 from Presidency College, Calcutta and B.A. (Hons) for Natural Sciences Tripos in 1967 from Cambridge University, England. Subsequently, he earned his Ph. D. from Columbia University, USA in 1971. He spent a year as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Max-Planck Institute in Germany and thereafter joined IIT Kanpur in 1973. The Gopal Das Bhandari Memorial Outstanding Teacher Award has been instituted by Mr. Anil Bhandari (BT/ME/1969) to honour his father. The award includes a cash award of Rs. 50,000/- and a citation.



## Academic Collaborations and Highlights

**Rekindling the spirit of Kanpur Indo-American Program (KIAP):** Mr. Geoffrey Pyatt, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of USA in India, visited IIT Kanpur on August 10, 2007 and delivered a talk on "US India Strategic Partnership: Path Forward." He was accompanied by Dr. Satish Kulkarni (MT/CE/1968), Counselor for S&T at the Embassy of USA in India. The visit has enabled further discussions between IITK and the Embassy of USA in New Delhi on the ways to rekindle the spirit of KIAP which, in its early years, had helped IIT Kanpur emerge as a leading academic institute.

**IITK-NTU Symposium:** The inaugural joint workshop between the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the Departments of Mechanical, Aerospace and Industrial and Management Engineering of IIT Kanpur was held at NTU, Singapore on July 10, 2007. It was aimed primarily at fostering research collaboration between the faculties of both the Universities.

Details are available at: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/mae/admin/publicity/iitkworkshop/>

**National Convention on Value Education through Jeevan Vidya:** Organized by IIT Kanpur, IIT Delhi, and IIIT Hyderabad, the Convention on Value Education focused on understanding the concept of Jeevan Vidya and incorporating Value Education based on Jeevan Vidya in Engineering. The convention was held in New Delhi during May 22-24, 2007 and was inaugurated by the then President of India, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Details are available at: <http://www.iitk.ac.in/infocell/announce/ncvejv/>

**Summer Camp at IITK:** The Department of Civil Engineering at IIT Kanpur, in association with Tandon Consultants Pvt Ltd., New Delhi, organized the seventh annual four-week technology camp for the second year undergraduate civil engineering students from across the country (6th June-3rd July, 2007). Acclaimed as a “life transforming” experience by its participants, the camp once again endeavored to re-create the appeal of Civil Engineering profession by motivating the participants to excel in this fascinating field of human endeavor. An important highlight of the camp was an audience with the then President of India, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Details are available at: <http://www.iitk.ac.in/summercamp/>

**Lockheed Martin Award:** Aurora Integrated Systems Pvt. Ltd. a company at SIDBI Innovation & Incubation Centre at IIT Kanpur received the *Lockheed Martin India Innovation Award* instituted by aerospace giant Lockheed Martin Corporation under its India Innovation Growth Programme. Details are available at <http://www.hindu.com/2007/07/19/stories/2007071956221300.htm> and [http://telegraphindia.com/1070723/asp/knowhow/story\\_8092109.asp](http://telegraphindia.com/1070723/asp/knowhow/story_8092109.asp)

## Support from Donors

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**Poonam and Prabhu Goel Chair:** Dr. Prabhakar (Prabhu) Goel (BT/EE/1970) and his wife Mrs. Poonam Goel had set up the Poonam and Prabhu Goel Chair at IIT Kanpur in the area of “internet space” in the year 2000. Dr. Goel has now decided that this donation should be split into three faculty chairs; one will be open to all faculty members of the *Computer Science and Engineering Department* and the other two chairs will be open to the *rest of the faculty members* of the Institute. Dr. Goel was a recipient of the President's Gold Medal at IIT Kanpur, and later received a Ph. D. in Electrical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. He is an active philanthropist and, in 1994, founded the Foundation for Excellence ([www.ffe.org](http://www.ffe.org)), which has funded over eight thousand students in India. Dr. Goel is an active private venture investor, serving on the board of Directors of several private companies and Synplicity, Inc. (NASDAQ:SYNP). He is the Chairman of Signet Solar Inc., USA and Co-Chairman of the Cabana Hostels (India) group.



**N. C. Nigam Chair:** Family, friends and admirers of the late Professor N. C. Nigam have created a faculty chair in his memory at IIT Kanpur. The Chair will be open to the faculty members of *all the departments of the Institute*. Nigam has had an illustrious career as an academican at various institutions across the country. He obtained his B. E. in Civil Engineering from the University of Roorkee, M.S. from Purdue University, and a Ph. D. from California Institute of Technology (Caltech). He was a faculty member of IIT Kanpur from 1969 to 1981 and served the Institute in various capacities as Dean R&D, Head of Aeronautical Engineering Dept. and Deputy Director. He also acted as the Chairman of All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) from 2000 to 2001. He was honoured as a distinguished alumnus by Caltech in 1991. *Further contributions to the endowment fund for this chair are welcome.*



**Ram Tiwari Chair:** Dr. Kamal K. Tiwari (BT/ME/1973) and his wife Gloria have set up the “Ram Tiwari Chair” at IIT Kanpur to honour his father. The Chair will be set up in the Management Programme of the Dept. of *Industrial and Management Engineering*. Dr. Kamal did his M.S. in Aerospace Engineering & Biomedical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University. He is a M. D. from Ohio Medical College and currently practices medicine. He is the President and CEO of “Pain Management Centre” with multiple clinics in Indiana, and the President and CEO of “Southern Indiana Anesthesia Group.” He is also the Founder and part-owner of the “Monroe Hospital” in Indiana. His wife Gloria has a degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University, and is an MBA from Indiana University Bloomington's Kelley School of Business.



**Rajeeva Lahri Chair:** Dr. Rajeeva Lahri (MSc. 2/Phy/1975; MT/MSP/1976) and his wife Mrs. Sangita Lahri have created a faculty chair at IIT Kanpur. The chair is meant for faculty members in *Engineering and Applied Sciences* working in the areas of energy, infrastructure, or an area leading to the improvement of quality of life in India. Dr. Rajeeva is the Founder and CEO of Signet Solar Inc, USA. He has earlier served in many operational and technology leadership positions: CTO and Executive VP, worldwide operations at Intersil Corporation, Senior VP of technology and operations at Elantec (acquired by Intersil Corp), Deputy CTO of Philips Semiconductors, and Senior VP of corporate technology for VLSI Technology Inc (acquired by Philips). Prior to that, he held different positions in National Semiconductor and Hewlett Packard. Dr. Rajeeva is a charter member of TiE and a founder of Fab Owners Association (FOA; [www.waferfabs.org](http://www.waferfabs.org)). He is a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the State University of New York, Buffalo at New York.



**Sanjay Mittal Chair:** Dr. Sanjay Mittal (BT/EE/1975) and his wife Mrs. Preeti Mittal have set up a faculty chair open to all faculty members in *Engineering and Mathematics* who are working on innovative computational algorithms. He is the Founder and former CEO of Selectica, where he has earlier served as the CTO and Vice President of Engineering. He is the architect of its innovative constraints based configuration and pricing technology, and holds multiple patents. He was a senior researcher at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Centre. He is a Ph. D. in Computer Science from the Ohio State University.



**Tapan Kumar and Swapna Bandyopadhyay Scholarship:** To honour his parents, Dr. Subhajyoti Bandyopadhyay (BT/EE/1991) has set up a scholarship of Rs. 2000 per month for *B. Tech./ MSc (Integ.) students* on merit-cum-means basis. Dr. Subhajyoti is currently an Assistant Professor in the department of Decision and Information Sciences at the University of Florida, Gainesville. He is a PGDM from IIM Bangalore and holds a Ph. D. in Management Information Systems from Purdue University. He has had several years of industry experience with IBM India.

**Shiv Kumari Shukla Scholarship:** To honour his mother, Dr. Devendra Kumar Shukla (BT/CE/1967) has instituted a scholarship of Rs. 2000 per month to be given to a *B. Tech. girl student of any department* on the merit-cum-means basis. His mother, Shiv Kumari Shukla, was a self taught woman, who despite her limited circumstances, learnt a lot on her own and was a competent Arithmetic and English tutor to her children. Dr. Shukla has worked for 34 years on infrastructure, environmental and power projects worldwide and is currently the CEO and Founder of ITSI, an international infrastructure and environmental firm. He received his Ph. D. in 1974 in Operational Research and Engineering Mechanics.

**Aedunuthula Prasad Memorial Scholarship:** In the loving memory of late Prasad Aedunuthula (MT/CHE/1994), his parents Sarojini Mattegunta and Rama Koteswar Rao Aedunuthula, have established a scholarship for *undergraduate students of Chemical Engineering* on a merit-cum-means basis. Prasad held a B. Tech. (Chemical) from Osmania University and M. Tech. from IIT Kanpur. He had always excelled in academics and extra-curricular activities. An avid music lover, Prasad played string instruments such as the veena, banjo, and keyboard.



**Harish and Sushila Chandra Scholarship and Yogendra Nath and Sushma Gupta Scholarship:** To honour their respective parents, Mr. Ashok K. Chandra (BT/EE/1969) and his wife Mala have set up two scholarships of Rs. 2000 per month each for *B. Tech. students in Electrical Engineering or Computer Science Engineering* departments on merit-cum-means basis. Mr. Chandra is currently the General Manager of Microsoft, creating new technologies and next-generation products for web search. Earlier he was the Director of Computer Science Department at IBM's Almaden Research Center. Chandra is an IEEE fellow. He was instrumental in setting up IBM's Research Center at IIT Delhi in 1998. Mr. Chandra has received his M. S. from UC Berkeley, and is a Ph. D. from Stanford University in Computer Science.



## Alumni News and Events

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**Distinguished Alumni Awards in New York:** History was made on June 24, 2007 when the IITK East Coast Alumni Association hosted the first off-campus Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony at the august compounds of the Indian Consulate in New York City. The ceremony opened to a warm reception by Her Excellency, the Consulate General Mrs. Neelam Deo, who lauded the achievements made by the IITK alumni over the last 40 years. Distinguished alumni honorees, Dr. Ambuj Goyal (BT/EE/1978), presently General Manager of the Software Division at IBM (refer to Grapevine, 2005-06/III) and Mr. Ravi Akhoury (BT/EE/1968), CEO of Mackay Shield and Vice Chairman of the New York Life Investment Management (refer to Grapevine, 2006-07/3) were felicitated during the ceremony for their outstanding achievements. The event was a roaring success with several entertainment programs and a fabulous lunch. Significant networking was established between several alumni many of whom made on the spot donations to their alma mater. The slide show is available at: [http://www.njphotography.biz/ICGNY\\_IIT/](http://www.njphotography.biz/ICGNY_IIT/)

**Pan IIT 2007 Global Alumni Conference:** The Global Alumni Conference was held in Silicon Valley, California, during July 6-8, 2007 with more than 3,500 attendees. IIT Kanpur was represented by over 450 alumni. The IITK stall was the most popular one at the conference. Great achievements of the institute were highlighted and a record number of 110 IITK alumni made on the spot donations. Dr. Raj Singh (BT/EE/1975) and his wife, Mrs. Neera Singh (BT/CHE/1981) announced a donation of US \$ 2 millions to IIT Kanpur for the School of Management and Entrepreneurship. Details are available at: [www.iit.org/iit2007/](http://www.iit.org/iit2007/)

## Student Achievements

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- ✧ *Tarini Shankar Ghosh* (MT/BSBE) has secured second rank at the *All India Bioinformatics National Certification Examination*, jointly conducted by the Department of Biotechnology and University of Pune. He received a cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- and a certificate. He is also entitled to a research fellowship if he continues his Ph. D.
- ✧ For his talk on RNAi in plant nematodes, *Bindhya Chal Yadav* (Ph. D./BSBE) has won the best presentation award and the APS Council Award, which provides travel support to students to attend the meeting at the joint annual meeting of the *American Phytopathological Society (APS) and the Society of Nematologists (SON)* held at San Diego between July 28 and August 1, 2007.
- ✧ *Anuj Kumar Sharma* (Ph. D./CHM) was adjudged as one of the six best poster presenter out of 220 posters presented at the *1st Asian Conference on Coordination Chemistry*, held at Okazaki, Japan during July 29 - Aug 2, 2007. He received a cash prize of Japanese ¥5000 and a certificate.
- ✧ *Raziman T. V.* (M. Sc. Intg./PHY) has won a Silver Medal representing India in the *International Olympiad in Informatics* held at Zagreb, Croatia during Aug 15-22, 2007.

## Faculty News

### New Chair Professors IIT Kanpur

#### Institute Chair Professors

- Dr. N. Sathyamurthy (Chemistry)
- Dr. Ashutosh Sharma (Chemical Engineering)



Dr. N. Sathyamurthy



Dr. Ashutosh Sharma



Dr. R. C. Budhani



Dr. K. Deb



Dr. V. K. Singh

#### Endowed Chair Professors

- Dr. R. C. Budhani (Physics) as *Gireesh Jankinath Chair*
- Dr. Kalyanmoy Deb (Mechanical Engineering) as *Shri Deva Raj Chair*
- Dr. Vinod K. Singh (Chemistry) as *Umang Gupta Chair*
- Dr. C. Venkatesan (Aerospace Engineering) as *Pandit Ramachandra Dwivedi Chair*
- Dr. Ashok K. Mittal (Industrial & Management Engineering) as *MHRD IPR Chair*
- Dr. Gautam Biswas (Mechanical Engineering) as *Dr. Gurmukh D. and Veena Mehta Chair*
- Dr. Deepak Kunzru (Chemical Engineering) as *Chevron Corporation Chair*
- Dr. Anil Kumar (Chemical Engineering) as *Raj and Neera Singh Chair*
- Dr. R. Sankaramakrishnan (Biological Sciences and Bio-engineering) as *Joy Gill Chair*



Dr. Anil Kumar



Dr. C. Venkatesan



Dr. Ashok K. Mittal



Dr. Gautam Biswas



Dr. Deepak Kunzru



Dr. R. Sankaramakrishnan

### Faculty Awards and Honours

- Dr. J. K. Bera and Dr. Vijendra K. Yadav (both of Chemistry) have been awarded the *Ramanna Fellowship* of the DST.
- Dr. Avinash Kumar Agarwal (Mechanical Engineering) and Dr. S. A. Ramakrishna (Physics) have been awarded the *INSA Medal for Young Scientist, 2007*.
- Dr. Satyendra Kumar (Physics) has been awarded the *SID Presidential Citation* in recognition of his contributions to the Display Science and Technologies activities of the Society during the past year.
- Dr. Sameer Khandekar (Mechanical Engineering) has been awarded the *George Grover Medal for Young Scientist* by the International Heat Pipe Committee 2007.
- Dr. F. A. Khan (Chemistry) has been selected for the award of *CRSI (Chemical Research Society of India) Bronze Medal* for 2007.
- Dr. Phalguni Gupta (Computer Science and Engineering) has been chosen as one of the *IBM 2007 Faculty Award* recipients.
- Dr. Rajiv Sinha (Civil Engineering) has been invited to be a *Member of the Editorial Board* of *The Journal of the International*

*Union for Quaternary Research*, published by Elsevier.

- Dr. Sudhir K. Jain (Civil Engineering) has been invited to join the *Editorial Board* of the *Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Vibration*, published by Springer Verlag.
- Dr. Ashok Kumar (Biological Sciences and Bioengineering) has been invited to join the *Editorial Board* of *The Open Journal of Biotechnology*, published by Bentham Science Publishers Ltd.
- Dr. Sanjay Mittal (Aerospace Engineering) has been invited to join the *Board of Editors* of *Computational Methods in Engineering and Science*, published by Techscience.
- Dr. Ashutosh Sharma (Chemical Engineering) has been invited to join the *Editorial Board* of journal *Chemical Engineering Science*, published by Elsevier.
- Dr. Pradip Sircar (Electrical Engineering) has been invited to join as the *Associate Editor* of *The Journal of the Franklin Institute*, published by Elsevier.

### Book Release

- Engine Emissions: Pollutant Formation and Advances in Control Technology* by Prof. B. P. Pundir. Publisher: Narosa Publishing House, New Delhi.
- Statistics for Social Sciences* by Dr. Braj Bhushan. Publisher: Princeton-Hall of India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
- Postmodern Identity* by Dr. T. Ravichandran. Publisher: RBSA Publishers, Jaipur.
- Material Requirements Planning System: Heuristics for Improved Performance* by Dr. R. R. K. Sharma. Publisher: Vitasta Publishing Pot. Ltd., New Delhi.
- Productivity, Cost Structure, and Pricing in Urban Bus Transport* by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh. Publisher: Amani International Publishers, Germany.

## Upcoming Events

- Theme Meeting on Nanoceramics and Nanocomposites, September 8-9, 2007
- Short Term Course on Supply Chain Management, September 30-October 5, 2007
- 21st National Convention of Aerospace Engineers, Theme: Infrastructure Development and Augmentation for Ground and Flight Testing of Aerospace Vehicle and Airport Services, November 16-17, 2007
- 12th Annual International Conference of the Society of Operations Management, December 19-21, 2008
- National Conference on the Emerging Trends in the Photovoltaic Energy Generation and Utilization, March 27-29, 2008
- 11th Annual Convention on Strategic Management of Firms in Developing Countries, May 10-11, 2008

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