



GRAPEVINE



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

Institute Milestones

Inauguration of the Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering:



Two of the largest benefactors of IITK were in campus on January 8, 2008: Dr. Arun Shourie (Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha) and Mr. N. R. Narayana Murthy (MT/EE/69). The occasion was the inauguration of the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering by Mr. Murthy. Dr. Shourie has provided a sum of Rs. 11 crore from his entitlement of the MP-LAD Funds for the construction of building and procurement of equipment for the Centre. This is the second project at IIT Kanpur being supported by Dr. Shourie through his MP-LAD Funds, the first one being the Biological Sciences and Bioengineering Department building and laboratories. The Center



shall focus on "technology development" aimed at the development of sensors, health issues in environment, and technological solutions for environment. The facility is designed as a green building and will be the first building in the country to apply for a five-star rating under the TERI GRIHA green building certification.

New R&D Centers at IIT Kanpur: Besides the Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering mentioned above, the Board of Governors has approved two more new research centers to be set up at IIT Kanpur, namely:

- ✧ **BSNL Telecom Center of Excellence:** The basic objective of the Center is to provide and facilitate an environment for innovation and application oriented research in the field of telecommunications and associated areas.
- ✧ **Center for Archeological Sciences and Technologies (CAST):** The Center is meant to be a multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary R&D center at IITK to nucleate and strengthen development of technologies in archeological applications and cultural resource management.

Support from Donors



Ranjit Singh Foundation: Dr Ranjit Singh (BT/MME/1965 and PhD from MIT) has set up the *Ranjit Singh Foundation* at IIT Kanpur with an initial commitment of US\$ 250,000. He worked for some time in Silicon Valley for semiconductor industry and later for Allied Chemicals. He was the pioneer to develop cubic zirconia in 1979 and in the 1980s his company dominated the worldwide supply of artificial diamonds. His Diamond Essence Co. (Ranjit Corp), based in New Jersey, is currently a major supplier of artificial diamond jewellery and other gems. *Ranjit Singh Foundation* will support the *Ranjit Singh Chair* for an outstanding faculty member across the Institute, and a number of undergraduate scholarships:

- ✧ *Khem Chandra Yadav Scholarships* (2 nos): in memory of his father
- ✧ *Yashodha Yadav Scholarships* (2 nos): in memory of his mother
- ✧ *Neta Ji Balwan Singh Scholarships* (2 nos): named after a political leader of Kanpur who inspired Singh in his youth
- ✧ *Ramesh Chandra Yadav Scholarships* (2nos): named after his high school teacher who inspired and continued to help Singh throughout his student career at IITK.
- ✧ *Sarpanch Salik Ram Katiyar Scholarships* (2 nos): named after Singh's mentor in his village who inspired him
- ✧ *Guru Ji Ghasit Ram Scholarships* (2 nos): named after his mentor who taught Singh the value systems

The Chair and the scholarships will carry a 25% higher premium than the average ones in the Institute.

B. B. Lal Chair: Mr Vrajesh Lal (BT/MME/1970) has set up a faculty Chair in honour of his father Professor B B Lal. The Chair is meant for a faculty member of the Institute who has worked on science and technology related to archaeological work. Prof. B. B. Lal is a renowned archaeologist and was the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India during 1968 to 1972. He was later Director of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. He has published several books and over 150 research papers in scientific journals. In addition to the numerous other awards and honours, Prof. Lal was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the President of India in 2000. Vrajesh is the founder/ CEO of the Wrapper USA, a leading women's fashion firm and is involved in a number of philanthropic activities. He is currently a Director on the Board of State Bank of India (California) and also on the Board of Villa Esperanza Services, a non-profit that serves mainly individuals with learning disability.



Dr. B. B. Lal



Mr. Vrajesh Lal



Pushpa Garg Scholarship: In memory of his mother, Mr. Atul Garg (BT/EE/1979) and his wife Ewa have set up a merit-cum-means scholarship of Rs. 2,000 per month. Garg is currently Chief Technology Officer at BMC Software which acquired Proactive Net Inc. in 2007 where he was CTO and Co-Founder. Garg is credited with initiating and starting the industry leading HP Open View network management program while he was at Hewlett-Packard. Garg was past President of Alumni Association of IIT Kanpur and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of IIT Kanpur Foundation in US. As President of AA, Garg initiated and led the drive to simplify the AA constitution to enable broader global participation. He got his Master's in EE from University of Hawaii, Honolulu.

Dr. K. P. Gupta Scholarship: Dr. Shantanu Gupta (BT/EE/1986) has set up a merit scholarship of Rs. 2,000 per month for third year B. Tech students of the Department of Materials & Metallurgical Engineering to honour his father Dr. K. P. Gupta who was a professor of Metallurgy at IIT Kanpur (1963-1994) and served as Head of Advanced Center for Material Science. Shantanu obtained his Ph D in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and currently resides in the DC-Baltimore area.



Mahesh & Shashi Chandra Scholarship: Mr. Manish Chandra (BT/CSE/1987) has set up a merit-cum-means scholarship of Rs. 2,000 per month, in honour of his parents. Manish is the founder & CEO of Kaboodle, Inc. a social shopping site which was acquired by Hearst Corporation in 2007. Prior to that he was the V P Marketing at Versant and part of the executive team at Versata that took the company public in 2000. Additionally, Manish has held R&D and Product Management roles at Sybase and Intel. He holds an MS in Computer Science from UT Austin, and an MBA from Haas business school at UC Berkeley

Nitish Thakor Scholarship: Dr. Nitish Thakor has set up an undergraduate scholarship of Rs. 1,000 per month in the Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering. Thakor is currently a Professor of Biomedical Engineering in the Johns Hopkins University. He specializes in Sensors and Instrumentation, Medical Micro and Nanotechnologies, and Neuroengineering. Thakor obtained his B. Tech in Electrical Engineering from IIT Bombay in 1974 and went on to receive his M. S. in Biomedical Engineering (1978) and Ph D in Electrical and Computer Engineering (1981) from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA.



Faculty Chairs:

During 2005-06 IIT Kanpur developed new norms for Chair Professorship. The purpose of Chairs is to recognize and reward outstanding faculty members. The incumbent receives a monthly honorarium in addition to the usual salary. The Chairs also honour the donors (or their loved ones after whom the chair can be named) by associating them with the significant scientific contributions of the distinguished faculty members. Initially the target was set to establish ten (10) faculty chairs which was later raised to thirty (30) chairs. As of January 2008, IIT Kanpur has 32 chairs (29 funded, 3 pledged) as against 2 chairs in January 2005. The priority now is to raise twenty-five (25) **Research Fellowships** for outstanding new faculty members with a view to make IITK more attractive to the new faculty. An endowment of Rs. 25 lakhs is needed to establish one such fellowship. The class-of-1979 has donations at the time of their silver jubilee.

Alumni News and Events

Alumni Reunions: Five major alumni reunions took place in the campus during December 2007 and January 2008. The Silver Jubilee reunion of the class-of-1983 was attended by 65 alumni and their families, the 35-year Reunion of the class-of-1973 was attended by 48 alumni, the 30-year reunion the class-of-1978 was attended by 14 alumni. The class-of-1983 has launched a very successful fund raising campaign to support an innovation and entrepreneurship initiative in the Institute. 65 batch mates of the class-of-1986 also had a mega dress-rehearsal of their silver jubilee reunion due three years from now. They also announced a new faculty chair as their class-gift to the Institute. A few batch mates of the class-of-1987 also had a mini-reunion in the campus.



Silver Jubilee Reunion of Class-of-1983



Class-of-1973 Reunion



Class-of-1986 Reunion

Address by Mr. N. R. Murthy: Sri N. R. Narayana Murthy, Chief Mentor, Infosys Technologies, visited IIT Kanpur on January 8, 2008. In a highly motivating address, he interacted with the students and the campus community on a wide range of issues. The event was also attended by Dr. Arun Shourie (Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha) and Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, Chairman, Board of Governors. The event can viewed at <http://samvad.iitk.ac.in:8080/ramgen/Jan8-08-NM-infosys.rm>



Distinguished Alumni Awards 2007-2008:

IIT Kanpur has announced the Distinguished Alumni Awards for the year 2007-08 to the following six alumni:

1. Prof Ashok Misra (BT/CHE/1968), Director, IIT Bombay for his outstanding managerial contributions and contributions to the field Chemical Engineering.
2. Dr Ravi Sethi (BT/ME/1968), President, Avaya Laboratory, for his outstanding technologies and managerial contributions.
3. Mr Harsh Manglik (BT/ME/1970), Chairman & Managing Director, Accenture India, for his outstanding managerial contributions.
4. Mr Ashok Sinha (BT/EE/1973), Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, for his outstanding managerial contributions.
5. Prof Jitendra Malik (BT/EE/1980), Arthur J. Chick Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, University of California at Berkeley, for his outstanding contributions to the field of Computer Science and Engineering.
6. Prof Arup K. Chakraborty (BT/CHE/1983), Robert T. Haslam Professor of Chemical Engineering, Professor of Chemistry and Biological Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology for his outstanding contributions to the field of Chemical Engineering.

Workshop on "Alumni Fund Raising: A New Paradigm for Excellence":

Concerned Deans and Professor-in-charges (and in some instances Directors) of all the seven IITs, IISc, IIM Calcutta and several NITs participated in this brain-storming workshop hosted by IITK on January 9-10, 2008. The objective was to share the best practices with each other, and to learn from mutual experiences. Prof. M. Anandakrishnan (Chairman BOG, IITK) and Prof. S. G. Dhande (Director IITK) inaugurated the workshop. Themes taken up for discussions include goals of alumni relations and fund-raising, database management, seeking funds, administrative setup and support systems, investments and accounts, donor stewardship, and challenges of large donations. The workshop was convened by Prof. Sudhir K Jain and Prof. Dheeraj Sanghi.



Student Achievements

- ❧ IITK had a good performance at the Inter IIT Sports Meet. In Women's Athletics we are second position holder. We are overall fourth in Men's General Championship. IITK got Silver Medal in Football, Bronze in Lawn Tennis and Hockey, third in Athletics with 28 medals in both Boys and Girls.
- ❧ Sunil Verma (Ph D/NET Program) has been presented the Best Thesis Award in the National Laser Symposium 2007 held at MS University of Vadodara. He was working under the supervision of Prof. K. Muralidhar.
- ❧ A paper authored by Dr. D. P. Mishra and S. Mahesh has been adjudged as the best paper, at the International Conference on IC Engine and Combustion at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad during December 6-9, 2007.

Faculty News

Appointment of New Deans:

Dr. Sanjeev K. Aggarwal (MT/NET/1981; PhD/CSE/1987) of the CSE Dept. has been appointed as the Dean of Resource Planning & Generation. He works in the area of Compiler Design. Aggarwal has been teaching at IITK since 1990 and was the Head of the Department during 2002-2005. He was earlier Head of the Computer Centre (1997 to 1999 & 2000 to 2003).

Dr. K. Muralidhar of the ME Dept. has been appointed as the Dean of Research & Development. He has been teaching at IITK since 1987. He has in the past served as the Chairman GATE, JMET and JAM and is currently Head of Mechanical Engineering Department. He obtained his Ph D in Applied Sciences from University of Delaware, Newark DE, USA in 1985.

Dr. Brahma Deo of the MME Dept. has been appointed as the Dean of Faculty Affairs. His research area is process control and optimization in steel making. He has been with the Institute since 1983 and was Head of the Department during 1999-2002. He obtained his D. Phil in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Burdwan in 1975.



S. K. Aggarwal



K. Muralidhar



Brahma Deo



M. K. Harbola



Ajai Jain



V. Chandrasekhar



Sudhir. Kamle



Manindra Agrawal

New Appointments

- ✎ Dr. Manoj Harbola (MSc5/Phy/1983; Phy) and Dr. Ajai Jain (CSE) are the senate nominees to the Board of Governors of IITK for a period of two years (January 2008 to December 2009).
- ✎ Dr. V. Chandrasekhar has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Chemistry.
- ✎ Dr. Sudhir Kamle (BT/AE/1977, MT/AT/1979) has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Aerospace Engineering.

Faculty Awards and Honours

- ✎ Dr. Manindra Agrawal (CSE) has been elected *Fellow* of two academies, namely, the *Indian National Sciences Academy (INSA)* and the *National Academy of Sciences, India*.
- ✎ Dr. Phalguni Gupta (CSE) has been chosen as one of the IBM 2007 Faculty Award recipients. The award carries a cash prize of ten thousand dollars.
- ✎ Dr. Animangsu Ghatak, Dr. Yogesh M. Joshi, and Dr. V. Shankar (ChE) have been selected for "Diamond Jubilee Young Achiever's Award" of the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers.
- ✎ Dr. Kalyanmoy Deb (ME) has been chosen by the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making for the MCDM Edgeworth- Pareto award for 2007.
- ✎ Dr. J. P. Gupta (ChE) has been chosen for the IPCL Award by the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers.
- ✎ Dr. Anil Kumar Ghosh (Maths) has been selected as an Associate of the Indian Academy of Sciences.
- ✎ Dr. J. Ramkumar (ME) has been chosen for the Young Scientist Award (2007- 08) for Engineering Sciences by the Indian Science Congress Association.
- ✎ Dr. Y. N. Mohapatra (Phy. and MSP) has been awarded the MRSI Medal by the Materials Research Society of India.
- ✎ Dr. G. Neelakantan (HSS) has been elected as a member of the "International Association of University Professors of English" (IAUPE), an apex body in english language and literary studies.
- ✎ Dr. V. K. Jain (ME) has been invited to join the Editorial Board of the *IJSurfSe- International Journal of Surface Science and Engineering*, published by Inderscience Enterprises (UK).
- ✎ Dr. Bikramjit Basu (MME) has been invited to join the Editorial Board of the Journal "Material Science and Engineering C: Materials for Biological Applications" published by Elsevier.
- ✎ Dr. Ashok Kumar (BSBE) has been invited to join the Editorial Board of the journal *Nanoscale Research Letters* published by Springer, New York.
- ✎ Dr. Dheeraj Sanghi (CSE) has been invited to join the Steering Committee of the "Data Security Council of India", a major national initiative in the area of Computer Security.
- ✎ Dr. Gautam Biswas (ME) has been elected as an Indian Representative to the apex body for the promotion of Research in Mechanics, namely, International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUTAM).
- ✎ Dr. Avinash Kumar Agarwal (ME) has been invited to join the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Recent Patents on Mechanical Engineering* published by Bentham Sciences Publishers Ltd. He has also been awarded the "Alkyl Amines- UICT Foundation Day Young Scientist Award- 2007".

Book Release

- ❖ *Antennas and Wave Propagation* by Dr. A. R. Harish and Dr. M. Sachidananda. Publisher: Oxford University Press.
- ❖ *Cell Separation: Fundamentals, Analytical and Preparative Methods* by Dr. Ashok kumar. Publisher: Springer.
- ❖ Dr. R. Balasubramaniam has published the following books:
 1. *Callisters Materials Science and Engineering*. Publisher: Wiley India Private Limited, New Delhi.
 2. *Prachin Bharatiya Datturshastriye Ashchharya: Dilli Loha Stambha* in Marathi co-authored with Pravin P. Deshpandey. Publisher: Sushama Prakashan, Pune.
 3. *Prefessor T. R. Anantharaman: An Inspiring and Dedicated Educator* co-authored with Anish Upadhyaya, Bikramjit Basu and Deepika Sachedeva. Publisher: Aryan Books International, New Delhi.
 4. *Marvels of Indian Iron Through Ages*. Publisher: Rupa and Co., New Delhi.
 5. *The Saga of Indian Cannons*. Publisher: Aryan Books International, New Delhi.

Upcoming Events

- ✎ Second Indian Winter School on Logic, January 14-26, 2008
- ✎ ZOPP Workshop on Special Manpower Development Programme in the area of VLSI Design & Related Software (SMDPII), February 11-13, 2008
- ✎ Tomography Confluence (CT-2008), February 15-17, 2008
- ✎ National Conference on Intellectual Property Rights, February 28-March 01, 2008
- ✎ National Conference on the Emerging Trends in the Photovoltaic Energy Generation and Utilization, March 27-29, 2008
- ✎ International School on LiDAR Technology, 31 March - 4 April 2008
- ✎ 2nd IITK-Nanyang Technological University Singapore (NTUS) Joint Workshop, April 5-6, 2008
- ✎ Electric Power Quality: Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation, April 07-11, 2008
- ✎ 11th Annual Convention on Strategic Management of Firms in Developing Countries, May 8-10, 2008
- ✎ Summer School (at International Centre of Mechanical Sciences, Udine (Italy)) on Instabilities of Flows with and without Heat Transfer and Chemical Reactions, June 9 -13, 2008
- ✎ 12th Annual International Conference of the Society of Operations Management, December 19-21, 2008