



2007-08/I

G R A P E V I N E



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

Institute Milestones

Inauguration of Autodesk Inc IIT Kanpur Digital Innovation Lab

The Autodesk IITK Digital Innovation Center was inaugurated by Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on October 12, 2007. The event included a panel discussion on the "Role of IITians as Leaders in the Era of Globalization" which was organized by students of AME (Association of Mechanical Engineers). The digital innovation center will house twenty state-of-the-art graphics workstations with multiple licenses of the entire suite of autodesk softwares running on them. Details at: <http://www.iitk.ac.in/infocell/iitk/newhtml/autodesk.htm>



IIT Kanpur History Book Project

IIT Kanpur is in the process of creating a book and an archive to relate the story of the Institute, highlighting the most significant of the novel experiments conducted here that distinguish IIT Kanpur from all other IITs. Experiences and stories of students, faculty and staff, past and present, will contribute to its content. Dr. B. N. Banerjee and Mrs. Sonaly Goswami of the Institute are responsible for carrying this project through completion. Also assisting the project as a consultant and adviser is Dr. V. K. Stokes, former Professor and Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department.

Opportunity College

A pilot project named "Lakshya" was launched at IIT Kanpur in December 2006 to help college educated, unemployed youth in and around the campus with a minimum of Bachelors degree to improve their skills and enable them to become more marketable to a prospective employer. IITK students and others in the campus community are employed as tutors on part-time basis. Besides earning money, the IITK students get a chance to gain teaching experience and get sensitized on social issues. The effort was given the name of "Opportunity College". This three month free of cost, employment oriented training programme includes English Reading, English Writing, Arithmetic and Accounting, and Computers Skills. Currently in its third batch, the project has shown very good results. The initiative is being supported through alumni donations.

Support from Donors

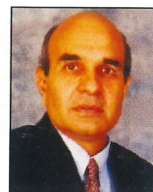


Champa Devi Gangwal Chair

Mr. Rakesh Gangwal (BT/ME/1975) has set up a chair, open to all faculties in the Institute, in honour of his mother. He is the co-founder of IndiGo, India's low-cost airline. Gangwal was chairman, president and chief executive officer of Worldspan from 2003 to 2007. From 1998 to 2001, Gangwal served as president and chief executive officer of US Airways Group. He joined US Airways in February 1996 as president and chief operating officer. From 1994 to 1996, Gangwal served as executive vice-president, planning and development for Air France. During 1984 to 1996, he worked at United Airlines in various capacities. Gangwal currently serves as the member of the board of directors of the OfficeMax and of PetSmart, Inc. Gangwal was a member of the board of trustees for both Providence- St. Mel School in Chicago and Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove, Illinois. He obtained his MBA from The Wharton Business School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1979. In 2000, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT Kanpur, and in 1999 he was recognized by *BusinessWeek* magazine as one of the "25 top global executives".

Rahul and Namita Gautam Chair

Mr. Rahul Gautam (BT/ChE/1975) and his wife have set up a faculty chair to honour and support an outstanding faculty of the Institute. Gautam is the Managing Director of Sheela Foam Pvt.Ltd., India and Chairman of Joyce Pty Ltd., Australia (together turn over ~Rs. 550 crores). Sheela Foam was set up in 1972 by his mother Mrs. Sheela Gautam and is today the largest foam manufacturer in India. Their bedding and furniture category is sold under the brand name SLEEPWELL. In 2006, Sheela Foam entered into a joint venture with M/s. Woodbridge group, Canada, the largest manufacturer of moulded P. U. foam products for automotive industry in the world. Through the Sleepwell Foundation, his company meets its corporate social responsibility in the area of education (Him Jyoti School & Progress Alternatives) and sports (actively supporting talented tennis players). He obtained a Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering from Polytechnic Institute of New York, USA.





Biswanath Jha Memorial Scholarship

In memory of his father, Mr. Nirmal Kumar Jha (BT/EE/1977) has set up a scholarship of Rs. 2,000/- per month on merit-cum-means basis. Jha joined Hindustan Brown Boveri at Baroda after his graduation. He is the Senior Vice President for Alstom Power Service, responsible for Power Service business in South East Asia, North East Asia (including China and Japan), Australia, New Zealand and Indian Sub-Continent. He is located at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In Jha's words *"It was my father's dream and vision, which lead one of my elder brothers and me to IIT Kanpur. My father always encouraged for good education and had a strong conviction that education alone can bridge the gaps of the society"*.

Kunta Jha Scholarship

In honour of his mother, Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha (BT/CE/1986) has set up a merit-cum-means scholarship of Rs.2,000/- per month. Jha is the Program Manager of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery in the Sustainable Development Network of the World Bank. He was a member of the Indian Administrative Services for more than fifteen years. He also worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in India and Iran for more than five years, coordinating the implementation of disaster recovery and mitigation programs.



Swaminathan and Garg Scholarship

Dr. Sanjay Garg (BT/AE/1980) has set up a merit-cum-means scholarship of Rs. 1,000/- per month for a third year student of Aerospace Engineering. Garg received his Ph. D. in Aerospace Engineering from Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN, in 1988 and has been working at NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, OH since graduation. He is currently the Chief of the Controls and Dynamics Branch where he manages a group of 20 engineers doing research in advanced control and diagnostics concepts for aerospace propulsion systems.

Binay Kumar Sinha Award

To honour his father who always stood for social uplift and did whatever he could in his capacity as a small-scale entrepreneur to help with this, Mr. Suyash Sinha (MT/CSE/1998) has set up an annual student award. The award consists of a sum of Rs. 10,000 for a B. Tech. project that has industrial applicability and helps solve problems that affect common people. As a development manager in Microsoft, Sinha has led the development of various high-profile technologies like Windows Hypervisor, and Windows Kernel.



Donations:

The financial year 2007-08 is going well from the view point of donations. A good number of new faculty chairs and student scholarships are being set up. An important priority currently is to establish Research Fellowships for new faculty members. These are meant to provide recognition and financial reward to outstanding new faculty members, making IITK a more attractive destination for the faculty.

Besides large donations, Institute is also striving to increase the number of alumni donors who make small contributions. As against 622 alumni donors last year, the target is to have at least 1,000 alumni donate during the current financial year ending in March 2008. The Annual Gift Programme (<http://www.iitk.ac.in/drpg/annualgiftprog.htm>), launched in 2005-06, has been very effective in pooling a large number of small donations into a substantial sum and utilizing the same to support programmes that encourage and support excellence. Last year, the average donation under this programme was Rs. 11,000 with a median donation of Rs. 4,100.

Alumni News and Events

Bangalore Event

Bangalore Chapter of the IITK Alumni Association organized an alumni get together over dinner with Prof. Sudhir K Jain, Dean RPG on September 20, 2007 at Bangalore Club. About 55 alumni along with their families participated. The event was organized by Sujit Kumar (BT/CE/1992), Abhijit Kumar Roy & Yashwant Singh Chouhan (BT/CE/2001), and Arvind Chaudhary (BT/CE/1993). Mr Sujit Kumar, Mr Pawan Kumar (BT/CE/1969) (President, AA), Professor Jain, and Mr Khem Aithani (MT/IME/1983) (President, Bangalore Chapter of AA) addressed the gathering. A number of alumni made on-the-spot donations to IITK. The evening culminated with a token donation of Rs 10,001/- by the Bangalore Chapter of AA to the Institute. Perhaps it is the first time that a local chapter of the Alumni Association has made a formal donation to the Institute.



Reaching out to Alumni

Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Dean RPG, visited alumni in several cities in the USA in November 2007. During his visit, Dr. Jain updated the alumni on the current activities and conveyed to them the vision of the Institute. A substantial number of small and large donations were also made or pledged by the alumni during the visit, including several Faculty Chairs, and a Research Fellowship for new faculty.



New Jersey: Dr. Ram B. Misra (BT/ME/1968), Mr. Satish Bhalero (BT/CHE/1970) and Mr. Rakesh Sharma (MT/NET/1978) organized a luncheon for about twenty five alumni and their families.

Washington D.C.: Mr. Sandeep Tucknat (BT/EE/1999) organized a lunch and a dinner meeting. Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, Chairman Board of Governors too participated in the lunch meeting of Prof. Jain with the alumni.

Santa Clara/ San Jose: The IITK Foundation hosted a donor-appreciation dinner, organized by Abhay Bhushan (BT/EE/1965). The event was a great success! About 110 people attended including about 65 alumni, in spite of many people being away due to Thanksgiving week. The event built up alumni

enthusiasm and a number of substantial donations were both pledged and made on the spot.

Los Angeles: Dr. Siddharth Dasgupta (MSc5/CHM/1980) organized a small luncheon meeting.

Mumbai Get together of Alumni with IITK students

An alumni-student get together was held in Mumbai on Dec 9, 2007. A group of about 35 undergraduate students on industrial tour to the city had an opportunity to hear the experiences and career related advice from the alumni present. The panelists included Mr. Ashok Sinha (BT/EE/1973), Praveen Tripathi (BT/EE/1977), Ramkrishnan K. A. Iyer (BT/ChE/1974) and Tarun Desai (BT/ChE/1978). Bijendra Sheoran, President, Association of Mechanical Engineering gave the vote of thanks and Prof. Sudhir Jain shared the Institute's vision on alumni relations and his own experiences as Dean, RPG. The event was held at Transocean House, and organized by Rishi Srivastava (IITK/CHE/2004) and Ajay Pandey (IITK/CHE/2001).



Director's Meeting with Alumni in Santa Clara, California

Prof. Sanjay Dhande, Director, had an evening of interaction with about 50 alumni in Santa Clara, California, organized by Mr. Abhay Bhushan (BT/EE/1965) on behalf of the IITK Foundation. Issues discussed in depth include faculty induction and faculty development, new academic programmes, thrust to R&D work around research centres, and social issues that arise in the campus. Frank and candid discussion ensued, enabling the alumni to develop a better appreciation of the challenges faced by the IITK administration locally, and to see the Institute's recent successes in correct perspective.

Student Achievements

- ✧ Nitish Srivastava (BT/CSE) has been chosen as the *The Aditya Birla Scholar* for the Class of 2007-08. This award carries a cash prize of Rs. 65,000 per annum for the entire period of the programme.
- ✧ Anurag Awasthi (BT/CSE), Ankit Lohiya (BT/EE), Shubhonmesh Bose (BT/EE), and Mohit Bansal (BT/CSE) have been selected as the *OP Jindal Engineering & Management Scholars* (OPJEMS). This award carries a cash prize of Rs. 65,000 per annum for the entire period of the programme.



Nitish Srivastava



Anurag Awasthi



Ankit Lohiya



Shubhonmesh Bose



Mohit Bansal

- ✧ Pradip Paik (Ph. D/MSP) has been adjudged for the ISCA Young Scientist Award in Materials Science for the year 2007-08. This prestigious award carries a Certificate and cash prize of Rs 25,000.
- ✧ A paper co-authored by Deepak Sharma (Ph. D/ME), Abhay Kumar (Ph. D/ME), Karthik S. (MT/ME) and Dr. K. Deb received the best paper award in IEEE Computational Intelligence Society CEC 2007 Multi-objective Optimization Competition held in Singapore during September 25-28, 2007.
- ✧ The paper titled "Short-Term Zonal Load Forecasting in PJM Electricity Market Based on Adaptive Wavelet Neural Network," co-authored by N. M. Pindoriya (Ph. D/EE), Dr. S. N. Singh (EE) and Dr. S. K. Singh (HSS) received the best paper award in Student Paper Contest and Technical Symposium (SPCTS-2007) held in DA-IICT, Gandhinagar, India during September 28-30, 2007. The prize consists of an award of Rs 3,000 and a certificate.
- ✧ J Jai Devi (Ph. D/CE) working under the joint guidance of Prof. Tarun Gupta and Prof. S. N. Tripathi received the second best paper award at a platform paper presentation in IASTA-2007 (NOV) National-level conference on Aerosol held at NPL, New Delhi.
- ✧ Amartya Mukhopadhyay (MT/MME/06) has been nominated for Dr. A. K. Bose Gold Medal (for best M. Tech thesis) for his thesis titled "Development and Investigation of Mechanical and Tribological Properties of TiB₂-Based Ceramics" for year 2007. He was working under the supervision of Dr. Bikramjit Basu.
- ✧ Soumik Chakraborty (MT/CHE) working under the supervision of Dr. Goutam Deo has been awarded the IChE Award for the Year 2007 known as the "Ambuja's Young Researcher's Awards for doing Post-Graduate Studies in India after GATE Examination" for his M. Tech. thesis.
- ✧ Atul Srivastava (Ph. D./ME) working under the supervision of Dr. K. Muralidhar and Dr. P. K. Panigrahi has received the best thesis award of INAE (Indian National Academy of Engineering).
- ✧ IIT Kanpur team comprising of Ponnaganti Pavan Kumar (BT/AE), Saurabh Chatterjee (BT/CSE), and H K Pavan Kumar Kolipara (MT/AE) won the Best Rocket Design Award at *Students for Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS) International Conference '07* held at VIT, Vellore during September 22-23, 07.
- ✧ Students of the Design Program at IITK won several prizes at RGB '07, the Annual Design Festival held at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. Yogesh G Maralkar, Payal Chowdhury and Agashe Alok Padmakar received first prize in "Just Design" - The Product Design Contest. Haveesh won a prize for the "Best Rebuttal" in Face Off - The debate. S. Jayesh Pillai, Prantik Banerjee and Meera Sudhir Mangrulkar got the first prize for their film "Camera Buff." Saurabh Karwal, Sneha Singh and Arun M were second in "FIXIT" - The design solution contest.
- ✧ S. Jayesh Pillai and V. S. Haveesh Vemuri, both M. Des students won the third prize worth Rs. 50,000 at the International Ability Film Festival 2007 held in Chennai for their short Film "Chal".
- ✧ At the National Automotive Styling Challenge 2007, Arun M. and Sneha Singh's entry was selected along with eight others for the National Automotive Styling Challenge 2007. Their model will be displayed in the upcoming Auto Show in Delhi.
- ✧ IITK students won several prizes at Rendezvous '07, the cultural festival of IIT Delhi. Significant awards include 1st prize in Hindi play, 2nd in English play, and 3rd in Nukkad (Street Play). The students also bagged the 2nd position in word games and the 2nd position in Fine Arts and Tattoo Making.
- ✧ M. Pradeep (Ph. D. /AE) working under the supervision of Dr. R. K. Sullerey has received the SAFRAN (a group of French aerospace companies including Snecma) second best thesis award amongst Aerospace Ph. D. theses from India in the period 2001-2006.

❧ IITK Aquatics team performed exceptionally well in the recently concluded Inter IIT Aquatic meet-2007, held at IIT Bombay during October 2 - 5. Akanksha Gupta (BT/CE) won the Women's Team Championship with gold medals in 50 m. freestyle, 50 m. Back stroke, 50 m. Butter Fly, 100 m freestyle

(New Inter IIT Meet Record), and Bronze in 50 m. Breast Stroke. She also won the titles of the Best Female Swimmer Award of the Meet and the Fastest Female Swimmer of the meet. In The Men's Swimming Event Prateek Gupta (M. Sc./ECO) won the Bronze Medal in 100 m. freestyle.

Faculty News

FACULTY AWARDS AND HONOURS

- ❧ Dr. Amalendu Chandra (Chemistry) has been awarded the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in Chemical Sciences for the year 2007**.
- ❧ Dr. Gautam Biswas (Mechanical Engineering) has been selected fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India.
- ❧ Dr. V. Chandrasekhar and Dr. R. N. Mukherjee (Chemistry) have been selected fellows of Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
- ❧ Dr. Vinayak Eswaran (Mechanical Engineering) and Dr. Prabhat Munshi (Mechanical Engineering) have been elected as Fellows of Indian National Academy of Engineering.



Dr. Amalendu Chandra



Dr. Gautam Biswas



Dr. V. Chandrasekhar



Dr. R N Mukherjee



Dr. Vinayak Eswaran



Dr. P Munshi

- ❧ Dr. Avinash Kumar Agarwal (Mechanical Engineering) has been awarded the UICT Foundation Day Young Scientist Award.
- ❧ Dr. T. K. Chandrashekar (Chemistry) has been awarded the CRSI (Chemical Research Society of India) Silver Medal.
- ❧ Dr. Kripa Shankar (Industrial and Management Engineering) has been elected on the board of the Asia Pacific Industrial Engineering and Management Systems (APIEMS)
- ❧ Dr. Bhaskar Dasgupta (Mechanical Engineering) has been invited to join the review board of the International Journal of Computational Science.
- ❧ Dr. Arun Kumar Saha (Mechanical Engineering) has been awarded the best technical paper award by the International Gas Tribune Institute of ASME, New York.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Sharmishtha Mitra, Mathematics (Ph. D. from IIT Kanpur, 1996)
 Dr. Priyanka Ghosh, Civil Engineering (Ph. D. from IISc Bangalore, 2005)
 Dr. Kumar Ravi Priya, Humanities and Social Sciences (Ph. D. from University of Delhi, 2006)
 Dr. Shantanu Bhattacharya, Mechanical Engineering (Ph. D. from University of Missouri, Columbia, 2006)
 Dr. M. Madhav Ranganathan, Chemistry (Ph. D. from Stanford University, 2003)
 Dr. A. V. Ravishankar Sarma, Humanities and Social Sciences (Ph. D. from IIT Bombay, 2006)
 Dr. Sudipta Dutta, Mathematics (Ph. D. from Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata, 2004)

BOOK RELEASE

- ❧ *Alternative Fuels and CI Engine Performance*, Dr. Avinash Kumar Agarwal. Published by Society of Automotive Engineers.
- ❧ *Czochralski Growth of Oxide Crystal 'Numerical Simulation and Experiments*, Dr. K. Muralidhar and Dr. Jyotirmay Banerjee. Published by Techscience Press Georgia (USA).

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Mr. Mohammad Shakeel
 Assistant Registrar
 Resource Planning and Generation
 Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
 Kanpur - 208016 (UP), INDIA
 Phone: 0512-2597289
 Email: arrpg@iitk.ac.in

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Mr. Abhay Bhushan
 CFO, IIT Kanpur Foundation
 3838 Mumford Place
 Palo Alto, CA 94306, USA
 Phone: 650-868-6645
 Email: akbhushan@aol.com