



IIT

GUWAHATI

alumni newsletter

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Issue 1, Volume 2, February 2009



It is a great pleasure to introduce the second issue of our alumni newsletter. We bring you new developments on campus, our future plans as well as news about alumni. This is only a small beginning in building bridges between the alumni and the institute. At present we do not have any alumni chapters, although informally our alumni have been organizing meetings in various parts of the world. During the last PanIIT meet at IIT Madras in December 2008, we decided that a Bangalore chapter would be initiated during the first half of 2009. We look forward to such initiatives from all alumni, wherever they happen to be. I also urge you to contribute news about alumni to this newsletter, and help make it reach all alumni that you know. Your feedback regarding the newsletter would be most appreciated. To conclude, I thank the editorial board of the newsletter led by Dr. Rohini Mokashi-Punekar for a wonderful job.

Purandar Bhaduri
Faculty-in-charge, External Relations

IITG MENTORS IIT PATNA

The central government's decision to start eight new IITs resulted in the creation of IIT Patna in 2008. It was decided that IIT Guwahati would act as the mentoring institution. IIT Patna commenced its academic operations on 6th August 2008. Several faculty members from IIT Guwahati, led by Dean Professor S Dandapat, have played a pivotal role in dealing with the unique challenges associated with the birth of a new seat of learning.

The infrastructure of the transitional campus includes technically equipped offices and laboratories and fully functional hostels. The first batch of IIT Patna has 92 students in three major programmes namely CSE, EE and ME. The computer centre is equipped with high speed internet and each student has been equipped with a laptop. The institute has initiated recruitment at all levels and now has 22 faculty members, 10 technical staff and 2 officers. The state government is in the process of acquiring land for the permanent campus.

PM IN IITG

Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India inaugurated the state-of-the-art 1500 seat auditorium of IIT Guwahati on 26 August 2008. In his inspiring speech to students and faculty, Dr. Singh said the Indian Institutes of Technology represent the highest traditions of academic excellence not only in India but all over the world. In the global knowledge economy today the education at IITs gives opportunities for creative leadership that reflects the power of young India to remake India.

NEWS FROM IITG

He expressed happiness that IITG had carved a niche for itself in the short time since its inception and hoped that the research carried out at IIT Guwahati would help the people of India in general and the northeast in particular.



TCS TRAINING CENTRE

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh also inaugurated the Tata Consultancy Service Training Centre at IIT Guwahati, which he said was the first industry-led IT training centre in the north east and a unique collaborative effort between an IIT and TCS. He asserted that this would go a long way in improving fruitful interaction between academia and industry. The centre would be helpful in training and honing the talents of the youth of the region in developing skills of a higher order.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. **Amit U Sinha (BTech/CE/2003)** won the award for the best PhD dissertation in Computer Science from the University of Cincinnati in March 2008.
2. **Pavan Turaga (BTech/EC 2004)** was awarded the 'Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship' in 2009 by the University of Maryland. In 2008 he was one among 12 students all over the world to be nominated the 'Emerging Leader in Multimedia' by IBM.
3. **Harpreet Singh (BTech/EC/2008)** and **Hari Singal (BTech/BT/2008)** jointly won the first prize of 'Agilent Engineering and Technology Awards 2008' an electronic equipment for sleep apnea monitor.
4. **Sarvesh Pratap Singh (BTech/CS/2000)** published three US patents in 2008.
5. **Simadri Acharya, B.K. Sahu and C. Jayageeth (MTech/CE/2008)** were awarded 'Ambuja Young Researcher's Award' by the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChE).
6. **Vishal Monga (BTech/EC/2001)** won the Rochester Engineering Society's Young Engineer of the Year Award in 2008.
7. Drishti – Soft Solutions, founded by **Bishal Kumar, Sachin Bhatia, Debashish Panda, Nayan Jain (all BTech/CS/2001)**

ALUMNI NEWS

won the '2008 Nasscom Innovation Award' in the category 'Market innovation – business model and business process'.

NEW VENTURES

1. **Raghu Khanna (BTech/EC/2008)** started 'CashurDrive' in Gurgaon and Chandigarh (www.cashurdrive.com)
2. **Siva Kiran (BTech/CS/2006)** started 'ViVu' in Sunnyvale, California and in Bangalore (www.vivu.tv)

PanIIT 2008



Like previous years IIT Guwahati participated in the PanIIT conference held at IIT Madras from 19 to 21 December, 2008.

The official delegation included Prof. Gautam Barua, Director, Prof. Amarendra Kumar Das (Design), Dr. K. Pakshirajan (Biotech), Dr. Purandar Bhaduri (Faculty-in-charge, External Relations and CSE) and Dr. Ratnajit Bhattacharjee (ECE). The break-out session with alumni was attended by 19 former and current students, and featured a lively interaction on how to take the relations between the alumni and the institute to a higher level.



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ACHIEVEMENTS



1. Prof. Amarendra Das, Department of Design, received the Award of Excellence for Dipbahan in the conference on Urban Mobility India 2008 organized by the Institute of Urban Transport (India), Ministry of Urban Development.



Dipbahan, a series of vehicles based on a new tricycle rickshaw, uses modern technology in conjunction with present day transportation needs. It has already hit the streets generating employment and providing an alternative mode of transport for both rural and urban dwellers. Some of the features of this design include easier accessibility, improved maneuvering, a luggage holding area and ergonomically designed seating resulting in passenger safety and comfort.

FACULTY NEWS



2. The painting 'A butterfly was passing by' by Dr. Utpal Barua, Associate Professor, Department of Design, was selected by the Olympics committee, Beijing for display in an exhibition of works of art

from across the globe.

Dr.Utpal Barua's painting was also selected under the "Indian Master" category by an International jury for "Master Statement" an International exhibition of Outstanding Contemporary Indian Artists at Taman Ismail Marzuki Art Gallery, Jakarta 2008.





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ACHIEVEMENTS



3. **Dr. Arun Goyal, Associate Professor, Department of Biotechnology**, was elected a Fellow of the Biotech Research Society of India in recognition of his research.

BOOKS



1. **Archana Barua, Phenomenology of Religion**, Rowman and Littlefield, USA, 2008. (Dr. Archana Barua is Professor and Head of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)



2. **Krishna Barua, Not I But the Wind**, Writers Workshop, Kolkata, 2008. (Dr. Krishna Barua is Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)

FACULTY NEWS



3. **Shankuntala Mahanta, Directionality and Locality in Vowel Harmony**, LOT Publications, Netherlands, 2008. (Dr. **Shakuntala Mahanta** is Senior Lecturer, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences)



4. Elaine Rich, Kevin Knight and **Shivashankar B. Nair, Artificial Intelligence, 3rd Edition**, Tata McGraw Hill, 2009. (Dr. **Nair** is Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering)



5. **Uday Shankar Dixit** and P.M.Dixit, *Modeling of Metal Forming and Machining Processes by Finite Element and Soft Computing Methods*, Springer-Verlag London, 2008. (Dr. **U.S Dixit** is Professor and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The total grant received through sponsored projects during the year 2008-09 (until 03.02.09) is Rs. 23.34 crores which is almost double the amount for the preceding year.

The Department of Biotechnology, IIT Guwahati has received a major research grant to implement a project entitled "DBT Program Support on Fundamental Molecular Investigations in Biotechnology". This program aims to create not only a dedicated infrastructure and strengthen the research activities of the investigators, but it is also envisaged that the facility would help infusion of more research expertise working in the frontline areas of proteomics and genomics.

IITG is also the nodal agency for the implementation and monitoring of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) projects (adding up to Rs.124 crores) for universities of the north eastern region.

In addition several departments (Mechanical Engineering, Chemistry and Computer Science and Engineering) have received FIST grants (cumulatively adding up to more than Rs. 5 crores) for the development of new infrastructural facilities.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

The project 'Design, Development and commercialization of pilot scale circulating fluidized bed gasifier', was awarded by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy with a budget of Rs. 53.03 lakh which will give an in-depth analysis of the feasibility of circulating fluidized bed gasification for electricity generation.

The project 'Synthesis of green transportation fuels (Biomass Gasification Integrated Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis)' was awarded by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy with a budget of Rs. 24.70 lakh. The project is of significance because it addresses the need for alternative energy sources.

The Department of Civil Engineering has set up state-of-the art *Dynamic Structural Testing Facilities* in the on-going research initiatives in Earthquake Disaster Mitigation involving the collection of data for precise seismic hazard assessment, structural health monitoring during actual earthquakes, seismic evaluation and retrofitting of structures and the development of cost effective new technologies for high performance seismic design.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

The Civil Engineering Department has also developed a water resources laboratory, geoinformatics laboratory and a computational lab to understand hydraulic and hydrological process and suggest practical solutions to mitigate the havoc caused by floods in north east India. It is involved in several projects and consultancies in this area and has conducted short term training programmes to help train the personnel of various organizations working in the field.

START-UP GRANTS

In a bid to encourage and support research activities amongst the new faculty recruits, twenty one new faculty members have been awarded start up grants of up to Rs. 5 lakhs.

TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION CENTRE

The Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) was initiated in 2008 with the goal of encouraging entrepreneurial initiatives amongst the members of the IITG community. The TIC will now provide a platform for students and faculty to explore and work on ideas with the goal of eventually implementing them through technology startup companies.

The process of registration of TIC as a society is almost completed and a CEO is also expected to be appointed to lead the management team.

This centre will provide facilities for interdisciplinary research with special emphasis on development and innovation of high growth knowledge-based-business and the nurture of indigenous products and innovative hardware/embedded design. The support from the centre will be made available in the form of loan, and technical and business mentoring (especially on assessing commercial viability and market feasibility of the ideas).

In order to achieve the goals of the TIC, an area of approximately 4000 square metres has already been allocated in the Technology Complex. A grant of Rs. 155 lakhs for developing basic infrastructure and initiate a pool of startup-support loan has been approved by the Department of Information Technology. In addition another proposal to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is under preparation.

So if you think you are the next Bill Gates, then the TIC is just the place for you.



STUDENTS' NEWS

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. **Aniruddh Jain (BTech/BT)** was selected as one of 115 young global leaders to participate in Starting Bloc's Global Institute of Social Innovation, a competitive leadership development program held at London Business School, 2008.
2. **Kuntimaddi Srinidhi (BTech/CS)** won the best student paper award in the First International Conference on Communication Systems and Networks 2009.
3. **L. Barbora (PhD/CE)** was awarded Diploma of Distinction by World Forum on Advanced Materials (POLYCHAR16), 2008.



ALCHERINGA

Alcheringa 09: a mélange of colour, of art and of talent. The theme of this year was 'Around the World in 3 days' and the various events including the informals reflected the theme in all its multiple meanings. The best of bands in the country such as Dream Diabolic, Dark Horizon, Kanglasha, Cleave and Scavenger Project battled it out in the finals. Popular events such as Electric Heels, Hot Couture, Mr and Ms Alcheringa, In Sync, Raga High were magnetic. With Ganesh-Kumaresh in Saaz, Scribe the Band in Rock-o-Phonix, Dr. Kumar Vishwas and Sampath Saral in Hasya Kavi Sammelan and Sonu Nigam in Crescendo, Alcheringa 09 was a grand success, drawing milling crowds for all its events. Alcheringa is getting bigger every year and this year was the biggest yet.

EVENTS

TECHNICHE

The year 2008 saw Techniche's decade edition. Initiated ten years ago to give budding technocrats a feel of innovation in technology, this edition was the most ambitious yet and brought together the best from the fields of technology and science, business and management and the humanities. Over one thousand people witnessed Nobel laureate Dr. John C. Mather's lecture; Dr. Prabhu Chawla spoke on Coalition Politics and the renowned French historian Michel Danino gave a stimulating talk on the controversial theory of the Aryan invasion. Among the other highlights was the talk given by Rajiv Kumar, the GM of Microsoft IDC.

EVENTS

1. **Winter School in Philosophy** was organized by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in association with Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla during 30 December, 2008 - 10 January, 2009.
2. **SERC School on Computational Statistical Physics** was organized by the Department of Physics during 1-21 December, 2008.
3. **XVIIIth Annual Convention of National Academy of Psychology (NAOP 2008)** was organized by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences during 14-17 December, 2008.
4. **15th National Conference on Communications (NCC 2009)** was organized by the Joint Telematics Group (JTG) of the IITs and the IISc during 16-18 January 2009 at IIT Guwahati.

CAMPUS NEWS CONSTRUCTION AND PLANS

IITG is growing in terms of people and infrastructure. The campus now houses 2342 students across all years and programmes, 215 faculty and 322 non-teaching staff and their families. Two new boys' hostels of 500 rooms each are nearing completion, and a 1000 seat ninth boys hostel is in the plans. The 240 room extension to the girls' hostel is almost complete. Several new units of B, C, D and F type of quarters are under construction: B-28, C-35, D-18 and F-35; 36 E type flats are ready and 24 are in the plans. Work on extensions to Physics, Chemistry and ECE departments in the Academic Complex has started; extensions are planned to the Chemical Engineering and Design departments as well as a new building for Central Instruments Facility. A state-of-the-art fully air-conditioned Conference Centre with 4 lecture halls and a central food court is under construction. The new pre-fabricated Central Workshop is almost complete. A new building near Lathia Bagicha Gate will house the Post Office and a Railway Reservation Counter, a much needed facility on the campus. Many trees have been planted and efforts are on to make the campus greener.

