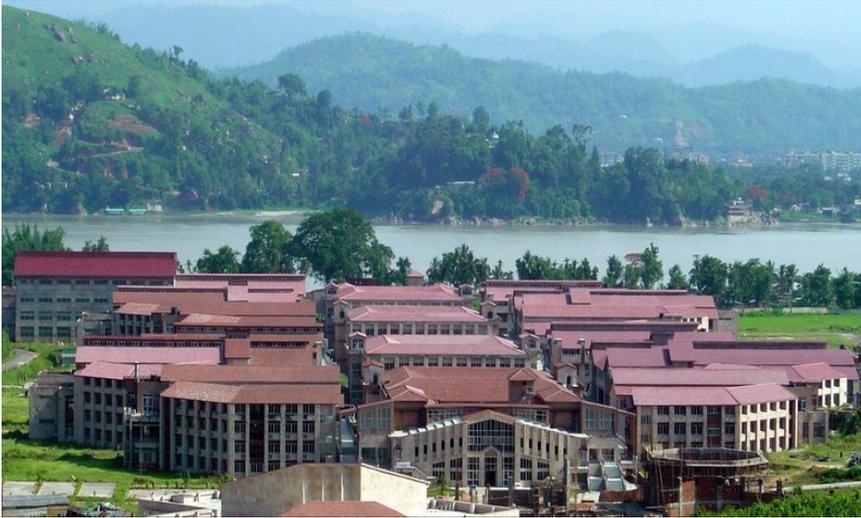




IIT Guwahati Alumni Newsletter

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Director's Message

I am very glad we have made a beginning in reaching out to our alumni in an organised manner. I hope this inaugural issue will be the beginning of a regular newsletter giving information about the campus and about alumni. We also need to get alumni activities more organised. We have had a number of discussions with a number of alumni, but progress has been slow. In our view of things, there are two wings of alumni affairs. One wing is in the Institute and is managed by officials in the Institute (currently by the Professor-in-charge of Alumni Affairs). This activity will be supported by the Institute, possibly with some part of the fees being used for the purpose. The second wing is the Alumni Organisation managed by the alumni themselves. Managing this organisation is not easy as alumni are spread all over the world. It may be a good idea to have the headquarters in India with branches in other countries of the world. We would like the alumni to debate on this issue and to give their suggestions. We are ready to help in setting it up. Normally an institute gets support from its alumni and we expect no less from our alumni. However, as our alumnus is young, we will have to wait for a while for this to happen. In fact, the lack of financial support has been one of the main reasons why the Organization is relatively dormant. So what we propose is that we collect voluntary contributions from graduating students (e.g., getting to donate a part of the caution money that is due to them, something we have started doing) and the collections are transferred to the headquarters of the second wing of the alumni. Amounts may be transferred to the branches by the Alumni Organisation. Please let us work on achieving this.

Professor Gautam Barua
Director, IIT Guwahati



Alumni News

Abhijit Rangnekar (BTech/BT/2006) was declared winner of the young PhD-students' poster presentation session in the Autumn School held in October 2007 at the Interdisciplinary NanoScience Centre (iNANO), Denmark.

Amit U. Sinha (BTech/CE/2003), now a doctoral candidate in Computer Science at University of Cincinnati, won the award for "Best Speaker" at Ohio Collaborative Conference on Bioinformatics (OCCBIO) in Ohio, USA, 9-11 July, 2007. The title of his talk was "Microregulation of a Master Regulatory Network".

Drishti - Soft Solutions, founded by **Bishal Kumar, Sachin Bhatia, Debashish Panda, Nayan Jain (all BTech/CS/2001)** was awarded the Best Contact Centre Solution Award by BPONews in May 2007.

In This Issue

Director's Message

Alumni News

Faculty Achievements

PanIIT

Planned Activities

Events

Campus News

Students' Achievements

Entrepreneurship Development Cell

Faculty Achievements

Awards



Dr. Arun Goyal, Associate Professor, Department of Biotechnology, received the J. V. Bhat award, 2007 for Best Paper published in the Indian Journal of Microbiology (Springer Publication), 2006.



Dr. Parameswar K. Iyer, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, received the Max Planck-India Fellowship from the Max Planck Institute which includes a grant of 3000 Euros per annum for four years.



Dr. Latha Rangan, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, received the R. B. Ekbote Prize, 2007 instituted by the Maharashtra Institute for the Cultivation of Sciences (MACS) for her research contribution in the field of Genetics / Agriculture / Plant Breeding and Cytogenetics.

Books Published



Vikram Seth: An Introduction, written by **Dr. Rohini Mokashi-Punekar, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences,** Cambridge University Press (under the imprint of Foundation Books), 2008.

Editorial Positions



Dr. Kaustubha Mohanty, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, was the guest editor of the International Journal of Chemical Sciences, Special Issue, 2007 featuring selected papers from the Proceedings of the National Conference on Frontiers in Chemical Engineering (NCFCE-2007).

PanIIT

The annual PanIIT meet for the year 2008 will be held at IIT Madras in the month of December. The vision of PanIIT includes five focussed commitments:

- i) nation building
- ii) advocacy
- iii) alumni services
- iv) alumni contributions
- v) brand building

PanIIT supports six projects in the areas of vocational education, education of slum children and engineering education in IITs and other colleges. A mentoring event for budding entrepreneurs was recently conducted in sixteen cities.

Planned Activities

New facilities that are planned for the campus are:

- A Conference Centre
- Central Workshop
- Expansion of the Academic Complex
- Expansion of the Guest House

New hostels that are under construction or are being planned:

- Hostel 7 (will be partially ready by July, 2008)
- Hostel 8 and 9 (under construction)
- Subansiri expansion (in progress)
- Second girls' hostel (being planned)
- Hostels 10 and 11 (in future plan)

The following academic programmes are in the pipeline:

- BTech in Electronic and Electrical Engineering (2008)
- MTech in Biotechnology (2008)
- MA programme in the HSS department (2009)

Events

International Seminar on Earthquake Hazards and Mitigation was hosted by the Department of Civil Engineering during 5-8 December, 2007 in association with AC3 and TC4.

National Conference on Frontiers in Chemical Engineering (NCFCE-2007) was organized during 12-14 December, 2007 by the Department of Chemical Engineering at IIT Guwahati.

The 6th Indo-German Winter Academy, a joint effort between the IITs and the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, was hosted by IIT Guwahati during 13-19 December, 2007.

The 15th International Conference on Advanced Computing and Communication (ADCOM 2007) was organized by the Computer Science and Engineering Department during 18-21 December, 2007 in collaboration with the Advanced Computing and Communication Society.

Workshop on Image and Signal Processing (WISP-2007) was jointly organized by the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering and the C. R. Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science, Hyderabad during 28-29 December, 2007.

International Conference on North East and its Transnational Neighbourhood was organized by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences during 17-18 January, 2008. The conference launched the Asian Borderlands Research Network.

The First Indo-US Symposium on Advances in Mass Transit and Travel Behaviour Research (MITBR-2008) was organized by the Department of Civil Engineering in association with Arizona State University during 12-15 February, 2008.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by IIT Guwahati and the <<n+i>> network - a federation of more than 75 French engineering schools (Grandes Ecoles d'Ingénieurs Françaises). The MoU incorporates programmes for exchange of faculty members and students at the Master's level.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between IIT Guwahati and Tata Consultancy Services Limited under which a Learning Centre will be set up in IIT Guwahati to impart training programmes for fresh engineering and science graduates.

Campus News

IIT Guwahati is growing at a steady rate every year. Currently, we have about 2200 students. By 2012, we plan to increase the strength to 4000. By 2017, we hope to reach our maximum strength of 6500. Construction activity has been going on in full swing in recent years and the pace will continue. Basic infrastructure is now in place. The following are some of the facilities that are ready and in use:

- Academic Complex, housing all the Departments and Centres in an area of about 80,000 sqm, is fully functional.
- Administrative Building (in use since 2003).
- Guest House with 72 rooms (in use since 2001).
- New Library and Computer Centre (in use since 2004).
- Sports Complex: this contains the following facilities - athletics track and jump pits; fields for football, hockey and cricket; volleyball, basketball and tennis courts; swimming pool; indoor stadium with badminton courts, table tennis boards, weightlifting room, a squash court, and Gymkhana offices. A unique feature of our outdoor facilities is floodlights for football and hockey fields and tennis, basketball and volleyball courts.
- Hospital with 17 beds (in use since 2006).
- Two community halls, one each for the use of students and staff.
- Four Lecture Halls each with a capacity of 250. All are air-conditioned, with proper acoustics, sound system and LCD projection.
- An auditorium (recently completed) with a capacity of 1500. It has a balcony, high resolution LCD display, lighting system, and a state-of-the-art sound system.
- A Married Scholars' hostel with a capacity of 105. Each unit is a single bedroom "flatlet".
- A shopping complex.
- A water supply system drawing water from the Brahmaputra.
- A sewerage system, complete with aeration ponds.

The following hostels have been completed: Manas, Dihing, Kapili, Siang, Kameng, Barak and Subansiri.

Students' Achievements

Aie Cheng King Chowlu (MTech/CE) received the best paper presentation award in Catalysis and Reactor design for the paper "Effect of aluminium content in Al-MCM-41 catalyst on decomposition of low density polyethylene (LDPE)" in the National Conference on Frontiers in Chemical Engineering - 2007 (NCFCE-2007) Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati.

Balakrushna Sahu (MTech/CE) received the best paper presentation award in composite materials for the paper "Synthesis and Characterization of Polystyrene / Layered Double Hydroxide Nanocomposites" in International Seminar on Frontiers in Polymer Science and Technology (POLY-2007) organized by Tezpur University, Assam and Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Raghu Khanna (BTech/EC) was selected from 8000 participants for the final TV presentation of his proposal "Drowsiness Indicator for Motorists" in the Philips Simplicity Challenge. This was an initiative of Philips India, CNBC-TV18 and CNN-IBN.

Shamit Srivastava (BTech/ME) received the Ignited Minds Scientific Research Award from the IIT-BITS alumni association and the IM Council. As an Ignited Mind fellow, he joined the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology in May 2007 for a research internship.

Simadri Acharya (MTech/CE) received the best paper award in Energy Engineering for the paper "Nafion/TiO₂ Composite Membrane for Direct Methanol Fuel Cell" in the National Conference on Frontiers in Chemical Engineering - 2007 (NCFCE-2007), Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati.

M. Sivasankar (PhD candidate/ME) was invited to present an expert lecture on failure analysis and fatigue analysis with case studies at the NAFEMS - INDIA Workshop in Bangalore on Finite Element Methods and Practical Stress Analysis, 8-9 February, 2008, Bangalore.



Entrepreneurship Development Cell

The cell is a branch of the Technical club of IIT Guwahati founded in 2005. The cell aims to acquaint the student community with the concept of entrepreneurship. It will also help them with the process of setting up a start-up; identifying changing business landscapes and opportunities, personal and business criteria, the planning process; networking and marketing; finances etc. through enhanced student-industry interaction. The EDC hopes to have an incubation cell in the near future.

Recent talks organised by the cell:

- Mr. Arjun Malhotra, CEO, Headstrong Inc., spoke on "Role of IITians as next generation entrepreneurs in the Indian society" (30 January, 2007).
- Mr. Shekhar Kulkarni, founder of Learn and Teach Foundation, spoke on Reverse Engineering (17 October, 2007).

Contact Us

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