



2006-07-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

New Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur



Prof. M Anandakrishnan became the Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur for a period of three years. He is presently the Chairperson of Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai. Prof. Anandakrishnan was a faculty member in Civil Engineering Department at IIT Kanpur during March 1963 and May 1974. He served as Science Counselor, Embassy of India, Washington D.C., USA from June 1974 to April 1978. He worked with United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) in different positions during 1978 and 1989. He was the Vice-Chancellor of Anna University, Chennai from 1990 to 1996. During 1996-2001, he was Vice-Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (equivalent to Vice-Chancellor). Concurrently, he was Advisor to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on Information Technology and Governance (July 1996 -Oct. 2001).

Dr. Anandakrishnan was honoured with *Padmashri* in 2002. He was conferred the *Distinguished Leadership Award* by the University of Minnesota, USA in 2003, and *Ordem Nacional Do Merito Cientifico* (National Order of Scientific Merit) for contributions to the promotion of international co-operation in Science and Technology by the President of the Republic of Brazil, in 1996. More details are available at: <http://www.iitk.ac.in/infocell/iitk/newhtml/chairmann.htm>

Academic Collaborations

XXXVIII Convocation

The 38th Convocation ceremony was held on June 5, 2006 at the Institute Auditorium. The convocation address was delivered by Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister for Science & Technology and Ocean Development. Prof. C N R Rao, the then Chairman, BOG of IITK, and Linus Pauling Research Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore presided over the event. Details are at: http://www.iitk.ac.in/doaa/convocation_2006/



SURGE

Inaugural *Summer Undergraduate Research Grant for Excellence* (SURGE) Program was successfully completed recently. 10 undergraduate students from IIT Kanpur, 11 students from National Institute(s) of Technology, and 3 students from California Institute of Technology (Caltech), USA participated in the 10-week program at IIT Kanpur. The students carried out research at the frontiers of engineering and science under the mentorship of IIT Kanpur faculty members. The programme was rated extremely well by students and faculty mentors. Three students of IIT Kanpur also participated in a similar programme at Caltech. For details, please visit <http://www.iitk.ac.in/surge/>

Technology Mission on Railway Safety

Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh and the Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways, Shri R. Velu jointly unveiled some of the technologies developed by IIT Kanpur under the Technology Mission on Railway Safety. These included SIMRAN (Satellite Imaging for Rail Navigation) and WILD (Wheel Impact Load Detection System). The event was organized at the National Rail Museum Auditorium, New Delhi on September 15, 2006. The event was widely reported by the electronic and print media. Twelve projects of crucial importance to the railways - including Fog Vision Instrumentation, Derailment Detection Devices, Environmental Friendly Toilets, etc, have been undertaken by IITK under the Mission. The Mission is jointly supported by the Ministry of HRD, Ministry of Railways and a consortium of Indian industries.

Directions

Directions, the quarterly science magazine of IIT Kanpur explores the Institute's ongoing research in different areas. The May 2006 issue focuses on "Interface between Economics and Technology", an essential aspect of the currently prevalent commercial technology. The recent introduction of the 5-year Integrated M.Sc. Program in Economics at IIT Kanpur is a movement in this

direction. This issue of Directions contains 13 articles from the faculty members of Economics and Engineering on various issues relating to science and commerce. Limited stock of hard copies is available and a copy may be requested by writing to infocell@iitk.ac.in. Soft copy is available at <http://www.iitk.ac.in/directions/may2006>.

New Admissions

The new admission for the academic year 2006-2007 has had an intake of 1072 students. It includes 355 students in B Tech, 84 in MSc. 5 years, 102 in B Tech and M Tech dual degree course, 80 in M Sc 2 years, 7 M Sc and PhD (dual), 326 in M Tech, 30 in MBA, 08 in M Des and 80 in PhD programme. The total student strength at the Institute is 3731 at present.

Support from Donors

Dr. Gurmukh D. and Veena M. Mehta Chair and M-Cubed Award: Dr. Gurmukh Mehta (MT/ME/1969) has set up a faculty chair in Mechanical Engineering. He has also initiated the M-Cubed Award (Mehta M Tech Medal Award), consisting of a gold medal and a certificate, meant for an outstanding M Tech student of Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Mehta has been Scientist and Vice President at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), USA for over 25 years. He has been supporting the US Navy in the development, upgradation, testing and simulation of the Tomahawk Cruise Missiles for over 20 years. Dr. Mehta obtained his BE in 1967 from Guru Nanak Engineering College, Punjab University, M Tech from IITK and did his PhD from Brown University in 1974.



Pandit Ramchandra Dwivedi Chair: Mr. Kamalesh Dwivedi (BT/EE/1979) has set up a faculty chair in memory of his father, Pandit Ramchandra Dwivedi. The chair is meant for a distinguished faculty member in any department of IIT Kanpur who has done research and/or development in an area related to India's defence. The chair was launched on August 15, 2006 to commemorate the freedom fighting spirit of the late Pandit Ramchandra Dwivedi and his lifetime contribution to Sanskrit education. Mr. Kamalesh Dwivedi has more than 25 years of experience in engineering, high technology, manufacturing, and information technology. He is presently the Executive Vice President and CIO at Tele Tech Holdings in Englewood, Colorado.



Umang Gupta Chair: Mr. Umang Gupta (BT/CHE/1971) has set up a faculty chair at IIT Kanpur. The chair is open to all Departments of the Institute. Mr. Gupta is currently chairman and chief executive officer of Keynote Systems (NASDAQ: KEYN). He became the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Gupta Technologies, which he took public in 1993 (NASDAQ: GPTA) thereby becoming the first Indian to take a software company public anywhere in the world. Mr. Gupta also serves as chairman of the board of the IIT Kanpur Foundation which he helped start in 2000. He obtained an M.B.A from Kent State University in Ohio, USA in 1972. In 1996 Mr. Gupta received the Distinguished Alumnus Award of IIT Kanpur.



Sagnik Ray

Sagnik Asis Ray Scholarship: Mr. Asis Ray (BT/MME/1981) has setup a scholarship in memory of his son, late Sagnik Ray, for fourth year undergraduate students of the Biological Sciences & Bioengineering department. The late Master Sagnik Ray suffered from E wing sarcoma on his left chest ribs. The scholarship aims to promote research for the cure of Cancer. Mr. Asis Ray is currently the manager at Renco SPA Ville Venezia in Italy.

Alumni Events

Reconstitution of IIT Kanpur Foundation Board

As codified in its constitution, the IITK Foundation nominated and elected 10 directors to its board for a three year term. The new board consists of Deepak Bhagat (BT/EE/1973), Ram Misra (BT/CHE/1968), Arakere Vasudev (former faculty), Umang Gupta (BT/CHE/1971), Abhay Bhushan (BT/EE/1965), Gunjan Bagla (BT/EE/1978), Sanjiv Sahay (BT/EE/1977), Atul Garg (BT/EE/1979), Rakesh Pandey (BT/ME/1978), and Siddharth Dasgupta (MSc 5/CHM/1980). Atul, Rakesh and Siddharth will be starting and replacing the outgoing three members-Prabhu Goyal (BT/EE/1970), Satish Bhalerao (BT/CHE/1970) and Anil Bhandari (BT/ME/1969). The three other permanent invitees to the board meetings are Dr. S.G. Dhande Director IITK, Dr. Sudhir Jain Dean RPG IITK, and Mr. Pawan Kumar President IITK AA (BT/CE/1969, MT/CHE/1972). The board also elected the officers for the next three years. Ram Misra is taking over as President and Rakesh Pandey will serve as Secretary. Abhay Bhushan and Umang Gupta will continue as CFO and Chairman, respectively, for another term.

Singapore Pan IIT

A PAN IIT Conference IIT Everywhere-Making a Difference was organized by the IIT Alumni Association Singapore on August 26, 2006. The event was attended by about 250 delegates. Prof Kripa Shanker, Deputy Director, IIT Kanpur made a presentation on the theme *A vision for IITs - Collaborations with Industry*. He also visited and held high level discussions with National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) on possible collaborations with IITK.

Student Achievements

Best Paper Award

Suresh A Kartha, Ph.D Student of Civil Engineering Department has received the best paper award at the 15th Asia and Pacific Regional Congress of the International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research (IAHR). The paper was titled "Effect of Immobile Water Content on Contaminant Transport in Unsaturated Zone" and was presented by him at the Congress held at IIT Madras from August 7-10, 2006.

Best Project Award

The project titled "Autopilot Development for Mini UAV: Hardware Software Co-Design" by four students (Mohit Mangal and Mohit Mundhra of Computer Science and Engineering Department, and Gaurav Gupta and Shobhit Niranjan of Electrical Engineering Department) under the guidance of Prof. Rajat Moona won the First Prize at the AES All-India Student Project Contest - 2006 conducted by the IEEE-India AES/Com/LEO Societies Chapter, on 19th August, in Hyderabad, India.

Cornell Scholarships

Sathyaraj Venkatesan and Joe Varghese Yeldho Ph.D scholars in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences were chosen through a global selection procedure, to attend the prestigious School of Criticism and Theory (SCT) at Cornell University, Ithaca, USA, held between June 18th and July 28th, 2006. Sathyaraj was among the select few to obtain full scholarship for this programme, while Joe received a partial scholarship from Cornell.

VICAL Awards

The paper entitled "Proposed Methods for Alignment of Electrospun Nanofibres to be used as Scaffolds in Tissue Engineering" authored by Riju Mohan Singhal (4th year Chemical Engineering) and Amit Nandan (3rd year Biological Sciences and Bioengineering) has earned the VICAL Awards 1st Prize, 2006, IICChE for the Best Technical Paper for Students presented in the 1st Annual Session of Students Chemical Engineering Congress, Schemcon 2005 held in December at Guwahati.

Great Performance of the IITK Tae-Kwon-Do Club

Tae-kwon-Do Club students have again proved their excellence in Black-Belt Test, held at Lucknow in month of April. All the three students, Harsh Pathak of 4th year MTech (dual) Aerospace Engineering, Siddhartha Srivastava of BTech 3rd year Mechanical Engineering and Suresh Arvindakshan Kartha pursuing PhD in Civil Engineering, who participated in the event from IIT Kanpur cleared the test and are now DAN-1 Black Belt Holders.

Faculty News

 <p>Professor R K Thareja, Department of Physics has been awarded the prestigious Raja Ramanna Fellowship by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India..</p>	<p>First occupant of Prof. Sampath Chair at IIT Kanpur (refer to Grapevine August 2005) is Professor Asok Kumar Mallik, Department of Mechanical Engineering. Details available at: http://www.iitk.ac.in/drpg/chair/akm.htm</p> 
 <p>Professor Amalendu Chandra, Department of Chemistry, has been awarded the prestigious Raja Ramanna Fellowship by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.</p>	<p>First occupant of Lalit Mohan Kapoor Chair at IIT Kanpur (refer to Grapevine May 2006) is Professor V Chandrasekhar, Department of Chemistry. Details available at: http://www.iitk.ac.in/drpg/chair/vc.htm</p> 
 <p>Professor Sanjay Mittal, Department of Aerospace Engineering has been awarded the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award (2006) in Engineering Sciences.</p>	<p>First occupant of Pradeep Sindhu Chair at IIT Kanpur (refer to Grapevine August 2005) is Professor Y N Mohapatra. Professor Mohapatra holds a joint appointment in the Departments of Physics and Material Science Programme. Details available at: http://www.iitk.ac.in/drpg/chair/ynm.htm</p> 

New Appointments

- ❖ Dr. Gautam Deo, Department of Chemical Engineering, has been appointed as Head, Institute Counseling Services and Chairman, Student Benefit Fund (SBF).
- ❖ Dr. Rajiv Sinha, Department of Civil engineering has been appointed as the Chairman, Students' Placement Committee.
- ❖ Dr. B V Phani, Department of IME has been appointed as the Coordinator SIDBI, Innovation & Incubation Centre (SIIC).
- ❖ Dr. Jitendra Kumar has been appointed as the Head of Materials Science Program.
- ❖ Dr. S K Choudhury of Mechanical Engineering Department has been appointed as the Chairman of Joint Entrance Examination.
- ❖ Dr. A K Ghosh of Aerospace Engineering Department has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of Joint Entrance Examination.

Book Release

Materials Science and Engineering, Dr. A Upadhyaya (Department of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering), Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. The co-author of the book is Professor GS Upadhyaya, formerly a professor in MME Department.

Applied Mathematical Methods, Dr. Bhaskar Dasgupta (Department of Mechanical Engineering), Pearson Education, Dorling Kindersley (India).

Mathematical Physics: Advanced Topics, Professor SD Joglekar (Department of Physics), University Press, Hyderabad.

Machining Technology, Professor V K Jain (Department of Mechanical Engineering), Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi

Quantum Physics, Dr. H C Verma (Department of Physics), Surya Publications, Ghaziabad

New Faculty

- ❖ Dr. Parasar Mohanty, Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Statistics, 23.05.2006
- ❖ Dr. Sumit Sarkar, Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, 08.06.2006
- ❖ Dr. Tarun Gupta, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering, 12.06.2006
- ❖ Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, 15.06.2006
- ❖ Dr. Anupam Pal, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, 03.07.2006
- ❖ Dr. Siddhartha Panda, Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering, 17.07.2006
- ❖ Dr. Surendra Baswana, Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, 19.07.2006

Faculty Awards and Honors

Professor Kalyanmoy Deb, Department of Mechanical Engineering has been awarded the 'Thomson Citation Laureate Award' by Thomson Scientific. This award to Professor Deb is in recognition to his being adjudged the most cited researcher in Computer Science from India on the basis of citation data in 'ISI Web of Knowledge' pertaining to the period 1996 - 2005.

Professor Tapan Kumar Sengupta, Department of Aerospace Engineering has recently been appointed as a Senior Associate of the Abdus Salem International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste, Italy for a period of six years.

Dr. Braj Bhushan, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences has recently been invited by the 'Internet Journal of Medical Update' to join its Editorial Advisory Board.

Professor R Balasubramaniam, Department of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering has been invited to serve in the Editorial advisory Board of 'Collection Indologie' (formerly 'Publications de l'Institute Francais d'Indologie') published jointly by the French Institute of Pondicherry and the Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient.

Dr. Ashu Jain, Department of Civil Engineering has been awarded the 'Achievement Award' by the Indian International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in recognition to his contribution to the area of 'AI applications to Water Resources Engineering'.

Professor Manindra Agrawal, Computer Science and Engineering Department and his two students, Sri Neeraj Kayal and Sri Nitin Saxena have been awarded the Fulkerson Prize for the year 2006. This prize is awarded once in three years jointly by the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Programming Society for outstanding work in the area of discrete Mathematics.

Professor VK Jain, Department of Mechanical Engineering has recently been invited to be a member of the editorial board of a new journal: IJIMS - International Journal of Internet Manufacturing and Services being published by Interscience Publishers (UK).

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Ultrasonic NDE of Composite Material, Oct. 03-08, 2006
- ❖ ASID'06-The 9th Asian Symposium on Information Display, October 8-12, 2006
- ❖ NWPE 2006: National Workshop on Power Electronics, October 30 to November 1, 2006
- ❖ Recent Trends in Nanocomposites, Nov. 06-10, 2006
- ❖ Principles of Construction Management, Nov. 27 – Dec. 02, 2006
- ❖ International Conference on Design of Biomaterials: BIND-06 & XVII Annual Meeting of SBAOI (A IUSBSE Member), December 8-11, 2006
- ❖ Winter School on Rheology of Complex Fluids, Dec. 11-15, 2006
- ❖ The 12th International Planning History Conference in New Delhi, December 10-18, 2006
- ❖ EMBO 2006: International Workshop on Developmental Mechanisms and Disease Models, December 16-20, 2006
- ❖ Short Course on Seismic Design of Bridges, January 15-19, 2007
- ❖ Thirteenth-National Conference on Communications, January 26-28, 2007
- ❖ International Conference on the Applications of the Mössbauer Effect, October 14-19, 2007

ALUMNI EVENTS

30th Year Reunion of Class-of-77, December 24-25, 2006

Inauguration of the Alumni and Student Career Center Building, December 26, 2006

35th Year Reunion of Class-of-72, December 27-28, 2006

Silver Jubilee Reunion of Class-of-82, December 30-31, 2006

Alumni Day, February 24, 2007

With compliments from:

