



Grape - Vine



A quarterly newsletter of Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur for Institute's friends, patrons, mentors and alumni 2004-05/1

A message from the Director

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the first edition of this quarterly newsletter of IIT Kanpur. In future we will update you with the developments at the Institute and its activities through this letter.

I believe you will enjoy going through the newsletter as it carries a lot of information about your alma-mater.

Sanjay G. Dhande
Director, IIT Kanpur

MP Shri Arun Shourie pledges Rs.11 crore to IITK for Environmental Sciences & Engineering

Noted journalist and Member of Parliament Shri Arun Shourie has pledged Rs.11 crore from his Member of Parliament Local Area Development Fund (MPLAD) to IITK for Environmental Sciences and Environmental Engineering. During his earlier term as Rajya Sabha MP, Shri Shourie had provided his MPLAD Fund for the Biological Sciences and Bioengineering Department.



Professor S. Sampath Chair established at IIT Kanpur

Family members, friends and admirers of Professor S. Sampath, former Director, IIT Kanpur have taken the initiative to establish "Professor S. Sampath Chair" at IIT Kanpur. They have raised more than Rs.20 lakhs towards the corpus. From the interest an honorarium of Rs.10,000 per month will be paid to the incumbent of the chair. The chair position would be offered to a distinguished faculty member of IITK so that he/she would receive the honorarium, in addition to the salary. The Chair was launched on April 15, 2005 the 80th birth anniversary of Professor Sampath.

Prof. S. Ranganathan (Prof. S. Sampath's younger brother), Prof. S.G. Dhande (Director) & Prof. S. Biswas (Dean of Faculty Affairs) at the launch of the Chair



ALUMNI

IIT 2005 Global Conference

Many of you may recall the first Global PanIIT Conference held in San Jose, California in January 2003 with Bill Gates delivering the keynote address to over 2500 IIT alumni. In December 2004, the second Global PanIIT Conference was held in New Delhi, with President Kalam delivering the keynote address to over 2000 IIT alumni. IIT 2005, the next Global IIT Alumni Conference on May 20-22, 2005 is planned in Bethesda, Maryland, a suburb of Washington. The IIT 2005 global conference is built upon the earlier successes. The conference will be of special interest to Indian-owned Companies trying to expand their business in the US, wanting to network with business leaders, seek employment opportunities, or recruit potential employees. The congressional delegation of Virginia will be hosting a special Reception in the Library of Congress and several members of the India Caucus are expected to attend it. The conference is expected to be "sold out" based on the interest of the alumni base in the keynote speakers like the legendary Jack Welch, and Academic/Government leaders like Larry Summers of Harvard University, Lord Kumar Bhattacharya of UK, Alumni CEO like Arun Sarin of Vodaphone, and many others. The theme of the conference is "Technology Without Borders" to emphasize the international reach of IIT alumni, the globalization of business, and the future of education.





The support of Alumni has helped in refurbishing of the hostels.



25th Year Reunion (Class of 80)

25th Year Reunion was held at IIT Kanpur between 26th to 28th December 2004. About 80 alumni attended this event, many accompanied by their families. A large contingent arrived by Shatabdi Express and received a warm welcome by the ever enthusiastic student volunteers at the railway station. The time from station to IITK entrance seemed overbearing; dumping their valises at Visitor's Hostel, many rushed to take note of developments since their time.

35th Year Reunion (Class of 70)

The 35th Year Reunion of Class-of-70 held between 31st Dec, 04 to 2nd Jan, 05 was a tremendous success. The hearts were warm to combat the cold weather; the weather had been too generous to bless Alumni-70 with nice sunny days. Close to 85 alumni attended the reunion, many accompanied by their families.

15th Year Reunion (Class of 90)

The 15th Year Reunion of Class-of-90 was held during January 1-2, 2005. About 25 alumni attended it.



STUDENTS

Techkriti-2005



The annual Science and Technology festival of the institute "Techkriti" was held from February 24-27, 2005. Several Institutions from all over the country participated in this event. Contests like Endeavor, Software Corner, Robogames, ECDC, Stratagem, Gearloose, Eureka, Nirmaan, i-Quiz were the main attraction during the event. "Endeavour" was an effort to showcase the greatness of human effort and creativity. "Software Corner" was all about the soul of the inanimate, the binary soul. "Robogames" invited all budding roboticists to play it out in an arena where the games reached a whole new level of competition. It was all about pushing man and machine to the very limits of endurance.

INSTITUTE

Indo-Japan Science Cooperation Programme in Manufacturing Science

Indo-Japan Science Cooperation Programme in Manufacturing Science was organized at IIT Kanpur from February 21-26, 2005. The programme was funded by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), New Delhi & the Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS), Tokyo. The programme was coordinated by Professor Amitabha Ghosh of IIT Kanpur & Professor Manabu Kuchi of Tokyo University. The programme included joint seminars by about 30 Indian and Japanese scientists. These joint seminars were devoted to presentation of research papers on various topics related to Manufacturing Processes, Manufacturing Systems, and Manufacturing Science of Advanced Composites.



Media Technology Centre Inaugurated

The Media Technology Centre was inaugurated on February 20th, 2005 at 10.00 hours. Our former colleague and well known media personality, Professor Man Mohan Chaudhri was the chief guest on the occasion. The Media Technology Centre is an attempt to encourage and cultivate a sense of appreciation and explore the skills involved in the new media for creative expressions. Centre aims to provide a meaningful platform for the students to foster their creative potentials and merge it with their gradual process of acquiring and exchanging knowledge with technology based education at the institute. Akhil Bharatiya Kavi Sammelan was also organized in the evening as part of the Inaugural Programme of the MTC in which thirteen poets participated.

IITK helps in setting up Institute of Information Technology, Design & Manufacturing at Jabalpur

The Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Pt. Dwarka Prasad Mishra Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design & Manufacturing, Jabalpur was done by Shri Arjun Singh, Union Minister for Human Resource Development on February 7, 2005. Shri Babu Lal Gaur, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh presided over the function. The mission of the Institute is to be a global center of excellence in design and manufacturing education and research in the country. The Institute offers undergraduate courses leading to B.Tech. Degree in Computer Science & Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. At the postgraduate level there shall be specialization in creative design and engineering. The task of incubation of these programmes shall be under Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur.



International Conference on Communications and Computing



International Conference on Communications & Computing was held at IIT Kanpur from February 4-6, 2005. This conference was jointly organized by IETE Kanpur Local Centre and IIT Kanpur. Shri F. C. Kohli, Ex-Deputy Chairman, TCS Ltd. Mumbai was the Guest of Honor and he delivered the keynote address on "IT Revolution in India - An Assessment". Shri Pradip Bajjal, Chairman, TRA of India, was the Chief Guest. In this session a Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Shri F.C. Kohli.

Course on Architecture for Earthquake Resistance of Buildings

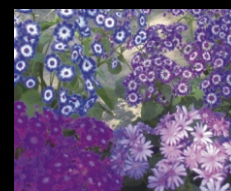
A Short Course for teaching faculty members on Architecture for Earthquake Resistance of Buildings was conducted at IIT Kanpur from January 17-25, 2005. About twenty three members participated in this course. Professor C. V. R. Murty, the course coordinator stressed on the need of teaching of earthquake engineering to the architectural students. The same course was also conducted by IIT Kanpur at Surat during June 19-23, 2004 with 35 teachers of architecture participating. These courses were conducted under the aegis of National Programme on Earthquake Engineering Education (NPEEE). IIT Kanpur is the Coordinating Institute for NPEEE; details at www.nicee.org/npeee.



International Conference on Recent Advances in Statistics



The Department of Mathematics and Statistics organized an International Conference during January 4-6, 2005 on Recent Advances in Statistics. This conference was to felicitate our esteemed colleagues, Professors Diwakar Sharma, G. K. Shukla and P.C. Joshi of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, IIT Kanpur. Professor S.G. Dhande inaugurated the conference and mentioned about the development and importance of Statistics and Probability in everyday life.



Flower Show 2005
www.iitk.ac.in/news/flowershow



Computer Centre acquires a Linux Cluster

The new SUN cluster is a 48 node V20z compute grid. Each node is a dual AMD Opteron CPU machine with 4GB RAM. The compute grid has been set up in a Beowulf configuration through 3750 Cisco switches and MRV terminal servers. The master node of the cluster is a V40z server. This cluster operates on Linux and the SUN grid engine. It will soon be expanded to a 96 node cluster.

Department of Aerospace Engineering acquires HANSA Aircraft

A new airplane HANSA-III (VT-HNS) has been added to the Flight Lab of the Institute. HANSA-III is an all composite, modern, two-seater trainer aircraft designed and built by NAL, Bangalore. It has turbo-charged engine with constant speed propeller. It is extensively tested for certification compliance including lightning protection. The aircraft has been upgraded in association with IIT Kanpur, by incorporating state of the art data acquisition system to acquire motion, control & engine variables. The funding for this aircraft has been supported by CSIR & IIT Kanpur. This aircraft gives a unique platform to conduct experiments in the field of parameter estimation, performance evaluation, structural testing & aerodynamic testing. This acquisition will appreciably enhance teaching and research facility in the field of Aerospace Engineering. Further, this airplane could advantageously be used to conduct experiments in the field of surveying and geographical mapping.



Awards & Honors

- Dr. Bikramjit Basu of MME Department has been chosen the Young Metallurgist of the Year 2004 by the Indian Institute of Metals.
- Prof. Vinod K. Singh of Chemistry Department has been chosen for S.S. Bhatnagar Prize in Chemical Sciences for the year 2004.
- Dr. F. A. Khan and Dr. S. Verma of Chemistry Department have been chosen for the B. M. Birla Prize in Chemical Sciences for the year 2004.
- Dr. Javed N. Malik of Civil Engineering Department has been chosen for the S.S. Merh Award-2004 by the Council of the Geological Society of India, for his contributions in the field of Quaternary Geology.
- Dr. Manindra Agrawal and Dr. V. Chandrasekhar received Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award (2003)
- Dr. Neeraj Mishra of Department of Mathematics and Statistics has been chosen for the 2003 Jacob Wolfowitz Prize for Theoretical Advances in the Mathematical and Management Sciences for, "Simultaneous Multiple Comparisons with the Worst and Best", along with Dr. S.K. Sharma and Dr. A.N. Gill of Punjab University, Chandigarh.

Professor CNR Rao designated as the Chairman of the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

During the 92nd session of the Indian Science Congress at Ahmedabad, Honorable Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh said "I am happy to announce that we have constituted a Science Advisory Council with Professor CNR Rao as its Chairman". Dr. Singh said that he looked forward to the committee's guidance in addressing the challenges facing Indian Science. Professor Rao is currently the Chairman, Board of Governors of IIT Kanpur. Our Director, Professor S.G. Dhande is also a member of this council.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conferences

- Special Session on Intelligent Control, 2nd Indian International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IICAI-05), December 20-22, 2005

Courses

- QIP Short Term Course on Intelligent Sensors & Control, May 4-10, 2005
- QIP Short Term Course on Fundamentals of Wired and Wireless Networks, May 9-13, 2005
- Short Term Course on Seismic Design of Steel Structures, May 16-20, 2005
- Design of DSP-Based Work Station, May 16-21, 2005
- Short Term Course on Seismic Evaluation & Strengthening of Buildings, (5 days) June 2005
- Organic Electronics and Flat panel Displays, July 11-15, 2005
- A Short Course on Genetic Algorithms for Engineering Optimization, July 20-22, 2005
- Short Term Course on Seismic Design of Masonry Building, (5 days) August 2005
- Short Term Course on Law & Economics, October 9-16, 2005
- QIP Short Term Course on Recent Trends in Advanced Composites, October 10-14, 2005
- Short Term Course on Developments in & Applications of All Solid State Lasers, December 5-10, 2005
- First Indo-US Frontiers of Engineering (FOE) Symposium, March 4-6, 2006