



# GRAPEVINE

2008-09/IV



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

## Institute Milestones

**IITK gets two motor gliders:** The institute has procured two motor gliders which are now with the Aerospace Department. The Head of the Aerospace Department Prof. Sudhir Kamle has dedicated the two gliders to the institute's Flight Lab. One glider has been procured on lease from the Aero Club of India while the other has been purchased by the institute. It can fly up to an altitude of 10,000 feet without any oxygen cylinder and further up to a maximum altitude of 29,000 feet with external oxygen cylinders and can maintain a speed of 122 knots/hr. It has two fuel tanks with a capacity of fifty liters each and can remain in the air for about six hours at a stretch. The existing glider is not motor driven and can only fly up to a height of 800 feet.



## Alumni News and Events



**Pan IIT 2008 Global Alumni Conference:** The Pan IIT Annual Global Conference was held at IIT Madras, from 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2008. The focus this year was to inspire IITians to get involved in a process to transform India. Various dignitaries and celebrities from all over the world and from every walk of life assembled at this meet. These included Bob McDonald, COO, Procter & Gamble; Mr. B. Muthuraman, MD, Tata Steel; Mr. Ravi Kant, MD, Tata Motors; Mr. S. Ramadorai, MD, TCS; the world chess champion Viswanathan Anand; Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen; Stephen P. Cohen, fellow of the Brookings Institution; Kishore Mahbubani, the former Singapore ambassador to the United Nations and actress Hema Malini. Over

150 renowned speakers gave talks during the meet. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Manmohan Singh, India's Prime Minister, via a live satellite link from New Delhi. At the IITK stall, the alumni and other attendees were given first hand information about the latest happenings and developments at IITK. More than a hundred IITK alumni had come for the Meet and many made on the spot donations to our institute. A large contingent from IITK consisting of Prof. M. Anandkrishnan, Chairman; Prof. Sanjay G. Dhande, Director; Prof. Sanjeev K. Aggarwal, Dean, RPG; Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Chairman of Golden Jubilee; Mr. Mohammad Shakeel, AR, DRPG Office; staff members of DRPG office and about 30 students attended the event.

**Alumni Reunions:** Three alumni reunions took place at IIT Kanpur during December, 2008 to January 2009: the 35<sup>th</sup> Year Reunion of the class-of-74, the Silver Jubilee Reunion of the class-of-84 and the 20<sup>th</sup> Year Reunion of the class-of-88. The cold and fog of this season did not dampen the warmth of the reunions. Many alumni rejoiced on meeting their old friends and were happy to reminisce about their time at IITK. During this period many cultural events such as a musical night, a cultural show and an evening of folk music and dances of India were organised at the Institute auditorium. At the SAC grounds, a handicrafts bazaar was put up where craftsmen from various states brought their products for exhibition and sale.



Class-of-74



Class-of-84



Class-of-88

**Dr. Pradeep Sindhu (BT/EE/1974)**, a distinguished alumnus of the Institute has been recently awarded the Alumni Achievement Award 2008 by the Carnegie Mellon University Alumni Association. Dr. Sindhu is the founder of Juniper Networks and is a technical visionary in the field of high performance networking. His contribution to router technology for the internet will remain a legacy for the next several decades.



## Student News: their achievements and activities



**Mr. Aquil Khan** of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics got the best paper presentation award in the National Meet of Research Scholars in Mathematics & Statistics (NMRSMS-08) held in IIT Kanpur from 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2008.

**Mr. Ritesh Patel**, a Ph.D student of the Department of Electrical Engineering has been awarded the IEEE Dielectrics and Insulation Society (IEEE-DEIS) Fellowship, 2008 for his research work entitled "Study of polarization mechanisms in nanocomposites with metal oxide fillers". This work has been done under the guidance of Dr. Nandini Gupta, of the Department of Electrical Engineering. The fellowship amount is US \$ 5000.



**Mr. Shivank Tandon's** project thesis entitled "Spray-Casting of Al-2024 and Al-Si Alloys" has been awarded the "ALUCAST Best Project Award". This award has been instituted by "The Aluminium Caster's Association of India". The award was presented during the Asia-Pacific Aluminium Conference 2008 held in Chennai from 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2008. Mr. Tandon did this work under the guidance of Dr. Anish Upadhyaya of the Department of Materials & Metallurgical Engineering.

**Megabucks**, the international business and entrepreneurship festival was held from 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2009. Conceptualized by the Pioneer Batch of IIT Kanpur in the year 2000, Megabucks has been a platform to nurture and inspire business leaders of tomorrow. Megabucks 09 saw the impressive participation of, and the fierce competition among, some of the brightest minds from all over the world.



## Faculty News

### New Faculty Appointments

★ **Dr. D. Paul**, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Ph.D from Cornell University, US.

★ **Dr. K. V. Srivastava**, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, Ph.D from IIT Kanpur, India.

★ **Dr. P. Kulshreshtha**, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ph.D from Cornell University, USA.

★ **Dr. D. Chakrabarty**, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, Ph.D from Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, India.



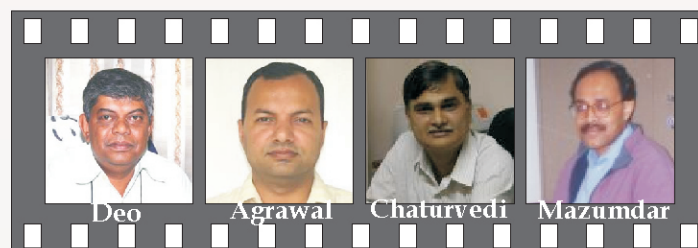
### New Heads Appointed

★ **Prof. Goutam Deo**, head of the Department of Chemical Engineering.

★ **Prof. Manindra Agrawal** has been reappointed as the head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

★ **Prof. Ajit K. Chaturvedi**, head of the Department of Electrical Engineering.

★ **Prof. Dipak Mazumdar**, head of the Department of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering.



### Chair Professorships

The following faculty members have been selected for the various Chair Professorships for a three year term starting November, 2008.



A. Chandra

★ **Prof. A. Chandra** (Department of Chemistry) for the Rahul and Namita Gautam Chair. Prof. Chandra's research areas are Statistical mechanics of molecular liquids, soft condensed matter and interfaces.



S. K. Jain

★ **Prof. D. Gupta** (Department of Materials & Metallurgical Engineering) for the Champa Devi Gangwal Chair. Prof. Gupta's research areas are Electronic Materials and Processing and Flat Panel Displays.

★ **Prof. S. K. Jain** (Department of Civil Engineering) for the Rajeeva & Sangeeta Lahri Chair. Prof. Jain's research areas are Earthquake Engineering and Structural Dynamics.



P. K. Kalra

★ **Prof. S. D. Joglekar** (Department of Physics) for the Poonam & Prabhu Goel Chair. Prof. Joglekar's research areas are Quantum Field Theory and Renormalisation.

★ **Prof. P. K. Kalra** (Department of Electrical Engineering) for the Arun Kumar Chair. Prof. Kalra's research areas are Power systems, Expert Systems applications and HVDC transmission.

★ **Prof. L. Krishnan** (Department of Humanities & Social Sciences) for the Poonam & Prabhu Goel Chair. Prof. Krishnan's research areas are Distributive Justice, Prosocial behaviour and Cross-cultural issues.



D. Gupta



S.D. Joglekar



L. Krishnan



D. Kundu

★ **Prof. D. Kundu** (Department of Mathematics & Statistics) for the USV Chair. Prof. Kundu's research areas are Survival Analysis, Non-Linear Regression, Statistical Computing and Statistical Signal Processing.



S. Mittal

★ **Prof. S. Mittal** (Department of Aerospace Engineering) for the Sanjay Mittal Chair. Prof. Mittal's research interests are computation fluid dynamics, finite element methods and flow -induced oscillations.



R. Moona

★ **Prof. R. Moona** (Department of Computer Science and Engineering) for the Poonam & Prabhu Goel Chair. Prof. Moona's research areas are Computer Architecture, VLSI Design, Embedded Systems and Security.



A. Sharma

★ **Prof. A. Sharma** (Department of Chemical Engineering) for the Ranjit Singh Chair. Prof. Sharma's research areas are Confined Soft Materials, Nanomechanics, Meso-Patterning and Colloids and Interfaces.



K. Shanker

★ **Prof. K. Shanker** (Department of Industrial & Management Engineering) for the Ram Tiwari Chair. Prof. Shanker's research interests are Production/Operations Management and Quantitative and Statistical Decision Models.



P. Sinha

★ **Prof. P. Sinha** (Department of Biological Science & Bio-Engineering) for the Satish Chandra Agarwal Chair. Prof. Sinha's research interests are in Cancer Genetics, Growth Control and Pattern formation.



Y. D. Vankar

★ **Prof. Y. D. Vankar** (Department of Chemistry) for the Sajani Kumar Roy Memorial Chair. Prof. Vankar's research area is the Synthetic Carbohydrate Chemistry which is of importance to Glycobiology.



N. S. Vyas

★ **Prof. N. S. Vyas** (Department of Mechanical Engineering) for the N. C. Nigam Chair. Prof. Vyas's research areas are Machine Dynamics, System Identification and Parameter Estimation.

Details are available at <http://www.iitk.ac.in/drpg/facultychair.htm>

## Obituary



**Professor Sanjeev Bhargava**, passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2009 following a massive heart attack. He did his B.Tech in 1975, M.Tech in 1977 and Ph.D in 1982 all from IITK in the Department of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering. During his student days at IIT Kanpur he was the President of Hall 5 and was a prominent figure in all the cultural festivals. After a brief stint at Mishra-Dhatu Nigam, Prof. Bhargava joined IIT Kanpur in January, 1989. He served the institute as the Dean of Students Affairs from January, 1997 - December, 1999; as Head of the Department of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering from January, 2003 - January, 2006 and as Secretary of Alumni Association from January, 2000 - January, 2004. His research interests were in the areas of Intermetallics and other high temperature materials. Currently, he was serving as the first Director of PDPM, IIITDM, Jabalpur.

**The Institute expresses its deepest condolences to the bereaved family of Prof. Bhargava and prays for the peace of the departed soul.**