

# Connections

IIT Gandhinagar



*Connections is the quarterly newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar*

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## Institute News



### Third Batch Joins: Orientation Programme

The Institute admitted its third batch of 128 students (112 boys and 16 girls) on July 22, 2010. An orientation programme for the new students was held during July 22-27, 2010 for their smooth transition from school and home atmosphere to the IIT campus. The chief guest, Dr A L Ravimohan, a former Vice President of Technology, Castrol International, Mumbai, India in his inaugural address inspired the students to be 'Creative Scientist Engineers' and to take leadership roles. Dr Ravimohan is a President's Gold Medal winning BTech (1967) from IIT Bombay and PhD (1971) from California Institute of Technology, USA. Director Sudhir K Jain, emphasized hard work as the key to success for the students.

A number of workshops formed the majority of Orientation process. These included Sailing Through IIT by Ms Madhu Chadda, aimed at stress management, time management, creativity and development of IIT culture, Celebrating the Unique ME by Ms Jasbir Thadhani, Counseling Psychologist of IIT Gandhinagar on discovering own uniqueness, What is it like to be an IITian: Facts and Fictions by Prof Jayant Kanitkar, and Personality Development by Ms Rashmi Datt, to develop teamwork, interpersonal communication skills and crisis management. The students were also exposed to the Cultural and Architectural Heritage of Ahmedabad by Theater and Media Centre, Ahmedabad. The parents and the Institute faculty discussed how parents could be part of IITGN's vision and mission. As a part of the Orientation programme, three faculty members and the Institute Counseling Psychologist talked to all the students on one-to-one basis to understand their backgrounds, goals, hopes, aspirations, and concerns. The exercise was aimed at preparing the new students share their issues, academic or personal, if and when needed, with any faculty member without any hesitation. It also helps the Institute to discover and develop the talents of students.



### Second Meeting of the Board of Governors

Second meeting of the Board of Governors was held on September 21, 2010. Besides routine matters, the Board considered and approved important proposals helping push excellence in the Institute. These proposals included: a document Vision of the Institute; the document Partnerships in Pursuit of Excellence; Fund Raising Strategy that outlines action plan for raising money and seeking active partners who share our vision and are willing to help; Student Participation in Academic Senate of the Institute and the Senate Committees; Merit Scholarships for Students based only on their performance in Academics, Sports & Games, Arts/Culture, or Social Works & Leadership; and Excellence Awards to Faculty Members for outstanding contributions in the fields of Teaching, Research, Institution Building and Outreach.

## Support to the Institute

### Bhupen and Shruti Shah Family Trust



Sri Bhupen Shah has sponsored (a) one Faculty Chair, and (b) one Research Fellowship for young/new faculty. Sri Shah holds a Master of Science in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He has over 25 years of experience in technology development, product development, and engineering management in embedded digital media and communication solutions at Sling Media, Emuzed, Dazzle, RealChip, Philips Semiconductors, IBM and others. He has successfully built several cost-effective India-based development organizations. Sri Bhupen Shah co-founded Sling Media, now a part of Echostar, and is currently its Chief Technology Officer.

### Bipin and Rekha Shah Research Fellowship



Sri Bipin Shah has sponsored a Bipin and Rekha Shah Research Fellowship for young/ new faculty. Sri Shah holds a MS from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a BEE (Honours) from Jadavpur University. He has held important positions in several high-tech companies, and has founded some of them. He is currently the CEO and Chairman of Kovair Software in Milpitas, CA which has a Development Center in Kolkata. He is active with a number of non-profit organizations: The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE); Ahimsa Center at the California Polytechnic University, Pomona; Cupertino Education Endowment Foundation; the Jain Center of Northern California. Sri Shah is a founder of the IIT Gandhinagar Foundation in the United States.

### Tarun Goswami Scholarship



Prof Tarun Goswami has set up a merit-cum-means scholarship for first year undergraduate students. Prof Goswami received his Doctor of Science from Helsinki University of Technology, Finland (1999), M.E. Honors from University of Wollongong, NSW Australia (1998) and M.E. from IIT Roorkee (1986). Prof Goswami is a Sr. Joint Associate Professor at Wright State University, Dayton, OH, USA.

### Reaching Out

Professor Sudhir K Jain participated in the 9th US National/10th Canadian Conference on Earthquake Engineering in Toronto, Canada during 25 - 29 July 2010. Thereafter, he visited San Francisco and Los Angeles areas to seek partnerships with potential benefactors and well wishers of the Institute. He addressed the graduate students and post doctoral fellows at California Institute of Technology and apprised them of the progress Institute is making.

## Activities at IITGN

### IIT Gandhinagar Vision



A Vision Retreat was organized to evolve IIT Gandhinagar's Mission, Vision, Values, and Principles with a view to make it a great place to live and work, and to make it a preferred destination for future generations of students, staff and faculty. A select group of faculty, students, non-teaching staff, invited guests and the Director discussed and debated the related issues on August 27 and 28, 2010 at a prominent hotel in Ahmedabad. Prof Jayant Kanitkar, primary motivator of the event, led the discussions. A draft document thus prepared was later shared with the entire Institute community for comments and suggestions. The final document was then presented to the Board of Governors for consideration.

### Non Degree Students at IITGN

With a view to enrich the learning environment through diversity of the student body, IITGN will admit, through a rigorous process, a limited number of undergraduate and postgraduate students to pursue course work or research for one or two semesters. This work can count towards the degree requirements at the student's own Institute or University within India or abroad but not at IITGN. Mr Ashutosh Singla from L N Mittal Institute of Information Technology, Jaipur is the first to join the Institute under this provision in July 2010 for one semester.



### Inauguration of a New Building

A newly built 1000 sq.m building was formally inaugurated on July 15, 2010 by Prof Vedanth Kadambi, the senior most Visiting Professor of the Institute in the presence of faculty, staff and students of IITGN and VGEC and CPWD officials. It has been built by IITGN on the VGEC campus through the Central PWD in a record time; a total of seven months from preliminary proposal from CPWD (December 18, 2009) to the inauguration (July 15, 2010). The building houses Mechanical Engineering and Physics laboratories, offices of the faculty, research scholars and their research facility.

### B U Patel Foundation



Sri Bhikhubhai Patel has set up a B U Patel Foundation at IITGN with an initial contribution of \$ 25,000 for supporting Institute projects towards excellence. He is a founder and Vice Chairman of Tarsadia Hotels, a foremost hotel investment, development, and management company. He received a B Com degree from the University of Baroda (1963). After running a successful clothing manufacturing business in Zambia, Africa for 12 years, he moved to USA and started his hospitality business in 1976. Sri Patel is active in many community organizations in USA and other countries. He is currently President of the Sanatan Dharma Temple and Cultural Center of Los Angeles. He works vigorously to help the less fortunate people. He summarizes his adventurous life by saying, "Dream big and you'll make it every time."

### Call for Donations:

The Institute seeks financial contributions from friends and well wishers to encourage and support excellence at the Institute through student scholarships, faculty awards and chairs, and other activities. All donations, small and large, are greatly appreciated and will be suitably acknowledged and recognized.





## Earn While You Learn Programme

The Institute encourages undergraduate students with good academic performance to undertake academic responsibilities like grading home work, helping users of Computer Centre, assisting Institute faculty in book writing, and providing help in the Library. The selected students are permitted to devote upto 10 hours per week on this activity, and are paid an honorarium for their time so that it is truly an "Earn While You Learn" Programme. A total of 22 students were selected to participate in this programme for the first semester of 2010-11.

## Short Credit Courses for Students

The Institute has a provision of "Short Courses for Credit" for the undergraduate students. A minimum of 8 one hour lectures are delivered by either an IITGN faculty or a visitor for a one credit course. The following courses were conducted during this quarter:

- ✂ Making of a Professional Engineer: Professional Ethics & Tools for Thinking by Prof Raj Chhabra, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Kanpur on August 7, 2010. One hundred fifty students registered for the course.
- ✂ Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Engineers by Arvind K Singhal, Chairman, Technopak Advisors Pvt. Ltd, Gurgaon on August 21-22, 2010. Eighty students registered for the course.
- ✂ Cosmology - The Story of Our Universe by Dr Raghavan Rangarajan, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad from August 24 - September 7, 2010. Thirty five students registered for the course.

## New Research Scholars

Eight new PhD scholars have been admitted to the Institute during the first semester of 2010-11 in the Departments of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Cognitive Sciences and Physics. They have freedom to choose their thesis supervisor and pursue research in the area of their interest. Their collaborative research brings greater visibility to the supervisor and the Institute through research publications.

## Women's Cell Constituted

A Women's Cell has been constituted at the Institute with Prof Joyce Meki as the Convener and seven members drawn from faculty, staff and students. The primary purpose of the Cell is to help the Institute protect people against sexual harassment and to maintain/protect their dignity. The Institute's Women's Cell is committed to serving everyone living or working on the campus without a gender bias. This cell is also being called CARE (Cell And Resource for Everyone).

## Invited Lectures

The following lectures were delivered by the invited speakers:

- ✂ Securing the Digital World by Dr N Subramanian, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Texas, Tyler, USA on August 2, 2010.
- ✂ Engineering Smart Systems by Prof K Mani Chandy, Simon Ramo Professor and Professor of Computer Science, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA on August 5, 2010.
- ✂ Micro and Nano Electro-mechanical systems by Prof G Ravichandran, John E. Goode Jr Professor, Graduate Aerospace Laboratories, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA on August 5, 2010.
- ✂ Infrared, Solar and Bio-Sensor Technologies by Dr K Chelvakumar, President, EPIR Technologies, Inc., Chicago, USA on August 12, 2010.
- ✂ Green and Safe Nuclear Power in India by Sri H S Kushwaha, Distinguished Scientist and former Director, Health, Safety and Environment Group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai on August 16, 2010.
- ✂ Fluid Mechanics by Prof Emmanuel Deriat, University Paris, Ovest, France on August 24, 2010.
- ✂ Bollywood at Large: Who is Watching Bollywood Films? by Prof Anjali Gera Roy, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur on September 3, 2010.

## Faculty News

### New Faculty

The following persons joined the Institute faculty during this quarter:

Name	Designation	Discipline	Ph.D.	Date of Joining
B F Mathai	Visiting Professor	Psychology	IIT Bombay, 1998	01.07.10
Jayant Kanitkar	Visiting Professor	Management	MBA from Northwestern University, USA, 1985	02.07.10
Basudeb Guha-Khasnobis	Professor	Economics	University of Rochester, USA, 1995	05.07.10
Vedanth Kadambi	Visiting Professor	Mechanical Engineering	Princeton University, USA, 1961	08.07.10
Murali Damodaran	Professor	Mechanical Engineering	Cornell University, Ithaca, USA, 1987	12.07.10
D D Kale	Visiting Professor	Chemical Engineering	University of Salford, UK, 1973	12.07.10
Shant P Gupta	Visiting Professor	Metallurgical Engineering	Polytechnic Inst. of Brooklyn, NY, 1972	16.07.10
V D Sharma	Visiting Professor	Mathmatics	Banaras Hindu University, India, 1972	19.07.10
N R Ladhawala	Adjunct Professor	Mathmatics	Purdue University, Indiana, USA, 1976	20.07.10
Supreet Saini	Assistant Professor	Chemical Engineering	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2010	26.07.10

### Faculty Activities

Dr Sriram K Gundimeda worked at the Florida State University, USA for two months during summer 2010. Dr Kinnari Parekh conducted research work on mineral resources and nanofluids at Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM), for one month during summer 2010. She also conducted experiments at the Paul Scherrer Institute, Switzerland during June 28, 2010 to July 11, 2010. Prof Dhiren Patel visited Dubai and Abu Dhabi during August 20-23, 2010 to provide consulting services to Secure Matrix India Pvt. Ltd.

Dr Deepthi Shanker presented a paper at the International Conference "The Global Economic Crises: Perceptions and Impacts", Switzerland, September 10 -11, 2010. Prof K V V Murthy conducted a training course on Signals and Systems for the faculty members of the Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar and Punjab Technical University at the Jalandhar campus during July 12 – 16, 2010. Prof K V V Murthy and Prof D V Pai delivered lectures at an AICTE sponsored Staff Development Programme "Mathematical Applications in Engineering Profession" organized by L J Institute of Engineering and Technology, Ahmedabad during June 30 – July 01, 2010.

### Awards and Recognition

- ✂ Dr Nitin Padhiyar has been awarded the Indo-US Research Fellowship by the Indo-US Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF). Under this fellowship he is currently carrying out research work at the Carnegie Mellon University, USA for one year starting July 2010.
- ✂ Prof Basudeb Guha-Khasnobis has been invited to serve on the editorial board of VAANIJYA, a bi-annual foreign trade journal published by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- ✂ Prof Murali Damodaran has been invited to be on the editorial board of the Conference PARENG2011: The Second International Conference on Parallel, Distributed, Grid and Cloud Computing for Engineering to be held at Ajaccio, Corsica, France during 12-15 April 2011.

### New Sponsored Projects

- ✂ Microscopic Global Nuclear Mass Formula sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology. Principal Investigator: Dr Aameya A Bhagwat, Physics Department.
- ✂ Quantification of Butanol Synthesis Using Elementary Modes and Sensitivity Analysis sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology. Principal Investigator: Dr Kalyan Gayen, Department of Chemical Engineering.

## Student and Staff Activities

### Public Speaking and Leadership Club

A Public Speaking and Leadership Club, similar to the Toastmasters Club, started at the Institute provides a platform to improve the skills of speaking in public and turning situations around to one's advantage. It meets every Saturday from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm under the leadership of Prof Jayant Kanitkar. The members deliver one minute extempore or two minutes prepared speeches. The club is attracting students in large numbers.

### Foundation day on August 2, 2010

On the occasion of IITGN's foundation day, the Students Council organized a Brainstorming Session on Student Vision for IITGN on August 2, 2010. Fifteen faculty members and about 160 students participated in the discussions.

### Initiation of IITGN Ladies Club

Aarambh Ladies Club has been started at the Institute. With 19 members so far, it meets once a month at the Guest House.

### Entertainment on Friday

The students (and also faculty, staff and their families) are now entertained through movies screened every Friday evening at the Institute Auditorium.

### Independence Day Celebration

Nation's 64th Independence Day was celebrated with gaiety on August 15, 2010. Director Sudhir K Jain hoisted the National Flag. The students then presented a very vibrant and enthusiastic cultural programme with patriotic songs, dances and speeches.



### Janmashtami Celebrations

There was grand celebration for Janmashtami on September 2, 2010. The traditional Matki Phod "Dahihandi" presented a real challenge to the students. They had to make a four layer human pyramid to reach the curd laden pot. Girls also attempted to break the pot through a three layer pyramid of their own. The whole atmosphere was fun filled, probably a good way to remember Lord Krishna.

### Ganesh Chaturthi

Pratisthapana of Ganpati Bappa was carried out by the students in the ground floor of the Hostel on September 11, 2010. Aarti and Prasad distribution was performed for seven days. A grand convoy escorted Ganpati back for 'Visarjan' in Sabarmati River.

### Sports News

IITGN students played friendly Basketball and Volleyball matches with Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDP), Gandhinagar & School of Liberal studies (SLS), Gandhinagar on August 19, 2010.

### Basketball

The Men's Basketball team won against SLS (51-15) with Suresh Chaudhary (20), Yogesh Goyal (13) and Vishwendra Joshi (12) being the top scorers for IITGN. The Women's Basketball team lost to SLS (10-14).



### Volleyball

The Men's Volleyball team won two sets out of the three played against SLS. The Men's Volleyball team lost both sets played against PDP.

