

Connections

IIT Gandhinagar



Connections is the quarterly newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar

2010 - 2011, Vol. III, Iss. IV
April - June 2011

Institute News

New Merit Scholarships Instituted

IITGN has instituted several merit scholarships for outstanding performance in academics, sports, art and culture, and social work and leadership. These scholarships are different from the Merit-cum-Means scholarships and will be awarded only on the basis of achievements in respective fields. A merit scholarship carries a stipend of Rs 2,000/- per month for 10 months. For the academic year 2011-12, merit scholarships have been awarded as follows: Academic Excellence to

Yogesh Goyal, Prathamesh A. Juvatkar, Swetava Ganguli, Shruti Jain, Vipul Goyal, Pratham Shah, Aishwarya Agarwal, Vibhav V. Katre, and Dhwanil P. Shukla; Sports to

Suresh Kumar Chaudhary, Vrushiket Patil, Vishvendra Joshi, and Shruti Jain; Social Work and Leadership to Sarthak Jain and Monica Yadav.



Yogesh



Prathamesh



Swetava



Shruti



Vipul



Pratham



Aishwarya



Vibhav



Dhwanil



Suresh



Vrushiket



Vishvendra



Sarthak



Monica

Outstanding Academic Performance to be Recognized

Every semester undergraduate students with outstanding academic performance will be recognized by the Institute. A student with an SPI of 8.5 or more, and also satisfying other criteria set forth by the Academic Senate, will be placed on the Dean's List. Each student on the Dean's List will receive a letter of appreciation from the Dean of Academic Programmes and a topical book.

Non-Degree Students in Post-Graduate Programme

The Institute has been providing opportunities to full time students of other institutions to pursue course work or research work for one or two semester at IITGN. Starting spring semester

2010-11, this opportunity has been made available both at UG and PG levels to non-students as well. Interested persons can credit one or two courses at a time, or can do one or two semesters of full course load at IITGN.

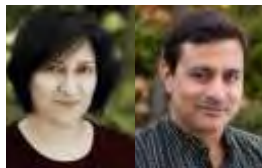
Summer Research Opportunity for Faculty of Engineering Institutions

The Institute is inviting faculty of engineering institutions and providing them opportunities to (a) participate in the ongoing research projects at IITGN, (b) be mentored by an IITGN faculty and (c) participate in laboratory development and new elective courses. This programme aims to help other institutes create better teaching and research environments.

Support to the Institute



Shri Nandan Nilekani has donated Rs 25 lakhs to initiate the **Nilekani Fund** at IIT Gandhinagar to support initiatives of excellence and pursue areas of high priority at the Institute. Shri Nilekani, a visionary, is an alumnus of IIT Bombay, and currently heads the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) project of the Government of India. A co-founder of NASSCOM and of Infosys Technologies Ltd, Shri Nilekani served as the CEO of Infosys from 2002-2007. In 2006, Shri Nilekani was conferred with the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India.



Due to active support of **Ms Asha Jadeja**, wife of late Prof. Rajeev Motwani, the **Rajiv Motwani Foundation** has initiated **Motwani Fund** at IITGN with a donation of 50,000 US Dollars. Prof. Motwani was an alumnus of IIT Kanpur and did his Ph. D. at the University of California, Berkeley. As a professor of Computer Science at Stanford University, he did pioneering research in the areas of web search, robotics, and theoretical computer science. Ms Jadeja, originally from Ahmedabad, did her graduate studies at USC, UC Berkeley, and Stanford University. She is actively involved in philanthropic initiatives in education in India and in USA. She also mentors many start-ups in the bay area. The Motwani Fund will support excellence and high-priority initiatives at the Institute.

Activities at IITGN

Counseling Service

The Institute has set-up a multi-tier Counseling Service with **Prof. Sharmita Lahiri** as the Head of the Counseling Service, to help students deal with the stresses of student life and for their emotional and psychological well-being. **Ms Jasbirkaur Thadani**, the full-time Psychological Counselor along with a number of carefully selected Student Guides and Faculty Counselors ensure that a student can avail this service without fear, reservations, or prejudice. The discussions between the students and the Psychological Counselor or any of the other counselors, is kept strictly confidential.

Short Courses/ Symposia/ Workshops

- ▲ A workshop on **Variational analysis and optimization with applications to PDEs** was organized by **Prof. D. V. Pai** of IITGN (Convener) and **Prof. Mythily Ramaswamy** of TIFR Bangalore (Co-convener) during April 1-4, 2011. A number of renowned mathematicians in this field from the country's top institutions participated. The workshop was supported by Department of Science and Technology and the National Board for Higher Mathematics, Department of Atomic Energy.
- ▲ IIT Gandhinagar, together with IIT Kanpur and Buildings and Materials Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) New Delhi, organized an International workshop on **Confined Masonry** on April 17-18, 2011. Invitees from Canada, USA, New Zealand, Peru, and India participated in the deliberations.

Distinguished Visitors

Mr August W. Schaefer, Senior Vice President, Underwriters Laboratory (UL), Northbrook, USA visited IITGN on April 18, 2011. Three undergraduate students (**Anchit Gaurav**, **Adnan Ansari**, and **Abhishek Umrao**) demonstrated their laboratory set-up on research pertaining to kitchen fire safety to UL and IITGN officials. IITGN students also made a presentation on National Fire Database and Kitchen Fire Safety in India. An IITGN-UL Research Lab has been set up by the students under the guidance of **Prof. Chinmay Ghoroi**. The lab is partially funded by UL.



Mr Hideki Segawa, Deputy General Manager of Ricoh Company Ltd, Tokyo visited IITGN on May 5, 2011 to discuss



potential areas for collaborations in the field of social entrepreneurship where IITGN and RII collaborate to help potential entrepreneurs in rural India. He was accompanied by his colleagues **Ms Eiko Nakamoto** and **Ms Ryohko Ezoe**.

Lectures and Visitors at IITGN

- ▲ **Biomedical applications of lasers** by **Dr P. K. Gupta**, Distinguished Scientist, Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, Department of Atomic Energy, Indore, April 8, 2011.
- ▲ **Caste conflict: the myth and reality** by **Dr Mihir Bholey**, National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, April 15, 2011.
- ▲ **Surface water quality and wastewater treatment** by **Dr Ramesh Goel** of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Utah, May 25, 2011.

The other eminent persons who visited the Institute during this period include:

Prof. Svetlana Brzev, British Columbia; **Prof. Marcial Blondet**, Peru; **Ms Marjorie Greene**, San Francisco; **Prof. Andrew Charleson**, New Zealand; **Prof. V. Raghavendra** and **Prof. Joydeep Dutta**, IIT Kanpur; **Prof. A. K. Pani** and **Prof. Mallikarjun Rao**, IIT Bombay; **Prof. Ravi Shankar P.**, **Prof. T. V. Anoop**, **Prof. Prashanth K. Srinivasan** and **Prof. Mythily Ramaswamy**, TIFR Bangalore; **Prof. M. T. Nair**, IIT Madras; **Prof. Polat Gulkan**, Turkey; **Prof. Luis Esteva**, Mexico; **Prof. Rama Bhargava**, IIT Roorkee; **Prof. S. Kesavan**, IIT Chennai; **Prof. Pallavi Mahale** and **Prof. G. Naga Raju**, VNIT Nagpur; and **Prof. Sundararaja Ramaswamy**, NIIT Neemrana.

Life Skill Series

A workshop entitled **Follow Your Dreams**, under the Life Skills Series, was conducted by **Mr Avik Bhandari** and **Ms Nidhi Kush Shah** of the Student Placement Office on April 7, 2011 for about 30 students. The series is coordinated by **Prof. Sharmita Lahiri**.

Faculty News

Reaching Out

Prof. Sudhir K. Jain and **Prof. Jaison Manjaly** visited the ISCTE – Lisbon University Institute (May 24-29, 2011) on the invitation of the Rector. A number of academic activities of mutual interest were discussed, and an MOU for academic collaborations signed. In Lisbon, Prof. Jain, as the Executive Vice President of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering, also met with the organizing committee of the 15th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, scheduled to be held in Lisbon during September 24-28, 2012 and reviewed preparations.

Prof. Sudhir K. Jain participated in the 19th CAETS Convention on “Engineering Analysis and Management to Reduce Risks” in Mexico City as a member of the delegation headed by the President of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (June 27 - July 1, 2011). He also delivered a lecture on “The Road to Seismic Safety with Particular Reference to the Developing Countries”. Prof. Jain took this opportunity to visit University of California at Berkeley and at Los Angeles, University of Southern California, and the California Institute of Technology to develop institutional collaborations and to attract faculty candidates. He signed an MOU with Caltech on exchange of students. During

this visit, Prof. Jain also sought support of and partnerships with several influential individuals and organizations in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Mexico and Chicago.

Prof. Sudhir K. Jain has been chosen a member of the **Working Group on Technical Education** to formulate the **Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17)** by the **Planning Commission**.

New Sponsored Projects

- ▲ **Photochemical and photophysical studies of donor-acceptor substituted aryl and heteroaryl polyenes**, sponsored by CSIR. Principal Investigator: **Prof. Sriram Kanvah Gundimeda**, Chemistry.
- ▲ **Engineering escherichia coli strains optimized for large scale lignocelluloses fermentation for biofuel production**, sponsored by Department of Science and Technology. Principal Investigator: **Prof. Supreet Saini**, Chemical Engineering.
- ▲ **Development of a user interface for facilitating literature search at IITGN**, sponsored by Ricoh Innovations, Inc. (RII), USA. This is a collaborative project and supports three undergraduate student interns. Facilitator and Coordinator: **Prof. Supreet Saini**, Chemical Engineering.

Faculty Activities

- ▲ **Prof. Sudhir K. Jain** gave a keynote address on Seismic Safety in India: Past, Present and Future at **GSDMA International Conference on Post Earthquake Reconstruction**, Gandhinagar, April 14-16, 2011. He gave a talk on The Future of Product Safety in India at the **2nd Annual UL India Product Safety Summit**, Delhi, April 20, 2011, and on "IITGN: A Laboratory for Experiments in Education" at **Innovation Educators Conference**, ISB Hyderabad, April 29-30, 2011. He delivered lectures in a Short Course on **Seismic Design of Railway Bridges** at IIT Kanpur, May 2-6, 2011. Prof. Jain gave a public lecture on Confined Masonry: An Alternative Building Typology for Seismic Regions of India at **Gujarat Institute of Civil Engineers and Architects**, Ahmedabad, May 21, 2011.
- ▲ **Prof. Joycee Mekie** attended a conference on **International Symposium on Asynchronous Circuits and Systems**, Ithaca,

New Faculty

The following persons joined IITGN faculty during this quarter:

Name	Designation	Discipline	Last Degree	Date of Joining
Girish Kumar Singhal	Assistant Research Professor	Electrical Engineering	M. S. E., Johns Hopkins University, 2008	01.04.11
Atul Bhargav	Assistant Professor	Mechanical Engineering	Ph. D., University of Maryland, 2010	18.05.11
Manjish Pal	Assistant Research Professor	Computer Science & Engineering	M. Tech., IIT Kanpur, 2009	19.05.11
S. Rajendran	Associate Teaching Professor	Electrical Engineering	M. Tech., IIT Madras, 1988	23.05.11

Student and Staff Activities

IIT Gandhinagar initiates Summer Camp for B. Tech. Students

The Institute organized a four-week Summer Camp for IITGN undergraduate students that started on June 15, 2011. This initiative gives the students a platform to express their creativity and originality. Activities at the camp include engineering design challenges such as designing a smart cane for the blind, theatre and Salsa dancing classes, various sports activities, a reading circle on books of historical significance, and workshops organized by industry professionals.

New York, April 27-29, 2011. After the conference she visited the Johns Hopkins University's Biomedical Engineering department to discuss possibilities of collaborative research possibilities. A Biomedical Engineering Laboratory is being set up at IITGN with the involvement of Prof. Nitish Thakor of JHU and Prof. Girish Singhal, Prof. Joycee Mekie and Prof. Arup Lal Chakraborty of IITGN. Two students are doing summer internship at the Johns Hopkins University this year.

- ▲ **Prof. Jaison Manjaly** presented a paper at the international conference **Towards a Science of Consciousness - 2011**, Stockholm, May 2-8, 2011.
- ▲ **Prof. Naran M. Pindoriya** delivered two invited lectures at IIT Mandi, May 16-20, 2011. He also attended IET International Conference on **Smart grids** at Bangalore, May 31, 2011.
- ▲ **Prof. Mukta Tripathy** attended the **SERC School on Electrochemical Systems** at IIT Bombay during May 16-28, 2011.
- ▲ **Prof. D. V. Pai** delivered an invited compact lecture course on **Multivariable calculus and optimal recovery of functions** in a DST sponsored SERC School at Arunapuram, Kerala, May 16-18, 2011.
- ▲ **Prof. Sharmita Lahiri's** paper **India through different lenses: a study of Rushdie's Midnight's Children and Tagore's the Home and the World**, recorded through YouTube, was presented at the **1st Asian Conference on Literature and Librarianship**, Osaka, Japan, May 27-30, 2011. She conducted a session **How to Write a Research Paper** at National Training Programme on Research Methodology, Nirma University, Ahmedabad, June 30, 2011.
- ▲ **Prof. Supreet Saini** presented a paper at the **International Conference & Exhibition on Proteomics & Bioinformatics**, HICC Hyderabad, June 6-8, 2011.
- ▲ **Prof. K. V. V. Murthy** attended the meetings of the Governing Council and Academic Council of NMAM Institute of Technology, Nitte, Karnataka, June 10, 2011.
- ▲ **Prof. Pia Thielmann** delivered keynote address on **The importance of communication and teaching skills from an international perspective** at Vishwakarma Government Engineering College, Ahmedabad, June 17, 2011.



Undergraduate Student Presents Paper in USA

Yogesh Goyal, a fourth year B. Tech. (Chemical Engineering) student presented a research paper **Statistics-based model for prediction of chemical biosynthesis yield from saccharomyces cerevisiae** at the 111th general meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, May 21-24, 2011, New Orleans, USA. His visit was supported by Department of Science and Technology, IIT Gandhinagar, and MAGEEP, Washington University, St Louis.



Student Internship

Summer internships are considered an important part of education. The experience gained during the internships helps students in planning their future and in getting a sense of the real world outside academia. The Institute actively helps students in finding internships in industry and in educational institutes. During summer 2011, 89 students did their internships in industry and another 55 in reputed educational institutes. Twenty four students went abroad to places such as USA, France, Germany, Switzerland, UK, Poland, and Singapore while several others are in Indian industries or scientific and educational institutes.

Staff Skill Development Initiative

The following staff members have taken advantage of Staff Skill Development Initiative of the Institute by attending locally available short courses during the quarter: **Ritu Agarwal** (Personal & Professional Success through Cybernetic Management), **Santosh Raut** (Managerial Effectiveness), **Pijush Majumdar** (Challenges in Delegation), **Piyush Vankar** (English Language Programme), **Darshan Patel** (Basic English), **Farhan Babu** (AutoCad with 3D), **Gaurav Shukla**, **Santosh Raut**, and **Sanjeev Pandey** (Development Workshop for Secretaries/P.A.s), **Shreejit Menon** (Office Management in Educational Institutions) and **Panna Chaudhary** (Administrative Effectiveness).

New Staff

The following persons have joined the Institute against regular non-teaching positions:

Employee Name	Designation	Joining date
Nileshsinh Chensinh Rao	Junior Accountant	09.03.11
Sanket Patel	Junior Technical Superintendent	09.03.11
Arika Kanubhai Patel	Junior Accountant	10.03.11
Pragnesh Parekh	Junior Technical Superintendent	24.03.11
Panna Chaudhary	Sr. Library Information Assistant	28.03.11
Rohit Chaudhary	Junior Technical Superintendent	08.04.11

Employee Name	Designation	Joining date
Komal Vadhvani	Junior Assistant	15.04.11
Sujitkumar Shah	Junior Assistant	15.04.11
Santosh T.	Junior Technical Superintendent	27.04.11
Darji Timirben	Junior Assistant	02.05.11
Jitendra Kumar	Junior Assistant	06.05.11
Kubasadgoudar Aswin R.	Junior Technical Superintendent	30.05.11

Sports News

Badminton Girls team (Shurti Jain and Swati Verma) won the badminton championship by defeating the home team at Concours 2011 (DAICT Annual Sports Fest) on April 3, 2011. **Table Tennis Boys team (Chetas Joshi, Spandan Jyoti Das, and N. C. Puneeth)** won against Gujarat National Law University, DAIICT, and LDRP Institute of Technology and Research, Gandhinagar during April 1-3, 2011. **Chess Boys team (Manu Bansal, Ram Prakash, Akshay Bishnoi, Pratik Thakker, and Akshay Navalakha)** won against DAIICT and LDRP Institute of Technology and Research, Gandhinagar during April 2-3, 2011. **Badminton Boys team (Harsh Paliwal, and Ishan Tembhekar)** won against Gujarat National Law University and DAIICT during April 1-2, 2011.

Distinguished Awards in Sports

On April 21, 2011 the following awards were given in different categories on the basis of the performance of students in the academic year 2010-11: Sports Person of the Year: **Suresh Chaudhary**; Upcoming Player of the Year: **Ameya Joshi**; Badminton Open Champion: **Harsh Paliwal**; Chess Inter Departmental Championship Winner: **Manu Bansal**; Boys General Championship Winner: **Electrical Engineering Team**; Girls General Championship Winner: **Chemical Engineering Team**; Best Boys Team of the Year: **Basketball Team**; Best Girls Team of the Year: **Badminton Team**.



Suresh



Ameya



Harsh



Manu

Halla Bol

Halla Bol, a unique all night intra-college sports festival (March 25, 2011 - April 3, 2011), attracted very enthusiastic participation of students with 1700 entries for 11 fun games: Futsal, Touch Rugby, Half-Court Basketball, Kabbadi, Dodgeball, Gully Cricket, 7 Stones, Scrabble, Anti-Chess, Kho-Kho and Tug of War. It was inaugurated by the Director at the ceremony consisting of musical performance, march past and lighting of the flame. A team of over 30 organizers and 60 volunteers worked hard for the smooth running of the games, that went on until well past midnight. Halla Bol is envisaged as an annual fun event in IITGN. The event was coordinated by **Maisum Ali Dairkee, Hare Lal Mahato, Bhargav Thadem and Mr Avik Bhandari**.

