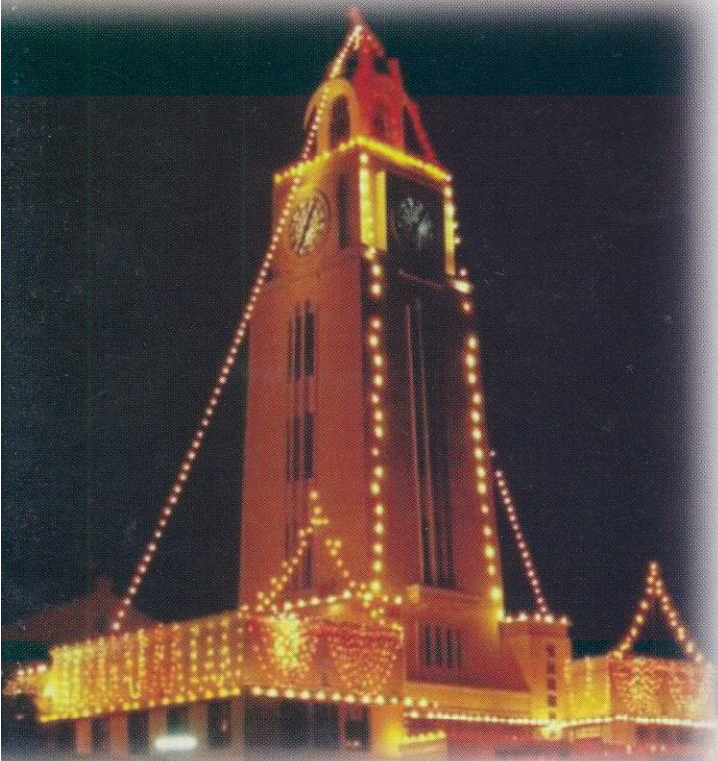


BITScan

Semester Notes

Issue 13



**BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
AND SCIENCE**

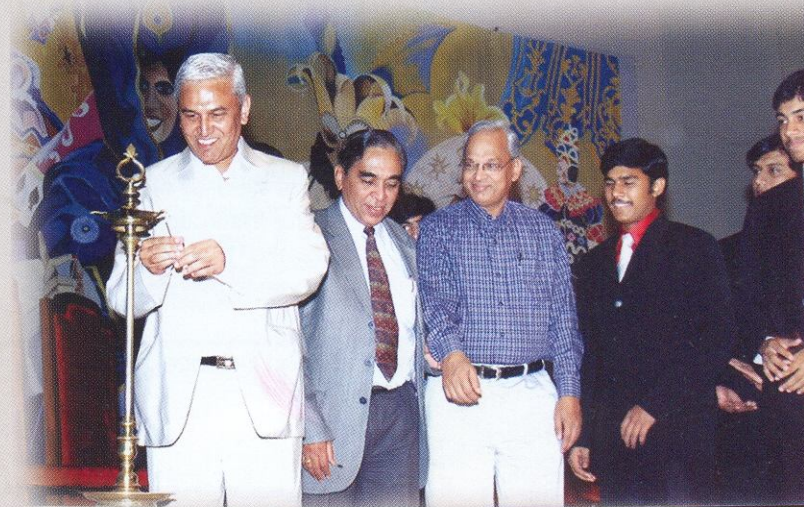
Pilani - 333031
Rajasthan

Semester I

2008 - 2009

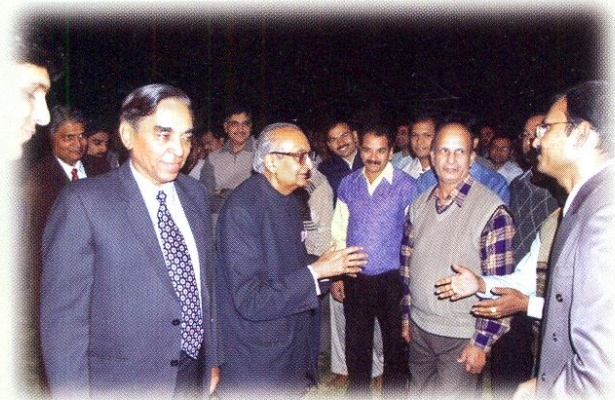
INSIDE

- Academia
- Achievements
- Joining Hands
- BOSM 2008
- OASIS 2008
- Caring Beyond Our Walls



Turn of events

The First Semester 2008-09 was a semester of joy and sorrow. BITS, Pilani suffered an irreparable loss when its dynamic Chancellor Dr. K.K. Birla, the legendary visionary, a dynamic leader, a shrewd businessman and an astute politician breathed his last on 30 August 2008 after living a celebrated life of 90 years. It was unfortunate that the Institute had also lost one of its former Directors Dr. C.R. Mitra and its Director of Goa Campus Dr. T.C. Goel during this semester.



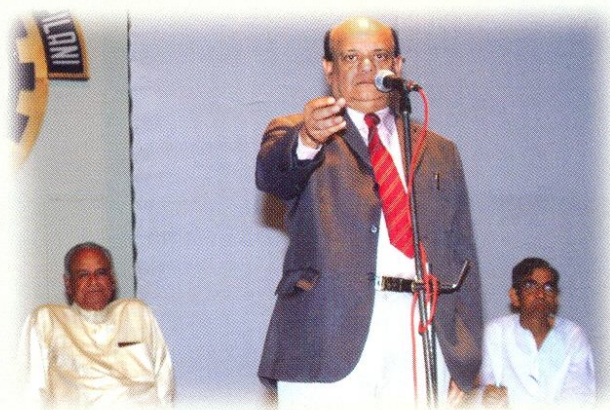
The Institute witnessed a change of Guard when Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group took over as its Chancellor on 14 September. Smt. Shobhana Bhartia, Chairman of Hindustan Times Group assumed the office of Pro Chancellor of BITS, Pilani. Prof. K.E. Raman was appointed as the Acting Director of BITS Pilani Goa Campus w.e.f. 11 July 2008 and Prof. R.K. Mittal took charge as the Deputy Director (Administration) of BITS, Pilani w.e.f. 1 September 2008.

Hyderabad Campus, the fourth campus of BITS, Pilani started functioning in August with its 527 students. The classes began on 29 August 2008 fulfilling the passionate dream of The Late Shri K.K. Birla to see the opening of BITS Pilani-Hyderabad Campus. Setting off their semester's journey with the impressive orientation sessions, the campuses at Pilani, Goa and Hyderabad witnessed a number of events.

Prof. L.K. Maheshwari was felicitated with the Scientific Counsellor Award for the year 2007 by ISHEER (Indian Society for Health, Environment, Education and Research), Jodhpur for his outstanding contribution to the field of electronics. Faculty members visited many institutions in India and abroad in order to expand their knowledge horizon and to share their domain expertise.



BOSM2K8, the All India Sports Meet of BITS, Pilani jubilantly hosted its 23rd edition while OASIS2K8 gleefully entered its 38th year with the theme "Unio Mystica". The famous Hindi hasya kavi, Dr. Surendra Sharma and popular singer KK enthralled the audience during OASIS.



BITS, Pilani was fortunate to host many distinguished visitors who shared their domain expertise with faculty and students through talks, discussions and workshops.

The 2nd Prof. V. Lakshminarayanan memorial lecture was delivered by Dr. T. Ramasamy, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. Shell company conducted a workshop on student development at the Institute. Workshops on leadership and SAP teaching were also conducted for the benefit of faculty and students. Several Groups organized national and international conferences during the semester and also conducted training workshops in various areas.

Continuing their spirit of innovation and creativity, students of BITS, Pilani came up with novel ideas and products in science and technology and participated in various types of competitions held by reputed institutes and organizations and won awards as well. Progressing in its contribution to society, the Centre for Women Studies and NSS marched ahead with several developmental projects.

Hyderabad Campus

Dr. K.K. Birla in his address delivered on the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the Hyderabad Campus on 28 April 2007, said, "On 18 November 2007, just a few months hence, the holy festival of Gopashtami, I shall be entering the 90th year of my life. In spite of my age I have accepted this challenge because my grand nephew, Kumar Mangalam Birla, the Pro Chancellor, is a person of outstanding ability and he will be able to run the Institute in a satisfactory manner with the assistance of the Members of the Board of Governors of BITS and its General Body and of course support of the staff and students. I have no doubt about it." The fourth campus of BITS, Pilani namely BITS, Pilani Hyderabad Campus started functioning in August 2008 with 527 students. The classes began on 29 August 2008. The visionary leader could see his dream come true before he had left for his heavenly abode on 30 August 2008.



The Hyderabad Campus offers the following 13 First Degree Programmes:

Group A:

B.E. (Hons.) in Chemical, Civil, Computer Science, Electrical and Electronics, Electronics & Communication, Mechanical Engineering and B.Pharm. (Hons.) in Pharmacy.

Group B:

M.Sc.(Hons.) in Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Economics, Mathematics, Physics.

Group C:

MSc(Tech.) in Information Systems.

Facilities such as faculty residences, student hostels, library, information processing centre, workshop, laboratories, etc. have been developed and are being expanded. Talks by people of repute such as Mr. N. C. Mathur, Director, Jindal Stainless Steel, Prof. D.R. Vaman, Professor of ECE, Prairie View A & M University (Texas A & M University System), USA, Prof. V. Krishnamurthy, former

Deputy Director of BITS, Pilani, Mr. Bhargav Marrepally, CEO of GSS America Infotech, and others were organized at the campus for the benefit of faculty and students. Pearl 2008, the first cultural festival was held on 23 November 2008. Various clubs and associations were created by students to carry out a range of academic and cultural activities.

ACADEMIA: A CONFLUENCE OF IDEAS

Seminars/Conferences/Workshops/Training programs

International Conference on Soft Skills Development Strategies: Corporate and Academia Perspectives (19-20 September 2008)

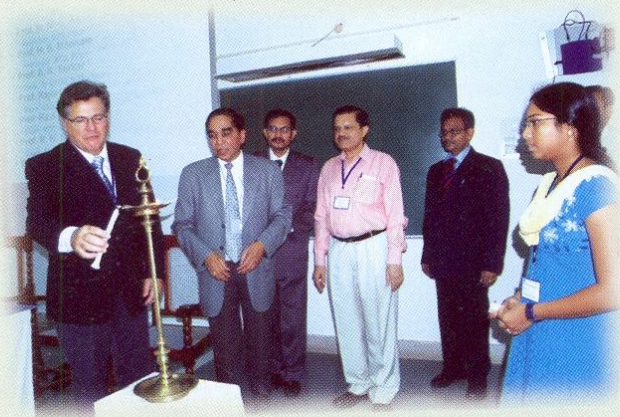


The two day international conference was organized by the Languages Group of BITS, Pilani. Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, New Delhi, who inaugurated this event, spoke on the importance of soft skills and also on the role of media and satellites in inculcating these skills in students through open university education. Prof. Meenakshi Raman, the convener of the conference introduced the theme. Prof. L.K. Maheshwari Vice Chancellor in his welcome address informed the audience how the course curriculum in BITS supports the soft skill development among the students. Dr. Sangeeta Sharma gave a comprehensive overview of the Languages Group. The guest of honour, Dr. Y.S. Rajan, Principal Advisor at CII, Gurgaon highlighted the importance of soft skills. Dr. Sara Garrison, Senior Vice President, Sabre Holdings Texas, USA in her keynote address stressed on the relevance of soft skills in business organizations. Senior HR personnel from reputed organizations, Dr. Patrice Buzzanell from Purdue University and Dr. Christine Coombe from Dubai delivered plenary talks. 60 delegates presented their papers in 12 technical sessions. Mr. Sunil Kumar Goyal, Chief Project Manager, Western Railways, Baroda delivered the valedictory address and Prof. R.K. Mittal, the Deputy Director, presided over the function. The conference

ended with Dr. Sanjiv Choudhary's summary of the proceedings.

International Convention on Water Resources Development and Management (23 -26 October, 2008)

The four-day International Convention on Water Resources Development and Management organized by the Civil Engineering Group was inaugurated by Prof. L.K. Maheshwari. Dr. A.P. Singh, Organizing Secretary presented the theme of the convention. He told that Rajasthan being a desert State, needed immediate and strong plans for water conservation for agriculture and industrial needs. Delivering the keynote address Prof. Eilon Adar, Director, Zuckerberg Institute for Water



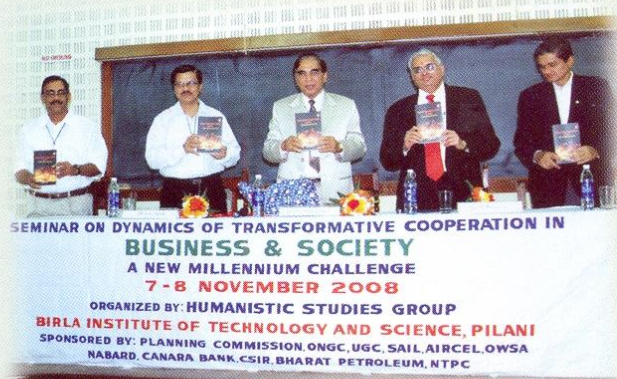
Research, The J. Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, Ben Gurion University of Negev, Israel, said that climate change would certainly bring a catastrophe and before we face that grim situation we require a coordinated development to tackle water scarcity related problems. Emphasizing on the progressive water resources development, he showed how Israel had been able to utilize different categories of water with 90% optimization through coordinated development. Prof. Rajiv Gupta talked about the various initiatives taken by BITS, Pilani in this direction. The convention attracted eminent academicians, scientists, planners and field engineers from India, Israel, Australia, Norway and Switzerland. Dr. Anupam Singhal, Joint organizing secretary presented the vote of thanks.

After the first two days of deliberations at the conference, a workshop was conducted to focus on converting water related novel ideas into user friendly real life actions. Visits to the nearby villages were also organized during the workshop.

National Seminar on 'Dynamics of Transformative Cooperation in Business and Society: A Millennium Challenge' (7-8 November 2008)

With its main focus on CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), the National Seminar organized by

the Humanistic Studies Group, BITS-Pilani and coordinated by Dr. Motilal Dash and Dr. Umesh Dhyani attracted 33 delegates and 95 student participants from all over India. After a brief introduction to the theme by the convenor



Dr. Motilal Dash, Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor BITS Pilani inaugurated the seminar. He emphasized on the role of technology in eradicating poverty. Aptly reviewing the Millennium Goals identified by the United Nations Declaration, he enumerated various ways in which business corporations could contribute towards achieving these goals. Shri M. Ramadoss, Chairman and Managing Director of Oriental Insurance, New Delhi, while delivering the keynote address, recollected how businesses had had a long association with Social Development, right from philanthropic initiatives taken by the Tatas to modern technological and Microfinance initiatives for rural development.

"Corporate Social Responsibility: Past, Present and Future", a book by Dr. S.K. Panda, IAS and Principal Secretary of Higher Education, Tripura was released by Prof. L.K. Maheshwari. Dr. Panda, the Guest of Honour at the seminar aptly analyzed the social scenario and concluded that the poor and women need skills empowerment, not money. Dr. Umesh Dhyani proposed the vote of thanks.

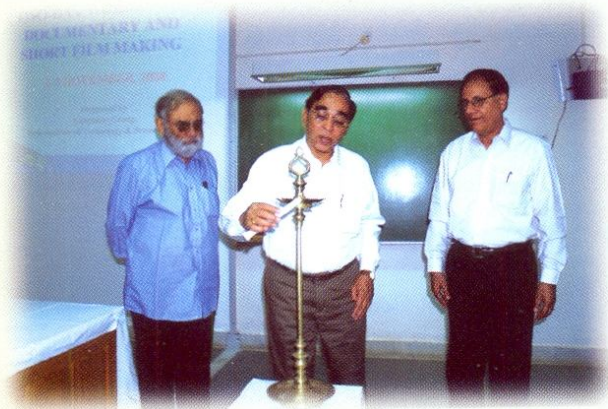
Besides Ms. Nicola Swan, Visiting Professor, Henley Management College, U.K., Ramon Magsaysay Awardees Dr. Sandeep Pandey and Shri. Rajendra Singh (Water Man), the invited speakers of this seminar included senior officials from Helpage India, NABARD, UNDP, NUEPA, etc.

Student Development Workshop (27-28 September 2008)

Shell Technology India Private Limited sponsored a Student development workshop under campus placement program at BITS Pilani campus on September 27 and 28. The workshop aimed at soft skill development and career planning. It was opened to fourth year and third year students from

all disciplines. Registration was done on first come first serve basis for four batches with 60 students in each batch. Conducted by Mr Kaustav Charkavarthy, business head IT/Banking from Siksha Corporate Consulting the workshop was well received by students with some of them describing it as once in a life time experience.

Workshop on Documentary & Short film Making (1-2 November 2008)



The two-day workshop was organized by the Languages Group of BITS, Pilani on 01 and 02 November 2008. Inaugurating the workshop, the Vice Chancellor Prof. L.K. Maheshwari said, "Media is a potent force in bringing about change in the society. It is more powerful than the normal classroom teaching as it is connected with different aspects of life." Under the guidance of Mr. J.K. Mehta, formerly Deputy Director of Doordarshan and AIR and presently an assistant professor of mass communication at Ansal Institute of Technology, the workshop was conducted by mass media experts Mr. Rehman, Mr. V.K. Mishra and Mrs. Shweta Singh who were formerly associated with television channels. Coordinated by Dr. Geetha B. and Dr. Sangeeta Sharma the workshop attracted both students and faculty from BITS. The workshop provided a beautiful blend of theory and practice. The award winning Iranian Film Colours of Paradise and short films such as Khamoshi, Man Ki Chidia, etc. were screened at the workshop to discuss the nuances of film making.

Workshop on Leadership (3-7 November 2008)

An intensive seminar-cum-workshop on Leadership organized by the 'Management Group aimed at introducing various facets of leadership styles that influence decision making in the corporate and academic world. Thirty senior faculty members of the institute participated in this seminar which was led by Mr. Ashok Balwani who is an alumnus (1972) of BITS and IIM Ahmedabad. The participants found the workshop very lively, interesting and useful. The movie, 12 O'clock High, was used to teach the nuances of leadership and decision making.

SAP Teaching Workshop 2008 (22-23 November 2008)

Organized by the Management Group, the SAP Teaching Workshop was conducted by Mr. Rajesh, Consulting Director, and Mr. Vishal Gupta, Solution Expert & Senior Consultant, of SAP (India). 170 students and 14 faculty members got benefitted through this workshop coordinated by Mr. Ram Shukla, faculty, Management Group. Realizing the importance of ERP, training sessions were conducted on areas such as ERP Implementation and User's Perspectives, SOA (Service Oriented Architecture) and Future of ERP. Certificates were given to participants.

Training Programme in Computer Literacy to Rural Women and Girls (Aug.-Nov. 2008)

The three and a half month training programme on computer literacy and cataloguing of books and journals for women and girls from rural background was conducted under the aegis of the Centre for Women Studies (CWS) at the Institute. Faculty and staff of BITS, Pilani were involved in the instruction and the evaluation. At the end of the programme certificates were issued to the 15 participants.

INTERNATIONAL VISITS BY FACULTY: ENRICHING THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Prof. Ravi Prakash visited Tsinghua University, Beijing, China during the month of October 2008 to work out the areas of co-operation related to higher education and research.

Prof. Suman Kapur visited USA and presented posters of her jointly authored papers entitled "Single nucleotide polymorphism in genes encoding for various alcohol metabolizing enzymes: correlation with alcohol induced tissue specific damage" (with Manav Kapoor, Shaswat Sharad, Anoop Saraya, Meera Vaswani) and "The importance of ALDH2 and AdH2 loci for alcohol dependence among Indian alcoholics" (with Meera Vaswani) in ISBRA/RSA joint meeting held at Washington DC.

Prof. Nirupama Prakash, on invitation, participated in the 7th Asia-Europe People's Forum held at Beijing, China during 13-15 October, 2008. As a resource person, she presented a paper on "Challenges from Ethnic Separatism and Caste/Tribal Conflicts in India" at the Workshop Session on Non-Traditional Threats to Security and also moderated a Workshop Session on Promoting Inter-cultural Dialogues and Understanding. Nominated by the Centre for Science & Technology of Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries, Dr. Nirupama participated in the International Workshop



On Empowerment of Women through Science and Technology Interventions organized by NAM S&T Centre, New Delhi, Iranian Research Organization for Science & Technology (IROST) Tehran and Iranian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS), held in Tehran, Iran during 14-16 Dec. 2008. She was invited to Chair a session and to make a presentation on "ICT as a Tool for Empowering Women".

Dr. T.S.B. Sudarshan attended Microsoft Research Faculty Summit 2008, held at Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, USA during 27-29 July 2008.

Mr. Murali P attended the conference on IFIP/IEEE Wireless Days 2008 held in Dubai, UAE during 24-27 Nov. 2008.

Mr. Virendra Singh Nirban attended and presented a paper on Impact of E-business and Personal Communication on Email Language: A Critical Analysis in the 7th International Conference on e-



Business organized by Rangsit University, Bangkok, Thailand during 6-7 November 2008.

Lectures/Talks delivered by BITS Faculty

Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, on invitation, participated in the brainstorming session in New Delhi on 20 August 2008 to discuss the concept of setting up of 16 world class universities by Government of India.

On invitation from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), he presented two papers (i) A Case Study of Educational Innovations at BITS, Pilani through use of ICT and (ii) Online Testing in the Admission Process at the ACU Conference of Executive Heads held in Hyderabad during 28-30 November 2008.

Dr. Ishwara Bhat delivered an invited lecture on E-resources management and exploitation at the National Seminar on E-resources organised by Jaipur Library and Information Society on 27 July 2008. He delivered another invited lecture on Effective designing of web pages for Special Libraries at the International Conference of Asian Special Libraries held at Delhi on 28 October 2008. Dr. Bhat delivered a talk on Education for LIS in the technology era at the International Symposium on Emerging Trends in Library and Information Centres (ETTLIS 2008) held at JIIT University, Noida, on 20 December 2008.

Prof. Meenakshi Raman on invitation, conducted a workshop on Wining Resumes and Job Interviews at the BITS, Pilani-Goa Campus on 3 August 2008. She conducted a one-day seminar on Business Communication at Maharashtra Institute of Technology School of Management (MITSOM)



Pune, on 20 August 2008. On invitation, Dr. Raman attended the FICCI Global Skill Summit during 21-22 August 2008 in Delhi. She conducted a workshop on Success Strategies for GRE Verbal at BITS-Pilani Goa Campus on 26 October 2008.

Dr. Sangeeta Sharma conducted a one day workshop on Effective Communication and Presentation at CIPS, Jaipur on 30 August 2008, on Teaching Methodology and New Aids for BET teachers and Administrative Staff at Birla Shishu Vihar, Pilani on 13 September, on Effective Business Communication for MBA students of Jagannath University, Jaipur on 22 November 2008, on Communication Skills for Technical Students at BITS, Pilani, Hyderabad Campus on 1 December 2008, and on Making Spectacular Presentations for Joint General Managers and Directors of



Ordinance factory board, at Uttarakand Academy of Administration, Nainital on 03 December 2008. She was also invited for a special lecture on Interviews as method of data collection and Research Reports for the 5 day workshop on the theme "Application of Business Research Method Using SPSS Software" at CIPS, Jaipur during 20 - 21 November 2008.

Prof. C.B. Gupta delivered a talks on Basic Concepts of probability at KAIM Charkhi Dadri on 16 Sept. 2008, on Permutation and Combination at JVMGRR Mca college Charkhi Dadri on 24 Sept. 2008, on Why study mathematics at JVMGRR Post Graduate college Charkhi Dadri on 26 Sept. 2008 and on Applications of CPM/PERT in Networking at BKBIET, Pilani on 29 Nov.2008.

Dr. S.B. Singh delivered a talk on Flexural Capacity of Steel Reinforced ECC beams at the 7th International RILEM Symposium on Fiber Reinforced Concrete (BEFIB-2008) organized by International Union of Laboratories and Experts in Construction Materials (RILEM), Madras, TN, India, during 17-19 Sept. 2008.

Prof. Ravi Prakash delivered an invited talk on Environmental Health and Occupational Hazard at the Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur on 20 September 2008.

Dr. P. Srinivasan delivered two invited lectures on Mechanical Property evaluation of materials and Mechanism of Creep and Fatigue at the two-day workshop on Mechanical Behavior of Materials organized by International Business Conference (IBC), Mumbai for working professionals during 13-14 October 2008 at Hotel Crowne Plaza, Delhi and during 15-16 October 2008 at Hotel Ramada Plaza, Mumbai.

Prof. B.V. Babu delivered an invited talk on Biohydrogen Production at the Indo-French Workshop under the aegis of Indo French Center for Promotion of Advance Scientific Research, organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)-New Delhi at Hotel Jaypee Manor, Mussoorie during 6-8 November 2008

Prof. Nirupama Prakash was invited to Chair a session and present a paper on Empowering Rural

Women though ICT Education – A Case Study of Rajasthan during Jubilee Conference on Women Education (JCWE-2008) – vision and mission of women universities in a global society at Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Jaipur during 11-13 November 2008.

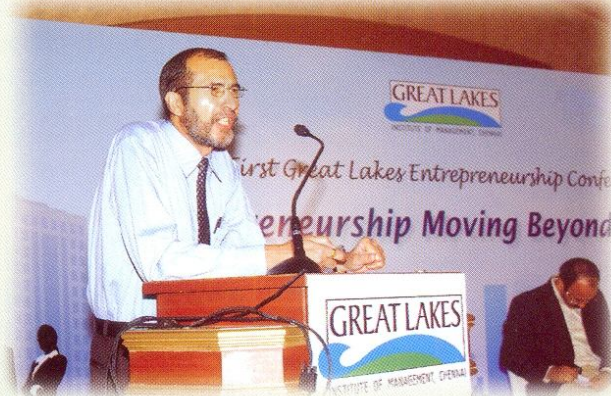


She was invited to attend the two-day meeting in New Delhi on Developing Pilot Models to Enhance Women's Empowerment at the Local Level (WELL) through Open Distance Learning organized by Commonwealth of Learning during 5-6 November 2008 in New Delhi.

Dr. N.N. Sharma gave an invited talk on Topical Problems in Solid Mechanics at the Indo-Russian Conference jointly organized by DST, Govt. of India and Russian Academy of Science, Russia and held at BITS, Pilani, Goa during 11-14 Nov. 2008.

Prof. Navneet Goyal delivered an invited talk on Applications of Clustering in Agriculture in a training program on Data Mining for Agriculture at Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute, New Delhi on 19 Nov. 2008.

Prof Arya Kumar delivered an invited session on "EPR Plunge – opportunity , Biz Model- Role of Academic institutions" in the International conference on Entrepreneurship "moving beyond the metros" organized by Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai on 15 December2008. He gave a talk on



Banking Challenges in 21st century to the executives and senior faculty members of Indian Bank on 15

December, 2008 in Chennai in bank's apex college "IMAGE".

Dr. Poonam Goyal delivered an invited talk on Bayesian Classifiers for Data Mining in a training program on Data Mining for Agriculture at Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute, New Delhi on 19 Nov. 2008

Dr. T.S.B. Sudarshan delivered a keynote speech in the National Conference on High Performance Technologies 2008 held at Atmiya Institute of Technology & Sciences, Rajkot, Gujarat on 22 November 2008.

Dr. Sanjiv Kumar Choudhary delivered an invited talk on Effective Communication for Happy Life at the Post Graduate Department of English, L N Mithila University, Darbhanga on 24 Dec. 2008.

Prof. Niranjan Swain, Prof. Arya Kumar and Mr. Arun Kumar Vaish conducted two workshops on

Finance for Non-finance at Renukoot and Renusagar respectively for the benefit of senior



management personnel of Hindalco Industries Ltd. during 23-26 December, 2008.

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

<i>Principal Coordinator</i>	<i>Name of the Group</i>	<i>Title of Project</i>	<i>Funding Agency AND Amount</i>
Dr. Shamsheer Bahadur Singh	Civil	Failure and Stability Analysis of Composite Laminates with Cutouts	KK Birla Academy project, Rs. 4.5 Lakhs
Prof. Suman Kapur	Bio. Sciences	1. Identification of genetic loci associated with risk for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Indians from Rajasthan	Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, India, 30 Lacs
		2. Functional mutations in the opioid receptors and their impact on immune cell function	Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, India, 34.5 Lacs
		3. Development of an indigenous chip for testing antibiotic sensitivity of pathogens found in human urinary tract	NP-MASS, 66 Lacs
Dr. Dilip K Maiti	Maths	Computational Investigation of Vortex Shedding and Heat Transfer Enhancement from a Heated Square Cylinder in Presence of Eddy-Promoting Rectangular Cylinder Near a Wall	DST, 10.18 Lacs

Distinguished Lectures at BITS Pilani

Speaker	Designation	Topic	Date
Prof. N.K. Lohiya	Professor, Centre for Advanced Studies, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Rajasthan, Jaipur	Environment, Lifestyle and Reproduction	12 Aug. 2008
Prof. Brij Bhushan	Founder, Reston Consulting Group	BITSAA Scholarships for Students	22 Aug. 2008
Mr. Bhushan Gupta	Chairperson, SAPIXMEDIA	Film Scenario in India: Past, Present and Future	23 Aug. 2008
Mr. Ooiharley Lee; Mr. A.F.M.Hashim	Business Development Manager, Materialize Software Division; Application Engineer; Asia Pacific, Malaysia	Lecture and demo: Design and rapid prototyping of medical devices and implants using mimics software	28 Aug. 2008
Prof. Prafulla Padhi	Founder, Global Governance LLC	1. How to write a good business plan for technology ventures 2. What industry looks for in MBA 3. Challenges to Educational Administration in the Global Era	13 Sep.2008 15 Sep. 2008 16 Sept. 2008
Dr. Alok Tyagi	Child Specialist, BS Hospital, Pilani	1. Prescription Analysis 2. Preventive Healthcare in Pediatrics and related common disease / ailments 3. Immunization and Vaccination-I 4. Immunization and Vaccination-II	20 Sept. 2008 2 Oct. 2008 3 Oct. 2008 24 Nov. 2008
Dr.Vijaya Khandavilli	U.S. Educational Foundation in India (USEFI)	Graduate study in the U.S. Realizing academic aspirations and chasing dollar dreams	24 Sept. 2008
Mr. Harshil Karia	Executive Director, Foxy Moron	1. The Future of Advertising 2. Web 2.0 & Social Media	26 Sept. 2008 27 Sept.2008
Prof.K.Sankaran	Centre for Biotechnology, Anna University, Chennai	Emerging Areas in Protein Biotechnology- Lipid modification of Proteins	18 Oct. 2008
Prof.Adil Mistry	Faculty at Western Australia	Craetive Multimedia	10 Nov. 2008
Prof. Miriam E David	Associate Director, Teaching and Learning Research Programme, ESRC, Univ. of London	Women, Diversity and the Global Academy: A Vision for the 21 st Century	14 Nov. 2008
His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami	Chairman and Trustee, Bhaktivedanta Book Trust	Yoga for the Modern Age	20 Nov. 2008
Dr. Martha Turner	Asst. Director, USU/PMB	Ethics and Decision Making	22 Nov. 2008
Dr. Amarjeet Singh	Former Director, CEERI, Pilani	Words to Live by	24 Dec. 2008

Faculty members from various disciplines have been appointed as members of national and international committees / acted as reviewers for books/papers published in Journals of national and international repute.

Prof. L.K. Maheshwari has been serving as the Member of a number of Committees and Boards: (i) National Academic Planning Committee (NAPC) of XXXII Indian Science Congress, Allahabad (ii) Management Committee, BS Abdur Rahman Crescent Engineering College, Chennai (iii) Academic Advisory Board, BSA College of Engineering & Technology, Mathura (iv) UGC Committee to frame the regulations to ensure the universities to grant degree within six months of the declaration of results (v) Academic Advisory Body of Global Institute of Technology and Management, Farukhnagar, Gurgaon (vi) Academic Advisory Panel of Graphic Era Institute of Technology, Dehradun.

Prof. B.V. Babu reviewed 25 articles for 17 International Journals such as American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), Chemical Engineering Science, Chemical Engineering, IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man and Cybernetics (Part A & Part B), Chemical Product and Process Modeling, Journal of Environmental Management, Journal of Hazardous Materials, Waste Management, Materials and Manufacturing Processes, Journal of Future Engineering and Technology, Waste Management, IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation, European Journal of Operations Research, International Journal of Applied Evolutionary Computation, IEEE Transactions on Mechatronics, Journal of Applied and Analytical Pyrolysis, ASME Journal of Electronic Packaging.

Prof. Babu was invited as Peer Team Member at the Assessors' Interaction Meeting for professional educational experts, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore, during 23-24 October 2008. He is an Expert Peer Team member of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India, External Member of Board of Studies (BOS), Vanasthali University, Vanasthali, 2008-2011 and Expert Member, Curriculum Development, MNIT Jaipur, 2008. He is also an International Program Committee Member of the Third International Conference on Bio-Inspired Computing: Theories and Applications (BIC-TA 2008), Adelaide, Australia, September 28-October 1, 2008.

Mr. Ashish M Gujarathi reviewed two articles of Chemical Engineering Journal (Elsevier Publications) for International Journal of Materials

Science and Engineering A, An elsevire science publication.

Dr. Balram Dubey reviewed four research papers for International Journal of Biomathematics, World Scientific, China; Journal of Biological Systems, World Scientific, Canada; and Journal of Applied Mathematics and Computing, Springer, Korea.

Dr. Dilip K Maiti reviewed a paper on Three dimensional flow around a square cylinder near a wall for Ocean Engineering Journal, Elsevier.

Prof. Meenakshi Raman reviewed two papers (i) Do permanent pairs, structured tasks, and background knowledge lead to interactive pair work in ESP classes? (ii) English Usage, Class Struggle and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria for the ESP-SIG Journal of IATEFL, UK. She has been appointed as the editorial review group member of the Asian EFL Journal, Australia.

Prof. Nirupama Prakash edited with Barbara Wejnert and Suzanne K. Steinmetz a volume Safe Motherhood in a Globalized World, Marriage and Family Review, 44, 2 3, 2008, Haworth Press, Taylor & Francis Group, Philadelphia, USA.

Dr. N.N. Sharma was nominated Technical Program Committee member for International Conference on Sensor Technology, ICST-2008 held at National University of Taiwan, Taiwan and reviewed two papers. He was also nominated Technical Program Committee member for International Conference on Autonomous Robots and Agents ICARA 2009, Massey University, New Zealand and reviewed eight papers.

Dr. P. Srinivasan reviewed two papers - Effect of particle size of SiC in Aluminium matrix on workability and strain hardening behaviour of P/M composite and Workability Studies on Al-15%SiC Powder Metallurgy Composite During Cold Upsetting- for the International Journal of Materials and Product Technology.

Dr. S.B. Singh reviewed a paper on Flexural Strength Analysis of High Strength Concrete Using an Industrial Waste (2008) for CURIE Journal, BITS Pilani and Rafi Muhammad, Nadjai Ali (2008)'s paper on Evaluation of ACI Deflection Model for FRP Reinforced Concrete Beams and Suggested Modification for ACI Structural and Materials Journal.

Dr. Sangeeta Sharma reviewed AIMS International Journal of Management Volume 2, Number3, September 2008, and the book Business Correspondence and Report Writing by RC Sharma and Krishna Mohan, Tata McGraw-Hill Publishing Company Limited: New Delhi.

Prof. Suman Kapur reviewed several papers for International journals such as Eye (Nature

Publications), Biomarkers (Taylor & Francis), USA, Addiction Biology, USA and for National journals such as IJBB, IJCB, Cell and Tissue Research, etc. and several projects for ICMR, DBT and DST, GOI, New Delhi, India. Prof Kapur has been nominated Member Jury, Young Scientist Ranbaxy Science Scholars-2008 Ranbaxy, Science Foundation, New Delhi, India, and Member Selection Committee, 2008 Commonwealth Scholarships, MHRD, GOI, New Delhi, India.

Dr. T.S.B. Sudarshan reviewed papers for 12th IEEE VLSI Design & Test Symposium at Wipro Technologies, Bangalore during July 23-26 2008, papers for IEEE Region 10 Colloquium and Third International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems, Dec 8-10, 2008, IIT Kharagpur, and papers for Integration, The VLSI Journal, Elsevier.

Prof. Arya Kumar reviewed 8 papers for the Journal Business Perspective brought out by Birla Institute of Management Technology, Greater Noida.

41st Engineers' Day

United Nations proclaimed the year 2008 as 'International Year of Planet Earth' and urged



engineers to provide solutions in areas such as health, safety, sustainable availability of natural resources, preserving/conserving groundwater resources and controlling environmental degradation. In consonance with this declaration, BITS Pilani celebrated the 41st Engineers Day on 15 September 2008 with the theme Planet Earth. Set off with the floral tribute to Sir Visvesvaraya, the Day was presided over by Prof. L.K. Maheshwari who emphasized upon the sustainable development and conservation of natural resources not only through technological innovations but also through attitudinal changes.

Prof. Ravi Prakash, coordinator of this Day's celebrations introduced Sir M. Visvesvaraya's life and achievements and elaborated the theme. The Carbon footprinting project of BITS, Pilani to be

carried out by NextGen PMS Pvt. Ltd., a BITS venture was also inaugurated on this day. Prof. K. E. Raman, Acting Director, BITS, Pilani Goa campus stressed the need for a mission-oriented approach to reduce the usage of paper for office work etc. by almost 50%. Papers were presented on related topics such as community preparedness, sustainable construction, global dimming, global warming and climate change by the faculty and students of BITS, Pilani.

IBM Technology Day

The IBM Technology Day was organized on 27 September 2008 where experts from IBM and IBM Research Labs presented state-of-the-art technology talks. The day started with a welcome speech by Prof Sundar Balasubramaniam followed by an overview on IBM University relations. Mr. Sheshasayee of IBM STG introduced the Architecture of CELL processor and its features. Mr. Imanpreet Arora then gave a talk and demonstration on programming the CELL processor. This was followed by a session on Unix design approach and Unix internals by Ms. Muthulaksmi Srinivasan. The day concluded with the question and answer session. This event highlighted the features of state-of-art multicore architectures and parallel programming issues. The event was coordinated by Uday Kiran Medisetty, IBM and Dr. T.S.B. Sudarshan from Computer Science & Information Systems Group, BITS, Pilani.

2nd Professor V. Lakshminarayanan Memorial Lecture

The 2nd Professor V. Lakshminarayanan memorial lecture was held on 11 October 2008 at BITS, Pilani with the inspiring lecture by Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Science and Technology. Prof. G. Raghurama, Deputy Director, BITS, Pilani welcomed



Dr. T. Ramasami complimenting him on his contribution to the Indian Science. Padma Shri Prof D. Balasubramanian, Director of Research, LV Prasad Eye Institute at Hyderabad in his introduction of Dr. Ramasami apprised the audience about his extraordinary scientific research in relation to leather industry that paved way for the environment, flourishing business, and greater employment opportunities. Dr. Tirumalachari Ramasamy, delivered his talk on "Passion and purpose in the pursuit of science". It attracted a large number of students and faculty from BITS Pilani and enlightened them with the idea that science is pursued by people with both passion and purpose. Dr. Ramasamy also threw light on "INSPIRE" a national innovative project initiated by DST for nourishing the roots of science in India. Prof L.K. Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor of BITS Pilani presented memento. Prof. Surekha Bhanot, Unit Chief, Instrumentation proposed the vote of thanks. It is worth recalling that Prof. M.S. Swaminathan delivered the First Prof. V. Lakshminarayanan Memorial lecture last year at BITS, Pilani.

National Education Day

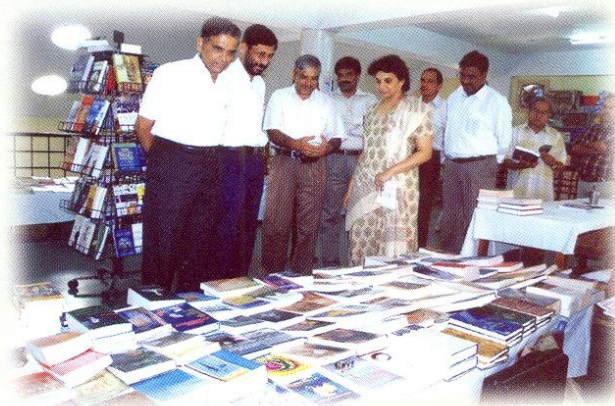
The Government of India declared 11th November as the National Education Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Union Minister of Education of independent India. A scholar, statesman, freedom fighter and a national leader, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was instrumental in starting various agencies such as University Grants Commission, Indian Council for Cultural relations, Sahitya Academy, Sangeet Natak Academy, Lalit Kala Academy, etc., for promoting academic and cultural endeavors in India. He stood for a learning society through liberal, modern and universal education.



On this occasion a panel discussion on the "Issues in Technical Higher Education in India" was held at BITS, Pilani. With the panelists Dr. Ram Babu Kodali, Dr. V.K. Chaube, Dr. Raj Kumar Gupta, Dr. Sundar B, Ms. Priya C Sande from various

engineering disciplines of the Institute, the panel discussion was moderated by Prof. B.R. Natarajan, Professor of Chemical Engineering and also the Dean of Distance Learning Programmes at BITS, Pilani. The discussion covered various aspects of higher education such as the Quality and Quantity of faculty in Higher education, have we transformed touted potential into achievement, status of women education, recommendations of knowledge commission, the implications of annual report of 2007-08, PPP (Public Private Partnership in Higher Education), etc. A large number of faculty and students attended and participated in the lively and meaningful discussion. Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, the Vice Chancellor, BITS, Pilani in his concluding remarks quipped "All of us teachers and students- have access to enormous learning resources and hence in future the teachers may have to play the role of a moderator besides that of a classroom teacher and facilitate learning." The celebrations ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Ajit Pratap Singh, Assistant Dean, Instruction Division. The three hour long function was coordinated by Prof. A.K. Sarkar, Dean of Instruction and Faculty Division I.

Sharad Book Festival



Sharad Book Festival was held during 10 - 26 October 2008 at Akshay Supermarket. Over 4000 new books on the subjects Biography, Fiction, History, Management, Science and Technology, Social Sciences, Children Books and General Reference were made available in the Festival for display and sale at a special discount of 15%. Books were from a variety of publishers including Penguin, Rupa, Academic Foundation, Harper Collins, Macmillan, Random House, Tata McGraw Hill, Pearson etc.

JOINING HANDS

MoUs

- With TVS Motor Company, its holding company and associate companies on 22 May 2008 to promote academic and research interactions.

- With the University of North Carolina at Greensboro on 11 June 2008 to develop an academic exchange and cooperation programme in education and research.
- With Indian Institute of Quality Management, Jaipur on 31 July 2008 to promote academic and research interactions.
- With SAP Labs India Private limited, Bangalore on 8 August 2008 to promote academic and research interactions with focus on SAP Scholar programme.
- With Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore on 9 August 2008 to promote academic and research interactions.
- With Sabre Holdings, Texas, USA on 19 September 2008 to foster collaborations between the two institutions to promote academic and research interactions.
- With L&T e-Engineering solutions(L&T e-ES) on 9 September 2008 for promoting academic and research interactions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor, BITS, Pilani received the Science Counsellor Award 2007 from ISHEER (Indian Society of Health, Environment Education and Research) Jodhpur for his outstanding contribution in the field of Electronics Engineering. He is among the eminent scientists of the country who have done commendable work for the popularization of electronics at national and international level. ISHEER, Jodhpur is dedicated towards the popularization of health, environment and education issues among the masses of rural and urban areas.



2. Dr. Sajeev Chandran, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy and the Assistant Dean of Engineering Services Division at BITS, Pilani received the Young Pharmacy Teacher Award for the year 2008 from the Association of



Pharmaceutical Teachers of India (APTI), Bangalore. The award carries a citation, merit certificate, cash prize of Ten Thousand rupees, a shawl and a plaque.

3. Dr. Sangeeta Sharma received the AIMS International Distinguished Service Award,



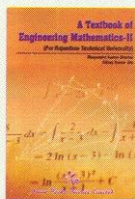
2008 from AIMS (Association of Indian Management Scholars) International, USA.

4. Piyush Suraj Raathor, First year Mechanical Engineering student at BITS, Pilani received the prestigious Aditya Birla scholarship for the year 2008. Aditya Birla Scholarship is awarded every year to top 21 students newly admitted to institutions of repute such as BITS, Pilani, the IITs and the IIMs after a rigorous selection process. Instituted in 1999 by the Aditya Birla group, the Aditya Birla Scholars programme aims at recognizing tomorrow's leaders today. The scholarship covers the tuition and living expenses of the students for the entire duration of their programme of studies.
5. A team of four 2nd year Mechanical Engineering students comprising Shrey Datta, Shahid Malik, Shailendra Pratap and Dinkar Nandwan of BITS, Pilani bagged the first prize of Rs. 3 lacs in the Golden Design Challenge, the most sought after competition held at "SHASTRA '08, the technical fest of IIT, Madras during 4-5 Oct 2008.

6. Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Mr. Nitin Chaturvedi and Dr. TSB Sudarshan won the Best Poster Paper Presentation award for their paper titled "Adaptive Block Pinning for Multicore Architectures" presented at the HiPC conference in Bangalore during 17-20 December 2008. This paper proposes a technique to eliminate inter-processor misses and improve the performance of cache management in Multicore processors.
7. Mr. Amit Roy and Prof. S. Balasubramaniam presented a paper titled "Praana: A Personalized Desktop Filesystem" which won the Best Poster award at the HiPC conference in Bangalore during 17-20 December 2008. This paper proposes a desktop filesystem architecture to support contextual desktop search.

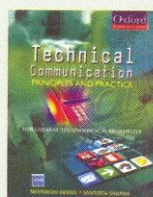
IN PRINT

Balram Dubey. Introductory Linear Algebra, Asian Books, New Delhi, 2007



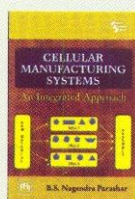
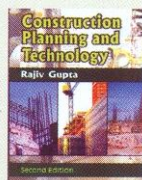
B.K. Sharma. A Text Book of Engineering Mathematics II, Asian Books Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. 2008.

K. Venkataraman Maintenance Engineering and Management, Prentice Hall of India, New Delhi.



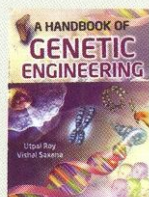
Meenakshi Raman and Sangeeta Sharma. Technical Communication Principles and Practice. For Gujarat Technological University. OUP, New Delhi. 2008.

Rajiv Gupta Construction Planning and Technology, CBS Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi. 2008



B.S. Nagendra Parashar Cellular Manufacturing Systems An Integrated Approach, PHI Learning Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. 2008

U. Roy and V. Saxena. A Handbook of Genetic Engineering, Kalyani Publications. 2007



RENEWING THE BOND

BITSAA Silver Jubilee Celebration for Alumni of 1978 batch (2-4 October 2008)



To commemorate their silver jubilee reunion, 120 alumni from 1978 batch of BITS, Pilani visited the campus with their families. They relived their memories by going around the campus, relishing the mess food, performing at a cultural evening and shared their expertise with the continuing students. They met the Vice Chancellor and other senior officers of the Institute wherein the Vice Chancellor gave a brief overview of the progress of their Alma Mater over the years and answered their queries.

With over 25 years of industry experience and expertise across all the disciplines the alumni enthusiastically shared their experiences with students and faculty of BITS, Pilani campus. It was a rare opportunity to hear from galaxy of CEOs and Presidents. Ajay Waghay Chief information Officer, Verizon Wireless Inc, New Jersey USA; Aditya Singhal Dy. Chief Information Officer, State of Ohio Dept of Transportation, Ohio, USA; Shishir Joshipura, President, Thermax Ltd, Pune; Sanjay Das, Investment Banker, USA; M.M.Bhutani, Vice President of FISERVE, Noida shared their views and experiences on the theme, **Careers in Corporate**. Solomon Anthony, Professor, Murray State University, USA; Nilay Yajnik; Professor, School of Business Management, NMIMS University, Mumbai; D.Loganathan, Professor, Dept of Computer Science, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry; Madhu Bharti Sharma, Professor, CEPT University, Ahmedabad; Pankaj Desai Professor and Director of Drug Development Graduate Program, University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA delivered talks on the theme **Careers in Academics**. Vivek Ladha, CMD, Lark Ltd, Goa; Rajat Sagar, President and Director, PT Infotech Solutions, Indonesia; Dinesh Wadhwa, Director, Technodyne Pvt Ltd, Indore; Amit Sheth, Design Consultant, Ahmedabad were the speakers for the session which dealt the theme, **Careers in Entrepreneurship**. These sessions served not only

as an eye opener for the students who look forward to their successful careers but also as a forum for developing contacts with the BITS alumni.

CARING BEYOND OUR WALLS

NSS

Continuing its dedicated services to community, NSS chapter organized a Health Camp in Raila village on 28 Sept. 2008 which benefited 140 villagers. In the NSS school of BITS Pilani, student volunteers interacted with every student in order to identify and develop the inherent qualities present in them. On 2 Oct. 2008 Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations were inaugurated by Prof. N.V.M. Rao, Dean, SWD. The student volunteers and the faculty helped in organizing the drawing, poem writing, story writing and play competition. Prof. Meenakshi Raman was the guest of honour. Prizes and sweets were distributed among the children. Under the Green Project another tree plantation drive was initiated on 17 and 19 October, 2008 by planting 20 trees on campus. A stall was put up by NSS during OASIS 2008 to promote the articles prepared by rural artisans, self help groups, woman employment groups and the NGOs.

UGC Centre for Women Studies (CWS)

Since its inception in 2005, the UGCCWS works towards addressing the concerns of women through social, scientific and technological interventions. As a part of Twelve by Twelve initiative of GOI, WHO, UNICEF, FOGSI for anemia reduction during adolescence, CWS has undertaken an activity for reduction of anemia at Rajkanya Middle Girls' School in Jherli village and other schools in villages in and around Pilani. This initiative includes collecting information about diets, providing information about appropriate diet through charts and drawings, de-worming treatment, Hb assessment and treatment. Prof. Suman Kapur, Dr. R.P. Pareek, MPH student Ms. Urvashi and research scholar Ms. Taniya Mojumdar and the CWS team are involved in this study. A camp was organized on



29 Nov. 2008 at Senior Secondary School, Jherli to collect blood sample in order to test the Hb count in children. Besides these activities the centre also organized lectures and training programmes reported elsewhere in this issue.

PROJECT_EMBRYO

BITS Embryo, with its unique and innovative mode of complimenting on campus education, exposure and research, through online lectures by Alumni and friends of BITS, has been able to sustain the interest of its users over the years. During Aug.-Dec. 2008, 15 lectures spanning most of the disciplines at BITS were successfully conducted. One of the major achievements last semester was the successful transition to the state-of-the-art web conferencing software AT&T Connect (previously interwise), an enterprise class application that combines voice, web and video conferencing in one software. A talk on "Mechanics of MBA admission" by an Alumnus, Abhinav Khushraj, was simultaneously web-casted over the three campuses Pilani, Goa, Dubai, as well as several Alumni groups across the Globe.

Other interesting talks include Computer Graphics by Jai Natrajan, Flow Cyclometry by Dr. Sridhar Ramanathan, a very interactive talk on Computational Surface Science by Dr. Anand Nilekar, and an exciting inter-disciplinary talk on "An Introduction to Brain and Cognitive Science" by Dr. Arun Ravindran. Mr. Brij Bhushan gave a nice overview of BITSAA and its various scholarships available for BITSians. The talks by Dr. Nilay Jainik on Information Technology and Dr. Rangrajan on the recent excitement in Solar Physics were also very well received. The talks on BITS-to-MS Ph.D. by Mr. Kirthivasan and "How to get into top B-schools" by Chaitanya Kalapatnipu, generated a lot of excitement. Mr. Anand Agrawal's talk "Financial Well being of Young Adults" was a very lucid presentation about personal wealth management and investment. It was another successful semester for Embryo.

CREATIVE ZONE

BOSM 2008

Set off with the glittering inaugural ceremony in the Gym Ground of the Institute on 10 September 2008, the 23rd All India Sports Meet of BITS, Pilani (BOSM 2K8) hosted a number of events for the enthusiastic participants from all over India. Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor of the Institute who had declared the five-day long (10-14 Sept. 2008) sports festival open, said that apart from sports and fun, this festival provided an opportunity to the young students to develop friendship and share cultures. He also said that about 20 percent increase



in the number of participants from last year was a clear indication that new generation had started realizing the importance of sports. Nearly 1000 participants including 850 boys and 150 girls constituting 40 teams from across the nation participated in this festival. The Sports Secretary of the Institute, Mr. Kambadur Manoj administered an oath to all the participants before the Meet started with a friendly basket ball match between Boys' Teams of BITS, Pilani and GGS Indraprastha University, Delhi. BITS, Pilani team won the friendly match. The inaugural function which was attended by the Deputy Directors, Registrar, Deans and Wardens of the Institute, drew a huge crowd cheering up the participants.



The festival hosted competitions in various sports and games such as basketball, football, volleyball, tennis, table tennis, badminton, cricket, chess, swimming, carom, hockey, athletics, etc. where participants tried to grab gold and silver medals. This year a new category called Ignition was added where LAN games were played. The important teams participating this year's festival included SRCC, Delhi; Kamala Nehru College, Delhi; MNIT, Jaipur; SBMJC, KGF; Punjab Engineering College; RAIT, Mumbai; BITS, Pilani-Goa; Annamalai University; Vasavi College, Hyderabad; etc. The 10 lakh budgeted fest was sponsored by Saras, and UCO Bank and Adidas had provided sports kits and uniform at a concessional rate.

At the concluding ceremony, Prof. K.E. Raman, Director (Acting), BITS, Pilani-Goa Campus

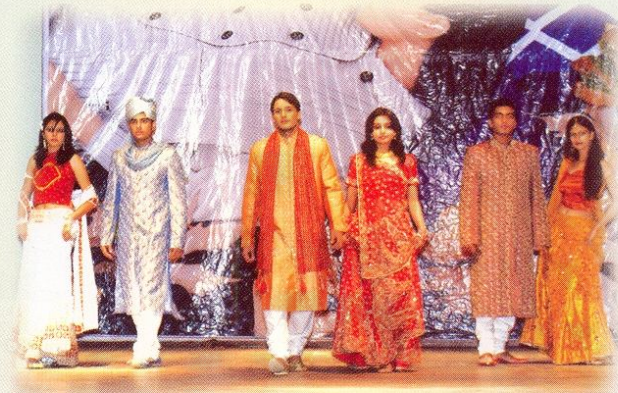
addressed the gathering and gave away medals and certificates to the winning teams of various sports events. This year BITS, Pilani teams won the maximum number of medals. They were winners of Badminton (Boys), Football (Boys), Power-lifting, Swimming (Boys), Swimming (Girls), Table Tennis (Girls), Tennis (Boys), Tennis (Girls), Best Physique, and Carrom. BITS, Pilani teams got runner up positions in Badminton (Girls), Volleyball (Boys), Volleyball (Girls), Basketball (Boys), Chess, and Sports Quiz. YMCA, Delhi and KNC, Delhi won Volleyball (Boys) Volleyball (Girls) matches respectively. MNIT, Jaipur and Deshbandhu college, Delhi were the winners of Athletics (Boys) and Athletics (girls) respectively. Teams from LNIPE, Delhi won Basket ball both in boys and girls categories.

OASIS 2008

The 38th all India cultural festival of BITS, Pilani, OASIS 2K8 was inaugurated by Mr. Sanjeev Sahi, Director (Personnel), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore and alumnus of BITS, Pilani. In his brief address, Prof. L.K.Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor, highlighted the importance of OASIS. The festival was formally inaugurated by lighting the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries present on the dais. Mr. Vijay Sharma, President, BITS students' Association gave the welcome address and Mr. Ravi Teja, the General Secretary proposed the vote of thanks.

Mr. Sanjiv Sahi also inaugurated the magnificent structure designed and constructed by the Art and Decoration department. This year's structure symbolized the union of different musical systems united together by the music created by the Mask which transcended all worldly pleasures and provided us the ultimate ecstasy.

The inauguration ceremony of 96 hours non-stop festival witnessed the inauguration of excellent paintings put up on the inner sidewall of the Auditorium by Art & D department and terrific performances by Mime, Music and Dance clubs of the Institute. In addition, alumni from across the globe joined this festival with their excellent performances immediately after the inaugural function. Mr. Sunil Nanda, entrepreneur in electronics from Bangalore,





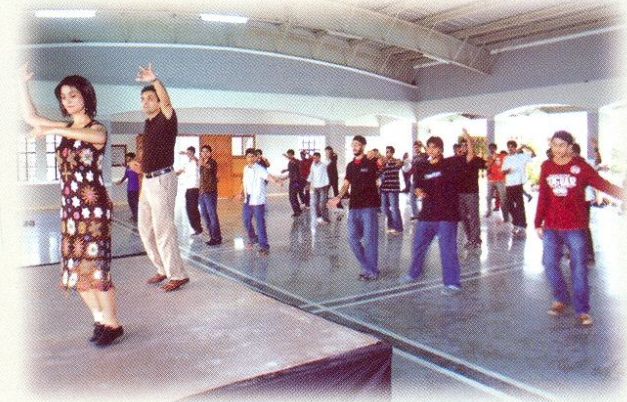
Mr. Raju Vanghese, Swiss Bank Consultant, Switzerland, Mr. L S Ganesh, IIT-M, Chennai, Mr. Sanjeev Kunj from Dubai, Mr. Vijay Athrey, VP, TATA AIG, Mr. Rahul Chettri from Florida, Shalabh Ahuja from Delhi and Mr. Pradeep Viswanathan from Bangalore shared the spirit of young BITSians through their performances.



In this year's OASIS based on the theme 'UNIO MYSTICA', 1200 outstation participants from 50 institutions across the country took part in various cultural events. The major events included professional shows, fashion parade, rocktaves, Razzmatazz, Choreo, StreetDance, Tandav, Desert Duel, plays, hasya kavi Sammelan, etc. The 35 lakh budgeted festival was sponsored by Nokia, L&T, NTPC, GATI, MONTE CARLO, CASIO, and FOODKING. MTV covered some of the events as the Youth media partner. Other media partners were NDTV, THE WEEK, ibibo, BLENDER and GupShup. Intel Core 2 Duo Campus Gaming Star was the Gaming Partner.

OASIS 2008 came to an end in a glittering ceremony on 24th Oct. Major events of the last day included Fashion parade, Dance workshop, Filmi mukabla and Kshanika. While recollecting his days at BITS in the valedictory ceremony, a proud to be BITSian and Chief Guest Shri NC Mathur, Director, Corporate Affairs, JSL Ltd. said that OASIS was not only an opportunity for entertainment but also to learn and that passion was an important ingredient of successful participation in an event such as OASIS.

The overall winner of OASIS 2K8 was BITS Pilani Goa Campus who won the trophy. Certificates and awards were given to the winners of various events by Shri NC Mathur, Chief Guest, Prof. LK Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor, BITS, Prof. G. Raghurama, Deputy Director (Academic) and Prof. NVM Rao, Dean, SWD. The other major winners were: Antakshri BITS, Pilani; Kshanika-



BITS, Goa; Kavita IPS, Indore; Mock Parliament Motilal Nehru College; OASIS Debate BITS, Pilani; Choreography Hansraj College; Stage Play Hindu College.

Cultural Evening by Mess Workers

Inaugurated by Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, the cultural programme presented by the mess workers of BITS, Pilani hostels included Rajasthani Folk Dance, Bhajan, film songs, Garhwal Folk Dance and Rajasthan Dhamal. The programme attended by the senior officers and student representatives was widely appreciated. On this occasion, prizes were distributed to the winners of cricket tournament conducted for the mess workers.

SPICMACAY

SPICMACAY- BITS Pilani chapter kicked off its activities with the event VIRAASAT under which five concerts and a film festival, first of its kind at BITS by the SPICMACAY chapter were presented. The National award winning film Ankur by Shyam Benegal was screened on 29 August. The first concert of the semester was a qawwali performance, by the well known Ustad Meraj Ahmed Nizami and Party. The next event was a cello performance by Saskia Rao De Haas on the 01 September 2008. She was accompanied by Dhuranjay Bhowmick on the tabla. With a strong foundation in western classical and Indian classical music, her music is received with great enthusiasm by critics and audiences worldwide. She commenced the evening of music with aalap of Raag Jog, followed by two other compositions in teen tal and jhap tal. A Kathak performance by the celebrated Indian dancer Malabika Mitra was the next SPICMACAY event for the semester. With her elegant dance movements she won the hearts of the audience. The next program was a Sufi concert,



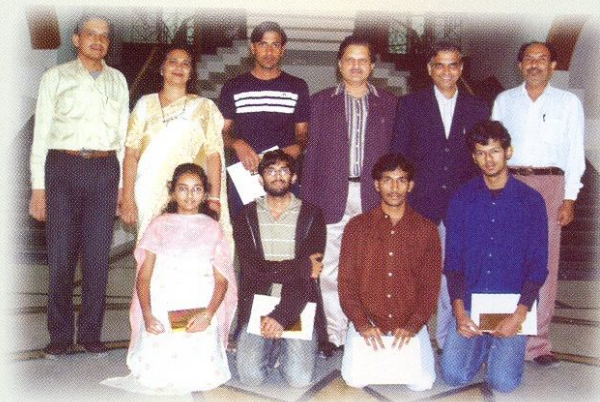
by Ustad Jamil Khan and his troupe, on the 21 September that was a huge success, with audience highly appreciating the music. The final concert for the semester was on 25 September by the renowned carnatic vocalist, Dr. T.N. Sheshagopalan.

MATRIX

Setting off with its first book review on *The Genome War* (James Shreeve) by Dr. Sandhya Mehrotra, a faculty member from the Biology Group and two students Abhinav N and Mudit Bhatia, Matrix continued its journey at the Institute. The book dealt with events circling the Human Genome project. The next book on line was Khaled Housseini's much talked about novel *Kite Runner*. Three student panelists Ishaan, Aman and Sadhana discussed various aspects of the novel. An internal Book review of *By the River Piedra I sat down and Wept* written by Paulo Coelho was also conducted by Aman and Bhavesh. This was followed by a political quiz conducted by Mr. Challa Abhishek. More than fifty students participated in the quiz. With a view to reach out to more BITSians, MATRIX decided to make available a book shelf in the library comprising of books recommended by the forum. This shelf will be updated regularly. The wrapping up of the semester

events was held on 26 November 2008 with a valedictory function at VFAST. Dr. Martha Turner, faculty of USUHS, USA was the chief guest. Dr. Truner being an avid reader of books shared her life-long association with books. She commended the efforts of MARIX in giving a platform to book lovers in the institute. Prof. Raghurama, Deputy Director (Academic) expressed his views on the nature of MATRIX events and suggested some future directions which may help MATRIX grow. MATRIX acknowledged the contribution of panelists for the book reviews by presenting them with books. The prize winners of the quiz competition were also gifted with books.

Earn while You learn Scheme

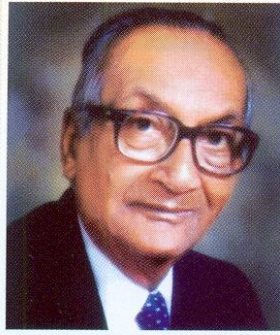


On 21 November 2008, Prof R K Mittal, Deputy Director, distributed certificates to Mr Anil Kumar (2006D2TS880), Miss Arini Vengala (2007C6PS474), Mr. Vipin Jain (2005B5A1435), Mr Omkar K (ID 2005B2A2850) and Mr Bharat R (2005B4A1750) who did excellent work in the library under the Earn While You Learn Program. The student volunteers assisted in various library jobs including Cataloguing, Barcoding of books and Development of digital library.

INTRODUCING NEW FACULTY

Name	Designation	Discipline	Research areas
Mr. Rajan Choudhary	Lecturer	Civil	Highway Material Characterization
Mr. Satish Kumar Dubey	Lecturer	Mechanical	Thermal Engineering
Ms. Vandana Agarwal	Lecturer	Computer Science and Information Systems	Computer Vision and Image Processing
Dr. Pankaj Kumar Sharma	Lecturer	Bio. Sciences	Enzymology of plant secondary metabolism
Dr. Sandhya Mehrotra	Lecturer	Bio. Sciences	Regulation of Expression of Rpl gene from chloroplast of populus deltoids, six CO ₂ fixation pathway in nature
Dr. Rakhee	Lecturer	Mathematics	Queuing Theory and Stochastic Process, Performance Evaluation of Communication Networks
Mr. Jaydev Dabas	Lecturer	Mathematics	Differential Equation
Dr. Avijit Mukherjee	Assistant Professor	Physics	Theoretical High Energy Physics (String Theory), Mathematical Physics, and Algebraic Geometry
Ms. Usha Lenka	Lecturer	Management	Quality Management

TRIBUTE TO DR. K.K. BIRLA



(11.11.1918 – 30.08.2008)

Born in Pilani to legendary The Late Shri GD Birla on November 11, 1918 the holy day of Gopasthmi, Dr. KK Birla inherited a legacy in which the creation of wealth, philanthropy and political leadership were all regarded as part of nation-building. Spiritual strength and moral values were part of his personal credo. Dr. Birla was conferred in 1997 the degree of Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) by Pondicherry University for his unique contribution to education, industry and society. He was the Chairman and Chancellor of Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani. He set up the KK Birla Foundation, which confers annual awards for excellence in literature, scientific research, Indian philosophy, art and culture, and sports. He also established the KK Birla Academy, which undertakes research on scientific, historical and cultural subjects, and runs a museum-cum-research centre in Delhi. Dr KK Birla was a member of the Rajya Sabha for three successive terms from 1984 2002, served on several committees of Parliament and was on the Central Board of the State Bank of India and ICICI. He also headed the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) and Indian Sugar Mills Association. He was a legendary industrialist with his industrial empire spanning across sectors such as sugar, fertilizers, chemicals, heavy engineering, textiles, shipping, etc. Under his stewardship Hindustan Times has become one of the leading newspapers of the nation.

According to Dr. KK Birla, "Education is the most important single factor in achieving rapid economic development and technological progress and in creating a social order founded on the values of freedom, social justice and equal opportunity. Programmes of education are the basis of efforts to forge bonds of common citizenship, to harness the energies of the people, and to develop the natural and human resources of every part of the country. The aim of education is to ensure harmoniously blended development of the students' physical, intellectual, aesthetic, social and spiritual powers and not merely to impart theoretical knowledge and skills."

With this noble vision, Dr. KK Birla took over as the Chairman of BITS in 1983 and redesignated as Chancellor of BITS in 2003. He was deeply involved and closely associated with his visionary father in running both earlier Birla Colleges and BITS, since its inception in 1964. With his spirited involvement in all the activities of the Institute, Dr KK Birla was able to see the vision of his father The Late Shri GD Birla unfolding. Taking over the responsibility of running the Institute Dr. Birla realized the need for promising graduates in the field of science and technology in shaping up the nation's development. Under his patronage, BITS started expanding by establishing three campuses in Duabi, Goa and Hyderabad. His keen interest in the affairs of BITS and Pilani town was reflected in his regular visits which were always eagerly awaited by the students and staff of BITS, Pilani and the local population of Pilani town.

Known for his dignified unassuming personality, gleaming intellect, meticulous planning, deep regard for punctuality, gifted business acumen, and dynamic leadership, Dr. KK Birla made an indelible mark in the field of education, industry, politics, art and culture. For him, achieving excellence was a journey and not a destination.

Dr. KK Birla will survive forever in the hearts and minds of all members of the BITS family.



MEDIASPEAK

"Need for more trained personnel in science, technology"

Kumar Mangalam Birla new BITS Chancellor

Special Correspondent

Leading industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla has taken over as the new Chancellor of the BITS Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani. He succeeds K.K. Birla, the patriarch of the Birla Group who passed away recently.

Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla is a former Chairman of Business School and chairperson of the Birla Group. He is a man of the Indian industry who has been instrumental in the growth of the Birla Group.

दैनिक भास्कर

बुधवार 22 अक्टूबर, 2008



सांस्कृतिक महाकुंभ शुरू

31 August, 2008

K. K. BIRLA 1918-2008

Hindustan Times

26 October 2008

Global meet o water at BITS

25 October 2008

राजस्थान पत्रिका

25 October 2008

कविताओं ने गुदगुदाया

24 अक्टूबर (पृष्ठ 1)

बिट्स के छात्र आईआईटीएम टेकफिस्ट 2008 में अव्वल

विजय, 13 अक्टूबर

बिट्स के छात्रों ने आईआईटीएम टेकफिस्ट 2008 में अव्वल का पद जीता। यह प्रतियोगिता देश भर के छात्रों के बीच आयोजित की गई थी। बिट्स के छात्रों ने इस प्रतियोगिता में अत्यंत उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन किया।

A LEGEND LIVES ON

In Memoriam

People from all walks of life have gathered to pay tribute to the life of K.K. Birla, a legend of the Indian industry. His death leaves a void in the industry.



Hindustan Times

Monday, October 13, 2008

Science to be pursued with passion and purpose

Large number of students and faculty members gathered for the inauguration of the Science Centre at BITS Pilani. The centre will be a hub for research and innovation in the field of science.

'TEACHERS ARE ROLE MODELS FOR STUDENTS'

Dr. K.K. Birla

Teachers are role models for students. They should be strict but fair. They should instill a sense of discipline and hard work in their students. They should be the ones who inspire their students to achieve their dreams.

Hindustan Times

November 17, 2008

BITS plan to increase yield of jatropha

HAZEL, a business plan had won fourth place in a competition held at Rice University. The plan aims to provide electricity to Indian villages by using jatropha seeds.

Hindustan Times

Friday, December 19, 2008

BITS students in international conference

Students of BITS Pilani are attending the International Conference on Computing Machinery at BITS. The conference is a platform for students to present their research and interact with experts in the field.

Hindustan Times

12 September 2008

BITS inks deal with L&T e-ES

Continuing ITS collaborative efforts to promote and sustain its unique educational feature of diversity-industry linkage, BITS signed an MoU with L&T e-ES, a strategic unit of engineering education which provides end-to-end design and engineering services to global man-

Hindustan Times

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Now, robots to counter terror

Students of BITS Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani have developed a humanoid robot called 'Arya'. The robot is designed to perform a variety of tasks, including security and disaster relief.

THE HINDU

15 AUGUST 2008

HAL, BITS Pilani join hands

HAL has signed an MoU with BITS Pilani. The MoU is aimed at strengthening the ties between the two institutions and promoting research and innovation in the field of aerospace technology.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Editorial Team

Meenakshi Raman, Sanjiv Kumar Choudhary, Virendra Singh Nirban, Pushp Lata

We wish to thank the faculty and students who have helped us in procuring data and photographs. Please send your comments/suggestions/feedback to : <mraman@bits-pilani.ac.in>