

BITScan

Semester Notes

Issue 11



**BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
AND SCIENCE**

**Pilani - 333031
Rajasthan**

Semester I

2007 - 2008

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An Enterprising Semester

Beginning with a warm welcome to the freshers including the 31 Toppers from various Boards, through the orientation sessions, the semester received a number of dignitaries at BITS, Pilani and hosted a range of activities pertaining to various domains.



Chancellor Dr. K.K. Birla's autobiography was released by Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in Delhi. Faculty and students of the Institute were fortunate to listen to a talk by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, an eminent agricultural scientist who delivered the First Prof. V. Lakshminarayanan Memorial Lecture in the Lecture Theatre Complex. For the first time, the Association of Indian Universities joined hands with BITS, Pilani and held its seminar on Examination Reforms at the Institute. Continuing its efforts to promote the Human Resource Development of various organizations, the Institute organized a series of three HRD Programmes for the school teachers and administrators from various schools in Calcutta on their request. Several national and international conferences were organized at BITS, Pilani inviting participants and experts from India and countries abroad.



The BITS Pilani- Dubai campus moved to a new campus in the Academic City of Dubai and the BITS Pilani-Hyderabad Campus was announced to be open for admission in August 2008.

OASIS, the all India annual cultural festival with a budget of 35 lakhs was celebrated over 4 days creating a convivial atmosphere on the campus. Several innovative cultural events were introduced to enthuse the participants from various reputed institutions of India. An exhilarating speech by Mr. Sunit Rikhi, a techno-savvy presentation by the CCTV, a captivating performance by the Dance Club & the Mime Club and a colourful display of fireworks marked the inaugural event.

Faculty members brought in laurels to the Institute by presenting their research papers at conferences within and outside the country, acting as editorial advisors, editorial members and reviewers for various journals, delivering invited lectures, and acting as resource persons for workshops and training programmes organized by other institutions.

Relentlessly marching ahead with its social ventures, BITS participated in a number of societal



development activities through its centers and forums such as Centre for Women Studies, NSS, My India, etc.

The Semester witnessed the gleaming spirit of entrepreneurship among the students through the business plans presented at the convention organized jointly by the EDIPR unit and TBI.

Keeping abreast themselves with the recent technological advancements, several students worked with perseverance on projects in the areas of robotics and automobile engineering and constructed working models namely Acyut, the humanoid; hovercraft; and Cheetah, the all terrain vehicle that served as telling examples for their engineering feats.

Prime Minister Released Dr. K.K. Birla's Autobiography

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh at a function organized at his residence, released the autobiography of Dr. K.K. Birla, Chancellor, BITS. Titled *Brushes with History-Autobiography of K.K. Birla*, the book was released on 10 December, 2007 in the presence Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Congress president and United Progressive Alliance Chairperson, and a number of dignitaries including several cabinet ministers.



Recalling Dr. Birla's contribution in the field of education and business the Prime Minister said, "The interest he had taken in modern education in India helped the growth of some of the best educational institutions...The experience and knowledge he has will be of great value to younger generations of our business leaders." Dr. Singh also highlighted how Dr. Birla had strongly supported economic reforms at the time when many business leaders were anxious and apprehensive about the changes. The foreword of the book has been written by Mrs. Sonia Gandhi.

Extending his heartfelt thanks to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and other dignitaries, Dr. K.K. Birla in his speech narrated several of his close encounters with great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru and the contribution made by the Birla family in India's freedom struggle.

ACADEMIA

A Confluence of Ideas

Seminars/ Conferences/ Workshops/ Training programs

4th National Seminar on Examination Reforms in Higher Education (19-21 September 2007)

The three-day national seminar was jointly organised by the Association of Indian Universities



(AIU), New Delhi and BITS, Pilani. Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, Vice-Chancellor, BITS, Pilani inaugurated the seminar and Prof. Abhijeet Mukherjee, Vice-Chancellor, Thapar University, Patiala delivered the key note address. 44 controllers of examination from almost all parts of India participated and 14 papers were presented at the seminar. The three-day seminar saw intense deliberations on various facts of examination pattern and educational system. On the last day of the programme, Dr. Dayanand Dongoankar, Secretary General, AIU discussed the issues related to examination reforms with the participants from various Indian Universities. Dr. G. Raghurama and Dr. Bijay Lakshmi Mishra from BITS and AIU respectively, summarised the recommendations that resulted from the discussions. Dr. Dayanand Dongoankar, emphasized the need for the universities to explore the feasibility of open book examinations and on-line tests in the similar way as it is being done in BITS, Pilani.

International Symposium on Applied Phycology and Environmental Biotechnology (ISAPEB-2007 29-31 October)

Aimed at bringing together multidisciplinary researchers around the world in the area of algal



biology to disseminate information on latest technologies in mass cultivation and industrial applications of algae, the three day International Symposium was jointly organized by the Biological Sciences Group & the Centre for Desert Development Technologies (CDDT) of BITS, Pilani in collaboration with the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Ben-Gurion University (BGU) of the Negev, Israel. Prof. Avigad Vonshak from BGU inaugurated the symposium and delivered his keynote address on "Mass Culturing of Spirulina" and Prof. L. K. Maheshwari, the Guest of honour briefed the audience about the functions of CDDT and its collaborative efforts. The symposium attracted more than seventy expert scientists from various parts of India and other countries like Israel, France, Italy and USA.

2nd National Convention on Energising Entrepreneurship through Innovation (2-3 November 2007)

To introduce the youth and young professionals in technical fields to entrepreneurship, a two-day national convention on Energising Entrepreneurship through Innovation was held at the institute. The convention was flagged off by Mr. Guljit Singh Kochhar, Director, Precision Moulds & Dies, Ghaziabad and Professor L K Maheshwari. Tech Bazaar, the prime focus of the seminar was inaugurated by Dr. S. Venkateswaran, Professor Emeritus and advisor, BITS, Pilani. It received 50 entries from BITS and outside Institutions across India and provided space for showcasing the innovative products in different domains like ICT, Electronics, Automobile, Pharmacy, Agriculture,



Energy, Civil and Heavy Engineering of the young entrepreneurs. Technology Clinic & Boutique, was another event of the Convention which attracted large number of students across various disciplines. The convention ended with a very lively Panel Discussion by young entrepreneurs who are at

different stages of their entrepreneurial journey. This included Mr Rahul Chandra, Director-Investment Advisor, Helion Venture Partners, Gurgaon, Mr Phanindra, CEO, Redbus, Bangalore, Mr Manoj Vasudevan, CEO, Pilani BPO Pvt Ltd, Pilani, Mr Kavikrut, CEO, Mobile Medics, Pilani and Mr Sasi, CEO, Habits (On-line participation).

2nd ISSS (Institute of Smart Structures and Systems) National conference on MEMS, Microprocessors, Smart Materials, Structures and Systems (16-17 November 2007)

The two day national conference jointly organized by the Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute (CEERI), Pilani and BITS, Pilani, and held at CEERI was inaugurated by Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. Dr. VK Aatre, Former Scientific Adviser to the Defense Minister, Govt. of India and DG, DRDO, delivered the guest address. Dr. Chandrashekhar, Director, CEERI, Pilani and Prof. L. K. Maheshwari Vice Chancellor BITS, Pilani, hosts of the conference welcomed the guests and the other dignitaries and participants of the



conference. Dr. A.R. Upadhyya, President, ISSS and Director, NAL informed the audience about the activities of the ISSS. The conference had 10 expert lectures, 6 product displays and a large number of paper presentations. Nearly 400 scientists from various organizations like CSIR, DRDO, CEERI, BITS Pilani, IISc and NAL Bangalore, NPL, New Delhi, RCI Hyderabad, etc. participated in the conference.

Workshop on Technology Entrepreneurship for Faculty Members (23-24 November 2007)

Under the initiative of Indo-US Forum for Science and Technology and the associate sponsorship of Intel, Department of Science and Technology and National Entrepreneurship Network, 2-day workshop was inaugurated by



Prof. L K Maheshwari. The workshop emphasized on the need for university teachers to act as catalysts in inculcating entrepreneurial skills among their students through relevant courses and activities. Besides senior faculty of BITS, Pilani who had extensive training in the domain of Entrepreneurship, Dr. Anil Jain, MD, Vaiseshika Electron Devices, Ambala; Mr. Mukesh Sharma, CEO, QA Infotech, Noida and Mr. Sharad Babu, MD, Food King shared their experiences and discussed with the participants the strategies of promoting entrepreneurial skills in students.

Human Resource Development Programs for School Teachers and Administrators (24-27 September; 28-31 October 2007)

Two Human Resource Development Programmes were organized at the institute for the teachers and administrators of various schools managed by Ms. Manjushree Khaitan. These three- day long



workshops especially designed to cater to the needs of school teachers and administrators were aimed at sharing innovative ideas and use of technology to make learning more rewarding and interactive in the classroom. The first workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Chandrasekhar, Director, CEERI, Pilani and the second by Professor L.K. Maheshwari, Vice-



Chancellor, BITS Pilani. In all 37 participants were benefited by the workshops.

IBM Technology Day (08 September 2007)

The IBM Technology Day with a focus on Virtualization was celebrated at the institute. Started



with the welcome address and a technical lecture on Virtualization Fundamentals by Prof. Rahul Banerjee, the IBM Day at BITS witnessed talks by BITS alumni Ms. Kalapriya Kannan and Ms. Radhika Parameswaran. While the former from IBM India Research Labs (IRL) delivered a talk on Recent Research in Virtualization, the latter from IBM India Software Labs (ISL), spoke on Virtualization in P series. Yet another BITS alumnus from MSRI Biju Raveendran, presently a PhD research student of BITS Pilani gave a talk on Energy Efficient File System for Flash Devices. Srikanth Srinivasan from ISL spoke on Distributed and Cluster File Systems and Dr RK Shyamsundar, Manager Programming Languages and Software Engineering from IRL gave an enlightening talk on Research and Opportunities at IRL. The IBM team and senior computer science faculty members also had a detailed discussion with Prof LK Maheshwari on how to strengthen the BITS IBM collaboration further.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURES AT BITS PILANI



SPEAKER	DESIGNATION	TOPIC	DATE
Dr. Rupak K Banerjee	Associate Professor, Univ. of Cincinnati, USA	Recent Advances in Bio-Mechanical Engineering	6 August 2007
Mr. Anand Singh	Sr. Executive (Marketing) Scientific Edge Information	Demonstration of Scifinder Scholar	17 August 2007
Dr. Alok Tyagi	Medical Officer, BSH, Pilani	Diagnosis and Patient History	18 August 2007
Dr. Pawan Malhotra	Scientist, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi	Roles of cysteine proteases and PfTSN in asexual blood stages of P. falciparum using Functional Genomics approaches	30 August 2007
Ms. Sujata Sarda	Incharge, Mellow Ayurveda, Marudhar Herbal, Chirawa, Rajasthan	Natural Beauty Products	01 September 2007
Dr. Y S Rajan	Principal Adviser, CII, Gurgaon	Future directions in higher education	08 September 2007
Dr. K Ravinder	Scientist, TPE, CRRI, New Delhi	1. Road Pricing and Electronic Toll Collection Systems 2. Comparison of Transportation Project Appraisal Methodologies	8 September 2007
Dr. N K Lohiya	Professor, Rajasthan University	Biotechnological Advances in Male Contraception	17 September 2007
Dr. Ashok Gupta	Associate Professor, Dept. of Pediatrics, SMSMC, Jaipur	Vaccine Preventable Diseases	22 September 2007
Dr. T K Chakraborty	Deputy Director & Head, Organic Div. III, IICT, Hyderabad	Challenges in Organic Chemistry-from Design to Synthesis	28 September 2007
Shri Jai Prakash Agawal	BITS Alumnus and Corporate Trainer in the area of Evolving Excellence	Evolving Excellence-Personal and Organizational Level	25 & 26 October 2007
Dr. Vikas Anand	Professor of Management, Sam M. Walton College of Business, Univ. of Arkansas	Psychological Contracts: The case of the H1-B Indian Engineer in USA	25 October 2007
Mr. Sunit Rikhi	Vice President (Technology), Intel	Silicon Technology Moore's Law in action	06 November 2007
Dr. K Vijaymohanan	Physical & Materials Chemistry Div., NCL, Pune	Chemistry and the world of nanostructural and smart materials.	16 November, 2007

BITS Pilani - Dubai New Campus

BITS, Pilani - Dubai Campus shifted from Knowledge Village to its 15 acre campus at Dubai International Academic City in August 2007. The new campus, featuring state-of-the-art facilities, includes a spacious academic block, laboratories and workshops of international standard, an entertainment complex and well laid out hostel blocks.



INTERNATIONAL VISITS BY FACULTY

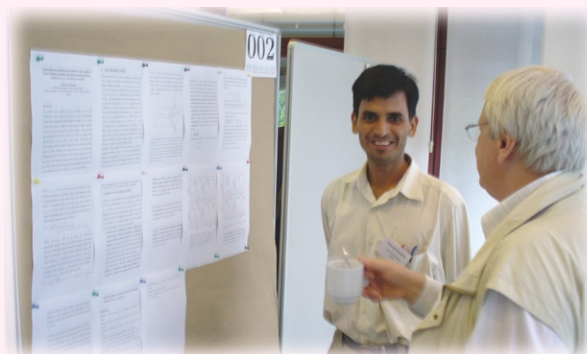
Prof. R N Saha visited **Damascus, Syria** on invitation from Arab School of Science and Technology, Syria, a transnational body on development of Science and Technology in arab countries, during 7-13 December and acted as Scientific Consultant and Resource Person for the workshop on "Advances in New Drug Delivery Systems" to be held during 9-12 Dec at Damascus, Syria.

Prof. A K Sarkar, on invitation from the Ministry of Transport of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, attended the Annual South East Asia Community Access Programme (SEACAP) Practitioner Workshop in **Hanoi, Vietnam** during 12-13 September 2007. He also presented a paper entitled *Rural Road Connectivity in India* and chaired a session. During 26 October 01 November 2007, he



attended the workshop on Mobility and Health in **Beijing, China** at the behest of the International Forum for Rural Transport and Development. Dr.Sarkar presented a paper entitled *Quantification of accident potential on Rural Roads: A Case Study in Rajasthan (India)* in the 14th International Conference on *Road Safety on Four Continents* held in **Bangkok, Thailand** during 14-16 November 2007.

Dr. Rakesh Chaubisa presented a paper on *Generalized geometrical mode for the study of quasi-binary incident electron-centre of mass collision in (e, 3e) process on He* at the Symposium



on Polarization and correlation in Electronic and Atomic Collision and the international symposium on (e, 2e), Double Photoionization and Related Processes held at Königstein, Germany during 1-4 August 2007.

Dr. Sangeeta Sharma presented a paper on *Scaling the Inner Parnassus: Unlocking the creativity through Advertising* at the 10th International Conference of the Society for Global



Business & Economic Development, **Kyoto, Japan** during 8-11 August 2007.

Dr. Anil Kumar presented a paper on *Noncovalent cellular delivery of phosphopeptides by amphipathic peptides* in the 234th ACS National Meeting,

Boston, MA, United States during 19-23 August 2007.

Dr. C Hota presented a paper on *Safeguarding against Sybil Attacks via Social Networks and Multipath Routing* at ChinaCom 2007 held at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China (during 20-26 August 2007). Dr. Hota also visited Telecommunications Software and Multimedia Laboratory, Helsinki University of Technology,



Helsinki, Finland during 30 September-15 November 2007 as a Visiting Research Professor with Erasmus Mundus fellowship from European Commission to participate in joint research and teaching in the area of Network Security and Mobile Computing.

Dr. Kumar Neeraj Sachdev presented a paper on *Assessing the Relation Between Morality and Human Life*, in the International Conference on



Moralities at the Turn of Centuries and Millenniums, held at the Institute of Philosophy and Ethics, Presov University, Presov, Slovakia during 18-20 September 2007.

Mr. Ashish M Gujarathi presented a paper co-authored by Prof. B V Babu on *Multi-objective optimization of supply chain planning and management* at IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation jointly organized by IEEE, NUS and

NTU in Singapore during 25-28 September 2007. He also visited Chemical and Bio-molecular Engineering departments of National University of Singapore and interacted with the Heads of departments on several aspects towards prospective higher education in the field of Chemical Engineering.

Dr. Motilal Dash presented a paper on *Climate Change and Community Adaptation in Rural*



Rajasthan in Aberdeen, Scotland during 4 – 10 November 2007.

Mr. Raj Kumar Gupta presented a paper on *Mixed Monolayer of Cholesterol and Thiocholesterol* at the 9th International Conference on Atomically



Controlled Surfaces, Interfaces and Nanostructures during 11 – 15 November 2007 at University of Tokyo, Japan.

Dr. N N Sharma delivered an Invited talk in the IV International Conference on Computational Intelligence, Robotics & Autonomous Systems, CIRAS-2007, held at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand (during 28-30 November 2007). He also chaired a session in the conference.

Dr. N Rajesh presented a paper on *Removal of chromium (VI) from electroplating waste water by adsorption of its diphenylthiocarbazone complex using cellulose as the adsorbent* in the Singapore International Chemistry Conference-5(SICC 5)/Asia Pacific conference on microscale separation organized by National University of Singapore, Singapore during 16-19 December 2007.

INVITED TALKS/ WORKSHOPS BY BITS FACULTY

Prof. R N Saha conducted a three-day technical workshop in Ahmedabad on *Pharmacokinetics and its Application*, for scientists and senior officers of Torrent Research Foundation, Ahmedabad during 28-30 September 2007.

Prof. B V Babu was the distinguished speaker at Laser & Plasma Technology Division of Bhabha



Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai for the one-day follow up discussion meeting on New Research directions in the use of power beams for environmental applications (RPDM-PBEA-2007) to a Symposium on Power beams for clean environment and processes on 18 September, 2007. He spoke on *Chemical kinetics and dynamics of plasma assisted pyrolysis of assorted, non nuclear waste*. Dr. Babu also delivered an invited talk on "Differential Evolution Strategies" at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee on 23 October 2007.

Prof. Arya Kumar delivered an invited Guest lecture on BITS Model for Entrepreneurship Development in the NEN STVP Workshop organised for the faculty members of different institutions in Delhi on 25 August 2007. **Prof. Arya Kumar** and **Prof. Niranjan Swain** conducted two workshops on Finance for Non-finance for the benefit of senior management personnel of

Hindalco Industries Limited, a flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group at Renukoot and Renusagar during December 2007. 64 participants were benefited by these workshops.

Dr. Ishwara Bhat, delivered an invited lecture on Public Library in the 21st century: new services for the information age at the Conference of Librarians held at Jaipur on 16 September 2007.

Prof. Meenakshi Raman conducted three workshops: (i) a 3-day workshop on Success Strategies for Interviews and GDs for the faculty and students of RGI Group of Institutions, Nagpur during



3-5 September 2007 at RGI Engineering College, Nagpur; (ii) a 2-day workshop on English Pronunciation & Accent; Interview and GD strategies at University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Gurgaon during 30 September - 01 October 2007 (iii) a 1-day workshop on Job Winning Interviews and GD skills for the students of Sobhasaria College of Engineering, Sikar on 15 November 2007.

Dr. Sangeeta Sharma conducted a three day workshop on Presentation and Communication Skills at National Academy of Defence Production, Nagpur during 10-12 September 2007. She also conducted a two day workshop on Verbal Abilities, presentation and speeches at University of Petroleum and energy Studies, Gurgaon during 30 September to 1 October 2007. Dr. Sharma conducted a workshop on Effective Communication Skills for teachers and administrators of Ashok Hall Girl's Higher Secondary School, GD Birla Centre for Education, and Mahadevi Birla Shishu Vihar at Kala Mandir, Kolkata on 22 December 2007. She also conducted a two day workshop on Presentation Skills and Group Discussion at Calcutta University for the students of Chemical Technology during 26-27 December 2007.

Dr. Motilal Dash chaired the session on “Women Making Changes in Rural Economy International and National Perspective” at the International Conference on “Women on Emerging Indian Economy Silence to Voice Problems and Possibilities” held in Bangalore during 26 – 27 November 2007.

Dr. Navneet Goel delivered an invited talk on "Data Mining" in the training programme "Spatial & Non-spatial Information Management and Mining in Agriculture" at Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute, New Delhi on 28 November 2007. He also delivered an open seminar on "Data Mining Applications in Agriculture" for scientists of Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute, New Delhi on 28 November 2007.

Dr. S B Singh delivered key note lectures on Innovative Uses of FRP Materials for Construction at Second National Conference on Materials and

Structures at NIT Warangal on 15 December 2007; and on Analysis, Design and Construction of FRP Prestressed Concrete Structures at the National Seminar on Recent Trends in Geotechnical and Structural Engineering held at MNIT, Jaipur during 22-23 December 2007. Dr. Singh also chaired the conference sessions at Second National Conference on Materials and Structure (MAST-07), NIT Waranagi and at National Seminar on Recent Trends in Geotechnical and Structural Engineering (RTGSE 2007), MNIT Jaipur. He also acted as Panel Member for discussing the topics such as (a) Durability Based Design of Structures (b) Curriculum Developments for Civil Engineering at NIT Warangal on 15 December 2007.

Mr. Ashish M Gujarathi chaired the Session of 3rd Indian International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IICAI-2007) held during 17-19 December, 2007 at Pune.

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

S.No.	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Agency	Sanctioned Amount
1	Design of Gastroretentive controlled release drug delivery systems for selected drug	Prof. R N Saha, Dr. Archana Roy (Pharmacy)	Ipca Laboratories Ltd, Mumbai	Rs.12.Lakhs
2	Development of Novel Drug Delivery Technology	Prof. R N Saha	Ipca Laboratories Ltd, Mumbai	Rs.8.0 Lakhs
3	Experimental Investigation of Failure and Stability of Laminated Composite Plates with Cutouts	Dr. S B Singh (Civil Engineering)	CSIR, New Delhi	Rs. 6 Lakhs
4	Sustainable High Performance Concrete Infrastructure (UKIERI Collaborative research award)	Dr. S B Singh (Indian research team leader)	University of Dundee, UK and BITS Pilani leading the consortium of six Indian universities.	£ 337003
5	Novel safety catch linkers for solid phase synthesis of organic compounds with potential medicinal applications	Dr. Anil Kumar (Chemistry)	DST, New Delhi	Rs. 19,54,000/-

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.

NAME	GROUP	JOURNAL / MEMBER DETAILS
Prof. B V Babu	Chemical Engg.	Reviewed a book titled 'Differential Evolution-Fundamentals, Parametric Study, and Applications in Electrical Engineering', John Wiley & Sons, October 2007. Reviewed 20 articles for International Journals such as IEEE Transactions on Systems Man and Cybernetics-A (IEEE), Chemical Engineering Journal (Elsevier), Journal of Hazardous Materials (Elsevier), European Journal of Operational Research (Elsevier) etc. Nominated International Program Committee Member at International Conferences (BIC-TA-2007, Zhengzhou Henan Province, China, CEC-2007, Swissotel The Stamford, Singapore, CIRAS-2007, Palmeston North, New Zealand, ICOMS-2007, CIT Coimbatore, India, ICAI-2007, Pune, India, GLS-8-2007, IIT-Delhi, New Delhi, India.
Mr. Ashish M Gujarathi	Chemical Engg.	Reviewed articles for Chemical Engineering Journal (Elsevier)
Dr. N N Sharma	Mech. Engg.	Co-edited the Proceedings of the 2nd National Conference on MEMS, Microsensors, Smart Structures and Systems, held at CEERI Pilani during 16-17 Nov. 2007. Reviewed an article for IEEE Tr. Education Nov.-Dec 2007. Member of Review Committee, Int. Conf. on Sensor Technology, ICST-2007, Massey University, New Zealand, held during 26-28 Nov. 2007.
Prof. R N Saha	Pharmacy	Reviewed research papers for Current Drug Delivery.
Dr. C Hota	Comp. Sc.	Reviewed a paper titled "The Optimal Solution of Consensus Agreement on CDS-Based Mobile Ad-hoc Network" for The Oxford University Press, UK.
Prof. S P Gupta	Chemistry	Edited four journals for Bentham Science, USA and Netherlands; Editorial Board member of Indian Journal of Chemistry and Letters in Drug Design and Delivery, Bentham, USA.
Dr. Anil Kumar	Chemistry	Reviewed papers for journals, 1. Catalysis Letters (Springer) 2. Central European Journal of Chemistry
Prof. Arya Kumar	Eco. & Fin.	Reviewed more than 12 research papers for the journal titled "BUSINESS PERSPECTIVES" brought out by BIMTECH, New Delhi.
Dr. Sandip Banerjee	Mathematics	Reviewed articles for Biomedical Signal Processing and Control (Elsevier) and IET Systems Biology
Prof. Meenakshi Raman	Languages	Assistant Editor for the IATEFL, UK Journal of Professional and Academic English and reviewed a paper on "Effective Evaluation of Students' Writing : An Applied Perspective"
Dr. Sangeeta Sharma	Languages	Member of the International Review Committee for the 10 th International Conference of the Society for Global Business & Economic Development, held during August 8-11, 2007 at Kyoto, Japan.

40th Engineers' Day

With the theme “Convergence of Technologies for Rapid Development”, the 40th Engineers' Day was celebrated at the institute on 15 September 2007 to mark the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the eminent engineer, administrator and statesman. The function was inaugurated by Prof. L.K. Maheshwari. Taking example from electronics, computers, biotechnology and mechanical engineering, Prof. Maheshwari emphasized that the integration of these will help humanity and society at



large for a better future. Prof. Ravi Prakash, the Convenor of the function, said that the responsibility of engineering and technology institutes is to inspire and cultivate a sense of engineering development for society and that coming closer to the various knowledge domains will lead to a significant improvement in societal development.

On this occasion several papers were presented by faculty and students from various disciplines in the areas of modern research such as DNA technology, Technology Convergence, Nuclear Medicine and Stealth Technology.

First Prof V. Lakshminarayanan Memorial Lecture

Padmavibhushan Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, the father of green revolution in India, Ramon



Magsaysay Award winner and recipient of over 50 honorary doctorate degrees delivered the First Prof. Lakshminarayanan Memorial Lecture on “Biotechnology and Food Security” at the Institute's lecture theatre complex on 18 September 2007. Prof. Lakshminarayanan Memorial Lecture is a new initiative started by the family members of the Late Prof. Lakshminarayanan, the first Director of BITS, Pilani. Prof. Swaminathan stressed on the need for 'Bio-Valleys' in ecologically rich areas where basic infrastructure could be provided to link bio-diversity, biotechnology and business in a fitting and mutually beneficial manner for achieving bio-happiness. Covering many aspects of agricultural development in his address Prof. Swaminathan concluded his lecture by praising the legacy of Prof. Lakshminarayanan and the steps taken by BITS, Pilani in research and appreciated the projects like Rain Water Harvesting and Desert Development Technologies undertaken by the institute.

The programme started with the welcome address by Prof. K.E. Raman, Deputy Director (Admn), BITS, Pilani who also read out the message sent by Dr. K.K. Birla, Chancellor, BITS, Pilani. Padmashri D. Balasubramanian, Director of Research at the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad and a BITS alumnus introduced the chief guest, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. The event ended with the presentation of mementoes by Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, and the daughters of Prof. Lakshminarayanan to Prof. M.S. Swaminathan and a vote of thanks by Hari Krishna Reddy, the President of the BITS Students Union.

Sharad Book Festival

Sharad Book Festival was held at Akshay Supermarket during 26 October - 8 November 2007.



Over 3000 titles were made available for sale at a special discount for the benefit of faculty and students during the festival. Subjects included

Fiction, Biography, Travel, Social Sciences, Science and Technology and Management. Prof K E Raman, Deputy Director, inaugurated the Book Festival on 26 October in the presence of faculty members, students and other guests.

JOINING HANDS

Memoranda of Understanding

Sustaining the collaborative efforts BITS signed several MoUs with institutions in India and Abroad:

- With Amdocs Development Center India Pvt. Limited on 24 May 2007 to promote academic and research interactions.
- With University of Dundee, UK on 5 July 2007 to promote exchange of human resources, staff and students, development and provision of targeted scholarships, academic and research interactions.
- With Persistent Systems Pvt. Limited, Pune on 17 August 2007 to promote academic and research interactions.
- With Texmaco Limited, Kolkata on 22 September 2007 to promote academic and research interactions for industry centric knowledge and skill upgradation. BITS would operate an off-campus center at Kolkata and run educational programmes to meet the human resources development needs Texmaco and other related organizations.
- With Patni Computer Systems on 24 October 2007 to offer a two-year M.S. degree in embedded systems for Patni's employees under the BITS off-campus work integrated learning programmes scheme.



- With Dabur Phrama Kalyani on 24 December 2007 to foster collaboration

between the two institutions in order to promote academic and research interaction for industry-centric knowledge and skill upgradation.

Degrees Awarded

124 cadets of Tolani Maritime Institute (TMI) Induri received certificates from Prof. L.K. Maheshwari on 18 August 2007 on their successful completion of B.S. Marine Engineering programme offered by BITS, Pilani in collaboration with TMI.

35 employees of Bharat Forge Limited were awarded degrees in B.S. Manufacturing Engineering by Prof. L.K. Maheshwari on 18 August 2007 at the convocation ceremony held at Hotel Le Meridien.

The first batch of 10 candidates who had successfully completed their M.S. (Science Communication) programme received their final degree certificates from Prof. L.K. Maheshwari on 28 December 2007 at a function organized at NCSM (National Council of Science Museums) Kolkata. This degree program is a collaborative effort of BITS, Pilani and NCSM, Kolkata.

ACHIEVEMENTS

ADITYA BIRLA SCHOLARSHIP

Ms. Namrata Raman (2007A1PS191) is the proud recipient of the prestigious Aditya Birla Scholarship. The Aditya Birla Scholarship scheme, instituted in 1999, is a way to foster outstanding academic excellence and humane leadership values, in partnership with select institutions such as BITS



Pilani, the IITs and the IIMs. The scholarship amount of sixty five thousand rupees per annum covers the academic as well as the hostel fee for the entire duration of the curriculum at these institutions. Along with Namrata Raman, Ranchan Koul (2007A3PS003), Aastha Mehta (2007A7PS044)

and Prem Shankar (2007A3PS025) also appeared in the interview held at Mumbai.

Ayan Haldar (2005A2PS375), **Sushmit Shreyans** (2005A2PS488), and **Nirupam Anand** (2005KS49488), participated and won laurels in the National Level Civil Engineering Symposium-CONTECH -07 at Nirma University, Ahmedabad which was attended by over 450 civil engineering participants. Nirupam Anand presented a technical paper on Analysis and design of Offshore structures winning the 1st prize in his category. Sushmit Shreyans and Ayan Haldar presented papers on Advanced materials in civil Engineering titled Engineeres Cementitious Composites and Nanomodification of Concrete using lignocellulose getting the 1st and 2nd positions respectively. They also participated in a team of 3 for a civil Engineering Case study towards developement of a petrochemical SEZ winning the first prize in it too.

Mr. Ashish M Gujarathi acted as a consultant for M/s Ghari Detergents. He provided his technical services for the preliminary design of 300 MT/month of optical brightener manufacturing plant. Mr. Ashish also guided the Higher Degree project work (**Nilesh Jadhao** 2006H101017, **Aditya Natarajan** 2006H101014 & **Unmesh Mulajkar** 2006H101018) which was short listed as one of the 7 finalists among 350 teams for 'Freedom to Innovate contest-07' organized by Honeywell, Bangalore on September, 28, 2007.

Devdatta Akhawe (2005A7PSA125) has been selected by MS Research Redmond for internship at Redmond, USA along with 10 other students from India in the summer of 2008. He will be working under Xiaofeng Fan on the Mashup OS project of the Distributed Systems and Security Group.

'Inspired Karters', a 15-member team of students under the leadership of **Lokesh Jain** (2005A4PS322) & **Tarun Kinra** (2005A4PS287) and the supervision of Dr. S.S. Deshmukh,



Professor-in-charge, BITS, Pilani chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), & Mr. Manoj Soni designed an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) named 'Cheetah' and presented it in the Design and Fabrication Competition organized by SAE at Pithampur, Indore during December 2007.

Cheetah has many utilities like border patrol, daily maintenance vehicle and can be used as a fire extinguisher in thin lanes.

A Team of eleven students led by **Samay Kohli** (2005B3A4817), **Arpit Mohan** (2005A3PS090) and **Harsh Sinha** (2006A3PS142) designed a working model of a Hover craft which won first prize in the exhibition held at IIT Madras. The model moves



without touching the surface and is equally efficient on all kinds of surfaces. Opportunities are being looked for to make it a commercial product. Samay, Arpit and Harsh also successfully designed and demonstrated the ACYUT Robot under the guidance of Prof. R K Mittal, Prof. Ravi Prakash and Dr. NN



Sharma. The students aim to develop it further and participate in the ROBOCUP 2008 to be held in China. The robot can work for half an hour without charging the battery. On 22 November 2007, the team demonstrated both ACYUT and the Hover craft in front of faculty and students of BITS, Pilani in the Lecture Theatre Complex. Prof. LK Maheshwari

congratulated and encouraged the students for their technological feats.

Abhishek Nayak (2005 B1A5675), a member of CEL, BITS, Pilani won the honour of participating as a panelist in a discussion moderated by Barkha Dutt, Managing Editor, NDTV 24x7 on **Youth of India** in the Fortune Global Forum, held during 29-31 October at the Shangri-La Hotel, New Delhi. The Forum, the premier summit of leading CEOs, aimed at understanding the economic, political, social and cultural dimensions of India that is intriguing and contradictory for an outsider. The panel discussion presented a rare opportunity for national and global business executives to hear first-hand from the latest generation 18-21 year olds representing the demographic majority in India.

BITS Pilani team called 'Intellitech' comprising A Jaideep (2004B2A3685), Ankur Aggarwal (2006A3PS214) and A V S Karteek (2006A8PS256) secured third position in the Industry Defined Problem (IDP) event held during SHAASTRA 2007, the academic festival of IIT Madras, Chennai. More than 100 teams from all over the country had participated in this event. The team members have been offered Summer Internship at G.E. John F Welsch Technology Centre, Bangalore and a prize money of Rs. 4000.

BITS Pilani team comprising Susheel Teja G (2004B4A4543), **A Jaideep** (2004B2A3685), **Ankur Aggarwal** (2006A3PS214) and **A V S Karteek** (2006A8PS256) got third position in yet another event 'Junkyard Wars' held during SHAASTRA 2007. The participants received a Prize money of Rs. 6000, and merchandises from the event sponsors, Bosch.

SARSHAM, a business plan presented by a four-member team comprising **Kartik Gupta** (2005A4PS306), **Sahil Chalana** (2006C6PS294), **Sankalp Kathuria** (2005A4PS359) and **Kunal Singla** (2005A4PS275) won the Social Plan Competition held as a part of International Conference on Global Entrepreneurship (ICGE) at SRM University, Chennai in December 2007. The plan was also one among the finalists in Pratyarpan, the social entrepreneurship fair held at IIM (A) in September 2007. SARSHAM presents a comprehensive business plan for an education system that includes mentoring, guiding, counseling and financing till the end of a student's graduation so as to prevent any impediments such as dropout, financial constraint, etc. The team is about to launch their venture IMConfuzed.com as a part of SARSHAM.

Suraj T J (2006A8PS192) secured first position in ILLUMINATI-2007 organized by the Civil Engineering Association. **Jomy Augustine** (2006A7PS117) and **Nikhil Bansal** (2005A4PS313) secured the Second and Third position respectively in the contest. The event tests the participants' engineering skills through various evaluation components like Rapid Fire, Scrambles, Case Study and written Quizzes. In the final round a panel of four judges assessed the participants' quick wit, confidence, communication skills and personality through a series of questions.

Mr. V Nafees Ahmed, a BITS alumnus of 2002 batch (2002A1PS447) received Homi Bhabha Award from Prime Minister of India in BARC for standing first in the Chemical Engineering Training.



Mr. Khurshid Ganai, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, J&K and an alumnus of BITS, Pilani (graduated in 1979) received the J&K CM's Gold Medal for honesty, integrity and meritorious service on 22 October 2007 from the Governor of the State.

Dr. GSK Velu, MD, Trivitron Group of companies and an alumnus of BITS, Pilani has been conferred with the Rajiv Gandhi Shiromani Award 2007 for his outstanding contribution in the Diagnostic and Health Care Industry.

Mr. Sadachandram Kolandaivel G, an alumnus (Pharmacy) of BITS Pilani received the Rajiv Gandhi Shiromani Award. GSK Velu, the founder and Managing Director of Trivitron is also a recipient of the Entrepreneur of the Year 2006 award.

Mr. Bharadwaj Rangan graduated in 1992 from BITS, Pilani received the Best Film Critic Award in the 53rd National Film Awards ceremony.

Mobile Medics run by **Kavikrut** an alumnus of BITS, Pilani won the BiD Challenge India - A national level business plan competition organized during

April October 2007. Around 150 plans from India competed in two categories, namely, Start-ups and Established businesses and 59 made it to the second round. During the 3rd week of October at a final event held in Mumbai, Mobile Medics beat 7 other top social ventures from the country to win the first position involving a prize money of Rs.3 lacs. Mobile Medics was the India's official entry in the start up category which participated in the BiD Challenge International Event held in Amsterdam during 28 November- 08 December 2007 to compete with 14 teams from seven countries across the world.

Dr. Ishwara Bhat was honored by the popular newspaper, *Rajasthan Patrika* with the **Shreshtha Pustakalaya Adhyaksha Award** for 2007. The award giving ceremony was held at Jodhpur on Sunday, 9 December 2007 on the occasion of Jodhpur Festival organised by *Rajasthan Patrika*. Prof Lokesh Kumar Shekhawat, Vice Chancellor, Jai Narayan University, Jodhpur presented the award in



the presence of Sri Daulat Singh Rathore, Editor, *Rajasthan Patrika*, distinguished librarians of the city and other book lovers and general public.

Prof. Arya Kumar and **Prof. Anil Bhat** completed five modules of the Entrepreneurship Educators Course (EEC) organized by STVP, Stanford, IIM Bangalore and National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN). That makes Prof Arya Kumar and Prof Anil Bhat eligible for a certificate recognizing accomplished Entrepreneurship Educator.

Questus

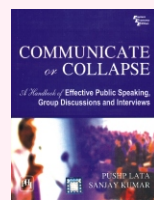
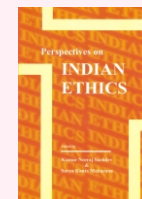
Questus, India's first ever **student-run investment fund** where BITSians can pool in their money and build their own portfolio was initiated by the Wall Street Club (WSC) at BITS, Pilani on 12 September 2007. Wall Street Club (WSC) of BITS, Pilani, founded by **Abhishek Humbad**, a third year student, offers learning experience to young minds

through exploring the sensitivities of domestic stock market. Questus entails keeping a close watch on market trends, analyzing companies on a sectoral basis and placing buy/sell orders online.

An investment of 70,000/- has been made by 35 students. This number is planned to be increased to around 70 during the next semester and to 100 a year after. At the inaugural function of the launch of Questus, Prof. L. K. Maheshwari, the Vice Chancellor recalled his recent experience at the Washington D.C.'s international forum on future for engineering and stated that today's engineering stands for 'design, build and test' and the WSC through its activities testifies these mantras. He affirmed that WSC has a real life model which has designed a financial engineering concept and QUESTUS has helped in building and testing the same.

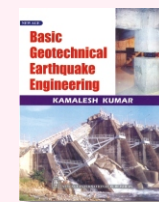
IN PRINT

Kumar Neeraj Sachdev and **Surya Kanta Maharana** (Eds). *Perspectives on Indian Ethics*, Icon Publishers, Delhi. 2007



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Kamlesh Kumar, *Basic Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering*, New Age International Publishers, New Delhi. 2007



RENEWING BONDS

Golden Jubilee celebration of BITSAA-Delhi Chapter

The BITS Pilani Alumni Association Delhi Chapter (BITSAA Delhi) celebrated its Golden Jubilee on 29 September 2007 by organizing a Seminar on Restructuring Indian Education System Challenges & Opportunities at the Taj Mahal Hotel New Delhi. The proceedings started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and rendering of an invocation by Ms Shanti Sharma of Indore Gharana. Mr S K Kaila President and one of the founders of BITSAA Delhi



chapter welcomed the guests. Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office was the Chief Guest and Dr Narendra Jadhav Vice Chancellor Pune University & Ex RBI Economic Advisor delivered the keynote address. In his inaugural address, the chief guest appreciated the role of BITS Pilani in fostering Industry University Collaboration and emphasized the quality aspects



of higher education. Dr Jadhav too focused on encouraging innovations in the education system.

In the session on Restructuring Higher Education which was chaired by Shri S M Agarwal Advisor Board of Directors Hindustan Times Ltd, Prof L K Maheshwari Vice Chancellor BITS Pilani and Dr L S Ganesh, Professor and Head, Department of Management Studies, IIT Madras spoke on Innovations at the Universities. Dr Vinod K Agarwal Chairman & CEO SemIndia and Mr Adesh Jain Chairman International Project Management Association (IPMA) spoke on the Industries Perspective. The final session on Applied Research: University Industry Partnership was chaired by the Chairman, Steel Authority of India (SAIL) Shri S K Roongta. The Industry perspective was presented by Shri Yogesh C Vaidya Chairman STG International and Mr Prabir Jha Global Head HR & Corporate Communication, Dr Reddy's

Laboratories (DRL). The University Response aspects were presented by Shri Hemant Kumar, Senior Vice President Texmaco and Prof D Acharya, former Chairman AICTE and presently Director IIT Kharagpur.

The celebrations continued in the evening with a cultural programme held in the Stein Auditorium of India Habitat Centre. Shri Prithviraj Chavan addressed the audience and then the BITSAA Delhi chapter honored the dignitaries present which included veteran Prof. I.J. Nagrath of BITS, Pilani. Mr. Raj Kumar from Indian Navy who was on Everest Mission and the Dakshin Dhruv Antarctic Mission made a presentation on South Pole conquest. It was nostalgia all over when Mr. Dinesh Sharma and Mr. Puri rendered old songs. Volunteers from the Music Club of BITS Pilani also gave a performance.

Golden Jubilee celebration of 1957 Batch

The BITS Pilani Alumni Association celebrated the Golden jubilee Year of the 1957 batch of the erstwhile Birla Engineering College. Various



functions were held from 23rd - 25th October. 15 graduates from 1957 batch attended the reunion with their families. The alumni visited the library,



Lecture Theatre Complex, labs, Birla museum etc and also met Prof. L K Maheshwari and the senior faculty members of the Institute.

Silver Jubilee celebration of 1977-82 batch

The Silver Jubilee of 1977-82 batch was celebrated at the institute during 5-7 October 2007. During this program, the participants went out for a campus-tour, visited Pilani town, delivered lectures, interacted with students and staff members and concluded its celebration with a cultural program. Lectures were organized under the title 'KISSA' (Knowledge Interaction between Students and Senior Alumni). Many senior alumni including Prof.



G. Ravinder Kumar, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, and Mr. Binod Chaudary, Asst. Vice President, Infosys BPO, New Jersey, USA, and Mr. Dilip Kothari, Senior Program Manager, S. T. Microelectronics, Prague, Czech Republic, Ms. Poonam Verma Talwar, and Mr. K. Sherif spoke on various themes such as Experimental Physics, Banking and Capital Market, Semiconductors and Micro conductors, Crystal Therapy, Values and Human Rights. The alumni also had the opportunity to meet and interact with the Vice-chancellor Prof. L. K. Maheshwari and other senior faculty members.

CARING BEYOND OUR WALLS

NSS

Marching ahead with its societal contributions, the NSS successfully organized the following activities:

- Installation of a solar panel driven computer system at Raila village to take care of the electricity failure during school hours;
- Tree plantation cum tree-protection program launched at the institute campus on the Independence Day;
- Clothes distribution among the needy people in the nearby villages;
- NSS Day (24 September 2007 -theme NSS and Learning Disability) and National Integration Week celebrations;



- Launch of a newsletter to spread the awareness about Learning Disability among campus community in addition to the other topics like Rain Water Harvesting, Organic Farming - conserving soil; water and biodiversity based on traditional and modern eco-friendly techniques.
- NSS stall during OASIS.

UGC Centre for Women Studies (CWS)

The CWS engaged itself in a range of activities during the semester:

- Set up a Telemedicine center at Sewa Bharti, Pilani.
- Started a Mini Paper Recycling Unit at the Institute.
- Organized a village Agricultural Fair
- Upgraded the facilities at Infant Care Centre



- Conducted studies on *Acceptability of alcohol-based waterless hand sanitizer among street food vendors in Pilani* and on *Utilization of locally grown Aloe Vera for commercial application*.
- Organized competition on Clay modeling and sketching

For details visit:

<http://discovery.bits-pilani.ac.in/Others/cws/index.htm>

PROJECT EMBRYO

Project Embryo entering in its second year of operation organized a number of lectures through video streaming. Alumni from different parts of the world delivered lectures to the students on varied topics as given below:

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	PRESENTER
Nov 23 2007 Nov 2 2007 Oct 29 2007	Entrepreneurship Lecture Series	Naveen Bisht Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Luxmi Ventures, LLC Founder, President & CEO, Nayna Networks
Nov 4 2007	Remote Sensing At Its Extreme : The Interdisciplinary Nature of Observational Radio Astronomy	Urvashi R.V. Programming Engineer, NRAO, New Mexico
Sep 29 2007	Traffic Engineering: Congestion Relief	Anyesha Mookherjee
Sep 20 2007	Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)- An Overview	Ayusman Sarangi & Pankaj Nathani University of Utah
Sep 9 2007	Apping guidelines and fundamental Q&A on aping	Team BITS2MSPHD
Sep 8 2007	Computational approach to Catalysis	Shampa Kandoi University of Wisconsin -Madison
Sep 7 2007	Career options, Changing trends, Emerging Areas in CS and IS related fields	Amit P. Sheth
Aug 20 2007	Core Values in Building a Sustainable Business	Raju Reddy Founder and CEO, SierraAtlantic
Aug 19 2007	Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Network Analysis	Deelesh Mandloi Product Engineer, ESRI, Redlands

CREATIVE ZONE

BOSM 2007

BITS Open Sports Meet 2007(BOSM 2007), the annual sports festival was held during 12-16 September, 2007. The five- day long festival was kicked off at the Students Activity Center (SAC) of BITS Pilani with the welcome address by N.L.N.Murthy, Sports Secretary, BOSM. Over thirty five teams from all over India including Delhi, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Banaglore participated in the festival. Prominent teams such as SBJMC,



Bangalore; IT-BHU, Varanasi; Jai Hind, Mumbai; MREC, Hyderabad and MNIT, Jaipur took part in various events. Prof. K. E. Raman, the chief guest of the inauguration ceremony enthused the gathering by saying, "Even with nature playing its own game (referring to the unexpected rains), BITSians, as hosts, have enough warmth in their hearts to brighten up your spirits" and declared the Sports Meet open. Professor emeritus-cum-advisor, BITS, and Guest of honor, Dr. S Venkateswaran cheered up the crowd by saying "sports bring upon in a person a vital attitude required for facing life's challenges which cannot be substituted by



academics.” Professor G. Raghurama, wished everyone a good game and emphasized on both fun and a competitive spirit during the game. The speeches were followed by the oath-taking ceremony conducted by the BITS captain Gaurav Prakash on behalf of the athletes thereby promising to abide by rules and uphold the honors of the institute in the true spirit of sportsmanship. Dr. N V Muralidhar Rao, Dean, SWD; Mr. Pintu Modak, Sports Director, BITS; Coordinators of student teams responsible for Sponsorship, Correspondence, Controls, Reception and Accommodation graced the inaugural function.

BOSM-2K7 witnessed a huge participation of around 830 outstation players (650 male + 180 female participants) from over 35 colleges who participated in different indoor and outdoor games and athletic events. Important sports events of the festival included table tennis, chess, badminton, lawn tennis, discus throw, volley ball, basket ball, hockey, football, cricket, long jump, triple jump, power lifting, body building and other athletic events. **SBMJC, Bangalore received the Championship trophy** for their all-round performance whereas the host **BITS Pilani Team got the overall runners-up trophy. Mr. Suhas S Kashyap (2005B5A3619)** received the **Ranvir Trehan Tennis Trophy.**

OASIS 2007



Oasis-2k7, the 96-hour non stop all India cultural festival was held during 15-19 October 2007. Beginning with a presentation by the CCTV team of BITS, Pilani, the festival was inaugurated by Mr Sunit Rikhi, Vice President (Technology) & Director, Advanced Design Logic Technology Development at Intel, Oregon, USA and an alumnus of BITS (graduated in 1979) by lighting the ceremonial lamp. While addressing the gathering Mr. Rikhi said “OASIS is a force that brings together young talent on a common footing.” When he shared a number of nostalgic moments with the huge audience the jam

packed auditorium was filled with the deafening noise of roars of laughter and rounds of applause. Prof. L.K. Maheshwari congratulated the student organizers who put their heart and soul in conducting the mega event and welcomed the outstation participants to the invaluable moments they would create and also cherish for a long time. The imposing theme structure designed by the Art & Decoration Department was also inaugurated by Mr. Rikhi during the function. The mime club, and the dance club enthralled the audience by their mind blowing performances. The jubilant audience was thrilled by the dance performance based on popular Hindi and Telugu songs. At the stroke of midnight, immediately after the inaugural function, the half an hour long fireworks illuminated the Pilani skylines.



With its theme **Psychodelia**, the 37th Annual Cultural Festival OASIS hosted more than 1000 outstation participants from more than 40 colleges from all across the country. Teams from eminent institutions like National law University Jodhpur, BITS Pilani-





Goa campus, Sreeram College of Commerce, JMC, Hindu College, Jakir Hussain from Delhi, IET Bhaddal, JCR University, Murthal, MR Engineering College Faridabad, MET & SRMN from Lucknow, BIT Meshra Ranchi, ICG Jaipur, etc. competed in more than 50 outdoor and indoor events. State Bank of India was the major sponsor of OASIS2K7. The other sponsors of the 32-lakh budget fest were Vodafone, Nestle, Airtel, Channel V, Café Coffee Day, Domino's pizza, SMS country, bigadda.com and IT firm Cognizant.

Scintillating performances by popular singer Lucky Ali, Ace Choreographer Vishal Kanoi, Pop-rock bands- 'Them clones' and "Thermal and a quarter" spellbound the audience. Thumping all-night dance floor, dirt biking, paint-ball wars, fashion shows and other interesting events took the participants to a new level of ecstasy.

Dance Workshop

Besides entertaining the audience with their captivating performances during various festivals of the Institute, the Dance Club of BITS, Pilani takes the challenge of training the interested students as



well in several types of Ballroom Dances during the semester and holds a Dance Workshop that serves as the culmination point of all their joint efforts at the end of each semester. On 25 November 2007, the Club organized Incendio, the Dance Workshop

Demo which excited and enthused the audience in BITS auditorium. About 50 students performed dances such as Tango, Jive, Twist, Charleston, Waltz, Salsa and Dirty Dancing which was a visual delight to the audience.

SPICMACAY

Continuing its efforts to promote Indian classical music and culture among the youth, Spicmacay organized three programmes at BITS during the semester. The first one was a Bharatnatyam



performance by the renowned Bharatnatyam danseuse Rama Vaidyanathan. She began the evening with an Anjali, in the traditional 'namaste mudra', a symbol of welcome, followed by Mayur Allaripu, Varnam and two compositions on Hindi poetry about the river Ganges. The performance concluded with two pieces celebrating India's 60 years of independence. The next event organized by Spicmacay was a flute recital by renowned flautist Ronu Majumbar. The main piece of the concert was in Raag Megh Malhar. Accompanying him on the Tabla was Sudhur Mishra. The artist's imagination and creativity reflected in his scintillating performance leaving the audience wanting more of such music. The final event of the semester was a Chau Dance presentation by artists from Orissa. The troupe consisting of 15 performers presented an energetic folk program giving glimpses of the rich cultural heritage of Orissa.

MATRIX

MATRIX - the book-reading and literature club of BITS, had yet another intellectually gratifying semester with events like book reviews, group discussions and debates. The first book reviewed was "Catch-22" by Joseph Heller which had Mike Prentice, a visiting scholar from Buffalo University and two students- Vernon Fernandez and Aniruddh in the panel. The other books reviewed were "Train to Pakistan" by Khushwant Singh and "Animal

Farm" by George Orwell. The movie "Water" directed by Deepa Mehta was reviewed. A group-discussion and debate was also organized on the topic "Public Interest Litigations-Boon or Bane." The activities of the semester ended with a valedictory function held on 23 November 2007 at which all the panelists were rewarded with books by the Vice Chancellor.

Earn While You Learn Scheme

Vikram Singh Bhati (2003D2TS876), P Ashwath Kumar (2003C2PS311), D Hari Prasad (2006C5PS775), Omkar K (2005B2A2850), Sri Devi S (2004C2PS794), Anusha V (2004B3A4482), M Aparna (2004A8PS250), T Aparna (2004A4PS240), K Rekha (2004A8PS241) and Vipin Jain (2005B5A1435) had done an excellent work in cataloguing under the



EWYLP during August-December 2007 in the BITS library. They were appreciated for their efforts and were awarded certificates by Prof. K.E. Raman on 29 November 2007.

INTRODUCING NEW FACULTY

S.No	Name	Discipline	Designation	Research Area
1	Dr. Varun Singh	Civil	Lecturer	Intelligent Transportation Systems, Transport Geography and GIS Applications in Civil Engineering
2	Dr. AR Choudhury	Chemistry	Lecturer	Crystallography of small molecules, Weak intermolecular interactions and crystal engineering, Polymorphism, In-situ crystallization and structural phase transition, Co-crystallization of active pharmaceutical ingredients
3	Dr. Sagarika Dev	Chemistry	Lecturer	Protein Folding
4	Mr. S C Thakur	Management	Visiting faculty	Organizational Behavior
5	Mr. Ram Shukla	Management	Visiting faculty	Information Technology Application in Supply Chain Management, Operations Research and Operations Management
6	Dr. Saroj K Sahani	Mathematics	Lecturer	Mathematical Biology, Bioinformatics and Virology
7	Dr. Pankaj Dutta	Mathematics	Lecturer	Operational Research and Fuzzy Optimization
8	Dr. Brajesh Tripathi	Mechanical	Lecturer	Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD), Heating, Ventilation and Air-conditioning (HVAC), Heat Transfer and Fluid Flow, Turbo-machinery, Energy 10efficient buildings, Green technology.
9	Dr. Kaushar Vaidya	Physics	Lecturer	Observational Astronomy and Star Formation
10	Dr. Rajesh Mehrotra	Physics	Lecturer	Solid State Theory



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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>

