

IIT Bombay Celebrates Golden Jubilee Foundation Day

The Golden Jubilee Foundation Day was celebrated by the Institute on Monday, March 10, 2008. Shri Anand Mahindra, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Mahindra & Mahindra, was the Chief Guest and Dr. M. G. K. Menon, Vikram Sarabhai Distinguished Professor, ISRO, was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Bombay, presided over the function.

On this occasion, the Prof. H. H. Mathur Excellence Award in Applied Sciences, 2007 was conferred upon Prof. S. Chaudhuri, Electrical Engineering Department, in recognition of his outstanding research contributions in the areas of Image Processing and Computer Vision and the Prof. S. C. Bhattacharya Excellence Award in Pure Sciences, 2007 was conferred upon Prof. M. K. Mishra, Chemistry Department, in recognition of his outstanding research contributions in the area of Computational Chemistry.

Besides, five Distinguished Alumnus Awards for 2008 were presented on this occasion, as follows:

Mr. Arun Hastimal Firodia (B.Tech., Electrical Engineering, 1965) for his significant contributions to Industrial Development and Economic Growth;

Dr. Suresh Pal Sethi (B.Tech., Mechanical Engineering, 1967) for his

extraordinary accomplishments in Optimal Theory and its applications in Operations Research and Managerial Theories;

Mr. Ravindra Sitaram Gupta (M.Sc., Chemistry, 1973) for his outstanding managerial and entrepreneurial contributions to Electronic Media and Mass Entertainment;

Dr. Jairaj Moreshwar Phatak (M.Sc., Physics, 1975) for his significant contributions to Public Service; and

Dr. Rajeev Vasant Joshi (B.Tech., Mechanical Engineering, 1977) for his outstanding contributions to innovative work in Technology Research.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred upon Prof. S. Suryanarayan, former faculty in the Department of Aerospace Engineering, in commendation of his outstanding contributions to the institute.

A special Golden Jubilee Souvenir was also released. The first souvenir was presented to Shri Anand Mahindra by Director Professor Ashok Misra.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest said, "IIT is not an institution, it is an idea to nurture excellence in education and IIT Bombay should aim to spread this education to the entire nation."

Professor Ashok Misra, Director, IIT Bombay, commented that this Golden Jubilee Foundation Day is a special

occasion because it was on this day the Late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru blessed this institution and called it the "Temple of Learning". It is a day to celebrate IIT Bombay's past and embark on new initiatives as a fountainhead of ideas and innovation. Thanks to the outstanding achievements of our alumni, world-class faculty, students, and staff, IIT Bombay is today recognized worldwide as a leader in the fields of technology and science.

Prof Misra also announced that a memento would be given to all its staff members on the occasion of Golden Jubilee.

Salt 'n Pepper

by Dr. Arun Inamdar



The First Indo-German Workshop On Electromagnetic Induction Studies For Complex Geological Problems

National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad, with support from IIT Bombay organised a five-day workshop (14-18 March 2008) on "Application of Geophysical Techniques for Deep Earth Exploration". This workshop highlighted application of suitable geophysical techniques to delineate subsurface zones containing oil, gas, minerals and water. It also addressed the use of suitable geophysical techniques for better understanding of seismicity and related phenomena within the Indian region. The chief objective of this workshop was to promote international research collaboration between various R&D organisations in India and their international counterparts.

The workshop was held at Hotel Fariyas, Lonavala, India, and was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), the Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC), and co-sponsored by the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG, Mumbai) and the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun. Some of the eminent scientists from India and Germany participated in the workshop.

Energy Day 2008



IIT Bombay celebrated 'Energy Day' on March 15, 2008. During this day there was an open event showcasing students research projects on technologies, systems and analysis of power systems, distributed generations, renewable energy and energy efficiency for the benefit of industry and society.

On this occasion awards were presented to the distinguished alumni.

The concluding session was a Panel Discussion on 'Energy Security in India'.

M.M. Chugani Memorial Award 2006

At an award-giving function organised by Indian Physics Association in association with IIT Bombay and NASI on March 18, 2008, the M.M.Chugani Memorial Award of the Indian Physics Association for the year 2006 was presented to Shri G. Madhavan Nair, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation, and Secretary, Department of Space, Government of India, by Prof. Ashok Misra, Director, IIT-Bombay. The Chugani award is given for excellence in applied physics and carries a citation, gold medal and cash of Rs. one lakh. On this occasion Shri Madhavan Nair spoke on "Space Technology – Present and Future."

BG Petroleum Geosciences Research Laboratory Inaugurated

The BG Petroleum Geosciences Research Laboratory, which is an integral part of the Department of Earth

Sciences, was formally inaugurated by Shri M. S. Srinivasan, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, at a ceremony held in Mumbai on May 02, 2008.

On this occasion Prof. Ashok Misra, Director, IIT Bombay, said, "The inauguration of the BG Petroleum Geosciences Research Laboratory is a milestone in the development and growth of the Department of Earth Sciences at IIT Bombay. We have enjoyed a long association with BG India and our students have benefited greatly from their continued all-round support – from leading edge knowledge along with practical insight, access to experienced professionals worldwide, practical experience and exposure to networking". Mr. Kapil Garg, Managing Director, BG India, said: "BG India is proud to be associated with IIT Bombay. At BG, we believe in investing for the future – and I believe that investment in talent is a decision which yields results for the entire industry. We have a vast reservoir of knowledge, experience and opportunity within BG Group, and believe we can use this combination to make a positive contribution to the development of the field of Petroleum Geosciences in India."

Brain Awareness Week

The Psychology Laboratory of the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences in collaboration with Dana Foundation and the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) hosted BAW 2008 during March 10-15. The event was organized by Dr. Azizuddin Khan, Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the department.

The event saw a huge participation of students from elementary schools and under-graduate colleges.

The local community of academicians benefited tremendously from understanding the developments in cognitive neuroscience and the students from engineering departments

were fascinated by the experimental approach followed by behavioural sciences. The people who benefited the most were parents and educators who came from outside the campus and found the information provided useful in understanding their children who are growing up or their older beloved ones who are aging. People enjoyed the interactive sessions very much and benefited most by exploring the brain replica. Future BAW events could be more effective if more innovative ways of involving people were used to convey the information.

Awards and Distinctions

Prof. Deepankar Choudhury, Department of Civil Engineering, has been selected as Fellow of International Congress of Disaster Management (FICDM).

Prof. Choudhury has been invited as Editorial Board Member of Journal "Disaster Advances" published from Indore, India.

Prof. Choudhury has also been selected as Member of Technical Committee on "Unsaturated Soil" of Geo-Institute (GI) of American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE), USA.

Prof. Subhasis Choudhuri, Department of Electrical Engineering, has been selected for the award of "J.C. Bose Fellowship".

Prof. Hemendra Arya, Department of Aerospace Engineering, and his team have won the "Best Hovering/Rotary Wing Vehicle" prize jointly with Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, at a function held at Agra during March 10-15, 2008.

Prof. S. Narayan Rao, Sailesh J. Mehta School of Management, has been selected as member of "International WHO'S WHO Historical Society". His profile will appear in the 2008-2009 edition of "International WHO'S WHO of Professionals".

Prof. Mahesh Tirumkudulu, Department of Chemical Engineering, has been selected for "Indira Manudhane Applied Research Project Awards 2007".

Prof. Ranjan K. Malik, Department of Chemical Engineering, has been selected for the "Indira Manudhane Best PG Teacher Award 2008".

Prof. Prasenjit Ghosh, Department of Chemistry – his article "Palladium(II) and Gold(I) Complexes of a New O-Functionalized N-Heterocyclic Carbene Ligand: Synthesis, Structures, and Catalytic Application", published in *Organometallics*, has been listed as a Most-Accessed article in *Organometallics* for all of 2007.

Prof. Sambasivarao Kotha, Department of Chemistry – his paper "Recent applications of the Suzuki_Muyaura cross-coupling reaction in organic synthesis", *Tetrahedron*, 58,48, Kotha, S.; Lahiri, K.; Kashinath, D., has been recognised as the #18 "most downloaded" article from *Tetrahedron* on Science Direct, in 2007.

Publications

Prof. Shripad P. Mahulikar, Department of Aerospace Engineering, has published a paper entitled "Fluid friction in incompressible laminar convection: Reynolds' analogy revisited for variable fluid properties" in Vol. 62, Mar'08 Issue no. 1, pp. 77-86, of *European Physical Journal B: Condensed Matter & Complex Systems*. This paper is co-authored by Prof. Herwig of Technical Univ. Hamburg, and is based on research sponsored by the A. von Humboldt Foundation – Germany.

Prof. Mahulikar has also published an article entitled: "Infrared signature suppression of helicopter engine duct based on 'conceal and camouflage'" in Vol. 24, May-Jun'08 Issue no. 3, of *AIAA's Journal of Propulsion & Power*; the article is co-authored by his M.Tech.

students, Mr. H.S.S. Prasad & Mr. S.K. Potnuru.

Prof. Malshe, Humanities and Social Sciences Department – his book "Aesthetics of Literary Classification" has been reviewed by Prof. Didier Coste, Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Bordeaux, France, in the "Journal of Contemporary Thought" (No. 26, Winter, 2007).

Prof. L. M. Bhole, Humanities and Social Sciences Department, has published the following four books through Amani International Publishers, Germany:

(1) Collected Papers on Money, Interest, and Monetary Policy (Vol.I),

(2) Collected Papers on Credit and Finance (Vol.II),

(3) Collected Papers on Gandhian Thought (Vol.III), and

(4) Unemployment, Inequality, Entrepreneurship, and other Collected Papers (Vol. IV).

These books were recently released by Prof. D. M. Nachane, Director, IGIDR, Mumbai, at the Books-launch Function organised on May 6th, 2008, at Goethe Institute, Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai. The function was chaired by Prof. M. Gupta, Head, HSS Department; Dr. Martin Thommel, Vice Consul General in German Consulate in Mumbai; Dr. Maria Stukenberg, Director, Goethe Institute in Mumbai; Mr. Peter Dudy, General Manager, Amani International Publishers, at Kiel in Germany; faculty and students of HSS Dept., IIT Bombay, University of Mumbai, SNTD University; and other invitees participated in the said function.

Department of Metallurgical Engineering & Materials Science

Dr. Saibal Roy, Senior Scientist, R & D Activity Leader, Tyndall National Institute, UCC, Ireland, delivered a seminar on "High Performance Nano-structured Magnetic Materials" on March 24, 2008.

Dr. T. R. Ramachandran, Nonferrous Materials Technology Development Centre, Hyderabad, delivered series of lecture on "Electron Microscopy" during March 24-28, 2008.

He also delivered a seminar on "Technological Advances in Recycling Aluminium Scrap" on April 15, 2008.

Dr. R. Somakumar, GE Global Research, Bangalore, delivered a seminar on "Electromagnetics Laboratory in GE Global Research – An Overview" on April 16, 2008.

Mr. A. K. Dasgupta, CEO, Adtech Agencies and Services, Mumbai, delivered a seminar on "Residual Stress Measurement by XRD and Barkhausen Noise Method" on April 16, 2008.

Prof. S. Vasudevan, Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, IISc, Bangalore, delivered a seminar on "Host-Guest Chemistry in Functionalized Layered Materials" on May 6, 2008.

Department of Physics

Dr. Kannan Ramaswamy, Department of Chemistry, Washington University in St. Louis, USA, delivered a seminar on "Optical generation, detection and control of nuclear spin polarization in semiconductors" on March 12, 2008.

Prof. Klaus Ziegler, Institute of Physics, University of Augsburg, Germany, delivered a seminar on "Disorder Physics in atomic mixtures" on April 9, 2008.

School of Biosciences & Bioengineering

Dr. Anurag Mairal, Stanford India Bidesign(SIB), Stanford University, USA, delivered a seminar on "SIB program and how IITB, its faculty and its students can take advantage of it to foster biomedical research. SIB is a joint

effort of Stanford University and DBT, GOI" on March 17, 2008.

Prof. Virendra N. Pandey, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry, New Jersey Medial School, Newark, NJ07103, delivered a seminar on "Host Cell-Hepatitis C Virus interaction: Role of FUSE binding protein (FBP) in HCV Replication and associated Pathogenesis" on March 18, 2008.

Dr. Manu Lopus, Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology and The Neuroscience Research Institute, University of California at Sant Barbara, USA, delivered a seminar on "Immunoconjugated Maytansinoids for Cancer Chemotherapy: Suppression of Microtubule Dynamics through Tublin Binding" on March 28, 2008.

Dr. R. Sankararamkrishnan, Department of Bioscience and Bioengineering, IIT Kanpur, delivered a seminar on "Protein-protein interactions in Bcl-2 apoptotic proteins: comparative MD simulations on Bcl-XL complexes" on April 1, 2008.

Dr. Vidita Vaidya, Department of Biological Sciences, TIFR, Mumbai, delivered a seminar on "Neurobiology of Depression - "A way to beat the blues?"" on April 9, 2008.

Dr. Surabhi Gupta and Dr. Senthil Kumar Venugopal, University of California Davis, Davis, USA, delivered a seminar on "When Harry met Sally: Sperm Egg Fusion" and "Liver injury and regeneration: Possible Therapeutic Approaches" respectively on April 17, 2008.

Dr. Anamika Singh, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Institute of Pharmacy, University of Innsbruck, delivered a seminar on "Role of Calcium channels in retinal signaling: Insights from

congenital stationary night blindness type 2 (CSNB2)" on April 24, 2008.

Energy Systems & Engineering

Dr. Arun Venkatnathan, Chemical and Material Sciences Division, Fundamental and Computational Sciences Directorate, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, USA, delivered a seminar on "A computer simulation study of polymer membrane nanostructure and molecular transport in fuel cells" on March 11, 2008.

Faculty News

Prof. Deepankar Choudhury, Department of Civil Engineering, attended the international conference GeoCongress-2008, an annual conference of GI-ASCE, USA at New Orleans, LA, USA which was held during 9-12 March, 2008. Prof. Choudhury had also presented a technical paper entitled "Centrifuge model study of pile group due to adjacent excavation" authored by Deepankar Choudhury, R. F. Shen and C. E. Leung on March 11, 2008 in the technical session.

Prof. Choudhury was also invited to deliver a lecture on 14th March, 2008, at Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), USA, on the topic "Seismic design of retaining structures? Recent developments?", organized by Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Troy, NY 12180, USA.

Prof A. K. Rastogi, Department of Civil Engineering, chaired a session on Groundwater Modeling at the International Groundwater Conference 2008 on 'Groundwater Dynamics and Global Change' held at Jaipur from March 19-22, 2008. He also presented a research paper entitled ' Solute transport modeling of a large aquifer system by FEM - MMOC Model'.

Prof. D. M. Dewalkar, Department of Civil Engineering, was invited at the Government College of Engineering, Farmagudi, Goa, on April 1&2 to deliver the expert lectures on "Analysis of Pile Load Tests Data" (for practising engineers) and "Finite Element Method" (for students).

Prof. B.V.S. Viswanadham, Department of Civil Engineering attended Symposium on "Engineering of Ground & Environmental Geotechnics SEG²-2008" organized by Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS) Hyderabad Chapter and Department of Civil Engineering, JNT University College of Engineering, Hyderabad, during February 29 – March 1, 2008 and gave a keynote lecture entitled "Geosynthetic Reinforcement aspects of clay barriers of landfills: Centrifuge model studies" on February 29, 2008.

Prof. B.V.S. Viswanadham, Department of Civil Engineering attended the ASCE conference Geo Congress 2008 organized by the Geo-institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers at New Orleans, USA during March 9 – 12, 2008 and published two papers covering the theme of Geotechnics of Waste Management and Remediation in the ASCE Geotechnical Special Publication No. 177. During the conference, presentation of the paper titled "Geofiber Reinforced Soil Liner for Waste Containment Systems" was made in the Waste management session held on March 11, 2008.

Prof. Viswanadham also delivered a lecture entitled "Centrifuge modeling of response of clay barriers of landfills to differential settlements" at the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), on March 14, 2008.

Prof. A.K. Dikshit, CESE, was invited as an expert in CPCB sponsored short-term

training course on "Pollution Control Techniques for Distillery Wastes" organised by the Chemical Engineering Department of Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee from March 3 to 5, 2008. He delivered the following talks:

- Treatment of Distillery Wastewater for its Decolourisation
- Tertiary Treatment of Distillery Wastewater for Reduction of COD and Colour
- Integrated Physico-Chemical and Fungal Treatment for Decolourisation of Anaerobically Digested Molasses Spent Wash
- Fungal Bioreactors for Decolourisation of Distillery Wastewater
- Decolourisation of Distillery Wastewater using Integrated Anaerobic-Oxidation-Anaerobic Treatment based on his research work in this area since 2000.

Prof. Anurag Garg, CESE, has delivered a talk as Guest speaker on "Wet oxidation and thermo-chemical precipitation" in a short course on 'The treatment of distillery wastes' jointly organized by Chemical Engineering Department, IIT Roorkee, and Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi, during March 3-5, 2008.

Prof. Karuna Jain, Sailesh J. Mehta School of Management, organized a Continuing Education & Quality Improvement Programme during 21st – 25th April 2008 on 'Management of Technology & Innovation' partially sponsored by DSIR, New Delhi. The programme focused to provide a comprehensive perspective on 'MOT and Innovation' and speakers were drawn from ministry (DSIR, DST), industry and IITB. In all 15 participants attended the programme. The feedback received from the participants on the CEP was very good.

Prof. Milind Malshe, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences(H&SS), was invited to jointly present a paper with Annapurna Rath, a Ph. D. scholar in H&SS Dept, on "Looking Into the Eyes of the Other: A Critique of Desivad in the Indian Context" in the 10 International Conference on "Thinking Territory: Affect and Attachment towards Land in South Asia" organized by Forum on Contemporary Theory, Baroda & Department of English, Goa University in December 2007.

Prof. Malshe was invited to deliver a series of lectures on Modern Aesthetic Theory by the Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University of Baroda, in February 2008.

Prof. Malshe was also invited to conduct a Translation Workshop by the Saane Gurujee National Memorial Trust on 4, 5 & 6 April, 2008.

Student News

Mr. Rajesh. S., Research Scholar, Department of Civil Engineering, attended the ASCE conference GeoCongress 2008 organized by the Geo-institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers at New Orleans, USA during March 9–12, 2008 and presented a paper entitled "Studies on the Integrity of Clay-Rich Soil Liners for Cover Systems of Landfills" co-authored with his supervisor **Prof. B.V.S. Viswanadham** and **Mr. S.S. Sengupta** (formerly a postgraduate student of the department of Civil Engineering, IIT Bombay) in a special session on "Waste Management" held on March 11, 2008.

Screening of "Dejavu"

"Dejavu", inspired by the winning PAF of 2006, was screened on April 30, 2008, at the P.C. Saxena Auditorium. It is the story of an IITian who as an individual contemplates his very existence at IIT. He wonders whether this world inside IIT is the same as the one outside. His friends surprise him

Events			
CEP Courses			
No.	Course Title	Coordinator / Department	Date
1	Gear Tribology	Prof. H. Hirani, Mech. Engg.	April 02 - 04
2	Emotional intelligence IT Project Management	Prof. S. Kelkar Computer Sc. & Engg.	April 03 - 04
3	Urban Drainage Management: State-of-the-art	Prof. K. Gupta Civil Engg	April 10 - 12
4	Certificate Programme in Management (for Godrej Industries Ltd., Mumbai)	Prof. S. N. Rao SJMSOM	April 14 - 26
5	Math for ECM	Prof. I.K. Rana Mathematics	April 14 - 27
6	Wind Energy Technology	Prof. S. B. Kedare Energy Sc. & Engg.	April 15 - 18
7	Extraction and Processing with Superficial Fluids	Prof. S. Roy Chemical Engineering	April 21 - 23
8	MEMS Design, Fabrication and Characterization; Fundamentals and Hands-on	Prof. P. S. Gandhi Mechanical Engineering	April 28 - 30
9	Micro Simulation using VISSIM (for PTV Asia Pacific, Singapore)	Prof. Tom Mathew Civil Engineering	May 02
10	Certificate Programme in Management	Prof. S. N. Rao SJMSOM	May 05 - 17
11	Classical Control System: Analysis and Design (CCS-2008)	Prof. A. Joshi Aerospace Engineering	May 05 - 10
12	Computation Fluid Dynamics and Heat Transfer (at IITB Golden Jubilee Extension Centre, Gujarat)	Prof. Atul Sharma Mechanical Engineering	May 05 - 09
13	Piping Engineering	Prof. A. S. Moharir Chemical Engineering	May 07 - 20
14	Finance for Engineers (Six Weekends)	Prof. S. N. Rao SJMSOM	May 17 - 28
15	MEMS Design, Fabrication and Characterization: Fundamentals and Hands-on	Prof. P. S. Gandhi Mechanical Engineering	May 22 - 24
16	Technology Orientation and Professional Development of School Teachers	Prof. I. K. Rana Mathematics	May 26 - 30
17	Calculus (IITB Golden Jubilee Extension)	Prof. I. K. Rana Mathematics	June 02 - 06
18	Establishing and Operating a Business Incubator	Prof. D. B. Phatak Computer Sc. & Engg.	June 09 - 12
19	Marketing "Mantra" for Techno- Entrepreneurs	Prof. D. B. Phatak Computer Sc. & Engg.	June 13 - 15

every time and then one day it becomes too much to handle.

"Dejavu" captures with different aspects of not only the students but even the professors, and the interpersonal relationship that exists between them.

"Dejavu" deals with the problems faced by IIT students that go far beyond their life at IIT Bombay and are applicable to them all engaged in different endeavors of life.

Hindi Wordnet

Linguistic Data Consortium (www ldc.upenn.edu), the top international body for maintaining and distributing language processing (NLP) tools and resources, has included Hindi WordNet- a crucial resource for computer processing of Indian Languages - in its repository for world-wide availability. "Hindi Wordnet" has been developed over the last 10 years by researchers at the Center for Indian Language Technology (www.cfilt.iitb.ac.in), Computer Science and Engineering Department, IIT Bombay, under the supervision of Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya. The linguistic knowledge has been meticulously provided Mr. Parabhakar Pande, Mrs. Laxmi Kashyap and other researchers at the said center. "Hindi Wordnet" can be browsed and downloaded at <http://www.cfilt.iitb.ac.in/wordnet/webhwn>.

Research Scholars' Forum

Talks Organized by RSF During February-March, 2008

Research Scholars' Forum, IIT Bombay organized an interesting talk on "The Joy of Invention: Recent Case Studies From CSMCRI, Bhavnagar, Gujarat" by Dr. Pushipito Ghosh, Director of Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, on 27th February 2008 at the IRCC auditorium. Dr. Ghosh spoke on the importance of bio-fuels

and alternative sources of energy generation. Speaking about "novelty", "inventiveness" and "applicability" as the significant prerequisites for any individual aiming for a patent, he emphasized on effort and innovativeness along with technological progress for a new idea to take shape. He substantiated his arguments with case studies of bio-fuel which has caught so much of attention as an effective alternative source of energy generation. In his talk Dr. Ghosh emphasized on the use of wastelands by plantation of *Jatropha* trees, the source of bio-fuel. Dr. Ghosh's talk opened many new avenues for budding scientists and researchers working in the field of energy, power, environmental sciences.

On the occasion of the National Science Day, RSF and the Science Club of IIT Bombay organized an excellent talk, "Great Moments in Science" on 3rd March 2008 by Dr. Karl Kruszelnicki, Julius Sumner Miller Fellow at Sydney University. Dr. Karl is a best selling author, a wander lust, doctor and an academician. The EC, Kohli auditorium of our institute was packed to the brim for this talk with more than 250 people. As a part of IITB's Golden Jubilee event, the Golden Jubilee office also contributed in organizing the event, especially in the refreshment part. Dr. Karl invigorated the audience with his animations, brilliant oratorical skills and beautiful video clips. He related his experiences of life in Australia, the stories of 2nd World War victories, quantum computers, power of silica and so on. His talk was full of small real life stories and short anecdotes aimed to make greater scientific concepts easily comprehensible for the audience. He gave a vivid description of the scientific moments of Mars exploration. The talk regenerated an awe and love for scientific concepts, theories and inventions in the audience. Additionally this talk was also the first in the series of

Dr. Kruszelnicki's lectures to be delivered in four major cities in India over the next two weeks, under the auspices of the Australia-India Council.

With an aim to transcend academic boundaries and to be truly interdisciplinary, Research Scholars' Forum organized a talk on "Music and Its Significance" by Prof. Milind Malshe on 17th March 2008 in IRCC Auditorium. Prof. Malshe of the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, discussed the values and significance of music and its capacity to transcend all human and natural borders in this stimulating talk. He traced the genesis of music, its various forms, the rhythms, therapeutic properties of music etc. He discussed the difference between European and Indian music, *taals*, tonality in his presentation. The relevance of music from biological, scientific and aesthetic angles were emphasized in his talk. While playing some very interesting pieces from Vedic chants and Upanishads, Prof. Malshe demonstrated how has music evolved through centuries. He also highlighted on the "socio-cultural" relevance of music and its role as a purely "aesthetic" activity. The talk ended with a stimulating 'Question & Answer' session of more than 35 minutes. It was well attended by the students, faculty and staff of the institute.

News from Gymkhana

At the 26th Otters Club Open Swim Gala held on 19th & 20th April 2008, Siddharth Rao Deb won a silver medal in the 50 metre Breaststroke event and a Bronze medal in the 200 metre Individual Medley event.

Swimming Club

In 1997, two members of the IITB swimming team tore to shreds the notion that IITians are only good at academics. They swam non-stop, lap after lap, for 85 hours. Inspired by this legendary odyssey, IIT Bombay conducted its annual swimmathon on March 1st. The objective of the

swimmathon is to swim continuously for 12 hours – to put it into perspective, the average running marathon takes a pro about 2.5 hrs to complete. Dr Mohan Reddy, the inspirational aquatics team coach believes this super-long distance event makes all participants mentally and physically fit – if there were ever an accident out at sea, these swimmathoners would be safe, with or without a lifeboat!

6 IITians completed the 12 hours – the top 3 were Apurva Godbole (4th year), Abhishek Gupta (3rd year), Swaroop Jyoti (1st year) – all doing 21.2 km (i.e. 848 lengths of the pool). Among there was also a girl student, Shailee Mehta (2nd year), who swam 17.5 km. Prof Sharat Chandran and Prof P V Balaji also participated in this formidable event.

Starting a little after dawn, the 12 – hour test of endurance went on and on, as the number of participants in the pool slowly reduced with time. After the 6-hour mark very few remained in the water, and it took some phenomenal grit and determination to keep oneself going in those chilly waters.

Swimmers were visibly shivering as they slowly dragged themselves to the changing room on coming out of the water. Abhishek, one of the students to finish the 12 hours, joked on coming out, "It's like being on top of the world except that it'll take forever to get rid of this tan!" All in all, Swimmathon 08 was a great success, with huge participation and a large cheering audience.

Appointments

Dr. V.M. Naik has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering from March 7, 2008, for a period of two years.

Ms. Prajakta S. Sarang has been appointed as a Post Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Chemistry from March 25, 2008, for a period of two years.

Prof. T. K. Biswal, Department of Earth Sciences has been appointed as the Head of the Earth Science vice Prof. P. K. Saraswati from March 19, 2008, for a period of three years.

Dr. Ramesh Shah has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the

National Workshop on Solar Thermal Power Generation

A one-day national workshop on Solar Thermal Power Generation was organised by the Department of Energy Science and Engineering on April 28, 2008. It was sponsored by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, New Delhi. It is proposed to build solar thermal power plants in India in a demonstration-cum-research facility. This facility would help in developing indigenous capability and serve as a national resource centre. The facility is proposed to be built by a consortium of industries and research organisations.

The workshop was organised to review the status of various solar thermal power routes in the Indian context, recommend an action plan and identify consortium partners. More than 70 participants from various industries in the country attended the workshop. Besides representatives from the Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA), MNRE and faculty from IIT Delhi and IIT Madras participated in the workshop.

In addition, the students and faculty from IIT Bombay attended the workshop. It was inaugurated by the Director General of MEDA, Prof. Krithi Ramamrithan, Dean, R & D, chaired the inaugural function.

The deliberations of the workshop were carried out in four sessions excluding the concluding session. Sessions I and II were devoted to the medium temperature route. Session III and IV focussed on the central tower and dish-Stirling routes respectively. The issues and challenges of each technology were discussed. The participants involved in different aspects of solar thermal power generation presented their views on the proposed solar thermal power generation programme in the country. They also mentioned the specific aspect of their actual involvement in the technology development. Prof. Anand Patwardhan, Executive Director, TIFAC presented a talk on the possible approaches for consortium development. IIT Bombay volunteered to take the lead role in the solar thermal power generation programme through medium temperature route. A detailed project report would be prepared for seeking financial support to establish a demonstration-cum-testing facility of solar power in the MW scale.

Department of Energy Science & Engineering from March 19, 2008, for a period of two years.

Dr. (Ms.) Meenakshi Singh has been appointed as a Post Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Chemical Engineering from March 25, 2008, for a period of two years.

Prof. Dulal Panda, School of Biosciences and Bioengineering, has been appointed as the Head of the School of Biosciences & Bioengineering (SBB) vice Prof. K. K. Rai from March 26, 2008, for a period of three years.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar Singh has been appointed as an Assistant Professor (Contract) in the Department of Mechanical Engineering from March 3, 2008, for a period of two years.

Dr. Ebrahim Mothi Mohamed has been appointed as a Post Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Chemistry from February 29, 2008, for a period of two years.

Dr. Shehzaad Kauchali has been appointed as a Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering from March 19, 2008, for a period of three months.

Dr. Hans Josef Huber has been appointed as an Associate Professor (Contract) in the Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management from April 1, 2008, for a period of five years.

Dr. (Ms.) Sheetal J. Patil has been appointed as a Post Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Electrical Engineering from April 15, 2008, for a period of two years.

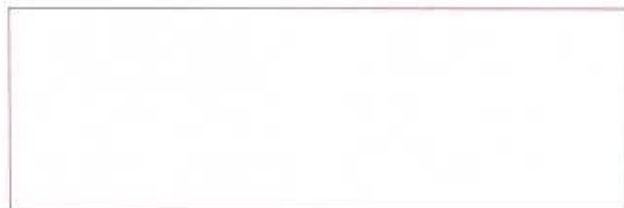
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Retirements

On 30.04.2008

1. Dr. T. K. Gundu Rao
S.A.I.F
2. Mrs. Rashmi V. Gupte
School of Bio-Science & Bio-
Engineering
3. Shri K. S. Sukumaran
Department of Aerospace
Engineering
4. Shri Shantaram T. Main
A.C.M
5. Mrs. Meena D. Vaidya
Central Library
6. Shri Dala Mathur Solanki
Public Health Office

On 31.05.2008

1. Shri Ashok K. Hosure
Department of Civil Engineering
2. Shri Ramabhai N. Solanki
Estate Office
3. Shri Bhiwa K. Parab
Department of Electrical
Engineering
4. Shri Pandurang M. Shinde
Security Section
5. Shri Chandrabhan C. Khute
Security Section
6. Shri Budhi Bahadur Thapa
Security Section
7. Shri Laxman H. Rupawate
Academic Section
8. Shri Govind Mohan Solanki
Health Office
9. Shri Sanu M. Solanki
Health Office
10. Ms. Shanta Magan F. Solanki
Health Office
11. Shri Kacharu C. Sonawne
Estate Office
12. Shri Omkar B. Mhaske
Estate Office

On 30.06.2008

1. Shri Sitaram D. Verma
Hostel 4
2. Shri Dhanaji S. Main
Central Library
3. Shri Chandrakant L. Gaikwad
Department of Computer Science
& Engineering
4. Shri Dhanaji A. Mashye
Industrial Design Centre
5. Shri Dattatraya S. Prabhu
Physics Department
6. Shri Jagannath N. Kamble
Department of Mechanical
Engineering