

Mélange

The IIIT-A Newsletter

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ISPR Conference

The recently-concluded international conference on 'Intelligent Signal Processing and Robotics' (ISPR) at IIIT Allahabad drew a host of high-profile dignitaries from India and abroad. The conference was aimed towards the exchange and interaction of experiences and theoretical concepts in the field of Signal Processing. Given the ubiquitous presence of Signal Processing in fields as far and wide as biomedical processing, smart robots, embedded systems etc., the conference was a reflection of IIIT's quest in disseminating practical knowledge. The conference lasted four days from February 20-23 with the students, who had been patient listeners all the way, finally playing their part by organizing a cultural program to draw curtains on a truly remarkable event which will be remembered for a long time to come. From IIIT's point of view, the conference is a huge success as it has officially placed the institute on the global map of Signal Processing research locations. A 'Brain Simulation Initiative' has been undertaken by IIIT in collaboration with MIT (USA), BSI (RIKEN, Japan) and IIT Kanpur. Moreover, it is planned to make this conference a biennial event. The students immensely benefited from the conference as they got a wind of the latest developments in these fields around the globe. A larger number of them got a platform to showcase the work done by them in the previous semesters as well. (cont'd on page 2).



Dr. M.D. Tiwari presents a memento to Prof. Mriganka Sur

Workshop on Medical-Informatics

IIIT recently played host to a workshop on Medical-Informatics which saw the involvement of many Russian and Indian scholars as well as the Union Minister for HRD, Prof. M.M. Joshi. The Workshop was flagged off with Prof. Joshi lighting the lamp of knowledge and a welcome speech by Dr. M. D. Tiwari.



from left: Dr. M.D. Tiwari, Prof. M.M. Joshi and Dr. K.V. Frolov

Then Dr. Y. P. Kumar and Mr. U. N. Behera presented their observations describing medical informatics to be a rapidly evolving field, promising to provide faster, reliable, and cheaper treatment to the patients. Dr. K.V. Frolov, Director of the Mechanical Engineering Research Institute at the Russian Academy of Sciences, then illustrated the extent of Indo – Russian cooperation and also highlighted the advances in the field. Other visiting scholars included academicians A. Grigoriev, Y. Gulyaev and V. Schapovalenko. Prof. Joshi also released a book titled “Uttar Pradesh ke pramukh Vaigyanik” on this auspicious occasion.

**Obituary:
Prof. HC Khare**

Prof. HC Khare, an eminent educationist expired in Allahabad a few days ago. He had played a major role in the setting up of IIT at Allahabad and had devoted a large time of his life at AU. We offer the condolences of IIT-A’s family for the departed.

University of Canberra

Prof. Mohammad Yasin (Canberra University) paid a visit to IIT-A a few days ago to attract students for higher study in Australia. Explaining about the immigration process of the country, he expressed hope that a student exchange program would quickly be put in place between IIT-A and University of Canberra.

ISPR (continued from page 1)

The keynote address was delivered on ‘Brain, Computer and Intelligence’ by Prof. Mriganka Sur, Head of the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT (USA) at the inaugural session which was chaired by Dr. M.D. Tiwari. Prof. Sur mentioned that the human brain is far more superior to computers and perhaps the most fantastic machine in the universe. It has 100 billion cells or neurons, and each neuron interconnects with hundreds of other neurons via, on average, 10 thousand connections or synapses.

The technical sessions commenced from Feb 21st and encompassed sessions on issues like Brain and Biomedical Signal Processing, Robotics, Remote Sensing, Satellite and Video Processing, Intelligent Image Processing, Speech Processing, Pattern Recognition & DSP. Dignitaries like Ms. Zhi Hua Wu (BSI, RIKEN, Japan) stressed on the importance of sleep for the brain to encode and store the memory, which to this date has not been figured out exactly. Dr. GC Ray (IIT-K) explained various signal processing techniques such as chaos model, heart rate etc. But the presentations most appreciated by the audience were those by Dr. A. Mukherjee (IIT-K) and Ms. Chandana Paul (University of Zurich). Talking about special cognition and issues in language and vision, Dr. Mukherjee discussed video-to-text conversion and the reverse. Informing about the complexities of having to infer from emotions and body language and modeling simple human activities, he told that work was underway at IIT Kanpur on these problems. On the other hand, Ms. Paul is trying to demystify the human walking procedure to help people suffering from spinal cord injuries walk once more.

The cultural event involved practically all of the clubs formed for the extra-curricular activities in IIT-A. In particular, the dance performances of Puneet Vijay, skits like Aashiyana and other solo and group songs were truly exquisite.

Cricket Tournament

Memories are blazed as the 3rd IIIT-A Cricket Tournament 2004 fades away, bringing an end to inundating strategies and overwhelming emotions which one associates with cricket.

The tournament got underway with a riveting match between 6th semester and 7th semester and that set the tempo. Some other exciting league matches followed and the teams that made it to the elite group of semi-finalists were 7th, 6th, 4th & 2nd Semester. The first 3 were the expected ones, but 2nd sem guys really stole the show with their extraordinary spunk even while chasing sky-high scores. 16th February saw 6th & 2nd sem moving ahead for the Clash of the Titans. So, keeping in mind that 7th sem and 4th sem have already won the coveted tag of IIIT-A Cricket Champs in the two previous tournaments, the final ahead promised to give a new Cricket Champion to the institute.

The Grand Finale-6th Sem Vs 2nd Sem (Toss : 6th Sem(Batting)) : 6th sem knew that 2nd sem have proved to be great chasers. But still they were first out in the middle with their woods. Suryanshu's bat once again started to rock. Dhawan too joined him with his soft compositions and he increased the frequency of red cherry saying adieux to the fieldsmen. The later batsmen just couldn't hang around but Suryanshu (46) and Dhawan (61 off 39 balls) had done enough to take their team total to 188 in 20 overs. 2nd sem had a mighty task in hand. The required run-rate seemed to be a zenith and as the innings progressed, the daunting task began metamorphosing into an abject abyss. Finally it was a comfortable 80 run victory for 6th Sem. Rohit Dhawan was Man of the Match and S. Reddy was declared Man of the Series.

It was a party time for 6th sem, with the guys and their supporters hugging each other and celebrating in the wildest of the fashions. And why not, they had to wait long for it. Remember, they were third-time lucky. Congratulations 6th Sem!!!

Futura: What after B.Tech ?

Abhay Sukumaran got a call from Stanford University after achieving a full score at GRE. Also headed abroad are Navjot and Paul who have got call letters from University of Illinois for MS and PhD respectively.

Joby John cracked the CAT, scoring an astounding 100 percentile. Others who have waded through the written exams are: Konark (all IIMs, XLRI); Soumendra (IIMs-A,B,C,L,K); Kunal Gautam (IIM-L, FMS, XLRI); Nitin Aggarwal (IIM-A); Saibal (IIM-C, FMS); Sumit Saluja (XLRI); Gaurav

Maurya and Navneet Negi (FMS). We wish them and other final year students all the best for their future.

Spring Season Dance Party

The Dance club sprang into action in this semester by conducting a dance party having the theme 'Headgear On'. Abhinav Sharma won the Dude of the Eve contest whereas Grace was selected as the Face of the Eve. The best dancing couple award was bagged by Shantanu Sharma and Swapnil Shukla. Rupam won the contest for the Best Headgear.

Upcoming Events: IIIT's first external Cultural Fest

To be Or not to be, that is the question. Yes folks, this time IIIT is planning to host its first external cultural fest. After the ebullient success of Effervescence, IIIT is planning to go all out to invite the colleges and venerated universities in Allahabad in an imposing cultural fest. The cynosure of the event is the tentative performance of Euphoria although the feasibility and consequences of it is still being debated upon. Sponsorship is one of the primary criteria being looked into. Besides it is being planned to host several inter-college contests like dance, drama, music, debate etc. The Euphoria show will be kept open to general public as well and entry tickets are going to be charged. This fest will be the result of joint efforts of all the clubs of IIIT Allahabad. Given the fact that Polly Sen and his group is one of the most coveted bands in the country, it is supposed to draw a beeline of crowd, managing whom will be one of the colossal tasks. But apprehensions have been raised about the infrastructure and the accommodation facilities which are some of the most important barriers to the hosting of an external cultural fest of that magnitude if not the financial aspect. Thus not only the few office bearers, but the whole IIIT family has to rise up to the occasion to make it a grand success as this will be an example or rather a trend setter for the future years of IIIT.

News Bytes

This is news for IIIT as the new canteen was inaugurated, something that was long awaited and to be treasured by the students and the faculty. Mostly by the student who avoids the long walk back to hostel, it reaches out to you with open arms and satisfies the binge of the non abstemious one. A breath of fresh air for students, the canteen is a place where you relax and talk about the class and the general stuffs alike. And it is the place where you come to rewind your energies and so you can focus on the next lecture. The menu has offers for everyone whether a quick snack or a hearty meal. Pastries, patties (all time favorite for people looking for quick snack) cold drinks are the order of the day. The premise of the canteen is a hut formerly used by the construction company which makes it all the more attractive as you feel closer to the nature.

Welcome to the lair of bodybuilding behemoths, a laboratory that makes Dr. Frankenstein's seem friendly. Here,

science gives way to pure brute force - monster vs. inertial object. Often, the monster is the victor, as flesh is molded, shaped, transformed into beastly proportions.

How can you harness these powers of transformation for yourself? Use the knowledge gained from these freaks of nature to conduct your own experiments. Who knows, you soon may find yourself right at home among these fearsome barbarians! Any guesses where you are? Welcome to IIIT's new gymnasium. With music pulsating in your surrounding, aren't you motivated to become the next Schwarzenegger?

(Designed by the Literary Club)

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