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The BITS Pilani Newsletter

BITS Pilani
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Semester II, 2016-17

Institute Activities

Convocation

Convocation 2017 was held on 23 July, 2017 to commemorate 845 BITS Pilani students graduating from Pilani Campus. The chief guest and guest of honor for the day were Dr. Tessy Thomas (Director, Advanced Systems Laboratory, DRDO Hyderabad) and Prof. Santanu Chaudhary (Director, CSIR-CEERI Pilani) respectively. Prof. Arya Kumar announced the Distinguished Alumnus Award for the year 2017.



Tedx

TEDx BITS-Pilani, was conducted on January 22, 2017 at Pilani Campus under the aegis of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. The event was a daylong conference that featured talks by 10 different speakers such as Mr. Amit Shah, President and Country Head, Yes Bank; Mrs. Puja Marwaha, CEO, Child Rights and You (CRY), among others. Each speaker presented new and exciting ideas that were useful and inspiring to the audience, in line with the motto of TEDx globally, which is 'Ideas Worth Spreading'.

Alumni Cell, BITS Pilani

BITS Pilani has formed a new university-wide Alumni Cell led by Prof. Arya Kumar, Dean, Alumni Relations. This Cell connects with the BITS Pilani global alumni network and involves them in the Institute's development plans in association with BITSAA (BITS Alumni Association). The main purpose of the Cell is to constantly connect the global alumni and

conceptualize, develop and organize various alumni led initiatives related to campus development, student life and academic processes.

Apogee

Apogee 2017 held from March 23 - 26, 2017 featured big names like Simon Taufel, Salman Khurshid and Shiraz Minwalla. The technical extravaganza had events like Hackathon, Checkmate Ahvaan, Armageddon Business Master, Stock Market Simulation, Espoir along with many other workshops and quizzes. Named "The Retrofuture", Apogee ended with Zakir Khan's hilarious one liners.



Embryo Talk

Stan Whitcomb, the chief scientist of LIGO Lab which is operated by Caltech and MIT gave an online talk Gravitational Waves on March 2017 to give BITSians an insight into these ripples in the fabric of space time. Prof. Jayant V. Narlikar, Padma Vibhushan awardee and one of India's greatest physicists and cosmologists gave an on campus talk on searches for extraterrestrial life on February 10, 2017.

Founders Day

BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus celebrated its 66th Founders Day on February 1, 2017 with great passion and enthusiasm. The Vidya Vihar Campus of BITS Pilani was formally inaugurated by the First President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad on Basant Panchami, in the year 1951. This day is commemorated as Founder's Day every year.

3rd Workshop on Analytical Instruments for Chemical and Environmental Engineers

Analytical methods in research have been an important area of interest for all chemical and environmental engineers, especially those involved in the qualitative and quantitative analysis of various process streams. Keeping this in mind, the Department of Chemical Engineering, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, organized a 2-day Workshop during February 10-11, 2017.

Workshop on Fatigue, Creep and Fracture Related Life Prediction Techniques

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, Pilani Campus organized a two-day workshop on "Fatigue, Creep and Fracture Related Life Prediction Techniques" during February 17-18, 2017.

Workshop on Orienting Teaching Towards Outcome Based Learning

The Teaching Learning Centre (TLC), BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, in collaboration with the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, organized a two-day workshop on Orienting Teaching towards Outcome Based Learning during February 18-19, 2017.

Symposium on Operational Research and Pure Mathematics

The Department of Mathematics, Pilani Campus organized a One day Symposium on "Operational Research and Pure Mathematics" on February 26, 2017.

International Conference on Challenges in Drug Discovery and Delivery (ICCD3)

An International Conference on Challenges in Drug Discovery and Delivery (ICCD3) was organized by the

Department of Pharmacy, Pilani Campus during March 2-4, 2017.

Conference on DNA Physics

A three-day conference on DNA Physics was organized during March 9-11, 2017 at Pilani campus. The aim of the conference was to review the recent advances in experimental, theoretical, and computational studies in areas that revolve around DNA Physics and to bring together people working on the science of DNA molecules and possible future technology developments on a single platform.

2nd International conference on Evidence Based Management

The Department of Management, Pilani Campus, organized the 2nd International conference on 'Evidence Based Management' during March 17-18, 2017.

Workshop on AACME 2017

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, Pilani Campus organized

a two-day workshop on the Applications of Advanced Computational Methods in Engineering during March 28-29, 2017.

Workshop on Impact of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna on Accessibility of Roads in Rural Areas

A workshop on the "Impact of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) Roads on Accessibility in Rural Areas" at Pilani Campus, was organized on May 6, 2017. The purpose of the workshop was to share the outcomes of PMGSY with engineers working at different levels in the Public Works Department in the state of Rajasthan.

Workshop on Employability of Students

CIIED conducted a workshop in collaboration with InternsME on February 9, 2017 at BITS, Dubai. Hosted by Ms. Noor Irfan, the Success Executive at InternsME, the workshop targeted the employability of students who graduate from Dubai Campus.

Two-Day Workshop CIMPA: Summer School on Multiscale Computational Methods and Error Control, 2017

P. Dhanumjaya, Department of Mathematics was a resource person for an International Workshop: CIMPA: Summer School on Multiscale Computational Methods and Error Control, held at IIT Kanpur, from June 26, 2017 to July 21, 2017.

Visit by National Cancer Institute

A team from National Cancer Institute visited the Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hyderabad Campus for collaborations in cancer research and in conducting workshops.

Annual HR conclave: The Department of Management in collaboration with the Work Integrated Learning Programmes (WILP) Division of BITS Pilani organized its first HR Conclave on the theme "Bridging the Talent Gap - Issues and Challenges" on January 20, 2017.

Faculty news - Academia: A confluence of ideas

Prof. P. Srinivasan, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Pilani Campus conducted a two-day executive training program on "Fatigue, Fracture and Creep related Life Prediction Techniques" during February 25 - 26, 2017 and March 25 - 26, 2017 at Vishakapatnam Steel Plant, Vizag.

Dr Manoj Soni, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Pilani Campus and Dr M. Srinivas, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Hyderabad Campus, jointly conducted a two-day training program for graduate engineers and plant officials on "Power Plant Engg.- Power plant performance calculation" module at Grasim Industries (Cellulosic Division), Vilayat, Gujarat during March 24-25, 2017.

Prof. Halan Prakash, Department of Chemistry, K.K. Birla Goa Campus was invited as a "Visiting Faculty" at NIREAS -International Water Research Center (IWRC), University of Cyprus, during June and July, 2017, to deliver a course on "Advanced Oxidation Process- (AOP) and Antibiotic resistance".

Invited Lectures

- Dr Manoj Soni, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Prof Jitendra Panwar, Department of Biological Sciences, Dr Paul AtishTulshiram, Department of Pharmacy, Dr Chandra Shekhar, Department of Mathematics, Dr Vishal Saxena, Department of Biological Sciences and Dr Sandhya Mehrotra, Department of Biological Sciences, Pilani Campus delivered various lectures at events organized by different institutes and forums.
- Dr. Vincent Shantha Kumar, Dubai Campus delivered a guest lecture on Bio-corrosion of Metallic Glasses at Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea.
- Dr. A.B. Chattopadhyay, Dubai Campus delivered a special lecture (On 15 July 2017) in the International workshop on "MATLAB Application in Electrical Engineering" on July 15, 2017 as a Guest of honor in Millia Institute of Technology, Purnea, Bihar, India.
- Prof. Halan Prakash, Department of Chemistry, K.K. Birla Goa Campus was invited as a "Visiting Faculty" at NIREAS - International Water Research Center (IWRC), University of Cyprus to deliver a course on "Advanced Oxidation Process- (AOP) and Antibiotic resistance".

Accolades and achievements

Prof Rajesh Mehrotra, Department of Biological Sciences, Pilani Campus received the Best Educationist Award in Biology category for research and teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students by IEM on April 10, 2017 at New Delhi.

Prof Arya Kumar, Department of Economics and Finance, Pilani Campus participated as an expert member to review the performance of universities funded under the University Innovation Cluster program by BIRAC, DBT, the Govt. of India on July 11, 2017 at New Delhi. He was also a panel member in a discussion on "Policy framing for enhancing entrepreneurial climate in educational institutes" organized by MNIT Innovation and Incubation Centre on July 29, 2017 in Jaipur.

Mr. Sanjeev Jakhar, (2013PHXF002P) and Dr Manoj Soni, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Pilani Campus were awarded the prestigious DST, Govt. of India and the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum, BHAVAN) Fellowship for research for 3 months from June 2017 to August 2017 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA.

Dr Monika Gupta, Economics and Finance Department, Pilani Campus was awarded with a scholarship (\$2000) from PwC and System Dynamics Society to attend the System Dynamics Summer School at MIT in July, 2017.

Dr Vishal Saxena, Department of Biological Sciences, Pilani Campus received the "2017 American Society of Microbiology (ASM) and Indo-US Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) Indo-UD Research Professorship" award to visit University of South Florida, Tampa, USA.

Dr. Anirban Roy, Department of Chemical Engineering, K.K. Birla Goa Campus was awarded the Innovative Project Award 2017 by the Indian National Academy of Engineering, for his work on Low Cost Hemodialysis Membranes. He has also been nominated as a member of the academy for next 5 years.

Dr. Utpal Roy, Department of Biological Sciences, K.K. Birla Goa Campus was awarded 'Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Visiting Scientist' award to work for a month at the "Department of Medical Microbiology" PGIMER, Chandigarh in the month of June 2017. The INS-

approved project was 'Determination of Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) of mycelial mold and preliminary pharmacokinetic study using the HPLC-purified antifungal compound from Bacillus subtilis.

Prof. Ranjan Dey, Department of Chemistry, K.K. Birla Goa Campus was awarded the Bengali Social and Cultural Association (BSCA), Maanpatra Samman and a citation on 15th April 2017 for distinction in the field of education in Allahabad, U.P.

Dr Gorish Goudar and Dr. Suvadip Batabyal, Hyderabad Campus were awarded the Best Paper award in Ph.D. Forum in 11th IEEE International Conference on Advanced Networks and Telecommunications Systems (ANTS 2017).

Dr G Geetha Kumari, Hyderabad Campus received a Letter of Appreciation from Intelligence Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, on April 11, 2017, regarding the successful development of the Cloud Forensic Investigator Toolkit (CFIT), designed and developed as the outcome of the DIT-funded project.

Significant Projects

Dr Krishnendra Shekhawat, Department of Mathematics, Pilani Campus, Mathematics-aided Architectural Design Layouts, SERB (ECRA scheme)	INR 15,44,660, 3 years
Dr Manoj Soni, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Pilani Campus, National Mission Project on Education through ICT: Developing suitable pedagogical methods for various classes (Energy Technology) intellectual calibre and research in e-learning, MHRD, Anchored by IIT Kharagpur	INR 7,00,000 September 2016 to February 2017
Prof Navneet Gupta Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Pilani Campus, Study on Electronic Transport Behaviour of Carbon Nanotube Based Field Effect Transistors (CNTFETs), DRDO, New Delhi	INR 20,49,000, 3 years
Dr Sandhya Mehrotra, Department of Biological Sciences, Pilani Campus, Introducing cyanobacterial bicarbonate transporters into C3 plants for enhanced photosynthetic performance, SERB	INR 37,72,560, 3 years
Prof Sangeeta Sharma, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Bringing back peacocks to Pilani BITSAA International (1987 batch)	INR 10,00,000, 1 year
Dr Sailaja Nandigama (PD), Dr Kumar Sankar Bhattacharya (Co-PD) and Prof Sanjiv Kumar Choudhary (Co-PD), Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Pilani Campus, Participatory Exclusions of Women and the Poor in Community Forestry: A Comparative Study of Implementation of the RoFR Act Across Three States of India, ICSSR	INR 7,00,000, 2 years

Students Activities



Anshu Agrawal (2015B2A40868P) and Akshit Bordia (2014B4A20593P), Pilani Campus Selected by the Microsoft for their World Summit along with the World's biggest development conference 'Build'. They also played an integral role in

organizing Microsoft India's national summit held at BITS Pilani during March 23-26, 2017.

Ananyashree Garg (2015A7PS0117P), ranked 3rd at the national level in the Youth Money Olympiad 2017.



Rajat Jain (2015A7PS0549P), Mrigesh Madaan (2015A7PS0146P), Anirudh Krishna (2015A7PS0081P), Pilani Campus won the national finals of the Imagine Cup at a conference held by Microsoft in Delhi. The team has created a product named "Content Holmes" an online parenting solution that helps parents keep their kids protected from cyber-bullying, depression, and porn addiction.

Vidhi Jain (2014A7PS113P), Pilani Campus won the award of "Citi Women Leader Award (CWLA)" in the event Citi India Diversity Week at Citi India, First International Financial Centre (FIFC). She also won the award "ACM-W Scholar Award for Conference" at the ACM (SRC) in a conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (ACM CHI 2017) in Denver, Colorado. Ms. Jain also won the award: MitacsGlobalink Research Intern Award for summer internship on machine learning at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, Canada during May-July, 2017.

Roshni Chhabra (2013A1PS0661P), Pilani Campus declared Winner of the IET India Scholarship Award and received a scholarship of Rupees One Lakh for her presentation on "Antibacterial Nanoparticles coating on taps and sanitary napkins".



Anant Kumar Jain (2013B2A10849P), Pilani Campus published a paper titled "Benzimidazolines Convert Sulfur Dioxide to Bisulfate at Room Temperature and Atmospheric Pressure Utilizing Aerial Oxygen" in ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering which has an impact factor 6. He also presented a poster in the CRSI NSC-21 (Chemistry) Conference held at ICT, Hyderabad

Choksi Neel Dipesh (2013B4A80738P), Pilani Campus attended an International Conference on Electronics, Material Engineering & Nano-Technology and presented a paper titled "Modeling and Simulation of Ion-Sensitive Field-Effect Transistor using TCAD Methodology" (IEM), Kolkata during April 28-29, 2017. He also attended the Eighth ISSS International Conference on Smart Materials, Structures & Systems and presented a paper titled "Modeling and Simulation of ISFET using TCAD Tool for Various Sensing Films" at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru during July 5-7, 2017.

Suvigya Vijay (2015B3A8606P), Amritanshu Jain (2015ABPS0831P), ParthoSarthi (2015A7PS088P), Pilani Campus won the first prize at iTech 2017 codeathon and startup challenge having the team name "the Latch" in Bangalore on 23rd July, 2017.

Sahitya Murali (2016H129009P), Pilani Campus received the VATAT scholarship at the Food Safety and Security Summer Program organized by the Manna Center in Tel Aviv University, Israel during June 28-July 28, 2017.

Vandit Gandotra, Project Lead (2013B1A3265P), PiyushSharda (2013B4A3440P) and Tanmay Sharma (2013A8PS156P), Pilani Campus bagged the Silver position in the National KPIT Sparkle 2017- Smart City Innovation Challenge. The team's proposal was awarded a cash prize of ₹ 2,50,000.

Achievements of BITS students in Sports Tournament "SPORTECH" held at IIT Delhi, Pilani Campus students brought laurels to the institute by securing 11 medals at the tournament Sportech at IIT Delhi held from February 24-27, 2017. The team secured medals in athletics, tennis and football and was led by Mr. Jayshil Joshi.

A memory: Chitrarth Dagar Memorial Award Ceremony - The Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Mechanical Engineering Association of Pilani Campus organised the Chitrarth Dagar Memorial Award Ceremony on April 19, 2017 in the memory of Chitrarth Dagar. The 'Chitrarth Dagar Scholarship' was awarded to Mr. Harsh Sharma, a third year student. In order to remember Chitrarth's love for Gurukul- Mr. Dhisant Sanghani, was awarded with the Music Award.

Two teams of Chemical Engineering, Pilani Campus students (out of three teams) were ranked 2nd and 3rd in the Case Study competition at two-day Inter-collegiate seminar on Energy Reserves and Resources (ERR) organized by American University of Sharjah.

Avidipto Chakraborty (2012B3A7506G), K.K. Birla Goa Campus a student of BITS Pilani, K.K. Birla Goa Campus, topped CAT 2016 with a 100 percentile score, beating 2.3 lakh applicants competing for admission to the prestigious Indian Institute of Management and other elite business schools. Focusing on mock tests and the analysis generated therein, he pulled off this academic achievement without enrolling for coaching classes.

Kishore Gopal Krishnan (2014B5A40523G), K.K. Birla Goa Campus won gold medal in "The National Graduate Physics Exam" (NGPE). This exam awards scholarships to encourage students to take-up physics as a career. S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, allows direct admission to toppers in NGPE, after an interview, in their integrated Ph.D. programme.

Devashish Vikas Gupta (2017A4PS0151G), K.K. Birla Goa Campus was awarded the highly prestigious Aditya Birla Scholarship. Since his early childhood, Devashish was fascinated by Mathematics, Music and Science. While studying in the 11th grade, he got intensely involved in research in the fields of Physics and Mathematics. He has the distinction of having published two research papers in international journals and is currently working on his third research paper.

Mr. Sanket Mishra, Hyderabad Campus, research scholar of the department received TCS Ph.D. fellowship for four years July 2016-June 2020. He works in the area of Internet of Things.

Mr. Darshan chauham, Miss Reeti Sarkar, & Mr. Kaushal Raut, Hyderabad Campus, have been admitted to doctoral programmes at Portland State University, TU Delft, & Georgia tech respectively.