

Friends,

Our aim was to bring October issue of FOCUS in time and we have done it. Thanks to Mrs Veena Maben, Mr Ashok and all the news providers. This issue has major news by Dr Manohar Pai and his team. FOCUS congratulates all of them for winning the award in the DST function. Next important news for us is by "DISHA" team. I was the witness in the function arranged by them on 9th September 2009. They are doing wonderful social service. At the same time, it is sad to notice that many of us are not aware of this nice activity. Other than this, there are news about many activities in the campus and many personal achievements.

To certain extent we would like to change the way in which we collect the news and the content in FOCUS. Our students and young faculty are always looking for some venue to spend their free time or to show their creativity. FOCUS is looking out for such voluntary people to act as reporters who will report the happenings in the campus. The news can be text, photo or both. In case of student reporters, at the end of their course they will be provided with a certificate of appreciation. If this finds interesting to you, you are requested to give your details to the department of Continuing Education and Student Counseling. You will be given an opportunity to attend the programs in the campus as a reporter of FOCUS. This coverage will be in addition to the news provided by the organizers of the event.

Other than just reports of the activities, we would also like to add articles on some important topics written either by staff or by students. The author himself can define the topic; else, FOCUS will define the topic. Top two or three articles will be published in the printed issue and all others will be accommodated in the soft copy. The major news recently was "ISRO scientists reporting traces of water in moon". So, the topic for the coming (January) issue is - According to you why should this be a major news? Hope this topic opens up your imagination and we will have rush of articles. Have a nice reading of this issue.

- Editor

Manipal University wins 3rd prize at IIPC-2009 for Indigenous Dental Implants



Manipal University is very proud to have bagged the third prize at the prestigious India Innovation Pioneers Challenge 2009, which is an innovative technology business plan competition, that provides an unparalleled avenue of opportunities for emerging entrepreneurs to explore and share ideas, and gain insight for commercializing their venture through the mentoring and networking support that is integral to the competition. This business plan competition is organized by the joint collaboration of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) and Intel to provide a platform for building technology entrepreneurship programs in India. The team members were Dr. Manjit Mapara from Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal and Mr. S.M. Abdul Khader from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal. The IUSSTF appointed Dr. Manohar Pai M.M. Associate Director - Innovation centre, MIT, MU, Manipal to mentor the team and to prepare the Business plan.

The winners of India Innovation Pioneers Challenge 2009 were announced at a ceremony held at Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi on the 28th of August 2009 in the presence of Mr. Prithviraj Chavan, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology & Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and Dr. Praveen Vishakantaiah, President, Intel Technology, India. Mr. Prathviraj Chavan handed over the award to the Winning teams and their Mentors.

The business plan of the Manipal team was about Indigenous Dental Implants, which attempts to make a new biotechnology accessible to the general Indian population and also to enhance the surgical skills of Indian dentists in the field of Implantology. The technology involves a special laser treated bioactive surface for the dental implant which is superior & cheaper compared to all the contemporary implants in the market. The product aims at attracting a huge market comprising upper middle class & middle class population in India with the cost advantage. The scientific value of the innovation was enhanced by the advice of eminent experts including Dr. M.S. Valiathan-National Professor, Dr. Shobha Tandon, Dean, MCODS, Manipal, Dr. Somnath Mishra, Director, MIT, Manipal, Dr. Mahalinga Bhat, Professor and Head, Dept. of Oral Implantology, MCODS, Manipal, Dr. Subraya Bhat, Professor and Head, Dept of Periodontics, MCODS, Manipal, Dr. Betsy Thomas, Professor, Dept of Periodontics, MCODS, Manipal, Dr. N. Y. Sharma, Professor and Head, Dept. of Mech. & Mfg. Engg., MIT,

(Contd. to page 3)

Workshop on Transactional Analysis

The Department of CE&SC had arranged a workshop on “Self Development through Transactional Analysis” by Prof. K S V Baliga on 8th August 2009, from 3 – 5 PM. Prof. Baliga has a BA Degree in Economics, LLB, and MBA in Industrial Management. He has wide work experience in business as well as academic environment at various levels. He has delivered lectures to a wide variety of audience, and has more than 40 years of experience in handling issues related to people at various levels, and is an effective Counselor.

Most of the participants were students. In this workshop, the speaker discussed ego states of people, and how important it is for others to know about this and act accordingly. He also emphasized that we should change our ego states depending on the ego state of the person we are dealing with. There were 25 participants and at the end of the program, 22 of these participants said they would attend if further workshops of this type by Prof. Baliga would be organized.

Workshop on “Empowerment”

The department of CE&SC arranged a workshop on “Empowerment” by Mr. Rajesh Shenoy on 29th August 2009, from 3 – 5 PM. The program was arranged mainly for the supporting staff of MIT. Mr Rajesh Shenoy is a Technical Assistant in the Department of Information & Communication Technology. He has developed himself into a resource person for programs of this type, and he has given many presentations statewide. JAYCEES has recognized him as a zone trainer on completion of 4-level workshop/examination with outstanding performance.

In this workshop Mr Shenoy explained how important it is to empower people. Being in continuous contact with customers, how important it is to serve them with smile. With many practical demonstrations, he showed why and how some teams perform exceedingly well in a given time and how some fail to perform; how easy it is to pull a person down, and how difficult it is to do the opposite.

The program was actively attended by 43 participants and all of them expressed their appreciation for the program, as well as for the dynamic resource person.



Faculty Empowerment Workshop

Mission10X, a not-for-profit Trust launched by Wipro Technologies Limited implements a programme for training 10,000 faculty members by 2010, so as that they can effectively handle the challenges related to imparting technical education in engineering institutions, especially in the changed global scenario. This faculty empowerment workshop was conducted at the Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal, for the second time, by the Mission10X team from 25th to 29th Aug. 2009. The CSE Dept. of MIT and Mission10X jointly hosted the workshop. Around 27 delegates from various Engineering Colleges based in Udipi and North Kannada Districts, which included Moodlakatte Institute of Technology, Kundapur, Anjuman Engineering College, Bhatkal and MIT, Manipal, participated. Dr. Sandeep Sasthry, Prof. Bhagvan Srinivas and Mr. Rajeev Sukumaran from Misson10X handled different sessions of the workshop.

The Valedictory function of the same was held on 29/08/2009, and Brig.(Dr.) Somanath Mishra, Director of MIT, presided over the function. Mr. S. Nagarjuna, General Manager & Head, Misson10X, Wipro Technologies, Bangalore was the Chief Guest. Dr. R. Dattakumar, Academic Relationship Manager, Misson10X, Wipro Technologies coordinated the programme. Dr. Prema K.V., Prof. & HOD of CSE Dept. welcomed the gathering.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest Mr. S. Nagarjuna elaborated



on the different activities taken up by the Misson10X in the last two years to empower the engineering college teachers with modern, effective and innovative ways of teaching, and learning methods, which in turn will help the student community. He also discussed the future initiatives to be taken by Misson10X.

In the presidential remarks, Brig.(Dr.) Somanath Mishra, appreciated the initiatives taken by Wipro Technologies and promised continuing support from MIT in such Industry-Institute programmes. He also wished that all the endeavours of Mission 10X be achieved as early as possible. Dr. U Dinesh Acharya, coordinator of the workshop, proposed the vote of thanks.

Formula Student 2009 Competition at UK

Formula Student is the biggest and best of its kind in Europe, run by the Institution of Mechanical Engineering IMechE. It promotes career and excellence in Engineering by challenging University students to design, build, develop, market & compete as a team with a small single-seater racing car. The objective is to design & manufacture a high performance car in terms of its acceleration, braking, handling, and reliability aspects. In addition it should be aesthetic, comfortable & should use commonly available materials. It provides the students with a real-life exercise in design and manufacture and the business elements of automotive engineering. It teaches them all about a team working under pressure and to tight timescales. It demands total commitment, lots of late nights, and many frustrations and challenges along the way, but the net result is the development of highly talented young engineers.

Manipal University has been participating in this event since last year. This year the event was held at Silverstone Formula circuit, U.K, from 16th to 19th July 2009. 126 Universities from 23 countries, well reputed worldwide, registered for this event at Silverstone, U.K. After a preliminary screening, only 82 Universities were allowed to remain in the competition. The elimination was mainly due to the non-conformance to the guidelines specified by IMechE. MIT had a team of 32 young talented students with Mr Rachit Mathur as team leader,

and Dr K.Jagannath, Professor in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering as Faculty Adviser. There were 5 Universities from India which participated in this event other than Manipal University. They were IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, Thapar University, Delhi College of Engineering and Indraprastha University. Our University got the 65th position in the overall ranking as given in the attached list of results. We are ahead of IIT Delhi (68), Thapar University (67) and Indraprastha University (80).

The evaluation is based on six different tests namely, Cost analysis, Presentation, Design, Acceleration, Skid pad, Sprint, and Endurance. Experts from all over the world were invited to judge these events.

Formula student is the most prestigious event for any University Engineering student. It has provided a platform for our students not merely to compete, but also to interact with students from other universities abroad and exchange information and knowledge. Through Formula Student, they develop experience, skills and professionalism as "hands on" engineers, with a keen awareness of the often competing pressures of performance, cost, safety, reliability and regulatory compliance. The benefit to students is immense and moreover, is a good experience for newly qualified engineers preparing to enter a career in motorsport, the automotive industry and many other areas of high performance engineering.

Formula Manipal : A Flagship Enterprise of the Student by the Student and for the Student

The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) conducts a world wide competition every year to challenge students to conceive, design and develop a Formula Student Car, under FSAE banner. It was a proud moment for all MITians in particular and Manipal University in general, when Dr. Ramdas Pai, Chancellor of the University launched the first ever Formula car called FORMULA MANIPAL 08. (FM08). It did very creditably by actually participating in the Endurance and other tests at the hot bed of Ferrari Tracks in Maranello, Italy.

Manipal University's second Formula Student race car was unveiled in Manipal at the Innovation Center at MIT on 05/09/09. The dignitaries who attended the exhibition were Dr. Ramadas Pai (Chancellor, Manipal University), Dr. H.S.Ballal (Pro-Chancellor, Manipal University), Brig.Dr. Somanath Mishra (Director, MIT), Prof. Dr. N. Yajnesh Sharma, (HOD Mech. & Mfg Dept.) Dr. G. K. Prabhu (Registrar Manipal University), Dr. R. S. Aithal (Joint Director, MIT) and our faculty advisor Prof.Dr. K. Jagannath. Most of the 3000 students of Manipal Institute of Technology came to see the car during the course of the day and gave a big round of applause when we fired up the engine. This event marked the end our 2009 season. The team for 2010 season has been selected and is now gearing up for the challenge - to design and fabricate a new race car: The FM-X.



(Contd. from page 1)

Manipal, Dr. Pappachen, Head, Division of Surface Treatment, Bhaba Atomic Research Center (BARC), Mr. Vishwanadham, Head, Division of the Laser Technology, BARC and Dr. Ashok Sahoo, Dept. of Bioceramics, BARC.

There were 190+ entries under Scholar Sparks category for the competition and 18 teams were finalized for final private presentation to present the idea with the business plan at Intel Corporation, Bangalore on July 14, 2009. Finally for the award ceremony, five teams were

shortlisted by the jury which consisted of three teams for the top three positions and two teams as 'Honorable Mentions'.

The first prize of Rs 3 lakhs cash award was won by the Stanford India Biodesign team(AIIMS+IIT Delhi), New Delhi and the second Prize of Rs.1 lakh was won by Senior Research Fellow of CSIR, Center for Nanobioscience, Microbial Sciences Division, Agharkar Research Institute, Pune.

Dr. Radhakrishna S. Aithal at 11th European Lighting Conference, Turkey



Dr. Radhakrishna S. Aithal, Joint Director of MIT, Manipal and Professor in Electrical & Electronics Engg., participated and presented a research paper entitled "Impact of Self-sustainable Rural Household Lighting – Case Study of a Typical Indian Village" in the LUX EUROPA 2009, the 11th European Lighting Conference held at Istanbul, Turkey from 9th to 11th September 2009, under the 'Incentives for Excellence in Teaching & Research' policy of the Manipal University. This paper is based on the outcome of 'Light for Life', a Green

Light, Rural Community Development Charity Project implemented by the institute in a local village with the support of the Indian Society of Lighting Engineers (ISLE) and Asian Electronics Ltd., Mumbai.

Dr. Aithal was the sole representative from India at this prestigious international conference attended by more than 350 delegates from 35 leading countries of the world. The fact that, for the first time in India, an academic institution is actively involved in the development of local rural community through this type of green light project, was well appreciated at the conference. This paper is co-authored by Dr. Chandrashekara S. Adiga of MIT, Manipal and Mr. S. Anantharam Patil of Halcrow company, Sharjah.

* * *



Dr. Narayana Shenoy K., Professor of Geology, Department of Civil engineering delivered guest lectures for the farmers and citizens of Kolar at the Rotary club of Kolar on 5th September 2009, farmers of Bangalore rural taluk at Yadhav Smriti, Bangalore on 6th September 2009, students of Dharwad at Rastrothana Vidya Kendra, Dharwad on 19th September 2009 and students of Kannada Sangha, Poorna Prajna College, Udupi on 25th September 2009.

* * *



Mr. Umananda K. V., Technical Assistant, Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering (MIT workshops) has completed the AMIE examination in Mechanical Engineering conducted by the Institution of Engineers (India).

* * *

Dr K. S. Aithal, Professor, Dept. of Physics, MIT, Manipal and his group have carried out a project on "Obesity Control among Children". Dr Aithal was invited to give guest lectures at the following conferences on this area: 95th Indian Science Congress, Vishakhapatnam, National Conference on Nonmaterial's, Karunya University, Coimbatore, National Symposium on Molecular Engineering of New materials, Andhra Loyola college, Vijayawada, International Conference on

Photonics Nonmaterials and Computer Applications, PRIST University, Thanjavoor, International conferences on Nonmaterials and Devices Processing and Applications at IIT, Roorkee. Dr. Pramod Prof. & Head Dept. of Plastic Surgery KMC Manipal, Dr. Nalini Prof. & Head Dept. of Biochemistry KMC Manipal, Dr. Thukaram Prof. & Head Dept. of Physics MIT, Dr. Girish Prof. Chemistry, Mr. Poornesh, Lecturer, Dept. of Physics MIT were the co-investigators. Papers were also presented at two other conferences, one at NEHU Shillong during the 96th Indian Science Congress and another at Bangalore at an international conference on Medicinal Plant Research on the topic Phytochemical and Pharmacological Activity of Nictanthes Arbotrisyis authored by Dr. K S Aithal and co-authored by Prof. Dr. Thukaram M Dr. Ashok Rao Prof. Physics, Ms. Smitha K Dept. Physiology KMC, Mr. Sachin G, Mr. Raghavendra A, MLSC, Manipal, Dr. Sathyamurthy K Director, MLSC and Dr. Srinivasan K K MCOPS, Manipal.

* * *

PhD Awarded



Dr. M. Vijaya Kini, Selection Grade Lecturer, Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering has been awarded the Ph.D. degree by the Manipal University for his thesis titled "Empirical Modeling and Verification of the Effect of Production Parameters in Turning Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer Pipes". The thesis was guided by Dr. A.M.Chincholkar, Professor, Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering.

The project was partly financed by AICTE, New Delhi (Rs. 1.75 lakhs) and by the Manipal Foundation (1.5 lakhs).

* * *



Dr. B. Rajendra, Professor, Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering has been awarded the Ph.D. degree by the National Institute of Technology, Suratkal, for his thesis titled "Vibration Isolation of a Passenger's Seat in a Mobile Vehicle Using Active and Semi-active Dampers". The thesis was guided by Dr. Appukuttan K K and Prof. Dr. Gangadharan K V, Professors, Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, NITK, Suratkal.

* * *



Prof. Anjaiah Devineni, Faculty, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, has been awarded the Ph.D. degree by the Manipal University for his research work entitled "Experimental Investigation of the Effect of Process Parameters on the Performance of Abrasive Water Suspension Jet Machining". The doctoral study was carried out under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) A.M.Chincholkar, Associate Director, Student Welfare, MIT, Manipal.

Dr. Anjaiah Devineni has 8 papers in International Conferences and Journals to his credit. He had received research grants from Manipal Foundation and Manipal University to carry out his research work. He had presented a paper in the International Conference on Water Jetting at Nottingham, UK, in Oct 2008, organized by the British Hydrodynamic Research Group. He received complete sponsorship from industries in India and Canada to attend this conference.

Engineers' Day at MIT

The 42nd Engineers' Day celebration was held on 12th September 2009 to commemorate the 149th Birth Anniversary of Bharatha Ratna Sir M. Vishweshwaraya. Brig (Dr.) Somnath Mishra, Director MIT, Manipal inaugurated the function & delivered the key note address on the theme "Engineering Solutions to Combat Climate Change". He gave a list of new technologies which are useful in combating climate change. Dr. K Jagannath Faculty Advisor I.E (Mech) Students Chapter welcomed the gathering & highlighted the student chapter activities at MIT, Manipal. Er. J Mascarenhas, Chairman I.E (I), Mangalore Local Center, in his speech, stressed the need for going into environmental friendly technology to combat the climate change effect. Er. Umesh Bhat, Hon. Secretary I.E (I), Mangalore Local Centre proposed the vote of thanks. After the inaugural session there was a technical session for two hours on the topic "Engineering Solutions to Combat Climate Change". Three eminent speakers, who spoke on this topic, are

1. Prof. B. N Karkera, Faculty, Dept of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engg, MIT, Manipal
Topic - Reversal of Planet Earths Drift towards Climate Change Catastrophe
2. Ms. Shambhavi Kamath, Faculty Dept of Civil Engg, MIT, Manipal
Topic - Global Warming & Climate Change



3. Dr. Vidya Shetty, Faculty, Dept of Chemical Engg, NITK, Surathkal
Topic - Bio-technology Solutions to Combat Climate Change
- Dr. Chandrashekhar Bhat, Professor of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering was the master of ceremonies.

CISCON -09

The sixth National Control instrumentation System Conference (CISCON - 2009) will be held from November 6-7 2009, at Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal.

Instrumentation and Control Engineering plays a major role in meeting the demands of the modern industrial world that seeks continuous improvement in performance. There is a growing demand from the industries for the development of new concepts and approaches to meet the new challenges in the field of instrumentation & Control Engineering. Keeping the above in mind, this Sixth National Conference on Control Instrumentation System is being organized to facilitate

meaningful interactions. The conference will cover a wide spectrum of issues related to Instrumentation & Control Engineering.

The department is successfully organizing the conference for the sixth time consecutively. CISCON-09 provides a forum to researchers, engineers, and academia to exchange the latest information about Instrumentation and Control applications and concepts, experiences from existing deployment, current development and future evolution.

Over 40 technical papers were received and sent to experts for review. Interested faculty members are requested to contact the convener for further details.

Upcoming Events

ICEDSP '09

On 13th May 2009 the IEEE has completed 125 years, and on 1st of December 2009, THE IEEE Student Branch of Manipal Institute of Technology will be completing 25 years. As a celebration of this, the department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, IEEE student branch of MIT, and IEEE Bangalore section are jointly organizing a 3-day International Conference on Electronic Design and Signal processing (ICEDSP '09) from 10th to 12th December 2009.

With every small disease breaking out into an epidemic, that too in

a short span with global connectivity, there is a need for technical research to take these issues for their study. To provide an opportunity for the researchers in these areas to come together and share their findings, the theme of the conference has been aptly selected as "Electronics in Healthcare". 239 technical papers have been received, and after a rigorous review process 171 papers were selected to be presented in the conference. For more details about the conference visit the conference website : www.icedsp.org .

ICAECT 2010

The department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering of the Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal, INDIA will be celebrating its golden jubilee in 2010. In this regard the dept. is organizing the 1st international conference on Advances in Energy Conversion Technologies (ICAECT 2010) from January 07 - 10, 2010. The main

theme of the conference is "Energy Efficiency: Challenges, Solutions and Sustainability".

The technical programme of the ICAECT 2010 includes tutorials & invited lectures from eminent academicians & industry experts in addition to the technical paper presentation sessions.

Students in Focus

COUNTER STRIKE:



Are you the player, or the game?

Manipal - a university and more than that a culture. And an important part of this culture is the game of counter strike. Counter strike is an online first person shooter game comprising two teams - terrorists and counter-terrorists ,where both the teams take part in an event which is nothing less than a simulated murder, where the players do nothing other than killing the opponent team members, using only a bit

of strategy and a wide variety of guns, playing with which gives them momentary thrill. However, the real game begins when the player becomes the game itself, and you are being played for your entire life.

This game is a new type of addiction that is slowly establishing a grip on the minds of the students ,just as an insect is entrapped in a cobweb. Seeing the trends we can generally say that a new disease has developed that can be called the COUNSTRIKIA. Now how do you know that you have this disease?

Strike 1: At this stage you are just a novice. You have just started playing this game. You start finding the classes morose, dull and boring, and you always have the urge to play the game over and over again. You toss and turn the entire night, sleepless, just visualising this game. All night you keep on wondering how you can keep on playing this game to improve your skills in it. This is the first stage of the disease, where it just sets its foot in you.

Strike 2: Here you have gained a little expertise. You start isolating yourself from everyone to devote more time to the game. Indeed, you collect a group of people to play multiplayer CS games with, you try to prove your will to them. When you can't, you become a bit too aggressive. You start getting irritated about petty issues. Slowly you start using obscene language, and there is a metamorphosis in your character. You start arguing a lot. The grip of the game on your mind is now even more immense, because now you have to reach the extremes of dexterity in the game.

Strike 3: In this urge to gain expertise, you completely forget the world and your academics, and as time passes you completely neglect your studies. Then you mess up your exams and strike 3.....YOU ARE OUT i.e; ruined?!!!

But it does not end here. The depression of the bad performances raises your aggression and you may end up threatening people unintentionally, you may start involving yourself in useless altercations or even physically hurting people. A time may even come when you start a real counter strike. And this could stay with you forever.

Don't believe me? Then you must be aware of the famous Virginia Tech mass murder by Cho Seung Hui who murdered 32 and injured 25 others. When questioned, his friends said that he had been addicted to CS since high school.

SHOCKED???

Do you want another Virginia Tech. calamity in Manipal?

The choice is entirely yours.....

- Alaksh Choudhury , III Biotech Engg.



Reservations

Reservation of seats on the basis of castes is a much talked about topic these days. You see it everywhere - T.V., newspaper, internet - you just name it.

A few decades ago, India had been divided socially by castes. The caste system was in place. People of specified castes were supposed to do specified jobs. Out of these, a section comprised what we today know as the

'backward classes'. People belonging to the backward classes used to do menial jobs, were not properly educated, generally not wealthy and didn't keep pace with the times. Just or unjust, this was how it was then, and I guess it worked for them.

The idea of having reservations took shape, to tackle mainly two problems. One, to reduce the disparity between the castes, and two, the country was in need of some good professionals in every field, and quality was not to be compromised on. The idea was to uplift the people belonging to these castes as a whole, and bring them to a matching level. It was also offered as an encouragement to them, as they were reluctant to venture out of their domains.

But by the time this system was implemented, times had started changing. In fact, they had already changed a lot. A cobbler's son was no longer restricted to become a cobbler. People were free to think, free to choose and free to do what they liked. Now there was a bigger disparity between rural and urban India, developed and under-developed, privileged and under-privileged. The so called 'backward classes' had doctors, engineers, lawyers, businessmen and people who could make a comfortable family living. We are more or less talking about the present time, and this is where the reservation system falls flat on its face.

I'm not saying that there is no disparity between castes now. I agree that casteism still prevails in many parts of the country. But the problem for which this reservation system was designed, which was to provide support to meritorious but underprivileged candidates, cannot be tackled now on the basis of castes. These two things somehow happened to coincide around the time this idea was in its pre-conception stages. Now that is no longer the case. You cannot club all the people of a particular caste together as underprivileged, nor can you say that all the people of a particular caste are privileged. So why have a reservation system at all of such a kind?

I'm not against the reservation of seats. I'm totally for it, provided it is based on the right criteria. I met a boy in my colony once, whose father happened to be in the same profession as my father's, went to a school which was as good as mine, and had cleared the DCE exam. DCE is the Delhi College of Engineering, which is quite a prestigious college. As our conversation progressed, I learnt that his rank was 7800, whereas mine was 2600. He had gotten in through the quota. Now did that boy really need reservation?

Today we are facing a bigger problem in the form of an economic-divide, rather than the caste-divide. How many of us bother about the caste of the person we are talking to? But the economic disparity is easily visible, even if one turns a blind eye towards it. We live in a comparatively cosmopolitan society, where instances of casteism are much fewer. But even if you take a rural setting, two people of different castes might be of the same economic status; then why partial treatment to one?

If there has to be a reservation of seats, then it should be on economic grounds. For instance there could be 25% reservation of seats for candidates whose family income is less than 2.5L per annum, or basically set at a calculated figure, which is insufficient to meet standard requirements. These days, everyone who prepares for entrance tests joins some coaching institute or the other. People go to places like Kota, and so if there is a candidate who has the aptitude but is unable to bear such expenditure, then he will be on a lower ground as compared to the

(Contd. to page 7)

Alumni Get-together – 1988 batch

The alumni of the 1988 batch organized a get-together function at MIT, Manipal on 7th August 2009. About 60 alumni with their families attended this programme. The inaugural function of this get-together started at 4 PM at the A/C Seminar Hall, MIT, Manipal. Dr. G. K Prabhu, Registrar, Manipal University was the Chief Guest of the function. Brig (Dr.) Somnath Mishra, Director MIT, Manipal, Dr. R. S Aithal, Joint Director, Dr. Padmaraj Hegde, Director Alumni Centre, MU, Mr. Shanty Das, General Manager, M/S. Optima – Electromechanical, Dubai (Student Union President of 1988 batch) and Mr. Sanjiv Menon, Country Industrial Development Manager – DHL Express (India) Pvt. Ltd. were the dignitaries on the dais for the inaugural programme. The programme started with invocation rendered by four children of alumni. Dr. R. S Aithal in his welcome speech remembered the contribution of Dr. T. M. A Pai, the Architect of modern Manipal. He outlined the importance of the alumni re-union and its significance for the overall development of the alma mater. He also stressed the importance of regional associations of MIT Alumni, and its role in improving the quality of technical education.

The symbolic inauguration was performed by lighting the lamp. Mr. Jiji Mathew, alumnus of 1988 batch welcomed the gathering & thanked all the teachers for successfully training them during their studies there. Dr. K. Jagannath, Associate Director (Alumni Affairs) gave a brief report of the Alumni Cell activities. He narrated the objectives of Alumni Cell and also stressed upon linking the activities of various regional alumni groups across the globe, and bringing them under the umbrella of MIT, Alumni Cell for the sake of creating a knowledge pool to make use of the expertise for the mutual benefit of both the alumni & the Institute.

Prof. K Kamalaksha, Retired Professor, MIT and Dr. Vinod Thomas, Associate Director (Academic) were felicitated by the alumni along with seven non-teaching staff. Prof. Kamalaksha in his reply recollected his association with this batch and his efforts to prevent ragging and protecting the first year students during his tenure as Warden & Chief Warden. Dr. Vinod Thomas remembered his association with this batch, and since it had been his beginning period in MIT Manipal, he was one among them as a friend and as a teacher. Dr. G. K Prabhu recollected memories of his student days, and how he was ragged when he was an engineering student, and how it helped him in securing

rank at the University exam. He divided his speech into three stages, first as a student, then as the Registrar, and finally his own remarks. As the Registrar, he outlined the policies and programs of Manipal University towards improving the relationship between the University and its Alumni. Director Dr. Somnath Mishra gave the details of the programme he has initiated to prevent ragging and said that MIT is a “Zero ragging Institute”.

There was a unique programme “memory down the lane” performed by five distinct alumni and compered by Dr. Ajay Kamath (alumnus of KMC Mangalore). He asked a number of tricky questions to the five alumni to bring out the real & unheard stories during their student life (sach kaa saamna). This programme was very interesting and both the participants and audience enjoyed it. The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Padmaraj Hegde. In his short speech he narrated his experience when he was the student union president during his studies in KMC Manipal.

An interaction between the alumni & Formula Manipal Students, Student Union Members and other Club Members was arranged during the high tea served outside the auditorium. The students elaborated on the present activities going on in their respective fields & also got useful information from alumni regarding their future career prospects.



(Contd. from page 6)

rest of the aspiring candidates, but this shouldn't stop him from taking admission in the best institutes. Who knows, he might just turn out to be an asset to the nation a few years down the line.

“If you want to see the change, then be the change”, is a frequently heard line these days. We are the future of this country, and I urge you all to try and “be the change” in your own way. I tried to be the change by expressing my views through this and urging you all. Then who knows, soon a movement might start which might sound the death knell of this politically motivated ‘votes for seats scam’ (yes, that’s what I like to call it) and give birth to a new system, which is fair and just.

Aayushman, I B.E.



Paper Presentation

Mr. Subhabrata Sadhukhan, & Mr. Abhishek Agarwal, Civil Engineering MIT Manipal secured fourth position in paper presentation (Civil) at the National level technical symposium, Technozion 09 at the national Institute of Technology, Warangal from September 25th to 27th 2009

Avishkar was the biggest event in Techtatva 09 at MIT. The problem statement was to design a bridge, even that it allows the ships to pass by opening. There should also be a traffic control system that handles the traffic during the ship-pass.

Our team designed a bridge which allows the ships to pass by without even a seconds' interruption in the traffic flow. There were 2 rounds. One was the paper presentation round and one was the working model round.

We presented the paper successfully and also satisfactorily answered the questions of the audience. We were also able to present the working model using high-tech sensors, circuits and motors. Our model was a wooden model.

Our Team comprised Mr. Shubhabrata Sadhukhan, 3rd Civil, Ms. Vibhuti Gupta, 3rd Arch, Mr. Chhitiz Shrivastava, 3rd Comp, Mr. Adub Hushain 3rd E/C

A tri-monthly newsletter published by the
Department of Continuing Education & Student Counselling

Editor & Publisher
Dr. Somashekara Bhat

Co-ordinator, Dept. of Continuing
Education & Student Counselling

Associate Editor
Mrs. Veena Maben

Faculty, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences

Circulation Incharge
Mr. Ashok K. Nayak

Dept. of Continuing
Education & Student Counselling

**FOCUS: Department of Continuing Education & Student Counselling, Manipal Institute of Technology
Manipal – 576 104, Karnataka, India, Ph. +91 820 2924042, Fax: +91 820 2571071, Email: continuing@manipal.edu**

Disha Day



On the 9th September 2009, the members of Disha, the social wing of Red-X(a Manipal University student club), got together to celebrate the work of Disha, to project its activities, to felicitate the senior most teachers of MIT, to provide a platform to the underprivileged kids to showcase their talents, and in totality celebrate the teacher-student-bond with the faculty of MIT.

It started with the lamp lighting ceremony with a Ganesha prayer in the backdrop, and the principals of the 3 schools which Disha serves, namely Sagri Nole School, Sarala Bettu School and Christ School, lighting the lamp along with the faculty advisors of the club.

After welcoming the distinguished authorities, the chief guests of the occasion Dr. G.D Kamath, Professor, Mathematics Dept (Date of Joining 3rd August 1971) and Dr. Jayadeva Bhat, Professor and HOD, Chemical Engg Dept.(Date of Joining 18th July 1973) were felicitated. On behalf of the students of MIT, Disha presented them with a shawl and a small memento and thanked them for the great service and hard work they had rendered to the institute, which had helped in its growth.

After that, an introduction about Disha was given to the audience, along with the summary of the club's entire agenda for the year and its collaboration with a Bangalore based NGO Aashayein Foundation.

Thereafter, faculty advisor Sri Ganshyama Prabhu, Senior Lecturer, IT Dept, talked about the activities of the club, and the importance

such extra-curricular activities have in shaping each individual's personality.

This was followed by the entertainment session in which the three schools : Sagri Nole school, Sarala Bettu school and Christ school competed in dance and recitation competitions. The true talent and potential these kids possessed were showcased in these performances.

In between these performances riddles, GK questions and jokes and tongue twisters were put forth to the audience. There was an amazing solo guitar performance presented by Ashwarya Prasad and a duet of breathtaking Bharatnatyam and Oddisi Dance performances presented by Namrata and Akanksha, all members of the club.

Thereafter the prizes to the 3 schools were distributed. In the card making competition, Sarla Bettu School came first; in the dance competition, Sagri Nole School bagged the first prize, and in the poetry competition Infant Mary Higher primary school stood first. The card making competition had been held in the 3 schools earlier, and the cards made were sent out as personal invitations to the teachers of MIT.

The performances presented by the three schools were very much appreciated by all and it showed that if provided with the right opportunities and resources, these kids could reach great heights.

The vote of thanks was followed by refreshments and the school kids were each presented with activity and coloring books for their active and lively participation.

