ReNEWS

April 2012

Editorial Notes

Hello All,

This is the first of our attempts to bring out newsletter that has news from/for the research scholars. The aim is to see that the events happened are reported and the events that will happen are advertised, through this medium. Apart from this, any news that concerns with the research scholar will be included in it. Also, the information, which would be useful to you, will be included in this newsletter. This newsletter can be instrumental in passage of information/news to every research scholar. The first issue might give you an idea of what I mean by this. So, my sincere request to all, please contribute to this newsletter with the bits and pieces, which you might get to know and I might not. You can forward me your news pieces and see your name attached to your piece in the newsletter. Also, if any of you are interested in being an active part in bringing out this newsletter, you can contact me.

Hoping this newsletter will become a part of the scholar's life in IITM….

Ishitha

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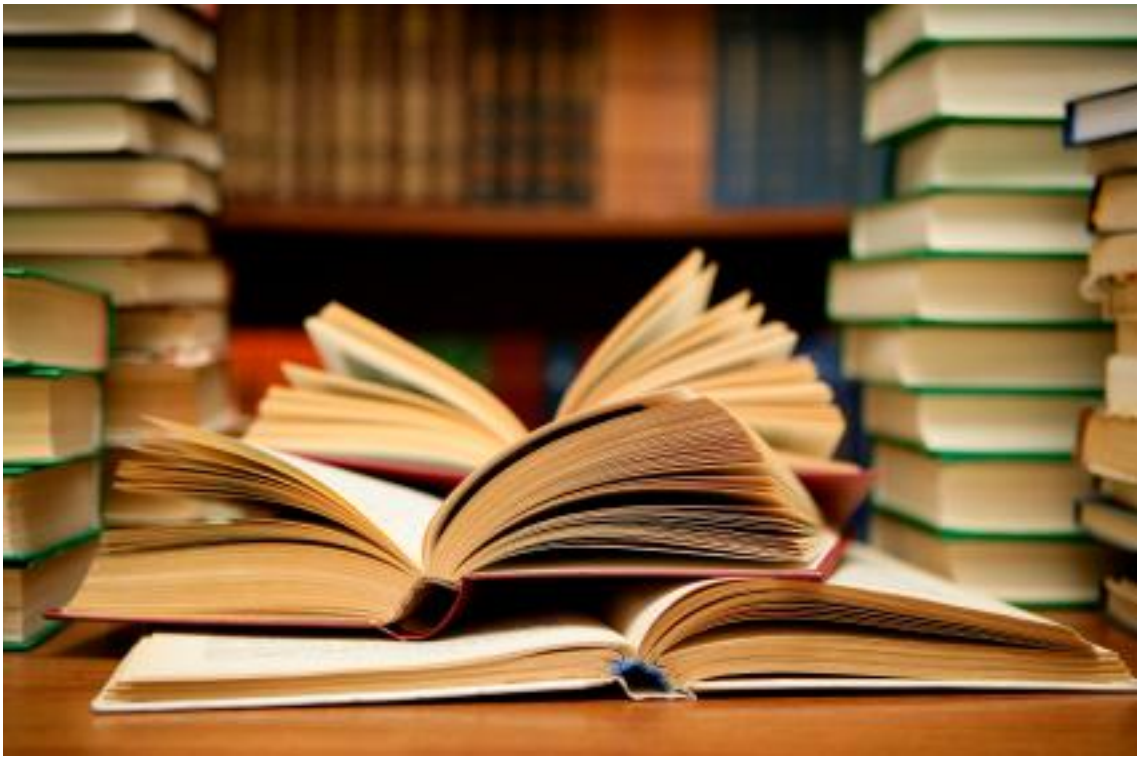


The Journal Club

10 April, 2012

Have you sent a paper to a journal, with a very interesting result, expecting kudos and applause from the whole world and then received a reply from the editor of the journal saying that the work has been already published some time back? Did your heart break then? After cursing the whole world for being the cause of this set back, did you realize that you should have kept yourself abreast about what is happening in your field of work, by reading (journal) papers?

This club is born out of one such mind, not necessarily experienced the set back by himself. The whole aim of this club is to meet every week and discuss one journal paper. The argument is that this will ensure that you know what is happening out there and also help you in experiencing some interesting discussions on a paper.

The Journal Club was started by a group of enthusiastic Electrical Engineering Scholars. Though, Mr. Aravind conceived this idea, this club is the baby of many research scholars. This club was inaugurated on April 10 by the scholars who are working on optics. The inaugural meet was an address by Dr. Balaji Srinivasan, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering Department. Dr. Srinivasan made the session very interactive, by involving the scholars to share their experiences regarding paper reading, and kindled the passion in reading papers among the scholars. Scholars views on paper reading varied between two extremes. While Mr. Harish, MS Scholar, pitched in saying that we should read papers from the beginning, Mr. Anish, PhD Scholar, voiced his opinion saying that one should not read papers at least for first two years as it would bias your mind with regards to your work.

The Journal Club

It was a very interesting session, with the zeal for their work among the scholars. This club meets every week and discusses one paper in that meet. Wishing this club a very bright future ahead with lot of brain storming discussions and hoping that more such clubs are formed which help in increasing interaction among the scholars……

PG Confluence Day

13 April, 2012 witnessed the confluence of Alumni of the institute with the students, especially PG students and research scholars, of IITM at the 2nd PG Confluence Day event organized by the Office of Alumni Affairs, with the much needed help from IITM Alumni Association. The event was initiated last year to serve as a platform for the PG students and research scholars of the institute to interact with the Alumni of the institute. Upholding the purpose of the event, the event saw a good participation from the PG Alumni of the institute, with over 23 Alumni, from various walks of life, being present during the event, apart from the five Distinguished Alumni, who were invited for a panel discussion organized for the event.

The event was inaugurated by the Director, Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Dean Planning & In-charge Alumni Affairs, Prof. David Koilpillai and the Distinguished Alumni. Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi then addressed the audience and emphasized on the growth in the number of PG (MS & PhD) students over the years and the various collaborations of the institute. Prof. David Koilpillai spoke about the

PG Confluence Day

various facilities that were sanctioned by government which include number of PG (MS & PhD) students over the years and the various collaborations of the institute. Prof. David Koilpillai spoke about the various facilities that were sanctioned by government which include the High Performance Cluster(4096 nodes),transmission Electron microscope(TEM) and the other spectrometry facilities.

DAA Panel

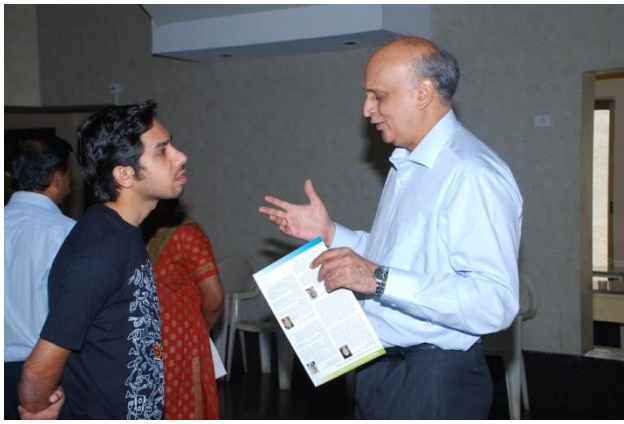
The highlight of the event was the presence of the Distinguished Alumni Awardees (DAAs) for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012. 2010 DAA, Dr. P. Chellapandi (Associate Director, Nuclear Engineering Group,IGCAR), 2011 DAA, Dr. V. S. Sunder (Professor, Institute of Mathematical Sciences) and 2012 DAAs, Dr. Raj Mutharasan (Professor,Chemical & Biological Engg.,Drexel University, USA), Shri. Balaji Sampath (Founder and CEO, AID INDIA, Chennai) & Dr. Prabhakar Raghavan (Vice President for Strategic Technologies,Google, USA) were present for a panel discussion, organized as a part of the event. The panel discussion was on “Career after Research” and Dr. Prabhakar Raghavan commented during the discussion, in a lighter vein, that if he were to pick the topic for the discussion, he would have picked “Career in Research”. Dr Ashwin Mahalingam (Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering Department, IIT Madras) introduced the esteemed alumni to the audience and moderated the whole discussion. Dr. Raj Mutharasan emphasized the importance of student ideas and mentioned that "when a student comes with a bright idea don't ignore him, but

work with him". Prof. V. S. Sunder raised the necessity of novel and aesthetic approach from Graduate students. Shri. Balaji sampath stressed the importance of doing research on the methods to teach the children, keeping to his spirits. He emphasized the necessity to understand and improve the techniques that would help the children to learn faster. He also mentioned the various regional research topics like drinking water supply and irrigational issues that could create a huge impact on the society. Dr. P. Chellapandi, especially talked about the career in power sector. The whole discussion was interactive with active participation from the students and Alumni in the discussion.

The event also saw two talks from the PG Alumni, Ms. Vijayalakshmi Gopal (Head, TCS Tools Group) and Shri. V. S. Sundara Raman (Vice President- OnDemand Solutions at Ramco Systems Limited). Ms. Vijayalakshmi Gopal, spoke about what a software industry expects, from her own experiences. She shared her experiences with IITM, TCS and being a Head of 400 odd employees. Talking about the research in software industries, she said that, research happens in software industries every day and that, they get to discover new things everyday, which indeed improve their understanding of a concept or code. Her vigor and zeal spilled in her speech. She also mentioned the various ongoing projects in TCS. Shri. V. S. Sundara Raman, held the audience captive with his non-technical talk on “Cloud Computing”. He spoke on the new trends and directions of the software industry. Having himself involved in helping many small and medium scale enterprises to adapt to the cloud computing technology, he said that the open sourcing of software would be the new trend in technology in the near future. The future, he believes, would belong to the open sourcing and platform sharing.

PG Confluence Day

Apart from all this, there was also an Open Quiz, in which gifts were given away to those who answered the question correctly. Alumni also actively participated, by giving wild guesses to the 'fun' questions that were posed. The quiz was handled magnificently by Suresh and the quiz questions were organized equally well by Rakesh Varma, both research scholars from Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Departments, respectively.



Students interacting with Alumni

The event went on to become a success, except for the less participation from the student community (around 140 students). Though there was a speculation that the less participation could have been due the event being held on a working day and in the morning hours, when most students have to be in their departments, it still raised the questions from the Alumni on how to involve more PG students and research scholars in the activities that are designed for them

Mentoring Program

IITMAA website provides a platform where IITM students can take help from IITM Alumni, who act as mentors to these mentee stude-

Mentoring Program

nts. One can register in this program on iitmentor.chronus.com. Another project has been launched on a pilot basis that works on the same principle as iitmentor, with one difference that the database is different for both the concepts. For iitmentor project the database of Alumni would be limited to those who has registered, but in case of the pilot project launched, the database of Alumni is the whole database of Alumni available with IITMAA. The mentoring program was launched on pilot basis so as to study the logistics of whole program before launching a bigger version of this project. The pilot project received a good response with 15 students registering within 3 hrs of its launch. This indicates a very good future for this project. Hoping to launch the bigger version of this project, which will be in operation on a continuous basis and completely streamlined, very soon…….

Awards

Shri D.C.Swapnadip De Chowdhury, (OE09D010) Research Scholar, doing research under **Prof.S.A.Sannasiraj** Department of Ocean Engineering received the **Best Paper Award** for the paper *Numerical Simulation of 2D Sloshing using SPH method* presented in the International Conference, PIANC-COPEDEC 2012.