2013

New Year Wishes to All NISTians

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National Institute of Science and Technology
Palur Hills, Berhampur, Odisha.
Phone: 0680-2492421, 2492422, Fax: 0680-2492627
E-mail: editorsnistenews@gmail.com, enews@nist.edu
Website: www.nist.edu.
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

The Mayan calendar ended on December 21, 2012 and that was supposed to be the end of the world. Yet, the day was as normal as any other day. However, fate had other things in mind when our dearest student Asish Kumar Mishra of the 2nd year passed away under tragic circumstances on 5th January 2013. We are devastated by the loss of a promising youngster. We offer our condolences on his demise and pray to the Almighty for his soul to rest in peace.

To all my young friends: Life is not only about academics and the race to get ahead of others. It is about the joy of love, laughter, family, parents, friends, teachers, caring and sharing. On campus, we belong to one family – the NIST family. We share the same dreams and passions. As parents, children are our only treasure. There is never, never anything in the world which is so precious that it cannot be fixed, amended except life itself. Joys and sorrows are opposite sides of a coin.

“You must learn to endure fleeting things - they come and go!”- Bhagavad-Gita 2:14.

The Department of Computer Science is holding its National Conference on High Performance Computing & Simulation (NCHPS) on 18th and 19th January, 2013. This is a prestigious event and speakers and delegates from leading Universities, Research Organizations and Corporations are scheduled to attend. We extend a warm welcome to all the Delegates. For more information please contact Dr. Motahar Reza, the Convenor of the Conference.

Wish all the faculty, staff, students, parents and well wishers of NIST – A Wonderful 2013.

Best Wishes,

Sangram Mudali

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

It’s time to pick up your brushes and choose the colours to explore the palette of contemporary life. The whole gamut of innovations and creativity is on display all around you. We no longer live in the age of snail mail but IM, Skype, Youtube and Facebook. Gone are the days when children stayed cooped up inside classrooms to learn new things. The students can see beyond the black boards and learn much more than what is in their textbooks. We believe in ‘a lot can happen...’ outside the classrooms and away from the well trodden path of life - “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, / I took the one less travelled by, / And that has made all the difference” — Robert Frost.

And moreover, it’s not a herculean task for the current generation of students to convince their parents for doing something new or offbeat. Pursuing a career in the field of engineering or medicine is not the only option in life available to them. The opening up of new avenues and the easy access to information gives the students the option to venture into other areas of interest along with academics and research. The goals of life need not be security and a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. It can be the tingling sensation of success, creativity and innovation. This is the age of self-fulfilment and its touchstone is not stress but achievement. And it can come in any field. If you still don’t believe me, go see ‘3 Idiots’.

The year 2013 marks the beginning of a new age of spirituality as per the Mayan Calendar. Let the new age begin with all new hopes, new aspirations, new dreams, and new goals of life.

Dipti R. Lenka
FROM THE PLACEMENT DIRECTOR’S DESK

I feel very saddened and express my deep regrets on the demise of Mr. Asish Kumar Mishra who was a student of B. Tech 3rd semester-IT. I express my deepest condolences and pray to God to give strength to his family members. It is my sincere request to all the students of NIST to communicate and discuss their problems and difficulties with their close friends, classmates, parents, seniors or faculty members, freely without any inhibitions. Students should seek advice on issues related to their academics or personal matters from their well wishers.

It has become extremely important to manage our emotions because life has become more stressful these days. Our emotions control our performance, physical and mental health and our relationships. We should learn to manage emotions in positive ways to

1. relieve stress,
2. communicate effectively,
3. have empathy for others,
4. overcome challenges and
5. defuse conflict.

We should be open-minded. We should learn how to react to the negativity of others. Practicing meditation and yoga everyday can help immensely to reduce physical & mental stress. Regular physical exercise such as walking and jogging will ensure mental & physical health. Proper lifestyle - effective time management and good diet are very important. Extra-curricular activities such as sports and hobbies also ensure a tension free and relaxed state of mind.

I wish all the students of NIST a very Happy New Year 2013 and hope this year you will fulfill all your dreams and aspirations. Best wishes for the examinations!

Best wishes

Geetika Mudali

BHARAT JYOTI AWARD TO PROF. GEETIKA MUDALI

Prof. Geetika Mudali, Promoter and Placement Director, NIST has been felicitated with the Bharat Jyoti Award, the Certificate of Excellence for her meritorious service, outstanding performance and remarkable role by Dr. Bhishma Narain Singh, the former Governor of Tamilnadu and Assam at a seminar on Economic Growth and National Integration organised by Indian International Friendship Society at New Delhi on 20th December 2012.

MEMBER, EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Sisir Kanti Mishra, Faculty member, Dept. of Management Studies has been selected as the Member of Editorial Advisory Board for Asian Journal of Multidimensional Research, an International Journal by Trans Asian Research. (Ref: http://www.tarj.in/editorial_advisory_board.html)

Ph. D. Awarded to NIST Faculty Members

Ms. Sasmita Padhy, Faculty member, Dept. of Computer Science Engineering has been awarded Ph. D. in Computer Science from Berhampur University. The title of her thesis is “Computational Challenges in Multi Input and Multi Output (MIMO) based Wireless Networks”.

National Institute of Science & Technology, Berhampur, 761008
Mr. Trupti Ranjan Lenka, Faculty member, Dept. of Electronics and Communications Engineering successfully defended his thesis, “Studies on characteristic of III-V Semiconductor based HEMT/MOSFET to use in Analog VLSI Circuits” and obtained his Ph. D. degree from Sambalpur University under the guidance of Dr. Ajit K. Panda, Professor, Dept. of Electronics and Communications Engineering and Dean, NIST and Dr. G. N. Dash, Professor, Sambalpur University.

Congratulations to Dr. Sasmita Padhy and Dr. Trupti Ranjan Lenka!

PAPER PUBLICATIONS


Ms. Sangeeta Bhanja Chaudhuri, Faculty member, Dept. of CSE along with Dr. Subhagata Chattopadhyay, Prof. and Principal, Bankura Unnayani Institute of Engineering, Dept. of CSE, Dr. Fethi A. Rabhi, Prof., The University of New South Wales, Sydney, School of CSE and Mr. Sarat Kumar Jena, Research Scholar, IIT Kharagpur, published an article entitled, “Mining Important Symptoms of Adult Depression”, in the International Journal of Computer Applications, Vol.57, No.5, pp. 5-9, November 2012, published by Foundation of Computer Science, New York, USA, ISSN: 0975-8887. The article is available on http://www.ijcaonline.org/archives/volume57/number5/9108-3258.

Ms. Sangeeta Bhanja Chaudhuri, along with Dr. Subhagata Chattopadhyay, Mr. M. R. Nayak, Mr. S. Nayak, and Mr. Y. Manas, Student, B. Tech published an article entitled “Automatic Recognition of Handwritten Bangla Broken Characters: A Study on Simulating the Human Pattern Matching System”, in the International Journal of Computer Applications, Vol.57, No.5, pp. 5-9, November 2012, published by Foundation of Computer Science, New York, USA, ISSN: 0975-8887.


Mr. L. K. Raju, and Dr. U. K. Misra, Faculty members, Dept. of Mathematics along with Srichandan Mishra, Dept. of Mathematics, Govt. Science College, Malkangiri and Dr. G Mishra, Dept. of Statistics, Utkal University, published a paper, “An Inventory model with quadratic demand pattern and deterioration with shortages under the influence of inflation” in Mathematical Finance Letters, 1 (2012), No.1, 57-67, ISSN: 2051-2929.


Mr. Chandan Kumar Behera, Faculty member, Dept., IT, and Mr. Bhabani Sankar Gouda, Faculty member, Dept., CSE, presented a paper, “A Route Discovery Approach to Find an Optimal Path in MANET Using Reverse Reactive Routing Protocol” at the IEEE National Conference on Computing and Communication Systems (NCCCS-2013), organised by Department of CSE and IT, held at Dr. B. C. Roy Engineering College, Durgapur, West Bengal, during 21st and 22nd November 2012.

Mr. Bhabani Sankar Gouda, Mr. K. Lakshmi Narayana, and Mr. Arka Bhaduri Mandal, Faculty members, Dept., CSE, presented a paper, “Simulation and Comparative Analysis of Energy Conservation Performance Metric for ERAWDV, AODV and DSDV Routing Protocols in MANET” at the IEEE 2nd World Congress on Information and Communication Technologies International Conference (WICT-2012), organised by Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, during October 30-31 and November 01-02, 2012.

Mr. Bhabani Sankar Gouda, Mr. Ashish Kumar Dass, Mr. K. Lakshmi Narayana, Faculty members, Dept., CSE, presented a paper, “A Novel Approach to Find an Optimal Path in MANET Using Reverse Reactive Routing Algorithm” at the International Conference on Frontiers in Intelligent Computing Theory & Applications (FICTA-2012) in BEC College, Bhubaneswar, held on December 22 & 23, 2012.


Mr. K Sudipta Achary and Dr. Motahar Reza presented a paper, “An Investigation of Computational Efficiency in Distributed Environment using Stream Sockets and Multithreaded Programming Model in Java” in the Third International Conference on Meta-Computing (ICoMeC) 2012, held at Hotel May Fair, Bhubaneswar on 6th and 7th December 2012.

Mr. K Sudipta Achary, presented a paper, “Comparative Analysis of Workflow and Performance Characteristics in Cluster and Desktop Grid” co-authored by Mr. Arkapraava Bhaduri Mandal, Faculty member, Dept. of CSE, and Dr. Motahar Reza, in the IEEE International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Computing Research (ICCIC), held at Tamilnadu College of Engineering, Coimbatore, during 18th - 20th December 2012.

Mr. Madhu Sudan Kumar, M. Tech, CSE, presented a paper, “A Comparison between analytic and Numerical solution of linear Black–Scholes equation governing option pricing: Using Bank Nifty” co-authored by Mr. Shom Prasad Das and Dr. Motahar Reza in the Second World Congress on Information and Communication Technologies (WICT 2011), held at IIIT-M, Thiruvananthapuram, during 30th October - 2nd November 2012.


Mr. Baidya Nath Nayak, Mr. Rupak Mohanty, and Mr. Bhabani Sankar Nayak, B. Tech., Final year students, EIE attended the Workshop on ‘Embedded android on beagleboard’ conducted by Texas Instruments India at Cambridge Institute of Technology, Bangalore between 4th and 7th December, 2012.
DST GRANT FOR NIST

NIST has received the new FIST (Funding for Infrastructure in Science & Technology) grant from the Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi. The proposal was presented by Dr. Ajit K. Panda in collaboration with Dr. S. N. Sahu before the FIST committee in Bangalore recently. The FIST Grant is to the tune of Rs. 1.2 Crore which will include highly sophisticated equipment for teaching and research in VLSI, Communication Technologies, Antenna Development, Embedded Systems, Materials Science including sophisticated equipment such as STM, FTIR for Nanotechnology research.

This award is a highly competitive and NIST bagged it based on its excellent track record and the presentation by the team.

VISIT OF TAIWAN PROFessORS TO CAMPUS

Prof. Kuei-Hsien Chen and Dr. Chia-Chun Chen, Faculty members, Institute of Atomic and Molecular Science, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan visited the NIST Campus to further the research in nano science and technology as per the MoU signed between NIST and Academia Sinica. The Professors delivered lectures for the benefit of faculty members and students at LHC 306 on November 18, 2012. Students interested for possible MS/PhD at IAMS, Taiwan can contact Dr. Sukanta Tripathy.

TALK BY DR. K. P. MISRA

Dr. Kabi Prasad Misra, Director, Apollo Hospital, Bhubaneswar, a renowned thinker and speaker on spiritualism, delivered two talks, ‘Life of a Legend’ - the very inspiring life of Dr. Ben Carson, Director, Johns Hopkins University, USA and ‘Moon Landing and the Mother Earth’ - a presentation on the first journey to the moon and the scenic beauty of earth rising from the moon to the students and faculty members of NIST on 17th December 2012.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PSCAD

The Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, NIST conducted a National Workshop on ‘PSCAD & General Applications’ in collaboration with Nayak Power Systems Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore from 19th to 21st Nov 2012. Participants from different engineering colleges of the state (Centurion University, CV Raman etc.) participated in this workshop. Mr. Aswin Damle was the facilitator of the training session deputed from “Nayak Power Systems Pvt Ltd, Bangalore.
ROBOTICS WORKSHOP

A workshop on ‘Start Robotics Pro’ was organized for the benefit of B.Tech & MCA & M.Tech first semester students. It was jointly organized by NRC (NIST Robotics Club) & K. Technologies. It introduced the concept of robotic arm to manual robot for picking and grabbing mechanism to over 170 enthusiastic students.

NRC also conducted manual workshop for 3rd Sem B.Tech & MCA students on October 9, 2012. Over 142 students participated in the workshop and used their learning for competing in the Sankalp robotics contest.

WORKSHOP ON ‘CAT’ AND ‘PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT’

The Training and Placement Cell of NIST successfully conducted a Workshop on ‘Preparation for MBA Entrance Examinations’ and ‘Personality Development’ under the guidance of Prof. Geetika Mudali, Placement Director at Auditorium on 10th December 2012. This workshop was coordinated by Prof. Arun Kumar Mahapatro and assisted by the faculty members of Department of Management Dr. Ratnakar Mishra and Mr. Pramath Nath Acharya. This workshop was largely attended by the B. Tech 7th semester students and faculty members.

Prof. Arun Kumar Mahapatro presented the inaugural talk on History, Transformation and Significance of Management Education for Technocrats in India. Mrs. Sanjukta Mohapatra conducted an interactive session on Personality Development. Mr. Trymbaka Mahapatra dealt with the challenges in preparation for entrance tests modelled like CAT and provided valuable tips on how to score higher percentile in such tests.

Dr. Sudhir Kumar Panigrahy and Mr. Atanu Dutta provided the necessary support to make the event a success.

GREENOVATION: Green Month Celebration

To mark the first step towards going green, Renewable Energy Club, NIST celebrated the month of November as “The Green Month” under the banner “GREENNOVATION” in the campus including its hostels. As part of the programme several events were organised including Social Outreach, Stage Craft, Quotes to sustain, GreeNISTians. Repurpose, etc. Members of the club and its volunteers organised a clean-up programme in and around the campus where the students installed waste bins to maintain cleanliness in the institution and its peripheral areas. Faculty members and students were educated on the need to follow 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The volunteers staged short plays to spread the message about the need for going green.

The Club has been working with Sunmoksha, Bangalore on various green conversion processes in the campus which will be implemented in near future.
NIST SAP TEAM AT NATIONAL LEVEL

SAP conducted a global exposure programme ‘SAPTECHNIVERSITY’ on 26th November 2012. Anil Kumble, Viswanath Anand, Chris Gayle were the keynote speakers for the event. The event had called for innovative ideas in the field of Meta Data, Mobility, Corporate Governance, and Social Networking. Six teams from NIST participated in the event and one of them, Apocalyse formed by Abhishek Kumar, Rajesh Pradhan and Pawan Raj Murarka reached the final round.

ELECTRONIC DIYA DESIGN CONTEST 2012

Mr. Rupak Mohanty & Mr. Baidya Nath Nayak, B. Tech final year, EIE, participated in the Electronic Diya Contest 2012 conducted by Texas Instruments, India and created a low power electronic diya in the shape of Texas Instruments logo using msp430 launchpad and 97 LEDs.

THURSDAY LECTURE SEMINAR SERIES

Date: September 27, 2012

Speakers
Mr. Abhishek Sahu
(B. Tech students 2008 Batch)
Mr. Gopinath Samanta
Mr. Jaydip Sen

Title
Neuro-Cavity Model for Rectangular Patch Antenna
Design of FIR filter using opposition-based differential Evolution algorithm
Data Privacy Issues in Wireless Sensor Networks

Date: November 8, 2012

Speakers
Ms. Syamala Dora, and
Mr. Debananda Kanhar
Ms. Sunetra Banerjee
Mr. Prasun Dutta
NTCS Group

Title
Identifying Refactoring opportunity in an application; A matrix based approach.
Comparison among various clustering technique using human heart related data
Analyzing Effect of Different Parameters River water using Data-mining technique
Knowledge Assessment Module

Date: November 15, 2012

Speakers
Mr. Amitabha Acharya
Ms. Suchandra Pal
Mr. Kalicharana Pradhan

Title
Approximation Algorithm
Development of a natural resource based amperometric biosensor to estimate the concentration of uric acid
OPF Using Differential evolution algorithm

Date: November 22, 2012

Speakers
Mr. Prosenjit Mondal

Title
Optical Active and Reactive Power flow always using N-R method and Decouples methods
INTERACTION WITH SITARAM YECHURY

It is rare that students and faculty members get to interact with politicians. But when Mr. Sitaram Yechury, Member of Parliament and CPI-M Politburo member visited Apex Institute of Technology and Management, Bhubaneshwar, the students and faculty members of NIST got an opportunity to listen and to exchange views with one of the leading political thinkers of our times. His message to the students and youth was clear: “Don’t watch the political goings on from the sidelines. Get into the hurly-burly of politics. You can make a difference.” This was followed by a Q & A session where NIST students got an opportunity to ask a range of questions to the Marxist leader.

5TH INTER-SCHOOL LITERARY COMPETITION - 2012

Club Eureka’s annual jamboree turned out to be a grand affair with over 300 students from 18 schools in and around Berhampur participating with all gusto on December 9, 2012. The 5th Inter-School Literary Competition gave an opportunity to the young ones to showcase their talent in debate, essay writing, poetry, collage, poster presentations and other events.
This time the students of St. Vincent’s Convent School grabbed the Champions’ Trophy by winning the highest number of prizes, especially 1st prizes. They broke the record of De Paul School - the champions for the last three years. The chief guest of the event Dr. Ram Narayan Panda, HOD, PG Dept. of English, Berhampur University, gave away the prizes.

*The list of winners is as follows:*

**Event: Poem Writing (English)**
- 1st Prize: Epseeta DAV Public School
- 2nd Prize: Sikshya Shree Rath St. Vincent’s Convent School

**Event: Poem Writing (Odia)**
- 1st Prize: Swapna Rani Jena V.V. Giri Govt. Secondary Training School
- 2nd Prize: Deepmitamayee Sahu Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir

**Event: Factual Description (English/Odia)**
- 1st Prize: Siddharth S. Sahu Kendriya Vidyalaya
- 2nd Prize: Sameer Panda DAV Public School

**Event: Story Writing (English)**
- 1st Prize: Sushimita Tripathy St. Vincent’s Convent School
- 2nd Prize: Vidya Venkatesan DAV Public School

**Event: Story Writing (Odia)**
- 1st Prize: Monali Beborta Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir
- 2nd Prize: Tejaswinee Pattnaik V.V. Giri Govt. Secondary Training School

**Event: Essay Writing (English)**
- 1st Prize: Ankan Mishra St. Vincent’s Convent School
- 2nd Prize: Smriti Sneha St. Vincent’s Convent School

**Event: Essay Writing (Odia)**
- 1st Prize: Sambhunath Sahu Saheed Laxman Nayak Memorial Govt. High School
- 2nd Prize: Sushree Siddhishikha Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir

**Event: Debate (English)**
- 1st Prize: Rohit Rohan Sabat St. Vincent’s Convent School
- 2nd Prize: Rupak Mahapatra De Paul School

**Event: Debate (Odia)**
- 1st Prize: Asish Kumar Panda Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir
- 2nd Prize: Sridhara Patro Balaji Bidyapitha

**Event: Poster Presentation**
- 1st Prize: S. Venkat Raman DAV Public School
- 2nd Prize: Ashutosh Sahu St. Vincent’s Convent School

**Event: Collage Composition**
- 1st Prize: Esso Beero Harobino Vidya Bhavan
- 2nd Prize: Kunal Kaushik Panda St. Xavier’s High School

**Event: Quiz Competition**
- 1st Prize: Rutaraj Sahu and Sandhyana Sankeerti St. Vincent’s Convent School
- 2nd Prize: Prem P. Pradhan and Soumya Ranjan Pari DAV Public School

**Champions’ Trophy - St. Vincent’s Convent School**
DST INSPIRE SCIENCE CAMP

NIST organised the Department of Science and Technology (DST) sponsored INSPIRE Science Internship Program for the top 1% +2 Science students of the State, based on their Class 10th marks, during 27th November to 1st December 2012. A total of 267 students from 36 schools of the state participated in the program. Among the resource persons were Prof. Bimalendu Bhattacharya, INAE Distinguished Professor, S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences; Dr. D. P. Duari, Director Birla Planetarium; Dr. Shakeel Ahmed, Geophysical Scientist-F, National Geophysical Research Institute, Groundwater Hydrology, Hyderabad; Prof. Narayan Banerjee, Dept. of Physical Sciences Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata; Prof. Manju Ray, Emeritus Scientist of CSIR, Bose Institute, Kolkata; Dr. R. K. Sharma, Professor, Depart. of Mathematics, IIT Delhi; Dr. Mihir Kumar Bhattacharya, Scientist E, Deputy Director, National Inst. of Cholera & Enteric Diseases, Kolkata; Prof. Sankar Prasad Pati, Emeritus Professor, NIST, Berhampur; Mr. Sanjeeb Tripathy, Lead Research Scientist at Honeywell Technology Solutions; Mr. B. S. Pani, Ex-Director, HR, NALCO; and Dr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma, Additional Director and Head, CBRN Defence, Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), DRDO. Besides the intellectual input the students also got exposed to various club activities and competitions including the PISA (very similar) Test.

WORKSHOP ON AAKASH FOR EDUCATION

NIST was selected as one of the Remote Centres under the NMICT program conducted by IIT, Bombay. Initially a demo and workshop of the low-priced educational tablet Aakash was conducted. The programme was conducted by IIT-Bombay under National Mission on Education through ICT (MHRD, Govt. of India). A number of NIST faculty members participated in the workshop-cum-demo sessions on 10th and 11th November 2012 where experts from IIT-Bombay demonstrated and showed the knowledge-oriented applications that are possible on the Aakash tablet. Sixty-four faculty members and staff participated in this two-day workshop which was conducted simultaneously at 250 different colleges of India using A-view software. At the end of the workshop, a few groups of four persons each were formed where each group submitted a project proposal. The workshop showed how lectures can be delivered by experts using multi-way visual interaction from remote locations. Tutorials and labs were also conducted at remote centres by expert faculty at IIT Bombay.

Some of the faculty members attending the workshop were allowed to keep the tablets issued to them, for their use in educational activities in the Institute.

Students interested to develop applications on Aakash tablets can contact Dr. Motahar Reza with their project ideas.
IN CONVERSATION WITH...

P SACHIN KUMAR (2006-2010 Batch)

Currently working at Ericsson, Bengaluru. Joined ERICSSON in June 2012 as a Software Engineer. Earlier worked at TCS Mumbai for two years.

Memorable achievements?
Everytime I bring a smile on my parents’ face is a great achievement for me, material achievements keep coming in life, but to make your parents happy is the greatest achievement.

Someone whom you have always looked up to at college…
Sudhir Panigrahy sir, he was my project advisor and he helped me a lot. I miss all the other faculty members at NIST.

What do you miss the most about your college life?
Definitely my friends Dheeraj, PS, Adityansu. And the loads of fun we had together during our college days.

What remains unachieved yet/any plans of higher studies?
Pursuing an MBA from a reputed college, but no future plans, currently I am satisfied with my job. But higher studies are definitely important.

What NOT to do at NIST?
Don’t ever get into a Disciplinary Committee, IT IS A SERIOUS NO NO TO ALL. Had a very terrifying experience.

What difference did you notice at NIST coming after a gap of 2 years?
Many New buildings and most noticeably, the behaviour of the faculty members has changed towards me, whoever I met, they welcomed me with a smile which was not the case during college days.

What’s your take on the 100-minute classes at NIST?
I was never a votary of 100-minute classes at NIST but it helped me a lot during my training program at TCS as we had to endure three-hour training sessions without any break. But it certainly helped me a lot in my professional life.

Memorable moments at NIST…
T20 World Cup 2008 final India Vs Pak at the Boys Hostel TV room, not an inch to move and the environment was thrilling. Also the placement time as I got my first job.

What is your message to NIST students.
Enjoy your college life, enjoy these precious moments of your life to the fullest. This time won’t come again. Apart from studies take part in extracurricular activities. At NIST you have multiple opportunities, utilize your time according to your interests. MAKE THE BEST OF NOW.

Interviewed by Aman Kumar (B. Tech., 7th Sem)
A recent research finding on “Higher education forum in India” reveals a shocking information that around 79 per cent of our trained professionals lack employability skills or they are unemployable. This leaves just 21 per cent as industry ready. The paper focused on some facts about the survey, they conducted, on various patterns in recruitment process and styles adopted by industries. Although the industrial recruitment process does not differentiate between ‘campus hiring’ and ‘open recruitment’, the strategies are viewed as different depending upon the sector that hires the candidates, the survey says. The research favours managerial ‘soft skills’ over ‘hard skills’, of the students. 75 per cent credit goes to ‘soft skills’ leaving a meagre 25 per cent need for ‘hard skills’. In case of engineering graduates, the paper remains silent but surely it’s not difficult to guess the ratio. Soft skills include negotiation skills, group dynamics, work life balance, empathy, harmony and attitude towards learning besides the sensory-mortar activities as desired and shown at workplace.

A part of this problem is reflected in the declining GDP and industrial growth. GDP was 7 to 8 per cent two years back but now its struggling to be above a 4 per cent mark. Similarly the industrial growth also witnessed a steady decline. It was 11 per cent in 1996, but is now below 4 per cent. Data on monthly basis may be shown as positive by the government but a close watch reveals otherwise. For example, we got the growth story in November (BS-13.12.12 issue) because it is based on a spurt on purchasing during the festive season in October.

This industry lookout for ‘soft skills’ should prod us to rethink the necessity of theory papers and our traditional style of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. classrooms. The author browsed through several Indian University syllabi only to find extensive coverage of industry stipulated functional areas. But the missing point is the theory-practice lineage. For example, students study on different styles of ‘meetings’, like ‘Brainstorming’ and ‘Delphi technique’ but are still skeptical about its presence in their own workplace.

Upon contemplation, the author is convinced about the crucial role of teaching fraternity in handling such type of situations and to improve students’ employability skills. Personal observation may lead to certain discussion for process improvement like:

- Showing of workplace related materials like formats, copy of circulars & inter office memos, clippings, balance sheets, customer complaints and feedback sheets etc to students will work.
- ‘Outplacement’ for faculty members to industries may help reduce the monotony and increase professionalism to transfer the same later to students (on the lines of the ‘lien’ or ‘sabbaticals’ in universities.)
- Reducing classroom activities to four hours a day and allowing students to work part time in the afternoon (on job training).
- ‘Immersion courses’, ‘guest lectures’, ‘industry talk’ to constitute half of the whole academic load will probably help the students become job ready.
- Complete overhaul of the current ‘case study’ method and to be replaced with own created and ‘panel examined’ cases. The level of cases may vary depending upon the progress of course curricula.
- Professional courses need to be based on activities like inter college competitions, seminars, live projects, demonstrations, exhibitions, placement fares.
Consultancy and research work of faculty members can be shared in classrooms.
Specialized faculty for specific subjects can make the learners more confident and matured.
A responsibility rating cum academic weightage system will motivate the performers and a through checking up will certainly help to increase the group dynamics among the faculty members.
Extensive use of project work and software, probably help the students to feel like working in corporate houses.
Role playing and simulation techniques certainly help the students know the nuances of industries.
Along with the openness, innovative process adopted by professional institutes, a genuine desire to improve the self helps the learners. Unless the urge comes from within, all efforts are bound to fail despite its uniqueness or innovativeness.
(The author can be contacted at ratnakar05@gmail.com. All views cited above are of personal in nature and used only for an informal knowledge sharing works.)

A CONVERSATION TO REMEMBER - BARACK MEETS BPUT

Sailaja Pandey, B.Tech. 2nd year

When Romeo met Juliet - LOVE happened;
When Hitler met Mussolini - TYRANNY happened;
When Katrina met Farah - SHEILA ki JAWANI happened.
When SRK met JOHARS and CHPORAS - Relationships blossomed that Will last “Jab Tak Hai Jaan”.

There is a plethora of such historical meetings. Allow me to talk about one such meeting-meeting of Barack Obama and our very own BPUT! Presenting a conversation to remember....

BPUT : Congratulations.......and celebrations! Party, party.....
Barack Obama : Thank you! You know you have just now broken your own record!
BPUT : Broken my own record?
Barack Obama : That’s right. Your wishes came so early. I mean you didn’t delay like the examinations you conduct!
BPUT : Well I am just trying to live up to my impression-”BPUT the Unpredictable”. And as far as examinations are concerned, talk to my students.
Barack Obama : Don’t you feel such a thing is bad. I mean think about the students. My 1st Campaign was on “the change we need”. And now its “the best is yet to come”. Shouldn’t you learn something from me?
BPUT : Oh obby...it’s so monotonous. Just think how cool it is when everything is on fire. Thousands of students going through the website hundred times to see if there is any news. I am always innnnnnnn.
Barack Obama : This is disgrace on you. Anyway haven’t you seen the way I keep everyone together....my entire country together. I never miss anyone.
BPUT : Now this is what I call old fashion! Look at me- I miss-place the exam papers. And even students are shown miss-ing from the exam even though they were present.
THE CHALLENGE!

N. Seresh, Faculty member, Dept. of English

Life is a challenge. Education should be aimed at preparing for the challenge. When the first semester B. Tech students walk into the portals of National Institute of Science and Technology, the first thing they experience is a sensation of thrill which is immediately followed by its twin sensation: dread. Hundred minute classes! “Are you kidding? I can never even sit in one place for more than half an hour,” say most of them. “What is the need for such long classes, I am sure I will fall asleep within 40 minutes of the beginning of the class,” is the idea of some other students. Then the seniors tell about the assignments, internal tests, projects, attendance requirements, ruthless invigilation during class tests (read no copying), lab journals and the biggest of ‘em all, the Semester exam that falls like a big brick within a few months of the beginning of the academic session. Then life appears to be a little unfair. How do you meet all these academic requirements with all the throbbing hormones and parental monitoring? Then comes Sankalp. A few days spent in grooving, jiving, meeting, planning and then comes the biggest night of it. Is everyone on the dance floor yet?

Students at NIST don’t have a uniform. They dress as funky as they can get. Boy meets girl. Girl meets boy. Eyes meet. Friend requests are sent. There is laughter in the air. Chatting and texting lead to meeting. The oldest thing in the world happens in the campus: love. Being loved is the most wonderful feeling. Being un-loved is like being un-friended on Facebook. It gives a sinking feeling that can depress anyone. To fall in love and fall out of love is part of the learning process. But one love remains constant: Parental love. Many students don’t realise it till it is too late.

Students at NIST should be prepared for 100-minute classes as well as the sensation of love and its twin: unlove. This is part of life. It is part of the learning curve. Life has no shortcuts, as Hamlet discovered long ago.

BPUT : Ok forget it, tell me do you have a nickname or something. I mean what does Michelle call you when you are at home on or before time?
Barack Obama : Nothing as such. Now why are you asking me this?
BPUT : Because I want to see how big a bore you are. I have so many names, “The Unpredictable”, “KPUT (Kya Pata University of Technology)” and so on.
Barack Obama : Forget about the response, “miss”, name and all that. Have you seen how organised I am. All my work is properly planned and I execute everything as per the plan.
BPUT : Again spoken like a big bore! Didn’t u feel happy when you got a surprise. From your parents on your b’day or when you entered the home exhausted and saw Michelle waiting for you with love in her eyes, exalting dinner on the table and soft music
Barack Obama : Yes, I loved it!
BPUT : Then....if I keep things organised how I will give surprises to everyone! Right from examination schedule to results, everything is a surprise. Students are so happy that they are out on the streets shouting my name!
Barack Obama : Lord save the kids!!
BPUT : Lord wanted to save the kids and hence sent me-BPUT the saviour! Ok bye.
Barack Obama(BO) : Wait, why such abrupt end of our conversation. I was not expecting it.
BPUT : I am just being me-BPUT the Unpredictable!

So when Kanji Bhai met Akshaye Kumar, “Oh My God” happened but when BPUT met Barack, nothing happened.
IN MEMORY OF A MISCHIEF MAKER

N. Shanti, Faculty member, Dept. of English

Writing an obituary for a student is the worst thing that can happen to a teacher. The fateful Tuesday morning (20.11.12) started like any regular day. It being a class-free day for me, I set out with the happy and hungry thoughts of invading the nearest dhaba for lunch. A colleague informed us midway that we’re forbidden to go “there” as “a boy died just now”. Though the message was confusing and triggered a lot of questions, we returned to the college. Post lunch in the college canteen, I tried to get some information on the-boy-who-died. And what we got to know wasn’t good news. A first-year student of the college drowned in a nearby pond across the road. First-year? My only prayer since that moment was “I hope it’s not somebody I know…”

The tension kept mounting as nobody seemed to have a clue about the unfortunate kid. As evening set in, Jagan Bhai came to me with the news. My worst fears were confirmed. It was a student of my class... Pradip Kumar Sahoo - somebody who I knew by his first name, middle name and last name for the past 3 months and 4 days. The moment was beyond shock as my brain went numb. The only thing I was doing with focused attention was to trace Pradip’s FB account. I don’t know what made me do it. After over an hour’s effort, I found him - smiling as mischievously as he always did - on FB. His not-so-private life in the form of photographs, status messages and comments laid bare. Ironical as it may sound, his favorite quote was “Life is too short. So why don’t you love me before we run out of time.” Then there was a comment posted by his friend, “Miss you balli... aise bhi koi chhod ke jaata hain kya”.

Now what can I say about Pradip? He was like any happy-go-lucky teenager - dark, thin, short, smiling, reckless, mischievous and talkative. He was neither brilliant nor studious, but he was smart. Not the kind of student, teachers would take note of. With a high-pitched voice he used to keep yakking in one of the last rows. So he was one of the first students whose names, I made it a point to remember; warned him a couple of times and threatened to throw him out of the class if he “cannot stay quiet”. The last I gently prodded him was a month earlier when I told him that he’ll not be allowed to write the exam as per University rules if his attendance percentage didn’t improve. And improve, it did not. He still bunked classes. But I still loved him as he was. You see, no five fingers are the same.

I wonder if it’s his age, his adventurous spirit or his reckless attitude that predominated and prompted him to take a swim in untested waters on that fateful day. I’m yet to get an answer, and the only person who can answer it right cannot do so - ever again. A moment of thrill cost him his precious life. Such is the fickleness of life.

All I can say now is - be happy, no matter where you are. And may your soul rest in peace.

OBITUARY

NIST grieves the untimely sad demise of its beloved students,
Pradip Kumar Sahoo and Asish Kumar Mishra.
May the departed soul rest in peace.

PRADIP KUMAR SAHOO
(10/07/1993 - 20/11/2012)

ASISH KUMAR MISHRA
(05/05/1994 - 05/01/2013)
THE MODERATE VOICE

Ananya Pujari, B.Tech, Final year

THE EPISODE OF SATYAMEV JAYATE

On 6th May, 2012 the country witnessed a small screen show that took us in the region of the diverse parts of the country, showed us the social tribulations that are prevailing in India (about which we were quite well sentient, credit to the “social studies” lessons during the school days and certainly the diurnal dose of TOI, THE HINDU, THE TELEGRAPH etc.), made us listen to some songs that essentially kindled our inner “social reformer” and also with Aamir Khan being the host of the show and addressing the problems of the “aam-janta” ended us glued to the television sets every Sunday morning thus increasing the TRP rating of the show.

Earnestly, I have only watched (during my vacations) one or may be two episodes of this highly contemplated show because my cousin won’t let me watch anything else unless and until she is done with her Sunday doses of SJ. It’s not for the reason that I am not interested in the show or because I am not affected by the problems existing in the Indian society. We all being a part of this country, are for sure well aware and concerned of the evils of the society. But does watching the Sunday episodes of SJ make us more a part of the country than others? Does Aamir Khan hosting the show and taking the initiative make him a better civilian?

Of course the inventiveness espoused by Khan should definitely be applauded. But, aren’t there many other people who have started such a motion, may be not through a television show but much before Aamir Khan thought of this or even before he was born? Then why SJ has raised so many hackles and why of all the people we expect so much from Khan? He isn’t God. He is just a star telecaster doing his job and he is being salaried a good portly fee for making the nation “arise and awake” against the “social evils”. And yes, he did his job pretty well. After all, many of us did weep and wail our way through Sunday mornings. But wasn’t it the whole idea to make people cringe and get cognizant so that they can’t help but watch the next episode as well?

Many of the issues raised in SJ have been a part of the social order for long and it will take more than just one show to entirely obliterate its roots from our soil. Aamir Khan is not the first man to jangle the contents of this bunged box. Actor and social activist Priya Tendulkar had also done a show “Zimedaar Kaun” that was based on the same lines. Not only she, many other people and agencies have tried and are still trying to eradicate the problems of female foeticide, child marriage, casteism etc from our society. But at the end of the day the show moocher will still be Satyamev Jayate as it has big names and some astounding songs to its credit.

Though the show has come to an end and unfortunately we still have “social issues” to address, yet when it comes to recall the names of those who helped bring a change in the country and the mindsets of its people, Aamir Khan and his Satyamev Jayate will always be on the vanguard. The moderate voice envisages that soon the schools will have social studies lessons on Aamir Khan and his Satyamev Jayate and also we will have portraits of Khan instead of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. And when the fire of Satyamev Jayate burns out and the people will be back to being ignorant about the “social issues”, we will have Satyamev Jayate: Season 2 with another big name to make the citizens of the country squirmy, cringe, suffer, weep and wail through their Sunday mornings.
Sankalp is one of the legendary events on the campus of National Institute of Science and Technology. Even before the students join the engineering or management course, they know about the three days of fun, interaction, learning and other possibilities in the event. This year, it was no different as the national-level Techno Management Symposium organised under the guidance of Indian Society of Technical Education (ISTE) got underway.

Sankalp 2012 had more than 300 students from various colleges across the country and an additional 2000 participating students from the host institution.

Students from National Institute of Technology, Rourkela; Apex Institute of Technology and Management, Bhubaneswar; College of Engineering and Technology, Bhubaneswar; Jagannath Institute of Technology and Management, Parlakhemundi; V.S.S.U.T, Burla; Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar; C.V Raman College of Engineering and Technology, Bhubaneswar; GIET, Gunupur; I.A.C.R. Rayagada, Gitam College of Engineering, Vizag and many other engineering colleges in and around Odisha.

The 10th edition of the gala event had 31 events. There were many new events such as Stelleria (constellation identification), Wizard of Astronomy (documentary quiz), Skylab (Astro Photoshop) by NIST Astronomy Club, I-home (smart home) and Quizotronics (e-quiz) By Electronics Hobby Club, Greenovation by Renewable Energy Club, The Biz (business plan) by Entrepreneurship Development Club, Gra-view-ators (Labview) and Picasso’s Mezzanine (the art gallery) were also introduced.

The convention had eminent speakers in the likes of Prof. Manju Ray, Emeritus Scientist of CSIR; Dr. R. K. Sharma, Prof. and former Head, Department of Mathematics, IIT-Delhi for the opening ceremony. There was a lively discussion at the end of the panel discussion on - “Can we ever build a corruption free India?” that brought in participants from Transparency International, The Hindu, Aam Admi Party, academicians and a serving government officer. There were three workshops to cater to the need of present day engineers in the areas of technology, management and environment.

The fun kept unspooling beginning with Mr and Miss Sankalp to the comic nite hosted by Nitin Gupta (Rivaldo), C.E.O at Entertainment Engineers Private limited culminating in DJ Mazhnr taking the students down a lane of throbblng music and groovy steps. Keeping with the tradition, NIST honoured the former Vice Chancellor of Berhampur University Prof J. K. Baral with an Award of Excellence for his service to the cause of education in South Odisha. Club Eureka had its premiere of its first short film ‘Disha’.