Dear Alumni,

It was the Kargil Vijay Diwas on the 26th July. It was a coincidence that the Pune Chapter held its AGM on this day. It was a fantastic event (details in the inside pages) clearly resulting from good preparations.

Coincidences with historic events do not guarantee good performance. Preparations do. A lesson that that this BOG has imbibed all along.

It is interesting to welcome this month August as it sees the conclusion of Ramzan, the onset of another holy month Shravan and a little bit of Bhaadrapad. In so doing, it brings in its fold several wonderful events having religious and historic significance. So we have the Naag panchami and Pola (respect for our cohabitants), Raksha bandhan (power of brother-sister bonds), Janmashtami, Hartalika (women power), Ganesh Chaturthi, Rishi panchami; interspersed with Tulsidas jayanti and anniversaries of Hiroshima/Nagasaki, Quit India movement, and our dear Independence Day. I could have easily missed some more, such is the richness of this month.

Your BOG did not leave the start of the new academic year at ICT to the happy coincidence of this monumental month. Instead, we used this period to prepare for our future successes. We initiated interactions with the freshers, right on the first day of their entry so that the UAA remains in their minds throughout their lives. Beginning this issue, we also are launching a series of articles on FINANCIAL aspects of running businesses, a step that will prepare our entrepreneur alumni for their further ventures. Our interactions with the faculty and ICT administration continues getting closer. All these are preparations for building a stronger and a more relevant UAA.

We are preparing to make the upcoming AGM a never before event that will showcase our efforts to make your UAA a vibrant body with a robust and transparent governance structure. We want all Life Members to be a part of the AGM, some details of which will be found in the inside pages. But no matter what, do not miss being at the KV Auditorium on Fri, 19th Sep 2014.

Well prepared is half-done. But when you participate, the journey is complete. That is what the Indian Independence struggle has taught us. I am sure we will use these lessons in all spheres of our collective existence.

The rain gods seem to have heeded to our prayers, at least in Mumbai and some other regions. Let us pray to Ganapati bappa to shower his blessings on all of us throughout the year.

On its 67th anniversary, wishing everybody a glorious Independence Day !!!

Dr. Vijay G. Habbu  
President – UAA  
www.udctalumni.org.in
Pune Chapter conducts AGM on July 26; new team takes charge

The UAA Pune Chapter organised its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 26th July, 2014 at IT Park in Pune. The function was attended by over 60 alumni comprising scientists, entrepreneurs, industrialists, consultants, teachers and those working in industry.

The programme opened with the presentation of the Secretary’s Report for the previous year by Dr. Danao, the outgoing Hon. Secretary, followed by a brief review of the Balance Sheet by Mr. N. Walame, Hon. Treasurer.

Challenges ahead

In his address, Dr. R.R. Hirwani, Outgoing President, spoke of the challenges facing alumni associations, in an era where numerous other forum for interactions are available, including via social media. He urged the UAA Pune Chapter to take cognisance of the fact that the demands of alumni in their early career are very different from those much more senior.

Dr. Hirwani also suggested that the UAA team up with other industry bodies and alumni associations, so that there is meaningful activity. In the context of the Pune Chapter, he suggested that they contemplate joint programmes with the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers or the Pune Chapter of the IITs.

Dr. Hirwani thanked his Executive Committee for their support and observed that most of the activities – including seminars and picnics – were organised without drawing down on the modest financial resources available with the Chapter.

New office bearers announced

Subsequently, the results of the Election to the new Executive Committee for a two-year term (2014 to 2016) were read out by Mr. Babu Rao Bussari. The incoming Chairman, Mr. Milind Talathi then addressed the audience, and outlined his plans for the future. He assured members that every effort would be made to implement the suggestions given by the outgoing team.

Felicitation of visiting BOG members

The second part of the programme included felicitations of Dr. Vijay Habbu, President, UAA; Mr. Ravi Raghavan, Vice-President, UAA and Mr. Rajeev Panse, UAA Chapters Coordinator.

Dr. Habbu complimented the Chapter office-bearers for the excellent attendance at the event. However, he pointed to the lack of participation of ladies – both in the Executive Committee and among the members.

Dr. Habbu also outlined some of the initiatives undertaken in the last few months by the Board of Governors (BOG), especially the roll-out of an ambitious mentorship programme in response to a need felt by students. He urged the Pune Chapter to also take up such an initiative.
Mr. Raghavan highlighted some of the ongoing efforts to make the UAA website contemporary, lively and relevant and urged members to sign up and connect with fellow alumni. He also advised members to bring to the notice of the BOG any achievements of alumni so that the same could be communicated through the website and the UAA newsletter.

Mr. Panse urged members of the Pune Chapter to be more actively engaged with the events organised at ICT in Mumbai, considering how easy it is to travel between the two cities.

To round off the proceedings, an “Open House” was conducted wherein members provided their comments.

Felicitation of senior alumni

The occasion was perfect for felicitation of two senior members of the UAA Pune Chapter:

- **Mr. C.S. Gandhi**, an outstanding entrepreneur, chemical engineer & past President of UAA - Pune Chapter. Mr. Gandhi has designed several novel processing equipment and introduced new technologies like supercritical extraction for the first time in the country. He has also established a technical training school, a maternity hospital and senior citizens home.

- **Mr. Sunil Vanarase**, a ‘Distinguished Alumnus’ (Entrepreneur), and founder of the Pune IT Park where the AGM was conducted. His IT Park is a pioneer in the concept, which has spawned more than 300 such ventures in the city of Pune. Mr. Vanarase’s IT Park also includes an incubator which has nurtured many young entrepreneurs.

In a generous gesture, Mr. Vanarase offered his facilities to the UAA Pune Chapter for all future events.

The entire event was ably compered by Mr. Aniruddha Joshi, Executive Committee Member, and ended with a delicious dinner.

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**Invitation**

**President, UAA to unfurl the national flag at this year’s Independence Day celebrations at ICT**

**Dear Alumni,**

It must be some years that you last participated in any flag hoisting ceremony. So, the UAA now provides you with an opportunity to become part of one. You are all invited to join the celebrations on the occasion of our 68th Independence Day, at ICT at 8.30am.

Flag hoisting will be done by Dr. Vijay Habbu, President, UAA.

Please join for tea and snacks thereafter, courtesy the UAA.
Reliving the student years

B.Sc. (Tech) 89ers Reunion Meet on July 18th at ICT

Home is a place where you grow up wanting to leave, and then grow old wanting to come back to – John Pearce

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of their graduation from ICT, the B.Sc. (Tech) 1989 batch celebrated their reunion at ICT premises on 18th July, 2014. It was a coincidence that the day was also celebrated as ‘Foundation Day’ of Mumbai University.

Ninety-nine students from the seven branches were in attendance thanks largely to the efforts over several months of Vijay Rane, Rashmi Zaparde, K.K. Sharma and Amod Basole. It was very heartening to see alumni who came all the way from US, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore at this reunion.

The 89ers celebrated the reunion in two-parts: a full day event in the ICT premises; followed by a gala dinner at VITS Hotel, Andheri. A memorable morning was spent on the campus, visiting the respective departments to witness the many changes that have taken place over the years. Some also visited their hostel to reminisce on the time spent there.

A felicitation program was organized in the afternoon, and was attended, amongst others, by Prof. D.D. Kale, Prof. Dixit, Prof. V.G. Gaikar, Prof. S.S. Lele and Prof. S.S. Bhagwat, besides the faculty of the technology branches. BOG members Mr. Vijay Sane and Dr. Parag Gogate represented the UAA.

Faculty members Prof. V.G. Pangarkar, Prof. S.R. Shukla, Prof. V.V. Mahajani, Prof. S.D. Samant, Prof. S.B. Samant and Prof. Subramanyan, also sent their greetings for the occasion.

In her welcome address, Lipika Nair thanked all the professors and faculty members for their teachings and guidance. A silent prayer paid homage to teachers and four batchmates who are no more.

Mark the date

September 19, 2014 – UAA AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the UAA will be held at the KV Auditorium on the evening of September 19, 2014.

The exact timing of the event will be communicated shortly.

The event, which will transact the formal business of the UAA, will also include a one-hour lecture by Dr. Anand Nadkarni on ‘The Magic of Emotions.’

Do mark the event in your calendar and plan on being at ICT for another networking opportunity!

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. G.D. Yadav could not attend the function as he had to leave for Delhi for an urgent meeting, but conveyed his best wishes and requested them to participate in the UAA reunion day on 20th Dec, 2014.

Dr. Vijay Habbu, President, UAA; Mr.Yashwant Jhaveri, Senior Vice-President, UAA; and Mr. Ravi Raghavan, Vice President, UAA, also conveyed their blessings and best wishes.

Cricketing 90s

Hum rahe ya na rahe kal…. Pal.. Yaad ayenge ye pal…

During our final year (B. Chem. Engg.) in year 2000, our batch won the annual Cricket championship held in UDCT, beating the then T.Y. B.Sc. Tech batch in the finals.

Left to Right: Sitting Front Row: Rajendra Wagh, Vikas Kumbhar, Buhpesh Desale, Pankaj Karande; Sitting Back Row: Amol Gaikwad, Amit Sangekar, Vinit Chaudhari; Standing: Nilesh Lele, Nitin Sangle, Swapnul Deshpande, Amol Hogade, Abhijit Phatak, Ashish Mhadeshwar

Contribution by Mr. Nilesh Lele
Twinning Arrangement between ICT and Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute

24th July 2014, saw the official signing up of a twinning arrangement between ICT and the Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute (ETIDI).

Present on the occasion were His Excellency, Mr. Tadesse Haile, State Minster to Ministry of Industry of Ethiopia; Mr. Seleshi Lemma, Director General of Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute (ETIDI); Mr. Fiker Tesfu, Director for Finishing Technology Directorate; Ato Yitbarek Tilahun, Director for Spinning Technology Directorate, ETIDI; and representatives from the Ethiopian Consulate in India. Also, present were, Vice-Chancellor, ICT, Prof. (Dr.) G.D. Yadav; Prof. (Dr.) S.R. Shukla, Registrar, ICT; Prof. (Dr.) M.D. Teli, Member, Board of Management, ICT; Prof. (Dr.) R.V. Adivarekar, Head, Department of Fibres and Textiles Processing Technology (DFTPT); Dr. (Mrs.) Usha Sayed; Dr. R.D. Kale and Dr. Sujata Pariti, Faculty, DFTPT.

Professional services to be rendered by ICT

The Twinning Arrangement refers to a professional service to be rendered by ICT through the continuous deployment of textile professionals as well as its own faculty, for a period of three years. This will enable ETIDI’s Finishing Technology Directorate to build its’ technical and managerial capability, develop technical and consultancy capabilities, implement proper management systems to, and enhance performance in continuous and sustainable manner.

On the occasion, Prof. Yadav briefed the Ethiopian delegation about the activities of ICT and assured complete co-operation in making this arrangement successful. Mr. Haile expressed complete confidence in the strengths of ICT and wished all the success to ICT and ETIDI in the accomplishment of this twinning arrangement.

We can use your support!

This newsletter goes out to more than 4,250 alumni every month and can use your support.

If you are running a business and see merit in reaching out to our alumni, please use this newsletter as a forum for selling your products & services; hiring fresh and not so fresh alumni; posting technical problems & seeking solutions from the best chemical engineers & technologists; or simply communicating your corporate message to your peers from ICT.

Our ad rates are modest (see below).

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We can also run customised email campaigns for you. Charge per campaign will be just Rs. 5,000.
Prof. Smita Lele appointed as Acting Registrar

Prof. Smita S. Lele has been appointed as the Acting Registrar of ICT, with effect from July 29th, 2014, with Prof. S.R. Shukla having completed his tenure of five years as Registrar of the Institute.

“The ICT Board of Management and the Vice-Chancellor, in particular, are grateful to Prof. Shukla for his dedicated and selfless service at the crucial phase of growth of the Institute. He will now be with his original Department as Professor of Technology of Dyeing and Printing,” Prof. G.D. Yadav, Vice-Chancellor, ICT said.

Prof. Lele brings rich experience as an academic, researcher, consultant and administrator. She is an accomplished Food Technologist and Chemical Engineer having produced more than 20 Ph.D.s and over 80 papers, patents and technologies. She has also served as Head, Department of Food Engineering and Technology, and Controller of Examinations.

M.Sc. (Chemistry) course at ICT gets RSC (UK) accreditation

The post-B.Sc., four-semester M.Sc. (Chemistry) degree programme of the Department of Chemistry of ICT, – instituted by the ICT only four years back – has been accredited by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), UK.

This is the second Master’s programme accredited by RSC in India; the first being of IISER, Pune.

The RSC gives recognition to some degree programmes internationally, based on the quality of the programmes, and is particularly important in the background that no parallel accreditation system exists in our country.

The accreditation is granted after a thorough evaluation by the RSC. Key requirements are sound admission process; depth of knowledge of the students, particularly ability to solve problems and practical skills developed; research training through substantial project, outcome of which should be publishable; appropriate and rigorous assessment of students; and quality assurance mechanism.

The recognition is expected to lead to an enhancement of standards of chemistry education. This is important in the background of declining interest of students in pure science. It proclaims the quality of the programme and, in turn, would attract quality students. This may also help students participate in exchange programmes and enable better interaction with industry partners.

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Entrepreneur’s Corner

This new column highlights what it takes to nurture a business and take it from a fledgling idea to a commercial reality

Business Incubators

Business incubation offers SMEs and start-ups everything from business basics, networking activities, marketing assistance, access to bank loans & guarantee programmes, to comprehensive business training programmes, accounting/financial management and intellectual property management. They provide access to hands-on intensive business support and links to higher education resources, strategic partners & angel investors.

Representative Business Incubators

**Mumbai**
- Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship(SINE), IIT Bombay: http://www.sineiitb.org/
- Unltd India: http://www.unltdindia.org/
- Venture Nursery: http://venturenursery.com/
- Seedfarm, Seed fund: http://www.seedfund.in/
- SP Jain Institute of Management Research Center: http://www.spjimr.org/discover_spjimr/centers/ced-about.asp

**Bangalore**
- Microsoft Accelerator: https://www.microsoftventures.com/Accelerators/Bangalore.aspx
- Khosla Labs: http://khoslalabs.com/
- NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore: http://www.nsrcel.org/mentoring-incubation/incubation-facilities/
- Angel Prime: http://www.angelprime.com/home/
- Kyron: http://kyron.me/home.php
- GSF: http://www.gsfindia.com/
- IIIT-Bangalore Innovation Centre: http://www.iiitb.ac.in/incubation/incubation.html
- E health-TBI, PES School of Engg. Tech Park: http://www.ehealthtbi.com/
- Global Incubation Services, JSS Institutions Campus: http://www.ginserv.in/

**Chennai**
- Startup Center: http://www.thestartupcentre.com/

**Delhi**
- TBIU, IIT Delhi: www.fitt-iitd.org/tbiu.aspx
- The Hatch: https://angel.co/hatch-incubator
- Tlabs: www.tlabs.in
- GSF: www.gsfindia.com
- 5ideas: http://www.5ideas.in
- Indian Angel Network Incubator: www.indianangelnetwork.com/incubator
- Information Technology Business Incubator(ITBI ), JSSATE-STEP: http://jssstepnoida.org/
- Amity Technology Incubator: http://amity.edu/aii/index.html
- SEED-MDI: http://www mdi.ac.in/
- Technology based Incubator Society (TBIS), University of Delhi, South Campus: http://www.udscctbi.org/
- Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, Shriram Scientific and Industrial Research: http://www.shriraminstitute.org/technology-business-incubator.html

**Across India**
- SIDBI Innovation & Incubation Centre, IIT Kanpur: http://www.iiitk.ac.in/siic/
- Venture Center at NCL, Pune: http://www.venturecenter.co.in/
- Technology Incubation and Entrepreneurship Society (TIETS), IIT Kharagpur: http://www.step-iit.org/
- TBI, BITS Pilani: http://discovery.bits-pilani.ac.in/
- TREC STEP, NIT Trichy: http://www.trecstep.com/
- Technology Business Incubator, VIT: http://www.vittbi.com/
- 500 Startups: http://500.co/about/
- Wadhwani Center for Entrepreneurship Development – ISB, Hyderabad: http://www.isb.edu/wadhwani-centre-for-entrepreneurship-development
- Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE), IIM Ahmedabad: http://www.ciiieindia.org/

[Direct your questions on Entrepreneurship to uasecretariat@yahoo.in. Our experts will endeavour to answer]
Honours & Recognition

Prof. M.M. Sharma recognised as Distinguished Academician’ by IIT-Patna

IIT-Patna has decided to confer the ‘Distinguished Academician Award – 2014’ on our eminent former Director, Prof. M.M. Sharma. He will receive the award at the convocation ceremony, the dates of which are to be announced shortly.

IIT-Patna is one of the new IITs established by an Act of Parliament. It was set up on August 6, 2008 in a campus near Govt. Polytechnic, Patliputra Colony, Patna.

During the first and second Convocations, the institute conferred the ‘Distinguished Academician Awards’ to Prof. K.L. Chopra, Dr. Anil Kakodkar and Prof. C.N.R. Rao; and on Dr. K. Kasturirangan and Dr. Ratan K. Sinha respectively. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India and Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India graced the occasions as the Chief Guest.

Prof. (Mrs.) Vandana Patravale Keynote Speaker at ‘NanoBio Australia 2014’

Prof. (Mrs.) Vandana Patravale, Professor of Pharmaceuticals, Department of Pharmaceuticals Science and Technology, was invited as a Keynote Speaker at the Vaccine Session of ‘NanoBio Australia 2014’ conference organized by The University of Queensland in Brisbane (Australia) from 6th to 10th July, 2014.

She delivered a lecture entitled, “Nanostructured Lipid Carriers: Potential as a Vaccine Adjuvant” at the conference.

“This was indeed a great platform to nurture and build strong Indo-Australian collaborations in near future as it was supported by Australia India Business Council (AIBC). The occasion also gave the opportunity to meet the Vice-Chancellor and Deans, along with business tycoons, in a special dinner party hosted by AIBC and they were very keen to work with our Institute,” Dr. Patravale observed.

Interested in helping us?
Here are some ways you can

While financial support to UAA and ICT is always welcome, there are many other ways in which alumni can help.

Dr. M.G. Palekar, BOG member, suggests a few possibilities:

1. Mentoring the students in
   - Studies, applications/admissions to overseas universities/MBA programs
   - Extra-curricular activities (photography, painting, trekking, debates, music)
   - Soft-skills (CV writing, facing interview, technical writing)
   - Life (decorum, career planning, business related skills/soft skills)

2. Help to faculty
   - To attend conferences (financial/logistics),
   - To connect with industry to understand industry requirements/expectations
   - In private funding that could be available for developing new technology/processes
   - In soft-skills

3. Help to alumni in
   - Jobs/Career
   - Business start-ups
   - Shared interested group
   - Signing up as volunteer for UAA activities
Prof. Shekhar Garde, Dean of Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

The New York Times carried a feature on our alumnus, Prof. Shekhar Garde, B.Chem. Engg. 1992 who was recently appointed as Dean of the School of Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, effective 1st July 2014.

Excerpts from the report in the prestigious newspaper:

Shekhar Garde is an Indian-born chemical engineer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He studies the role of water in the creation of life and is a pioneer in animating molecular dynamics, producing a 3-D Imax film called “Molecules to the Max.”

READING: Currently, I am rereading “Perfectly Reasonable Deviations From the Beaten Track,” a chronological collection of the letters by one of my favorite scientists, Richard Feynman. The letters are from when he was young to when he was a Nobel Prize winner and so on. He responds to famous scientists of the time but then also to cranks writing to him about why they don’t regain the energy expended going upstairs when they go back downstairs. They open a unique window into the amazingly curious, refreshing, articulate, funny and intelligent character that Feynman was.

I recently finished reading “Sceptical Essays,” by Bertrand Russell. Russell’s logic is crystal clear and many of the topics he discusses, from education of children to the role of authority, seem to me to be highly relevant in the modern times.

LISTENING: “This American Life” podcasts. My favorite episodes are “Invention of Money,” “Fiasco” and the little piece by Spalding Gray on taking ski lessons in his 60s.

Also, Indian classical music is frequently on in our home. I play an Indian classical bamboo flute. And my wife and one of my daughters take vocal lessons over Skype from my high school classmate back in India, so I get to hear the ragas they are learning. This prompts me to play the same ragas by my favorite singers, Bhimsen Joshi or Kaushiki Chakrabarty. Ragas use only certain notes and develop into beautiful compositions starting slow and then taking speed.

WATCHING: I am perfectly happy to lose myself watching whatever my two daughters are watching on the computer. I loved “A Cat in Paris.” It’s a French cartoon with no dialogue. It’s beautiful and very different animation than Disney, like the colors and lights coming through the windows. It’s like a piece of art.

And I recently watched Season 1 of Anthony Bourdain’s “Parts Unknown.” He’s not afraid of anything. When I go to India, I drink boiled water. But he tries everything, everywhere he goes, and tries to understand the culture and the people and the politics. It gives me the vicarious pleasure of having gone there.

FOLLOWING: Having grown up in India, I can’t escape the urge to follow cricket. The website I visit every day is espncricinfo.com. The articles by the likes of Ed Smith or Ramachandra Guha on this site have given me immense pleasure.

A scientific blog that I follow with interest is called “Water in Biology” by Philip Ball, a London-based writer. Phil’s blog entries invariably point me to some interesting recent papers I may have missed.

PAINTING: I recently bought a Buddha Board. It’s a gray-colored board, on which you paint with just water using a brush. The painting evaporates gradually, creating different shades, and leaving you with a fresh board after a few minutes. Whatever the deeper significance about fickleness of life, it is fun to play with it.

Have you submitted your latest contact details?
If not, do send us an email @ uaasecretariat@yahoo.in
Alumni in the news

ICTian turned ACTOR

ICTians are versatile performers. And we have a professional actor too: Mr Sukant Goel, B. Chem. Engg. (2008).

Many young alumni may know him as the overall co-ordinator for ICT's Cultural Festival *Manzar*, in 2007. But he is largely known as a versatile actor, and a trained *tabla* player.

After working for a few years as a chemical engineer, he started his theatrical journey with a workshop with Satyadev Dubey in 2009. Since then, Sukant has featured in many plays: *Jaal*, *Ravanleela*, *Peter Pan*, *Kumbh Katha*, *Chaar Small*, *Zinga Zinga Roses*. In Rahul Da Cunha’s *The Bureaucrat* he played eight different characters: a peon, sardar, college student, MTV CEO, cameraman, farmer, bodyguard, and Russian diplomat! He also featured in a staged reading of *Butterflies of Bricks*, written by Ayesha Nair and directed by Rajit Kapur.

You may have seen him in the *Kaun Banega Crorepati* 2014 launch promo, where he sits on the hot seat, spreading the message of love and togetherness.

Student Activities

UAA welcomes fresh batch of students

The UAA welcomed new entrants to its fold at an orientation function organised by ICT on 1st August 2014 and attended by the new batch of students (and some parents).

Mr. Ravi Raghavan, Vice-President, UAA addressed the students and pointed out that each one of them was a Student Member of UAA, and on graduation will have an opportunity to become a full-fledged Life Member.

He highlighted the role of the association in supporting ICT and its stakeholders, and referred, in particular, to efforts of the UAA to engage and support students through mentoring, summer internships, loans & scholarships, and assistance to student activities.

He also referred to the long tradition of ICT alumni supporting the parent institute and hoped that when the students graduated into the larger world they would remember the role of ICT in shaping their lives and contribute to its cause.

Seize the opportunity

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor of ICT, Prof. G.D. Yadav, urged students to seize the excellent opportunity for professional and personal development that ICT offers and make the most of their four years at the institute. He urged them to be sincere in their efforts and assured them that the doors of faculty and his team would always be open to them for advise and assitance.

Obituary

It is with a heavy heart that we report the demise of two senior Alumni of the Vapi Chapter this year:

- Dr. S.A. Faterpekar, Ph.D (Tech) in PPV (1978), expired in the last week of May 2014.

We express our condolences to their families and pray for their soul to rest in peace.

Know an achiever?

- Have any of your colleagues won an award?
- Published a Paper?
- Wrote a book?
- Completed their Ph.D?

Do let us know!
Technological Association seeks alumni assistance for major festivals

Every year ICT hosts three major festivals, one each in Technical, Cultural and Sports. The Technological Association has sought support of the alumni for taking these three events to greater heights through their support and encouragement. Here is an appeal from them.

Vortex

Vortex, the Chemfest, is a four-day festival (10th to 13th October) that brings together the best and brightest throughout the country to apply their minds in various events from the field of Chemical Engineering, Pharmaceutics, Biotechnology, Management and Finance.

Continuing ICT’s tradition of being at the forefront of solutions to issues plaguing our society, Vortex 2014 will bring together two of the burning topics of the day: Sustainability and Innovation. Keeping in mind these two seemingly conflicting ideas, the theme will be “Frugal Innovention.”

Highlights of the festival:

1. The Industry Defined Problem (IDP) is a premium event wherein industries directly place problems faced by them to students in the hope of finding innovative solutions. It is a great example of Industry-Academia collaboration. We would like to continue the tradition by asking alumni to contact us with IDPs.

2. In the Master Class Lecture Series (MCLS) experts from industry and academia are invited to speak on topics of their expertise. Past speakers have included such distinguished names as Dr. Kiran Bedi, Padma Vibhushan Prof. M.M. Sharma, Padma Bhushan Prof. J.B. Joshi and many more. We would like to our alumni to suggest speakers, sponsor mementos or travel allowances for speakers etc.

3. Vortex believes in giving back to society and for this we have our social initiative, Yatn. With collaborations such as with UN, GreenPeace and GreenYatra, Yatn has carved its niche as a successful event for spreading awareness about various issues plaguing society. We invite alumni to give suggestions for this year’s event.

Manzar

Manzar, which originated in 2007, is the annual Cultural Festival of ICT, and one of the fastest growing cultural festivals in the country. It is a magnificent stage for youth to put up an exhibition of their talents. Spread over four nights and three days, the event features music, drama, literary arts, dance, fashion show etc.

Manzar also has it’s own social initiative, Awaaz, which spreads awareness about social issues and encourages students to be sensitive to these issues. This social aspect makes Manzar unique. Also featured is the “Great Bhet” featuring interactions with prominent individuals from the performing arts. This inspires students to be more creative and to be fearless while chasing their dreams.

Manzar showcases two professional performances: The Popular Night features a popular artist to whose tune a 5000 strong audience groove – a memorable experience indeed; and the Closing Night, wherein an artist enables an 800-strong audience of parents, professors and alumni experience and relive evergreen melodies from the 70s and 80s.

Manzar is a platform for ICTians to showcase their talents and cultural prowess on a national stage. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to hone management skills in organising an event of such magnitude.

To increase the reach of our festival we ask our alumni to connect us with individuals or organizations that work for a social cause; artists for cultural performances and concerts.

Sportsaga

Since it’s inception in 2005, Sportsaga has grown out to be one of the biggest festivals in Maharashtra. The inaugural event witnessed participation from 30 colleges from all corners of Mumbai and was a huge success. Since then, Sportsaga has undergone steady change, with new events added every year. By 2008, it became a 10-day festival, popular among students from all over Maharashtra. In 2011, the official website was launched and the event became national with participation of colleges from Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Delhi
and Hyderabad. The same year, a new feather was added with the involvement of faculty and alumni.

Sportsaga, in affiliation with NGOs, now includes a Marathon for a social cause – cancer care, keeping Mumbai green and child empowerment, being some examples.

Through the event students have imbibed qualities like leadership, sportsmanship, teamspirit – all very significant aspect in life.

Alumni can help connect students with sports dignitaries who could come to ICT and share their inspirational stories. Sponsorships (for jerseys, t-shirts etc.) are welcome, as also support for infrastructure (like floodlights for the grounds).

ICT alumnus Vinit Singh part of team that discovers nonwoven cotton for mopping up oil spills

Texas Tech University researchers recently discovered that low-grade cotton made into an absorbent nonwoven mat can collect up to 50 times its own weight in oil.

The results strengthen the use of cotton as a natural sorbent for oil, said Seshadri Ramkumar, professor in the Department of Environmental Toxicology at Texas Tech who led the research. The results were published in the American Chemical Society’s journal, *Industry & Engineering Chemistry Research*.

Ramkumar is a creator of *Fibertect*, a nonwoven decontamination wipe developed by researchers at Texas Tech capable of cleaning chemical and biological agents. Mr. Vinitkumar Singh, a doctoral student (with B.Tech, Textiles, 2009 from ICT) working under Ramkumar, performed the experiments in this study. This multidisciplinary project involved scientists from Cotton Incorporated and Texas Tech’s Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Environmental Toxicology.

In the four-year project, scientists tried to create a fundamental understanding of the effect of fibre structure and basic characteristics of cotton on oil sorption capacity of unprocessed raw cotton. The work also examined the basic mechanisms behind oil sorption by nonwoven cotton webs.

Ramkumar and his researchers are working with Texas Tech’s Office of Technology Commercialization to take this new technology into commercial space within a span of 12 months.

Young achievers

Preshita Desai in top-six @ Merck Serono Innovation Cup

Ms. Preshita P. Desai, DST INSPIRE Fellow from Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technology, participated in the ‘Merck Serono Innovation Cup 2014’ held from July 13-18, 2014 in Darmstadt, Germany.

Her proposal entitled, “Nano-AcTarg: Actively Targeted Nano Delivery System for Alleviation of Neurological Ailments” was selected amongst the final six entries.

Merck Millipore – a division of Merck – has taken the idea for further development and integration into their R&D programme. They are looking forward to work with Preshita.
Publications


If you or any of your ICT colleagues has some accomplishments, including Ph.D. awarded or a paper published in any journal, please keep us posted. We take pride in your achievements!

Membership status as on 30-7-2014

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<td>Wellwishers</td>
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<td>Ordinary</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Alumni inducted as Life Members in July 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. S.S. Chinchwade</td>
<td>B.Sc. (Tech.) (Textiles), M.Sc. (Tech.) (Textiles)</td>
<td>1980, 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. N.N. Desai</td>
<td>B.Sc. (Tech.) (Pharmaceuticals)</td>
<td>1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. H.O. Yadav</td>
<td>Ph.D. (Physics)</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. R.R. Rathi</td>
<td>B.Tech. (Dyes)</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. D.S. Bolangade</td>
<td>B.Chem. Engg.</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. M.D. Bisen</td>
<td>B.Tech. (Dyes)</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. R.P. Karkare</td>
<td>M.Tech. (Bioprocess Technology)</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Prakriti Shah</td>
<td>M.Tech. (Foods)</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. S.P. Rupini</td>
<td>M.Tech. (Foods)</td>
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