

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR SEPT '09

GREETINGS FROM THE IITMAA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow alumni,

Our office now has a new full time manager in Suresh Mangaladurai. He will also help you in taking care of your travel arrangements and stay in Chennai Taramani guest house, courtesy of 1980 batch donation to set up a desk for this in our office. Please write to him at alumni@iitm.ac.in. I also request you to register at www.iitmaa.org to make it easier for you to use the association's services. If you are in Bangalore, Hyderabad or Mumbai, please take the opportunity to join them for their Chapter Meetings next month. The Bay Area Chapter has, as usual, planned its Diwali Dhamaka. I will be traveling to USA for attending the Pan-IIT conference and would love to see that IITM alumni represent the largest contingent there. Even now it is not too late to register. I will also try to meet you singly on organised chapter group in the following cities on my itinerary: Columbus (Ohio), Chicago, Dallas, Houston, San Francisco, Seattle and New York.

In addition to our mentoring session and Alumni Day activities (below), we are also actively pursuing reunions every 5 years with all the corresponding batches. It is for the alumni of these batches to grasp this platform and benefit. We are looking for a champion to take the case of rural development. If anyone living in and around Chennai and is passionate to devote time and energy, several alumni may join you and support the effort with alumni association giving the institutional support.

Finally, I hope all of you will join and exchange relevant information to the community using the newsletter, which has now become a regular feature of the IITMAA.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

The Alumni Association has signed an agreement with M/s Chronus the vendor for the mentoring

software for students and alumni. For a detailed note on this, please check the website.



IIT ALUMNI CLUB

The first ever IIT Alumni Club is now a registered Society at Chennai. Membership has crossed 175 and growing as the message spreads. The Alumni Association has handed over a sum of Rs 54 lakhs, collected from various alumni, to the IIT Club.



The IIT Alumni Club promises to offer informal and relaxed avenues for interaction between alumni of various IITs and the IITM Faculty, for family get-togethers and a place for constructive chat-talk-brainstorm sessions.

The inaugural concessional offer and the offer for registering as Founder Members are valid only till 30th Sep, 2009. Interested alumni are urged to take advantage of the inaugural offer and register by the end of the month.

More details are available at <http://iitalumniclub.org>.

MADRAS WEEK CELEBRATIONS

The Chennai Week Celebrations were organized by the Chennai Chapter of the IITMAA on 20th and 21st August 2009 in the CLT. On the first day, a Chennai Open Doubles Quiz was conducted and it attracted over sixty teams of two members each. A preliminary round of 12 questions was held and the top six teams were selected into the final round. The participants came from different places in Chennai and they included school and college students, working professionals, businesspersons, homemakers and retired persons. The Main Quiz featured six

rounds of six questions each, and included a visual round. All the questions teased the finalists and the audience into attempting "intelligent guesses" for answers. A photo report on the Quiz was featured in the *The Hindu* on the following day. The reporter wrote that the Quiz was very unique, extremely well organized, lively and most enjoyable. Further details, including a list of questions, may be obtained from Prof L S Ganesh (lsg@iitm.ac.in).

On the second day, Chennai's first Open Soap Box was held and everyone was invited to share Chennai-centric anecdotes with the audience. Though the event attracted only a few participants, the fare was top quality and the participants thoroughly enjoyed the anecdotes.

The Chennai Week Celebrations were motivated by Mr. D. Chandrasekar, Secretary, IIT Madras Alumni Trust and organized by Professor L. S. Ganesh and Mrs. Alamelu, respectively President and Treasurer, Chennai Chapter.

PAN-IIT GET TOGETHER AT HYDERABAD

PanIIT movement in Hyderabad took another stride forward yesterday. The young something <25 took over and organised a grand meeting of IITians yesterday evening. Enthusiasm, energy, capabilities were all on display on the show attended by many CEOs, NGO, senior executives, youngsters, the president of TiE and even a local MLA!! It was difficult to move around without bumping into somebody who wanted to be an entrepreneur. Equally difficult was to avoid a senior executive. The effect of moving small amounts of air, by extending the vocal chord was on full display when Dr. Jai Praksah Narayan demolished the moves of both the former education ministers, M/s Arjun Singh and Murali Manohar Joshi. He also certified as a doctor, that mosquitoes are most democratic and they bite PanIITians as well as the urchin in the slum - so the urgent need for PanIITians to take care of the environs. - Ramanan

Read full review at <http://www.hindu.com/2009/09/21/stories/2009092158200200.htm>

ALUMNI DAY PREPARATIONS

Preparations for Alumni day, to be held on 26th December 2009, are in full swing. A number of interesting events are lined up for the day, including fora on mentorship, entrepreneurship and the Golden Jubilee Alumni Fund. Mark the dates on your

calendar!

IITM HISTORY PROJECT

The IIT Madras History Project, which culminates in the December release of the Golden Jubilee History book, is picking up steam thanks to steady alumni contributions. Drafts of the book may be viewed at iitmbook.pbworks.com. Special thanks are due to the following:

1. Hirudhayanath Purushottaman, for sharing his photographs of the 1973 Staff Strike (including the one shown below of students cooking in the Mess)
2. Keshav Gopinath for a cache of photographs including the first (1974) Mardi Gras brochure
3. Ashok Krishna (Kich) for sending many old Campastimes issues to us from the US...and many others who have assisted so far.

Please contribute with your photographs and memorabilia to make the project a grand success. For more information, please contact Ajit Narayanan ('Q') at iit.ajitq@gmail.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Office of Alumni Affairs, IIT Madras, is proud to announce that one of our 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Awardees, Dr. L Mahadevan (Professor of Applied Mathematics, Harvard University; lm@seas.harvard.edu), has just been named a MacArthur Fellow for 2009. The Alumni Association extends its warmest congratulations to him. More information may be found at: http://www.macfound.org/site/c.1kLXJ8MQKrH/b.5410503/k.11CB/Meet_the_2009_Fellows.htm
2. Mr P Anandan (1977 batch) was featured recently in an interview for the programme Boss' Day out - in NDTV Profit channel. The interview may be viewed online at: http://www.ndtv.com/news/videos/video_player.php?id=1155924

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the demise of Prof Achar, of the Metallurgy Department. Many will have fond memories of Prof Achar's welding metallurgy classes. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad occasion.

