



## Indian Institutes of Technology Society in New England

# SINE WAVES

*IIT SINE News No. 6, October 1999*

### **IIT SINE Executive Committee**

**President:** Dr. Subhash Varshney,  
'72 Kanpur 781-229-2767

**Executive Vice President:**  
Mr. Vinay K. Aggarwal,  
'68 Delhi 508-755-4475

**Vice Presidents:**  
Mr. Varun Nagaraj  
'86 Bombay 781-647-2800

Dr. Krishna Srikrishna,  
'89 Delhi 603-891-3585

Mr. Sudhir Mody,  
'88 Kanpur 781-937-9616

Mr. Vinod K. Misra,  
'65 Kharagpur 781-729-4135

Mr. Kandy Rathinasamy,  
'93 Madras 781-246-3917

**Secretary:** Dr. Dwarika Agarwal,  
'65 Bombay 508-226-2566

**Treasurer:** Dr. Prem S. Sinha,  
'75 Delhi 603-891-0179

**Past President:**  
Mr. Narender K. Chhabra,  
'70 Delhi 781-275-2125

**Advisors:**  
Mr. Puran Dang,  
'59 Kharagpur 781-861-7493  
Dr. Chandra Khattak,  
'65 Bombay 978-777-3769

#### **Editor**

Narender K. Chhabra '70 Delhi

#### **Publisher**

Prem Sinha '75 Delhi

**Web Master** – [www.IITSINE.org](http://www.IITSINE.org)

Krishna Srikrishna, '89 Delhi

The opinions presented by our writers are solely their views and do not necessarily represent those of the Indian Institutes of Technology Society in New England, the publisher of this newsletter. IIT SINE, 8 Stonehill Circle, Burlington, MA 01803.

Dear Fellow IITians:

Greetings!

Hope all of you had a wonderful summer, the last one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and are presently enjoying the foliage of New England. It has been that long since our last newsletter and we have a lot to report. The summer months bring graduation days for students across the world. IIT SINE takes this opportunity to send congratulations to all students amongst us who graduated this year. Graduations of friends and relatives also bring memories of our own graduations from our IITs. Let us jointly strive to make IIT SINE a forum where we can all network, grow, have fun and keep the IIT spirit alive. Summer is also the time when many of us travel to India and several IIT directors and professors visit USA. It is a good time to renew acquaintances with our alma maters. Several IIT directors and professors have repeatedly expressed a desire for all IIT alumni/ae to visit their alma maters whenever they visit India. If you visit an IIT or know of IITians visiting Boston, do not hesitate to send us the particulars that we can publish in this newsletter. As always this issue of SINE WAVES is brought to you by the joint efforts of the IIT SINE Executive Committee. We are always on the look out for items of interest to include in this newsletter. Please contribute so we can all share our experiences. For this issue of SINE WAVES we are very thankful to our sponsor Sanjay Tikku. The IIT SINE Executive Committee has planned the annual general body meeting and Bi-annual elections for November 6, 1999. We look forward to meeting you there. Thank you for your continued support.

SINEing out,  
Narender K. Chhabra, Editor

**This newsletter has been sponsored by:**  
**Database Consulting - Oracle Specialists**  
**The DBA Inc. (800) 584-4148**  
[info@thedba.com](mailto:info@thedba.com) <http://www.thedba.com>

**Message From the Executive Committee**

Dear IIT SINE member:

Happy Diwali!

As you know we are the third Executive Committee elected by you for a two-year term ending in November 1999. We have completed most of our term and would like to take this opportunity to present to you our progress report. Please review it and give us your feedback and comments.

First of all, please note that there is another change in the make up of the Executive Committee:

- **VICE PRESIDENT – IIT Madras:** Padma Lakshman moved out of this area and was thus unable to function in her role. Consequently the Executive Committee appointed Kandy Rathinasamy as her replacement for the VP position. Please join us in congratulating Kandy Rathinasamy.

Now let us give you a brief summary of our accomplishments. The Executive Committee meets generally once a month to formulate and govern the affairs of IIT SINE. At the beginning of our term, we defined some general goals for the Executive Committee. In order to implement those goals, a number of special committees were formed. The basic idea was that each committee was to be chaired by one member of the Executive Committee and staffed by other members on a task basis. The chairs for some of our current Committees are as follows:

- **Newsletter Committee:** Narender Chhabra
- **Program Committee:** Puran Dang
- **Membership Committee:** Dwarika Agarwal
- **Webmaster:** Krishna Srikrishna

The diligent efforts of these Committees have resulted into following achievements:

- **1998 Spring Function** was held on April 10, 1998 at Marriott Hotel in Burlington. “Garage to Wallstreet” keynote speech was given by Ashok Trivedi of Mastech Corp. About 100 people attended the function.
- **1998 Annual Picnic** was held on Sept. 13, 1998 at Cochituate State Park in Natick/Wayland. About 50 people joined in the fun.
- **The Annual Meeting along with New Year Party** was held on January 9, 1999 at Bangalore Club in Winchester. About 60 people attended the celebration.
- **IIT Kanpur Alumni Reunion** was held on March 20, 1999.
- **1999 Spring Function** was held on May 7, 1999 at Wyndham Hotel in Burlington. Jeff Bennett from Lycos presented the keynote speech on “Boundless Frontiers of E-Commerce”. About 100 people attended this function.

- **Dinner Reception for IIT Kharagpur Director,**

Dr. Amitabha Ghosh, was held on July 4, 1999. He was accompanied by Dr. Bhaskaran (Chairman of Technology Foundation) and Dr. G.S. Sanyal (Former Director of IIT Kharagpur).

- **1999 Annual Picnic** was held on July 18, 1999 at Cochituate State Park in Natick/Wayland. About 60 people joined in the fun.
- **Reception for IIT Kanpur Director,** Dr. K.A. Padmanabhan was held on August 15, 1999. Other visiting Dignitaries were Mr. Narayana Murthy (Chairman & CEO of Infosys, India), Mr. Hari Bhartia (Chairman of Board of Governors of IIT Kanpur) and Mr Ashok Kamal (President of IIT Kanpur Alumni Association).
- **Web Site:** IIT SINE was placed on the World Wide Web at [www.iitsine.org](http://www.iitsine.org) in December 1998. We are actively using this web site for program announcements and reservations.
- **Newsletter:** We have continued the publication of our newsletter “SINE WAVES”.
- **Tax Exempt Status:** We have started the process to get Tax Exempt status for IITSINE. We expect this process to take another six months.
- **Email Usage:** We are using emails for faster communication. We would like to use email even more effectively, but at present we have email addresses for only about 60% of the members. We urge you to provide us your email address so that IIT SINE not only can contact you quickly but can also realize some savings.
- **Membership Database:** Currently there are about 220 members. We added about 85 new members but at same time lost about 35 members due to lack of forwarding addresses. Please notify us if you move or if your email address changes.
- **Member Dues:** The total number of members whose dues are current is 80. There are 42 Life members (28 new for this term) and 21 Regular members.
- **Finances:** We started the year with approximately \$1955 and the current balance is greater than \$3000. For further details, please refer to the Treasurer’s Report that will be presented at the Annual Meeting on November 6, 1999.

Finally, we thank you all for your continued support and invite you to join us on **November 6, 1999** at Bangalore Club in Winchester for the **IIT SINE General Body Meeting and Elections for the next Executive Committee**. We need you to actively participate in the activities of your organization and urge you to consider taking a position in the next Executive Committee. We need your help in making your organization succeed!

---

Subhash Varshney, President IIT SINE

## What is IIT SINE

IIT SINE is the Indian Institutes of Technology Society in New England.

IIT SINE is an autonomous, independent, non-profit New England based alumni/ae organization. It consists of members who have been affiliated with any of the IITs. It also consists of colleagues, friends and families of the members.

IIT SINE was founded in the fall of 1993. An Executive Committee elected for a two-year term by IIT SINE members governs its activities.

The objectives of IIT SINE are:

- To promote the professional, intellectual, social, cultural and economic growth of its members.
- To renew and nurture ties with fellow IITians.
- To provide opportunities for interaction amongst members by organizing activities such as dinners with keynote speaker, seminars, discussion groups and dialogues with visiting IITians.
  - To create consciousness among members about the importance of involvement in civic and current affairs and to generate visibility and contacts in those areas for the good of IIT SINE community.

## Local IIT SINE Happenings IIT-SINE Spring Event

**By: Subahsh Varshney**

IIT SINE held its spring 1999 event on Friday, May 7, 1999 at the Wyndham Hotel, Burlington.

Internet Industry leader, Jeffrey S. Bennett, Vice President, Lycos Corp, gave the keynote address Boundless Frontiers of E-Commerce.

Jeffrey S. Bennett serves as Vice President of Electronic Commerce for the Lycos Network and is responsible for overseeing and building the company's electronic commerce strategy and business. Mr. Bennett has been involved in spearheading many of Lycos' strategic electronic commerce alliances, including Barnes & Noble, CDnow, AutoConnect, Fleet Bank, and many others. Mr. Bennett has emerged as an industry leader in the area of Electronic Commerce and has keynoted and participated on panels at many conferences such as Internet Commerce Expo, E-Commerce Leadership Summit, Center for



Converging Technologies, Harvard Business School Cyberposium, and several others.

An Indian dinner followed the program. It turned out to be a grand evening. Thanks go to the Executive Committee of IIT SINE and especially to their spouses who pitched in to make the program a very delightful event.

## News from the Boardroom

**By: Dwarika Agarwal**

As mentioned in an earlier issue of Sine Waves, your Executive Committee meets religiously on every third Sunday of the month. Our focus has been to improve interaction and communication among IITians in the New England area. In general, speaker events are very popular with our membership but getting a good speaker is not an easy task. It was Puran Dang's perseverance that finally paid off and we were able to bring an industry leader to give a keynote address on e-commerce. To improve communications, I have been sending E-Newsletters. These have been helpful in sending you information in a more timely fashion. We used e-mail system to send information about the visits by Director of IIT Kharagpur and two other professors to the Boston area. The e-mail communication was extremely useful in organizing the IIT Kanpur Alumni Get-Together and the IIT Bombay Heritage Fund Kickoff events. A summary of these events is provided elsewhere in this Newsletter. E-mail communication is very efficient but its effectiveness depends on us having the right information. We have made it easy for you to provide this information through our website. The website also provides e-mail addresses of the Executive Committee members. Please use it to provide us with your input and remain involved.

## 1999 Annual Picnic

By: Vinay Aggarwal

The 1999 IIT SINE picnic was held on Sunday July, 18 at the Cochituate State Park in Wayland, Massachusetts. Unlike last year the weather was nearly perfect. As a result the park got full by noon time and some of the members who came afterwards were disappointed with the "Park Full" sign at the front. Fortunately, about 65 people were able to attend in spite of this restriction. The annual picnic at this park is becoming an IIT SINE tradition because of its location that is convenient to most of our members. We may be back here again next year. It would therefore be best if our members try to reach there before 11 am.



The picnic score card looked good on some fronts and not so good on others. The barbecue fires were a piece of cake to start, the scorching sun along with the premium charcoal were like a marriage made in heaven. But, the ice cubes were all sold out, and it took great determination by Dwarika Aggarwal to seek out this rather scarce commodity.

Thanks to Sudhir Mody, Kandy Rathinasamy, Vivek Varshney and Swati Varshney for reserving the tables, posting signs and helping in various other things. Thanks also to Subhash Varshney for the delicious corn-on-the-cob and watermelon, and to people who pitched in roasting the corn, a no small task under the best of conditions but on this hot sunny day it was particularly challenging.



Tell a fellow IITian about us

The ethnic food, as usual, was great! My salutations to our highly accomplished chefs: Vyjayanti Chhabra for the famous Chhole, Dolly Sinha and Manju Aggarwal for delicious Pau-Bhaji, and Amita Singhal and Dwarika Agarwal for delicious Samosas that were a welcome addition to the seven course



lunch. We can't forget special Indian tea prepared by Aruna Varshney and Krishna Srikrishna. Thanks also to other folks who contributed to various food items. As it turned out there was a lot more food than was needed and consumed. We could have easily accommodated twice as many people as the number of people who came.



The variety of sports we had this time was also quite impressive. Thanks to Narender Chhabra for bringing the cricket equipment, and a whole bunch of kites with rolls of threads that were provided free of charge by Mr. Shiv Kapuria, courtesy of Air India. Dwarika Agarwal brought the volleyball set. In spite of the heat, sports were very popular with the participants. Prem Sinha was kind and expert enough to give lessons in kite flying and managed to get them quite high in the sky.

After lunch, some of us took relief from the heat in the cool waters of Lake Cochituate. The swimming

area was so filled up with people that for a moment it reminded me of the crowded waters back home and perhaps some of the popular beaches in this country. There was so much to enjoy that time flew by unnoticed. My family and I had a great time, just as all other participants also seem to be having a great time.

It was a good picnic and I hope the picnic next year would be even better. The one thing we still need to work on is to have more of you attend this annual event. Finally, I would like to thank the IIT SINE Executive Committee for organizing this event, and the members who attended it and made it such a success.

### **IITSINE.ORG on the web**

**By: Krishna P. Srikrishna**

Dear members,

We would like you to know that our website <http://iitsine.org> is becoming more popular amongst our members. We posted information about upcoming events and summarized the happenings at past events. Members used the RSVP form at the website to reserve seats for IITSINE events. The latest addition is the news-digest page, which includes links to the latest articles about IITians around the globe. Do visit the webpage regularly and send us your comments and suggestions.

Advertising on the webpages is a revenue stream to us and we welcome any readers interested in advertising. For more information, email Krishna at [srikrish@alum.mit.edu](mailto:srikrish@alum.mit.edu)

### **IIT SINE General Body Meeting and Elections Announcement**

You are invited to the IIT SINE General Body Meeting and Elections to be held on Saturday, November 6, 1999 from 6:30 - 10:00 PM at the Bangalore Club.

#### **Program Details**

Date and Time: Saturday, November 6, 1999, 6:30 - 10:00 PM

Place: Bangalore Club, 14 Thompson St., Winchester, MA, 781-721-2582

Cost: \$15.00/person, \$25/couple + Cash Bar

Directions & Further Details: Visit us at

[www.iitsine.org](http://www.iitsine.org)

RSVP: [www.iitsine.org](http://www.iitsine.org) or via email:

[svarshney@mediaone.net](mailto:svarshney@mediaone.net)

#### **The Election Process**

##### **Election Committee:**

Ranjan Mathew (Madras '73), Chief Election Officer, Phone 978-371-9250, Email [rjm@tiac.net](mailto:rjm@tiac.net), Address: 120 Sunset Rd., Carlisle, MA 01741.

Amar Gupta (Kanpur '74), Election Officer, Phone 617-964-3466, Email [agupta@mit.edu](mailto:agupta@mit.edu), Address:

Room E53-311, 50 Memorial Dr, Cambridge, MA 02139.

Murthy Ayyagari (Kanpur '73), Election Officer, Phone 978-689-7812, Email

[ayyagari@mediaone.net](mailto:ayyagari@mediaone.net), Address: 361 Marbleridge Rd, North Andover, MA 01845.

### **Positions to be Elected and Their**

#### **Responsibilities:**

1. **President:** The President serves as the Chief Executive Officer and directs the activities of the organization.
2. **Executive Vice President:** The Executive Vice President supports the President in executing his/her responsibilities and will perform the duties of the President in his/her absence.
3. **Secretary:** The Secretary organizes meetings/functions, keeps members abreast of the activities of IIT SINE and is responsible for maintaining the records of the organization.
4. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer is responsible for the financial matters of IIT-SINE including maintenance of financial records.
5. **Vice President for Bombay**
6. **Vice President for Delhi**
7. **Vice President for Kanpur**
8. **Vice President for Kharagpur**
9. **Vice President for Madras**

The Vice Presidents, each one an alumnus from a different IIT, are the principal liaison between IIT SINE and their respective IIT.

#### **Eligibility:**

Paid-up Regular Members and Student Members are eligible.

#### **Nomination Process:**

Any Regular Member can nominate another member and can also submit multiple nominations. Both the nominee and the nominator should sign the nomination papers specifying position (email signature is okay). The nomination papers can then be submitted via email to any one of the Election Officers by November 2, 1999, and mailed promptly thereafter.

#### **Conduct of the Elections:**

1. Floor nominations shall be permitted for those positions for which no prior nominations have been received or if the Nominee is absent during the elections.
2. The Election Committee will supervise the elections.
3. The elections will be held in two parts. The first part is the election of the President, Executive Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The second part is the election of the five Vice Presidents. All eligible members can vote for the first part of the elections. For the second part of the elections,

members can vote for that Vice President, who belongs to the same IIT the member, has been affiliated with.

4. If there are multiple nominations for a given position, then for that position the voting will be done by secret written ballots.

### IIT-Kanpur Alumni Reunion

**By: Sudhir Mody ('88)**

An IIT-Kanpur Alumni Reunion was held on Saturday, March 20, 1999. The Alumni group met for lunch at Bangalore Club in Winchester, MA. Although, the meeting was arranged by Dr. Subhash Varshney ('72 EE), currently the President of IIT SINE, the idea originally came from Tushar Chandra from the IIT-K Alumni Association in New York/New Jersey area. This occasion provided a wonderful opportunity for individuals to socialize with other alumni members spread over 33 years!!!, i.e., from the founding batch of '65 to most recent batch of '98. There was a unique case where a '98 graduate was present amongst the graduates who were actually the classmates with his father (i.e., the batch of '74). Altogether, there were about 42 people present with families. The biggest gathering was from '88 batch which had about 10 people. Some of the participants travelled a significant distance to take part in this reunion. These included Rajeev Gopal who was visiting from India on a World Bank/IFC assignment. Others like Manoj Tangri, Mayan Moudgill, Priti Srivastava, Tushar Chandra, Sadanand Deshpande came from the NY/NJ area.



The meeting started with a casual socializing among members, and then included a formal introduction and sharing of thoughts among the participants. As an example, an '73 graduate described his 25th reunion experience in Kanpur as well as the need to contribute to IIT/K. All were in agreement. The reunion was concluded with a keynote slide show presentation about India by Mr. Bob Arnett, who is the author of "India Unveiled".



The meeting provided an occasion for the sharing of thoughts and ideas. For many participants, it was the first such meeting of alumni members across all years. The luncheon gave an exposure to the activities of IIT SINE to many new members. There was unanimous agreement in the value and benefits of an association like IIT SINE. A significant number of individuals offered to help out in the activities of IIT SINE. We should be seeing the results of this energy and enthusiasm in the months ahead. There was a significant agreement among the attendees to focus on the growth of a common database of IIT-K alumni members.

Some of the feedback from participants included:  
 "... it was worth the 4+ trip ..."  
 "We need to have more such get togethers ..."  
 "Excellent food."  
 "I will attend the IIT SINE summer cookout"  
 "I plan to meet many more people in Boston area"

### IIT Delhi Alumni Meeting

**By: Vivek Soni ('80)**

A meeting of IIT Delhi Alumni was organized on June 13 in Lynnfield, MA to meet Prof. Ashok Misra. Prof. Misra is the Dean of Alumni and International Affairs and is a Professor in the Center for Polymer Science and Engineering. Boston was the first stop for Prof. Misra. Prof. Misra and Prof. Raju, the Director of IIT Delhi, have organized Alumni meetings this year at several cities including Washington D.C., New York, Chicago, San Francisco etc.

The primary purpose of the Lynnfield meeting was to give IIT Delhi Alums in the Boston area an opportunity to hear about the latest activities and programs and for Prof. Misra to get to know the individuals. We did not have a very big group and were able to accomplish both objectives. Prof. Misra provided a lot of detail about the various activities for students, industrial and alumni collaboration. A

copy of his presentation will be made available at the IIT SINE web page.

I graduated from IIT Delhi in 1980. Since then, I have kept in touch with friends and some faculty at IIT. However, I had not kept up with the major developments at IITD. At the meeting, I discovered:

- In addition to the 4-year B Tech. program, they now have a 5-year Integrated Master of Technology Degree in some departments.
- The B. Tech class has been increased from 310 in 1994 to 464 in 1998. IITD plans to increase this number in the near future.
- There is a lot of interaction with industry – domestic and international. IBM has a research center on campus, which is directed by a batch mate, and hostel mate of mine, Alok Aggrawal.
- IIT Delhi is planning to start a business school.
- IIT Delhi has 21 sponsored chairs – 3 of which are sponsored by Alumni.

The major take away for me from this meeting was the realization that the administration at IIT Delhi, and I presume at other IITs, are really committed to making these institutions better than what they were when we studied there.

I see IIT Delhi trying to follow the MIT model of maintaining high standards for education and providing a platform for technology and entrepreneurial development.

To accomplish this goal, IITs need to actively engage Alumni, like us, to get input on short and long-term strategy. I think they will really appreciate if we can make an effort to meet with them when we visit India. I am sure they will welcome financial contributions. However, they are also looking for suggestions about programs and collaborations. Do what you can, to help.

Contact me at [soni\\_vivek@hotmail.com](mailto:soni_vivek@hotmail.com) if you are interested in making a contribution to IIT Delhi. An account has been set up at Fidelity Investments.

### **IIT-Bombay Heritage Fund - New England Chapter Get-Together and Kick-Off Event**

**By: Dwarika Agarwal**

A core group of IIT Bombay alumni organized the kickoff event of IITB-HF on Saturday, June 19, 1999. The meeting was held at the Bangalore Club in Winchester. About 25 people attended the event and based on the input we have received, it was a huge success.

In addition to networking, the Heritage Fund has an altruistic goal of supporting our alma mater through

contributions and by staying involved. At this function, we had representation from the Class of 1965 through the Class of 1999. Abhinav Shukla, Batch of 1999, had arrived at MIT only a couple of days before our meeting. Everyone arrived on time and after initial introductions, we proceeded with our discussions, which went on till 3:30 PM. Abhinav, the freshee, took excellent notes of our discussions. A summary of these notes will be posted on the [iitbombay.org](http://iitbombay.org) website.

The idea of an alumni association and the Heritage Fund was conceived by a group of Bombayites in the San Francisco Bay area and it really got rolling with the establishment of the [www.iitbombay.org](http://www.iitbombay.org) website. It is one of the most active alumni website and it has already registered more than 2300 alumni so far. Our goal is to increase this list to 5000 by the year-end. Currently the listing contains about 80 people from the Boston area. Ram Kelkar is the Webmaster and was scheduled to be our Keynote Speaker. However, because of some unforeseen circumstances, he had to extend his stay in London and sent in his regrets. If you have not registered at the website, please do so soon. It has a lot of information about our alma mater and other fellow IITians.

After an extremely successful event in San Francisco where more than 200 people attended a breakfast meeting, it was proposed that Chapters in other metropolitan areas should be started. The activity in our area picked up when we learned that Prof. Athavankar from the Industrial Design Center would be visiting Boston in June 1999. In early May, Chandra Khattak, Anil Kharkar (IITB 65), Varun Nagaraj and I had a dinner meeting with Anil Kshirsagar at Bombay Mahal in Waltham. Anil Kshirsagar is the President of the IIT Bombay Heritage Fund. Our initial agenda for the kickoff meeting included keynote addresses by Prof. Athavankar and Ram Kelkar. Prof. Athavankar had to cancel out because of a change in his schedule. However, we were able to meet with him at Hari Nair's place in Quincy. Hari is an IDC alumnus. Rajeev Mundhe (IITB 76) was also there. Prof. Athavankar provided us with an overview of the activities on the Powai campus. For additional details on the activities of the Heritage Fund and its local Chapters, visit [www.iitbombay.org](http://www.iitbombay.org).

## A Summary of IIT Bombay Function held on Sept. 26, 1999.

By: Dwarika Agarwal

A group of IIT Bombay alumni and their friends held a very successful meeting at the Marriott Hotel in Burlington, MA on September 26, 1999. Kishore Deshpande was in charge of organizing this event and about 35 people attended. Other members of the team included Anil Kharkar, Suhas Joglekar, Jawa Tembulkar, Amit Jain and D.P. Agarwal.

The IIT Bombay delegation included Director Sukhatme and Prof. S.L. Narayanamurthy, Dean of Resource Development. Prof. Narayanamurthy joined us in Boston on September 26, the day Director Sukhatme was talking to the Alumni in the Chicago area. In addition to a presentation by Dean Narayanamurthy, we had a Keynote Address by Prof. Amar Bhide. Amar is an Associate Professor at Harvard Business School. The title of his talk was "The Origin and Evolution of New Businesses". He has just finished writing a book with the same title. The core group was very interested in getting alumni feedback and therefore the first segment of the meeting was devoted to a discussion on their expectations and frustrations about alumni 'Networking' meetings. A summary of these discussions, prepared by Jawa Tembulkar, is given below. We also had a small segment on 'Down Memory Lane' and T-Shirts with IIT Bombay logo were available for \$10.00 each.

### What will excite/enthuse folks?

\* Networking was the most popular. It included the following sorts of interaction:

1. Professional networking to enable career development, including recruitment and jobs.
2. Discuss experiences with new businesses, finding venture capital, etc. TIE was brought up by those who are also members of that group.

\* Identify mutually beneficial ways (other than monetary donation) for alumni and the alma mater. Collaborative R&D and projects to IIT faculty.

\* Be informed about What's New at IIT-B. New programs, future plans, goals for expansion, spending patterns, opportunities, etc.

\* Foster social networking among alumni and their families.

\* Host guest speakers who are eminent in their fields.

\* Provide feedback to alumni on how the Heritage fund donations are being utilized. Basically demonstrate accountability.

\* Have a newsletter that keeps member alumni abreast of what happened in the last meeting, changes in membership, etc.

### What will turn off folks?

\* If the meetings are only focused on fund raising. Basically avoid aggressive fund raising.

\* If there is no follow through on decisions that we collectively take.

\* Ensure that donor information (e.g. email) is kept private. Donors don't wish to get bombarded by hostel, department, etc., for donations, once they make a donation to the Heritage Fund.

\* Ensure that no "clique/group" emerges to run the alumni association. I read in this, that we should try and get as wide a representation as possible among the organizers - year of graduation, where one is from in India, department, profession, etc.

\* Should not become merely a social club.

They also emphasized the need to improve communications with the alumni around the world and felt that IIT SINE approach of an all IIT Alumni Association is the best. Canada has a similar organization and recently a similar group has been started in Houston. It is called IIT Forum. It would be much easier to achieve a critical mass with a combined group and a much more orchestrated effort could be launched from different IITs.

## News From IIT Kanpur

### MY 25<sup>TH</sup> REUNION PARTY IN KANPUR

By: Murthy Ayyagari (Kanpur '73)

It all started with an e-mail from Ashok Kamal ('73 ME) reminding me of the reunion of the '73 IIT/K batch to take place in January 98. There was a lot of activity to gather addresses of our batchmates and contact them to join the party in Kanpur. I thought it was a good idea and started making plans in the fall '97 to visit India. By the time December rolled around, I was getting e-mail messages from my classmates on an almost daily basis and excitement started to build.

I arrived in Delhi on New Year's eve. A lot of our close friends had already gathered at Kamal's house for lunch. Then we headed for the New Year's party for our batch in Delhi. The fun started to roll and I had the opportunity to meet people I hadn't seen for all these 25 years. An eye contact and a huge hug followed. The immediate warmth of the interactions reminded me of all the good times we had in Kanpur. It is true that the friendships, made when one is a teenager, always last a lifetime. It was immediately clear to me that this was going to be an unforgettable experience and I was so glad to be in India.

The next day, on January 1, about eighty of us boarded the train to Kanpur with our families. We did not get to lie down during the journey because of liquor, old jokes and the fantastic company.

We reached Kanpur at about 4 AM. Dr. Sachidanda was there at the *all familiar* Kanpur Railway Station to greet us with a bunch of students. Two IIT/K buses and several cars were completely filled and headed towards Kalyanpur and the campus. The next stop was Visitors Hostel. The place was teeming with activity with an expected crowd of 170 people including families descending on the campus. There was chai and lots of small talk as we registered and picked up the '73 batch address book and the planned agenda for the next two days. This invaluable address book was the culmination of the sweet efforts of Ashok Kamal, Arun Seth, Deepak Bhagat, Ashok Bajaj and others.

We started the day with a bus tour of the campus. As we approached L7 lecture Hall, my eyes started to tear. All the classes, exams, the professors, and the movies started to flash in my mind. Some of us were thrown out of the Film Society in 1970 for making loud noises and starting a fight during a movie. We

had to face Dr. Muthana (Deputy Director) for our silly actions. After the bus tour, we went to our Electrical Engineering Department and had a chance to chat with the faculty and the staff. Unfortunately, there were only five familiar faculty members.

The Director, Dr. Padmanabhan, greeted us in the Hall II quadrangle for lunch. Each of the alumni had a chance to say a few words to all the gathered. It was especially significant because most of the '73 graduates spent three years in Hall II. It was fun to see the young, extremely bright pay so much attention to the alumni.

Afternoon included a meeting to exchange views with students and a cultural program that was well attended in L7. It was beautiful to see the young and the old mix to discuss serious issues of "brain drain" as well as sing along some familiar Hindi songs together. Nighttime was party time at the Kamala Retreat in Kanpur. Spouses and children have never seen us in these surroundings and felt that we were acting strange. We were dancing to the tunes of a live band and had a good time, like never before.

The next day, Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, was a day for Alumni Association meetings and election for the offices. I was very proud to see our batch make a donation of Rs. 2 million to IIT/K. Some things don't change even after 25 years. Sunday morning brunch in Hall I consisted of the delicious *karar Alu Paratha*, *achar*, *dahi* and *chai*. Even though the area is built up and peacocks and monkeys roam the gardens of Hall I, my old room, B102, still looks the same. Our old mess employee, Ramu, recognized me, Manoj Pant, Madhukar, and Ashok Agarwal.

Dinner was arranged in the faculty living area with *pani-poori*, unbelievable *chat* and King Fisher beer. We said good byes to our friends and departed to Delhi by train.

It was a thrill of a lifetime. It was good to see the classmates on the IIT campus after 25 years. I highly recommend that you take the time to attend your 25th reunion.

## News From IIT Delhi

### Ashok Misra-Dean, Alumni affairs & International Program

Dear IIT Delhi Folks,

Over the past couple of years we have been trying to send you information about IIT Delhi - though in brief. A lot is happening here in terms of changes and new initiatives that we have taken to sustain and enhance excellence of our great Institute. We want all of you to be able to tell your children that IIT Delhi has progressed and become a better institute than it was when you left it. This challenge calls for our joint endeavors. The biggest stakeholders for our vision and mission are you, our alumni and all of us who are continuously trying to bring about change in order to stay ahead. Just imagine how proud we feel when we hear that IIT Delhi is a great Institute and how sweet the words "IIT Delhi is the best Technical Institute in India" sound. We have been really lucky to have a visionary as our Director whose efforts have taken the Institute to higher levels step by step. Prof. Raju, in his tenure, has introduced a number of innovations and I will list a few of them.

1. We have the only IBM Solutions Research Center in India and only IIT to have such a Center.
2. Recently three other such centers have started at IIT Delhi - NIIT Research, eCapital Solution India Ltd., Tata infotech. and Infoplex Technologies.
3. We conducted first of its kind training program for students hired by Applied Materials in USA.
4. We have 20 sponsored chairs, 3 donated by alumni 11 donated by private sectors and 7 from public sectors. IIT Delhi has the highest number of chairs amongst all IITs.

Progress and growth needs funds. We have been able to generate a sizeable amount and appeal to you all to contribute to our corpus. The US universities have been so successful in obtaining contributions from their alumni and your institute is calling upon you now. Be generous, the pleasure of giving to your Alma mater has its own charm. As you know all contributions are tax deductible both in India and USA. Please feel free to make any query and also give us your ideas.

Our ambitious aim has been to raise Rs. 1 billion by

June 2000. We have reached the creditable mark of Rs. 0.3 billion but still have a long way to go. Please help to reach our target in the spirit of the millennium. Professor Raju and myself will be in USA from mid June to mid July and we will be happy to talk to you personally. Please leave a contact telephone number at amisra47@hotmail.com. We have planned visits to New York, Chicago, Boston, Washington D.C, Bay Area and Los Angeles.

Best wishes from IIT Delhi to you and your family.

(Ashok Misra)

Dean, Alumni affairs & International Program  
IIT Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110016  
FAX - 91 11 6862037  
Phone - 91 11 6963969, 91 11 6581364 (home)

## Featured Article

### Nostalgia Nites : The 60s

by Dwarika Agarwal

© 1999, Y-Point. The Alumni Magazine of IIT Bombay. <http://www.iitbombay.org>.  
(Republished with permission)

The campus was barely a year old when I arrived there in early July 1960. If one considers a life as a series of accidents, then this was perhaps the biggest accident in my life.

I had planned on going to the Engineering College in Indore and was already accepted there. However, some time in June, an application for admission to IIT Bombay arrived mysteriously at my brother's home. I was spending part of my vacation with my second brother and contacting me there would have taken some time. The application deadline had either already passed or it was fast approaching. Assuming that I must have sent in for the application, he filled it out to the best of his knowledge and sent it in. He also thought that if I was going to go to IIT Bombay, I might as well study there something other than Civil, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering, which were the only choices available in Indore. The steel plants offered big opportunities in those days and so he put Metallurgy as my first choice. The next thing I knew was that my application was

approved. To this day, I do not know the identity of the person who sent that application to my brother. I did not have an interview either. My friend Chandra Khattak told me recently that he was asked to come in for an interview. He made the long trip from Dehradun to Bombay only to learn that he was on a waiting list for his first choice in Metallurgy.

I arrived in Powai about a week after the classes had started. That meant that I was spared the famous initiation ceremonies known as 'ragging'. A few of my other late arriving colleagues were not so lucky. The second year students had already had their fun. Thus, my classmates who had suffered through this humiliating experience themselves only a week earlier, decided to subject at least a few of us to these rituals. Ours was the first five-year batch and it seems that a large number of us arrived late. Therefore, many of us also had the distinction of being ragged by our own classmates.

My first order of business after arriving in Bombay was to purchase a raincoat and a pair of gumboots. However, these were no match for the Bombay monsoon season and a new campus in perhaps the most inhospitable area in Bombay. It looks picturesque now, but it definitely did not look that way in 1960. Walking to the classes involved wading through puddles and small streams, and within a week the skin of my feet was literally dissolving in water. I was assigned to Hostel 2, which was still under construction. In fact, everything except Hostel 1 and a laboratory building was under construction. The rooms were new, but the beds and mattresses were not. If it were not for that mattress in my room, I would have never appreciated the true meaning of the phrase "sleep tight and don't let the bed bugs bite". We were all used to mosquitoes, flies and other insects, but the sight of those bugs in my bed was completely new to me. I am not sure how we got rid of them, but I do not remember seeing them again.

I have forgotten the names of many of the teachers but the memory of one person is permanently etched in my brain. That memory is that of Sardar Pritam 'PT' Singh. He was the one-man athletic department. Brig. Bose was the Director, and it was the duty of PT Singh to make men out of us new recruits. He conducted exercises in the morning and his demeanor was akin to the Sergeant in Gomer Pyle episodes.

I was planning on writing about the five years of my life on the campus, but the memories of the first few weeks seem to have taken more space than I had planned. Therefore, I must stop here.

### IIT SINE Life Members

Chandra P. & Veena Khattak	65 Bombay
Suresh & Janet Masand	65 Bombay
Varun & Arati Nagaraj	86 Bombay
Dwarika & Connie Agarwal	65 Bombay
Anil & Ranjani Saigal	79 Bombay
Jaynarayan H. & Michele Lala	71 Bombay
Jatin & Mala Shah	86 Bombay
Manu & Manisha Sharma	86 Bombay
Prakash & Jayshree Joshi	71 Bombay
Krishna & Aruna Vedula	67 Bombay
Prem S. & Dolly Sinha	85 Delhi
Jitendra S. & Geeta Goela	72 Delhi
Madhukar & Taru Khare	91 Delhi
Vivek & Ameeta Soni	80 Delhi
Narender & Vyjayanti Chhabra	70 Delhi
Shashi & Raj Chawla	77 Delhi
Vishwa Nath & Asha Shukla	69 Kanpur
Kaplesh & Savinder Kumar	69 Kanpur
Ravinder & Rohini Sakhuja	66 Kanpur
Kedar P. & Renu Gupta	68 Kanpur
Rakesh K. Jain	72 Kanpur
Triveni & Sadhana Upadhyay	68 Kanpur
Murthy & Diane Ayyagari	73 Kanpur
Tej & Vandana Dhakar	72 Kanpur
Subhash & Aruna Varshney	72 Kanpur
Dilip & Estelle Mathur	68 Kanpur
Kailash & Manjul Shukla	72 Kanpur
Ajoy Banerjee & Marjorie Burren	66 Kharagpur
Dilip & Ranjana K. Bhavsar	74 Kharagpur
Puran & Kamlesh Dang	59 Kharagpur
Debashish & Anita Mallick	80 Kharagpur
Subu & Virginia Kota	68 Kharagpur
Sukant Tripathy & Susan Thomson	72 Kharagpur
Bharat & Punita Khatau	74 Kharagpur
Ramesh & Laurie Chillar	70 Madras
George Verghese	74 Madras
Vinay & Suman Goel	69 Madras
Padma Lakshman	89 Madras
Ranjan & Mary Mathew	73 Madras
Jagadeesh Moodera & Geetha Berera	78 Madras
Ajai & Sridevi Thirumalai	84 Madras

PS. If you are a life-member, and your name is not on this list, please inform us. If you are not a life member, please consider becoming one.