ANNUAL GIVING REPORT 2011
This report brings you joyous tidings from your alma mater. We can certainly label 2011 as the year of consolidation as far as Institute-Alumni engagements are concerned. Many of the programs initiated over the last two to three years attained a degree of maturity. This has resulted in visible impact on several fronts.

The various Centers created by alumni have been making their presence felt. The oldest of these, CΦ, has become the hub of all student-driven projects at IITM. Student teams from CΦ have been participating and winning in several national and international competitions. Generous travel grants from alumni have been instrumental in making such participation possible. Thus, alumni are playing an all-round role in empowering our students to step out of the campus and match themselves with their peers worldwide.

Among the exciting longer-term projects ongoing at CΦ is the student nano-satellite project, expected to be complete in 2013. This project, too, is supported by an alumni grant.

The newly set up CARES has begun on a strong note, and alumni are beginning to engage in large numbers with faculty and students. Alumni in industry are reaching out to faculty members to explore possibilities for collaborative product design and development, while those in universities elsewhere are looking to engage in collaborative academic research involving exchange of research scholars. Alumni travel grants play a key role in enabling these interactions. Alumni are also assisting our students to secure top-class internship positions in industry.

Alumni have stepped forward to sponsor an unprecedented number of awards for students excelling in academics. The awards for outstanding young faculty, and the recently instituted lifetime award for teaching excellence, recognize the stellar contributions of the faculty of the Institute.

The next twenty years are crucial for India and her young population. The IITs and their alumni are expected to punch above their weight in ensuring that India transitions to a sustainable, poverty-free, economy with educated, responsible citizens. Your engagement in nation-building, specifically through your alma mater, is the key to success in this endeavor.

It is appropriate here to borrow some eloquence from Shakespeare. Alumni giving is “twice blest: it blesseth him that gives and him that takes”. You will agree, after perusing the sentiments expressed in this report by so many of our alumni who have given generously to the Institute, that the bard, as always, could not be more right.

Before I sign off, let me express on behalf of all of us our immense gratitude to Prof. Ananth for his stellar leadership over the last decade that has taken this Institute to where it is today. It is an honour to receive the baton from him, and I hope to carry on with increased vigor. There is no time to be lost.
Prof. David R. Koilpillai
(BT/EE/84)
Dear IITM Alum,

It is indeed a pleasure to connect with each of you through this annual report. Since assuming the responsibility as Dean (Planning) in October 2011, I have had multiple opportunities to interact with our alumni in Chennai and other cities. These were meetings organized by local alumni along with the OAA to facilitate our new Director Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi. What has struck me as a common thread across each of these interactions is the keen interest that alumni have shown to stay connected with the institute. Thanks to the efforts of OAA, under the leadership of Prof. Nagarajan, that a number of new avenues have been opened by which alumni can engage with activities on campus.

Alumni Day 2011 gave all of us an opportunity to meet with the different batches including those celebrating their silver, pearl and coral reunions - an opportunity to walk down memory lane to the days each of us where students on this campus ... as our student volunteers took the alumni on tours of the campus - back to the familiar places like hostels, classrooms, and OAT. It was the unanimous view of the alumni that we have worked very hard to preserve the natural beauty and charm of the campus in spite of the required growth. Today, our student strength has crossed 7000 and the faculty strength approaching 500. The IITM campus has multiple active construction sites, highlighting the rapid pace of growth, but at the same time maintaining its dynamic equilibrium with the ecological environment. This has always been part of the IITM vision.

Our Director Prof. Ramamurthi has outlined an exciting vision for IITM which will be the blueprint for growth of IITM in the coming years. This vision includes alumni as an integral part in multiple spheres of engagement. When IIT Madras completed its golden jubilee in 2009, a comprehensive assessment of its achievements overwhelmingly affirmed that IITM had been true to the founding vision of Pandit Nehru. Over the years, IITM has always strived to be a good steward of the resources, the autonomy, and the trust bestowed upon the institute by the nation.

As we look ahead, it is evident that excellence in research and teaching will define the impact of our institute. IITM is committed to setting the bench marks in all spheres - faculty, students, staff and infrastructure. The alumni batches have generously supported several key infrastructure initiatives on campus. As highlighted by our Director, the funds that we receive from MHRD, though generous, are focused towards the essential activities of the institute, and it is the contributions of the alumni that enable us to take ambitious leaps towards our long-term strategic goals.

As a solid affirmation of our commitment to research, the end of the eleventh Fiscal Plan period saw the efforts of our Director materialise as an investment of over Rupees fifty crores in state-of-the-art equipment such as supercomputing cluster, and a Titan Transmission Electron Microscope. Each of these investments will bring the IITM facilities to the level of the best in India and on-par with the best in the world. Our desire is to continue such investments in order to boost IITM research to leading levels in multiple strategic areas. The alumni have a vital role in facilitating this ambitious plan.

The OAA initiatives such as the Leadership Lecture Series, and IITM CARES - Center for Alumni Relations EnhancementS (through the contributions of one of the alumni batches) are major steps towards catalyzing the interactions between our alumni and the institute. As an alumnus, it is truly a privilege for me to serve as the institute’s interface towards alumni and as the representative and spokesperson for the alumni fraternity at the institute. As you read the pages of this report, I am sure you will appreciate the remarkable breadth and diversity of the accomplishments of the OAA. The vision for the future of IITM has set an even more ambitious plan. So much so, we must constantly remind ourselves (as appropriate in our sylvan setting) of the words of Robert Frost:

The woods are lovely, dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep.

To capture the spirit of IITM in a nutshell …

"IITM - Changing Times, Constant Values
Always in the Pursuit of Excellence"

As a natural extension of your days as an IITM student, we trust each of you will continue to engage with your alma mater and be a part of IITM’s exciting journey towards a shining future.

THANK YOU.
MESSAGE FROM THE ADVISOR, OFFICE OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Dear Alumnus/ Alumna,

I have now completed 3 years as Advisor, Office of Alumni Affairs, at IIT Madras. It has been a joyride so far, and I want to thank the alumni community for being so responsive to our various initiatives. Relations between IIT Madras and her alumni have never been stronger. We are now being approached by other institutions seeking tips on how to build a vibrant alumni community! Our Office coordinates efforts with the IIT Madras Alumni Association (IITMAA), IIT Madras Alumni Association of North America (IITMAANA) and the IIT Madras Alumni Charitable Trust (IITMACKT) to bring various benefits to our alumni, students, faculty and society.

Here are some new initiatives of 2011 that have resounded well with all stakeholders:

“Leadership Lecture Series: Alumni Speak!” which brings alumni leaders in various fields to share their knowledge and experiences with the campus community

“PG Confluence Day” held the day after Institute Day in April, that trains the spotlight on our PG students and PG alumni

“Alumni Day” held the day after Convocation, which welcomes fresh graduates into the alumni fold, and provides an opportunity for batches to hold reunions during the Indian summer

“Reunion Day” held in December, when the remaining batches hold their gatherings (led by the Silver Reunion gang)

“ITWay” launched as an outcome of the Chennai “Gajendra Circle” of alumni in response to a plea from our former Director, Prof. Ananth, to instill values, ethics and morals among students

Launch of CARES (Center for Alumni Relations EnhancementS) and CSIE (Center for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship), both funded by the ’84 batch

Enhanced communications via LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter

Nearly 100% of Convocation & Institute Day awards, previously Institute-funded, now alumni-funded

Launch of “Donor Badge” a program to enable donors to say so, with pride, on their Facebook page, etc.

2012 promises to be equally exciting, with several initiatives already underway. Here are some samples:

A sequel to the well-appreciated “Alumni Matter!” video, highlighting alumni contributions to the campus

Quarterly messages from the ITM Director on YouTube

A fully on-line process for submission of “Distinguished Alumnus Award” nomination

An enhanced travel-grant program that has tripled allocations to students travelling broad

Alumni-funded program to provide scholarships to all eligible students

Alumni-funded programs to provide financial and mentoring support to budding entrepreneurs

Corporate-funded “Nobel Laureate Lecture Series”

Enabling donors to select gifts (of nominal, yet sentimental, value!)

Leveraging alumni to strengthen ITM’s relationship with academia and industry on a global scale

Development of a “2020 Vision” for alumni relations, in concert with MAA, MAANA & ACT, etc.

The future looks bright in the context of Institute-alumni relations, as we build upon our successes of the past. I look forward to your sustained interaction and engagement with your alma mater. Together, there is no limit to what we can achieve.
The Office of Alumni Affairs (OAA) at IIT Madras has a dual mission—enhancing Institute/ alumni relation, and fund-raising for various developmental and social projects. The following are associated objectives and activities:

Serve as outward-facing window from the Institute to the Alumni:
Act as primary interface from Institute to alumni-at-large by maintaining regular communication between IITM and alumni.
Authorize alumni access to campus facilities
Administer Distinguished Alumnus Award program
Administer Travel Grant program, etc.

Drive Institute-related fund-raising activities among alumni:
Devise fund-raising strategy
Coordinate fund-raising activities
Ensure timely deployment of funds
Report to Institute and back to donor regarding status of funded projects

Serve the student community:
Administer scholarships and awards
Solicit alumni funds towards student travel, facilities, projects, etc.
Facilitate student mentoring by alumni

Serve the faculty community:
Promote interactions between visiting faculty and local alumni
Promote campus and department visits by alumni
Promote research & consultancy relationships between faculty & alumni

Serve the alumni community:
Support networking activities and events, such as reunions
Support alumni communications, such as monthly newsletter
Support alumni registration in database
Work closely with IIT Madras Alumni Associations (IITMAA, IITMAANA, etc.) on alumni-related matters
Support PANIT activities (e.g., club) and events (e.g. Annual meets)
Alumni Affairs

L to R:
K. Suresh
Princy
Kamala
Iivarasi
Prof. R. Nagarajan
Saravananan
Imagarakan
Mani
IIT MAANA
TRAVEL GRANT
PROGRAM
ITMAANA Travel Grant is very popular among the Institute students as it helps them financially to participate in International Conferences and present research papers. Around 400 students have received funds amounting to a total exceeding 70 lakhs.

Last year the Travel Grant program was expanded to facilitate international travel by UG and PG students alike to competitions, summits, workshops and even internships in addition to the historical focus on paper presentations at conferences. IITM Alumni in the US are sponsoring this grant through ITMAANA to encourage IITM students showcase their talents at the international level. A Travel Grant Endowment was initiated last year to turn this into a sustainable program with the potential to aid a larger fraction of IITM students.

The number of grant recipients per year has nearly doubled in the past two years. MAANA continues to fund the program to the tune of $10,000 per year.

A substantially-enhanced Travel Grant Program is on the anvil for 2012. Two events attended by IITM students using these funds are highlighted next.

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| April 2011   | 8       | 1       |
| August 2011  | 2       | 0       |
| GRAND TOTAL  | 10      | 1       |

| April 2011   | 1,54,000| 1       |
| August 2011  | 50,000  | 0       |
| GRAND TOTAL  | 2,04,000| 1       |

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# IITMAANA Travel Grant Program

## Travel Grant Disbursed Till 2010

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<th>Dual</th>
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## Travel Grant Disbursed in the Year 2011

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<th>Dual</th>
<th>Others</th>
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<td>31</td>
<td>8</td>
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(Values in Rupees)
**BIOMOD** is a design competition organised by the Wyss Institute at Harvard University. At **BIOMOD**, undergraduate teams compete to master control of bio-molecules on the nanometer scale. Focus areas may include - but are not limited to - bio-molecular robotics, bio-molecular logic and computing, and structural bio-nano-technology. Students conceive and execute projects during the summer and then gather in Boston in November to present their work with awards.

The team 'Acid-Artists' represented IIT-Madras at **BIOMOD** 2011. We presented our project on **Reversible collection of nano-bots using DNA nanotechnology**. DNA nanotechnology is a branch of nanotechnology which uses the molecular recognition properties of DNA and other nucleic acids to create designed artificial structures out of DNA for technological purposes. In this field, DNA is used as a structural material rather than as a carrier of genetic information. DNA nanotechnology makes use of the fact that, due to the specificity of Watson-Crick base pairing; only portions of the strands which are complementary to each other will bind to form duplex DNA.

The team received a travel grant for ₹1,50,000 which was used to fund the travel of three students from Chennai to Boston, where the competition was held on 5th November 2011. At the competition we presented our work which included a part of the design that worked as expected.

### Project Goals

1. Make an aggregating molecule with single strand appendages
2. Introduce reversible binding between aggregator and target molecule.

### Project steps accomplished:

1. We made the Cadnano design of the large aggregator molecule
2. We made the Cadnano design of a small aggregator molecule
3. We made the small aggregator molecule
4. Due to technical difficulties in equipment, we could not obtain AFM or TEM images
5. We proposed a different method to test whether the structure was actually made or not by the following 2 methods:
   - Measuring absorbance at 260nm before the annealing reaction and after the reaction, and comparing them.
   - Running a gel to locate our structure near the bands of expected molecular weight markers.

### Future Applications:

We foresee a myriad of applications for the techniques we are using. Some of the applications we intend to pursue in future are 'Protein Purification' and 'Extraction of Heavy Metal Ions'.

**Our team won the silver award for the project.**

Report submitted by the members of the team "Acid-Artists":

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nisarg Shah*</td>
<td>BT09B044</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amit Agrawal*</td>
<td>BT09B006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suraj Rathi*</td>
<td>BT09B055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dharav Solanki</td>
<td>BT09B046</td>
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<td>Abhinav Gopal</td>
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<td>BT09B046</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satish Seikhar</td>
<td>BT09D030</td>
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We would sincerely like to thank Mr. Ravindra Nagappa for the travel grant, without which we would have missed a great learning experience.

We would also like to thank Prof. R Nagarajan, for his guidance and support. We hope that one day we will be on the other side, helping the students via the Office of Alumni Affairs.

We would like to thank Prof. N Manoj, our faculty advisor for the project, who helped us at every step.
The team 'Acid-Artists' represented IIT-Madras at BIOMOD 2011. We presented our project on Reversible collection of nano-bots using DNA nanotechnology. Our team received a travel grant for Rs. 1,50,000 which was used to fund the travel of three students [viz. Nisarg Shah - BT09B044, Amit Agrawal - BT09B005 and Suraj Rathi - BT09B055] from Chennai to Boston, where the competition was held on 5th November 2011. We won the silver award for our project and interacted with the pioneers of the field of DNA nanotechnology.

The process of getting the grant was smooth due to the help and guidance from the Office of Alumni Affairs. We would sincerely like to thank Mr. Ravindra Nagappa for the travel grant, without which we would have missed a great learning experience.
The 2011 iGEM World Championship Jamboree was held from November 5th to 7th on the MIT campus in Cambridge, MA, USA. The competition involved the top 65 teams from all over the world. These teams qualified for the World Championship Jamboree on the basis of their performance at the Regional Jamborees conducted in Amsterdam (Europe), Hong Kong (Asia) and Indianapolis (USA). IIT Madras was one of the 18 teams to qualify from the Asia Regional Jamboree, where we won a Gold Medal, received a Safety Commendation and also received a prize for Best New BioBrick Part, Natural.

The World Championship Jamboree had some of the top international teams showcasing their projects in the form of presentations and posters over the course of two days, and IIT Madras was one among them. Our team competed in the Best Foundational Advance track. Interacting with other teams and getting an insight into the kind of work they’d done served as an enriching experience for the IIT Madras team. The final day hosted the awards ceremony, and although IIT Madras did not make the list of top 16 teams, we took a lot away from the World Championship experience at MIT and the iGEM competition on the whole.

Links to the Results page:

Asia team results
http://igem.org/Results?year=2011&region=Asia

World Championship Jamboree Results
http://2011.igem.org/Jamborees
DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNUS AWARD
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

The Distinguished Alumnus Award (DAA) is the highest award given by the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras to its alumni in recognition of their achievements of exceptional merit and excellence. The DAA is awarded for outstanding achievements in areas like entrepreneurship, management, professional and academic pursuits, technology innovations and any other activity pertaining to the service of humanity at large.

Since the inception of the awards in 1996, 87 alumni have been selected as DA.

OAA coordinates the annual selection of Distinguished Alumni awardees, and the presentation of the DA awards during the ‘Institute Day’ function.

DA Selection Process

Every year the Office of Alumni Affairs, IIT Madras announces the DA award program in the first week of February of the year with the closing date as 15th of October. All applications are consolidated and classified under five categories stated as below.

Category A: Academic Excellence
Category B: Technology Innovation Excellence
Category C: Managerial Excellence
Category D: Entrepreneurial Excellence
Category E: Excellence in Other Walks of Life

The nominees of the past two years are also taken up for consideration. Applications are scrutinized and summarized by the secretary of the DA selection committee.

The DA selection committee comprises of:

1. Director
2. Dean, Alumni Affairs
3. Advisor, Office of Alumni Affairs
4. IIT Madras Alumni Association Executive Committee Representative
5. Past DA
6. Local non-DA
7. A senior faculty representative

Complete applications along with the summary information are circulated to all the selection committee members. The committee meets subsequently typically within 2 months from the closing date and deliberate in the selection process. The final list is communicated to the Director and he announces the names at the end of his Republic Day address on 26th of January the following year. The DA’s receive the award during the Institute Day (3rd Friday in April). The DA’s then continue to engage with the institute in various ways including repeat visits, student mentoring and participation in local alumni activities.
Prof. Hota V.S. Ganga Rao has earned a name in academic circles in the field of fiber-reinforced polymer composites. He is a visionary leader whose exceptional research and development contributions in his chosen field make him the world expert in the application of composites to constructed facilities. His research focus is on theory, design, development, production and implementation of fiber-reinforced polymer composites, including recycled polymers, for constructed facilities with emphasis on high strength and stiffness structures, utility poles and underground structures. His contributions in this field have resulted in his being appointed as the Head of the multi-University Center for the Integration of Composites into Infrastructure (CICI) sponsored by the U.S. National Science Foundation at West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, USA. He handles research and other projects worth more than two million dollars per year.

Prof. Hota showed his merit right from the student days. His academic record at IIT Madras, from where he graduated with a B.Tech. in Civil Engineering in 1965, was excellent, and he continued to show his scholastic prowess in his higher studies at North Carolina University, Raleigh, USA, where he received his M.S. and Doctorate in Civil Engineering in the short span of four years (two years each). He is highly knowledgeable and well-respected as a teacher and academician. More than 250 M.S./Ph.D. students have graduated under his expert guidance. He has published more than 300 technical papers, with several of his papers winning “best paper” awards.

Prof. Hota has been recognized as an innovative researcher in his chosen field for the past thirty years. He is a scholar of extraordinary insight, whose contributions in his field were recognized on several occasions. To name a few, he received the Benedum Distinguished Scholar Award for 1990-91. Cited as one of the Top Five Outstanding Leaders for the year 1988-89 in the College of Engineering, he was awarded Udani’s Best Concrete Engineer Prize for the year 1983 on “Innovative Design and Construction of Precast Concrete Panels with Passive Solar Devices”. He has co-authored a textbook titled “FRP Reinforcements for Concrete”, and has also contributed chapters in his area of specialization in many reference books and encyclopedias. He holds several patents in the area of application of composites in infrastructure. He is an active member of several professional societies such as ASCE, Advanced Composites Manufacturing Association - Composites Institute, SPI, and SAMPE.

He is a dedicated, community service-oriented person, and organizes the American Indian Students Association at West Virginia University. Prof. Hota has given generously of his time, expertise, and financial resources to make a difference to the lives of the Indian students on campus. He is a Board Member of Sahasra Deepika Foundation, Charleston, WV.
S. Sowmya, the renowned Carnatic vocalist, is an alumnus of IIT Madras, having done her M.Sc. in Chemistry during 1990 - 1992. She was awarded the meritorious IITM Blue in 1992 for excellence in Academics and Cultural Activities. She then joined the Ph.D program under the guidance of Prof. K. K. Balasubramanian. Within a short duration, she managed to publish a research paper under his guidance.

Apart from being an excellent scholar during her days at IIT Madras, Sowmya was also deeply involved in Carnatic music, doing her utmost to balance her time between academics and music. The Carnatic music scene at that time was very competitive with many youngsters trying to carve a niche for themselves. In spite of her commitment to research in Chemistry, she did well in the music circles and finally decided to devote herself full-time to music. She then successfully completed B.A. and M.A. in Indian Music from the Department of Music, University of Madras during 1996 and 1998, respectively. She has since been pursuing her passion in Carnatic music to great public and critical acclaim, and is currently performing doctoral research in Indian music, focusing on pitch variations in percussion instruments.

Sowmya's has been a life soaked in melody from the very beginning. Growing up in a traditional South Indian family, her initial tutelage in music was from her father Dr. Srinivasan, a Chemical Engineer with a Ph.D from IISc Bangalore, and a disciple of the renowned flautist Dindigul S. P. Natarajan. Later, Sowmya was taken under the wings of Sangita Kalandari Dr. S. Ramanathan. She received further training from Smt. T. Muktha, of the legendary Brinda-Muktha duo.

Sowmya is endowed with a melodious voice, as well as sound knowledge of the theory of Carnatic and other Indian music systems. Besides performing in concerts, Sowmya has also presented several lecture-demonstrations on Carnatic music and has been consistently ranked among the top female Carnatic vocalists in India. She has won several honors, awards and titles from prestigious organizations over the years, the most recent being Sangeetha Choodamani from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai. Her desire to propagate the traditions of South Indian music worldwide led her to establish Carnatica, an institution dedicated to music & dance instruction, archival, talent search and other related activities. Its web portal, carnatica.com, is now a popular online destination for music-related information and discussions. Sowmya is producer and co-author of the world’s first interactive, encyclopedic CD-ROM on Carnatic Music titled “Nadanubhava – The Horizons of Carnatic Music.” She has also created the world’s first tutoring VCD on Carnatic Music titled “Nadopasana – My Own Carnatic Tutor”, a self-help module with Karaoke features.
Prof. V. S. Sunder is a well-known mathematician currently working at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Taramani, Chennai. He received an M. Sc. in Mathematics from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras in 1973. Subsequently, he went to the U.S.A. for higher education, and obtained his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Indiana University in 1977. His thesis supervisor was the world-famous mathematician Paul Halmos, the author of several widely-followed textbooks, popular articles and research papers.

**Prof. V.S. Sunder**

[1973/M.Sc/MA]

Prof. Sunder has also served as a faculty member in the Indian Statistical Institutes at Bangalore and New Delhi, University of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles, and in the Research Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Kyoto, Japan. He works in the broad area of Functional Analysis, with specific involvement in Operator Algebras and Von Neumann Algebras. These algebras were originally introduced (in the 1930s) by the famous mathematician, Von Neumann. More recently, there was some seminal work on these algebras, done in the 1980s, by another famous mathematician, V. Jones. These algebras have important connections with topology, statistical mechanics, quantum and conformal field theory. Prof. Sunder’s contributions in this area are well-known and well-recognized, among them: the formulation of a ‘path-model’ to study towers of algebras, the construction of several series of new ‘irreducible’ subfactors, and the axiomatization of certain structures called ‘integral hypergroups’.

Prof. Sunder has authored/co-authored six textbooks and research monographs, about sixty research papers, guided six Ph.D students, written several popular articles and also given talks at several conferences and workshops at both elementary and advanced levels. He has also conducted a large number of workshops and short courses for research scholars and college teachers. His book on sub-factors (with Professor V. Jones), on topological quantum field theories (with Professor V. Kodiyalam), and his other books are widely used. He is a fellow of all the three science academies in India, namely Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi; Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore; and National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad. He was awarded Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for Mathematical Sciences in 1996. He has been awarded the J.C. Bose Fellowship for 2008-14.

Despite such achievements and plaudits, Prof. Sunder remains extremely modest and easily approachable to his students. In spite of a busy schedule involving research and teaching, he has been a member of many Scientific Committees in India and has contributed in no small measure to mathematics education in India, having delivered lectures at various Universities in most states of India, as well as at the premier research institutes (TIFR, IIS, IITs, IISc, etc.) in the country. This involvement is exemplified by his contributions to the ‘Mathematics Training and Talent Search Program’ that is conducted annually by the National Board for Higher Mathematics.
For more than a decade now, Sridharan has worked as Founder and the President of Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF), USA, whose objective is to eradicate curable blindness across India. SEF was set up in 1998 in San Jose, CA, and works with its partner in India, Sankara Eye Care Institutions (SECI). Set up in 1977 under the auspices and blessings of Sankaracharya in Coimbatore initially, SECI now has expanded to numerous locations around the country. SECI has been recognized all over India as a leading philanthropic organization that performs free eye surgeries among other preventive care for eye-related diseases, especially in rural areas of the country. Sridharan has, through his tireless efforts, led a dedicated group of volunteers all over the USA to raise funds for the development of this exemplary organization, its growth and achievement of its objectives.

In India, a single hospital in Coimbatore, Sankara Eye Hospital, performed about 8,000 free eye surgeries in 1998. When SEF joined the mission, a much bigger goal was set - Vision 20/20 by the Year 2020. To replicate the success of the Coimbatore hospital all over India, a unique scalability model was introduced. Every hospital should be self-sustaining in 5 years after starting operations. The self-sufficiency is attained by performing 20 percent of the surgeries on paying patients, and performing the other 80 percent of the surgeries totally free. This model was proved in the first hospital SEF built in India - in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. There are now 8 functioning hospitals, including ones in Bangalore, Shirmoga, Anand, Krishnan Koll, Silvassa, and in Rishikesh. SEF is currently raising funds for building the next super-speciality eye-care hospital in Punjab. The number of free eye surgeries has increased from 8,000 in 1998 to over 120,000 in the year 2010. Sridharan is a key member of the core team driving policies, strategy and process for the organization, and is also part of the implementation team. He handles the organization’s governance and growth, and is involved in identifying key growth opportunities for the Sankara Eye Foundation - in corporate grants and foundations.

SEF and its sister organization in India (Sankara Eye Care Institutions - SECI) have won many awards for the work they have done so far. SECI recently won the “FICCI Health Care Excellence Award 2010 Towards Innovative and Inclusive Health Care”. It has won this award 2 years in a row. In addition, SECI won the 2008 Asian Hospital Management Award and NGO of the year Award in India. SEF has won the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator 3 years in a row, for its efficient management of the organization.

Sridharan’s day job at Intel Corporation as Director of Strategy and Marketing of Software Pathfinding & Innovation is no less demanding and does take up well over the usual 40 hours of work a week, but he nevertheless finds enough time, energy and conviction to spend an equal amount of time and energy to work towards furthering the goals of Sankara Eye Foundation. Sridharan obtained his B.Tech. in Civil Engineering from IIT Madras in 1980, two M.S. degrees from Southern Illinois University in ’82 and ’84, and an Executive MBA from Pepperdine University in 2004.
Dr. Vijay Kumar received his B.Tech. Degree in Chemical Engineering in 1975, and his M.S. degree in Industrial Management in 1978, both from IIT Madras. After a brief career in management consulting in India, he joined the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and received his Ed.D. degree in 1986. His dissertation topic was ‘Introducing Technological Innovations for Education in Developing Countries - Implications for Planning’. The following 24 years speaks for Vijay’s distinguished career and accomplishments in this endeavor.

**PROF. VIJAYKUMAR**
[1975/BT/CH & 1978/MS/IM]

He is currently Senior Associate Dean and Director of the Office of Educational Innovation and Technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). His work at MIT is helping to redefine the relationship between universities and society. In 1996, Vijay was appointed as the Principal Investigator of MIT’s Open Knowledge Initiative, an MIT-led collaborative project to develop an open architecture for enterprise educational applications. He is a key member of the Advisory Committee of MIT OpenCourseware, the pioneering initiative that has put every classroom lecture in every subject taught at MIT on the worldwide web. OpenCourseware aggregates the knowledge of one of the world's great universities and makes it available to students anywhere on our planet.

Before joining MIT, Vijay worked as Director of Academic Computing and Assistant Professor of Computer Applications (1987-1991) at the University of Maine at Machias, and as Director of Academic Computing at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts (1991-1996). The focus of Vijay's entire career has been the intersection of education and technology, and specifically, initiatives that use technological innovations to positively transform the educational experience, making it easier and cheaper to share knowledge among institutions and across national borders.

His expertise in this area is globally acknowledged. Among many notable contributions, he has been an Advisor to the National Knowledge Commission, India, since 2006. He has advised numerous leading educational institutions and governments in the United States, Latin America, Europe and Asia. He was appointed as an Advisor for IT to the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) in 2010.

Vijay has never been a distant ivory-tower academic. For forty years, he has remained good-humored and ever accessible. He is generous with his time and expertise, and wears his numerous accomplishments lightly. Of him, it can be truly said: ‘Vidya dadaati vinayam’ – ‘Learning bestows humility.’

DAA 2011
Shri M. G. Venkatesh Mannar, President, Micronutrient Initiative (MI), Ottawa, Canada graduated from IIT Madras in 1970 with a B.Tech. in Chemical Engineering, and later completed a Master's degree from Northwestern University. In 1972, he returned to India to join his father and establish a large solar salt operation near Mamallapuram. While running the salt works, he became actively involved in developing technology for fortification of salt with essential nutrients such as calcium, iron and iodine. He was invited by various UN agencies to assist with a global program to correct dietary deficiencies through fortification of salt and other staple foods. During this period, he conducted situation assessments and advised governments to plan micronutrient fortification programs in over 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Finding his work in micronutrients more challenging and life enriching, Venkatesh decided to devote his time entirely to this area. In 1990, he sold his salt company and relocated to Canada. He then worked as a consultant to UNICEF in planning their salt iodization programs, and led the global thrust to address Iodine Deficiency Disorders through mandatory iodization of salt. Nearly 4 billion people now have access to iodized salt. He extended his work to include fortification of a wide range of staple foods and condiments with vitamins and minerals, and targeted provision of vitamins and minerals to severely-malnourished children and women.

Venkatesh is now recognized as a leader in global health with 35 years of experience in pioneering effective nutrition and development initiatives focusing on the world’s most vulnerable citizens. He has been the Head of MI, an international non-profit nutrition organization since its inception in 1994 - working to enable access to essential micronutrients for the common man through the regular diet, and ensuring the impact of these interventions in more than 75 countries. MI, starting with 4 employees, has now become the global leader in nutrition development programs with more than 100 full-time staff, 120 full-time consultants, 2 regional offices, 11 country offices and a budget of USD 38 million per year. In his role as President of MI, Venkatesh regularly interacts with and advises national leaders and policy makers to develop policies, strategies and plans for their countries. His efforts through the MI to provide essential vitamin and mineral supplements to children and women, iodize salt and fortify staple foods are saving children's lives and improving livelihoods of over 500 million people in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

He has been invited to join the Boards of several global organizations, including the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders and Flour Fortification Initiative. In addition, he serves as a member on the scientific advisory boards of some of the largest food companies in the world, such as Nestle and Pepsico. In 2010, Venkatesh was awarded the Tech Award in Health by Nokia for the contributions he has made to develop technology for the double-fortification of salt with iron and iodine. Earlier, he was recognized as the third most influential citizen in Ottawa by Ottawa Life Magazine in the year 2009.
Shri G K Pillai was born in 1949 in Kerala. His father as well as grandfathers from both the maternal and paternal side were civil servants. He completed his schooling from Bishop Cottons, Bangalore. He was also a National Science Talent Scholar and did his Bachelors in Physics and Chemistry from St Joseph College, Bangalore. He then went on to complete his M. Sc. in Chemistry from IIT Madras in 1970 before appearing for the Civil Services Examination. Following family tradition, he joined the Civil Services and was selected for the IAS in the year 1972.

SHRI. G. K. PILLAI
[1970/MSC/CY]

His penchant for doing something worthwhile, broad-based and significant was evident early, and he worked his way up the Civil Services hierarchy with keen earnestness. His early assignments included: District Collector, Kollam; Special Officer for Cashew Industries, Industries Secretary and Health Secretary in the State of Kerala, all of which he handled admirably. In 2001, he was appointed Principal Secretary to Shri A. K. Anthony, the then Chief Minister of Kerala.

He has also been on Central deputation to Delhi where initially he worked in the Ministry of Defence handling aircraft acquisitions. Other postings were as Director, Shipping and Joint Secretary (Transport). In 1996, he was posted as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, where he was given the complex and difficult North East Portfolio. His fearless approach, deep study of the complexities and ethnic issues, coupled with his sincere work ethic, ensured significant development benefits to the region, as also the effective handling of various insurgencies. In fact, his approach to resolving the Bodo problem in Assam and negotiations with the Bodo Liberation Tigers was considered unique and beyond compare. He was later posted in the Ministry of Commerce and went on to become the Chief Negotiator for India at the WTO, representing the country at innumerable international conferences.

He later became Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce. He also played a key role in the enactment of the Special Economic Zones Act 2005 and was the Chairman of the Board of Approvals for the Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Under his supervision, over 325 SEZs were notified with a total investment of Rs. 90,000 crores. These SEZs, apart from giving tax incentives to developers and industries, provided much needed employment. The total exports last year from the SEZs were over Rs. 300,000 crores, and Shri Pillai’s supervision led to the SEZs becoming economically important especially when other export industries faced a recession. Shri Pillai became Home Secretary, Government of India on 30 June 2009, a position that he holds till date. His handling of the Maoist problems, the Jammu & Kashmir situation, the North East and the modernization of police forces, as well as other critical matters has been appreciated across all sections of Government. His frankness and commitment have been useful in handling these problems. His style has always been engaging and thought-provoking. Admiringly, he has put national interests over his own personal safety. A rare trait indeed!
Prof. Jayant B. Udgaonkar is an accomplished teacher/ scientist in the area of Biological Sciences, particularly in protein chemistry/biochemistry. Many of his accomplishments came after he joined the National Center for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Tata Institute for Fundamental Research (TIFR), Bangalore. His research at NCBS has earned him many awards and recognitions.

Prof. Udgaonkar is currently a senior professor of NCBS, TIFR, and a pioneer in protein folding, protein stability and protein aggregation. His laboratory uses several small proteins as archetypical model proteins for studying how proteins fold, unfold and misfold. He uses the tools of protein engineering and physical biochemistry, including diverse optical spectroscopic methods, time-resolved fluorescence methods, as well as nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and mass spectrometry methods. Highlights of his recent work on protein folding and unfolding include the demonstration of competing pathways for the folding of monellin. Highlights of recent work on protein misfolding and aggregation include the demonstration that the transformation of soluble oligomers of barstar into amyloid protofibrils occurs in multiple steps.

Prof. Jayant B. UDGAONKAR
[1981/MSC/CY]

Prof. Udgaonkar has 106 publications to his credit in top-notch journals such as Nature and Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences, USA. He has received several distinctions at the national and international levels, among them: Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences, Fellow of Indian National Science Academy, Biotechnology Career Fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation (1991-1995), B.M. Birla Award for Biology (1996), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Biological Sciences (2000), J.C. Bose National Fellowship (2007), and Honorary Faculty Member, JNCASR, Bangalore (1999). He was awarded a Golden Jubilee Biotechnology Award by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, in August 1997, and the B. M. Birla Science Prize for Young Indian Scientists during 1998. He was awarded the Swarnajayanti Fellowship by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, in July 1998. Since 2003, he has been a Member of the Editorial Board of Protein Engineering, Design and Selection.
EVENTS
PG Confluence Day and 52nd Institute Day
The first-ever ‘PG Confluence Day’ was held on April 20, 2011, at the behest of IITM post-graduate students. It was conceived as an initiative to achieve a quantum leap in relation-building between IITM PG students and alumni, as well as to instil a sense of belonging among PG students. It was scheduled the day before “Institute Day” to leverage the presence on campus of Distinguished Alumni Awardees of 2011, half of whom were PG alumni.

The program started in CLT at 2 pm with the traditional lighting of the lamp, and quickly stepped up in pace with a lecture by PN Vijay on “Understanding financial markets and practices”. The lecture was well-received by the students, many of whom appeared to be financial whizzes themselves! This was followed by a student-led session, involving an inter-hostel quiz, and a competition involving presentations on ‘Giving back to the Institute’. Both elicited enthusiastic response from the students and alumni alike.

High-tea at 4 pm was a welcome break for all, and saw CLT fill up rapidly for the evening sessions. Kris Gopalakrishnan, a Distinguished Alumnus of IITM himself, delivered an inspirational talk titled “My Journey from IITM to Infosys” during which he imparted many pearls of wisdom for graduating students. This was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Ashwin Mahalingam (faculty in Civil Engineering at IITM), and involving 7 out of the 8 Distinguished Alumni of 2011 – Jayant Udgavaonkaar, V.S. Sunder, Ganga Rao Hota, Vijay Kumar, Venkatesh Mannar, Sricharan, Sowmya and GK Pillai. The topic of “Road Ahead: Career Opportunities After IITM” was, indeed, topical; the panel was well-received, and led to many subsequent requests to extend the time next year.

Ms. Sowmya, our 2011 DA, then delivered a soulful rendition of carnatic vocal music, rapturously appreciated by the knowledgeable audience. Following a quick sandwich break, GK Pillai, also a 2011 DA, and Home Secretary, Government of India, brought the day to a rousing climax with his talk on “Integration & Mainstreaming of Outlying Tribes”, which focused on the Northeast region. His first-hand accounts of life in the Northeast held the audience spellbound, and led to an animated Q & A session. Several students remarked that this was the first time that someone had made a combination of history & geography truly gripping!

The awarding of the DAs on “Institute Day” that followed was truly the icing on the cake. All present on both days remarked on the facility provided to mingle with truly remarkable minds and talents. The successful juxtaposition of “PG Confluence” and “Institute” Days will surely be replicated in years to come, and will surely provide the “bonding” to the Institute and affinity to the alumni community that PG students at IITM have always aspired for.
Our combined IITMAA AGM - Alumni Day event on Sat, July 23, 2011 was an unmitigated hit. More than 320 alumni, faculty and families joined us for lunch, and most of them stayed on for the sessions in IC & SR Auditorium afterwards. The energy and enthusiasm in the gathering was palpable.

The AGM was, as some commented later, a "professional and well-run meeting". The ’64, ’65, ’66 & ’71 batch programs that followed were memorable, with > 30 alumni getting on stage to address the audience, including the Director. The announcement of the "Prof. SS Sampath Chair" was an emotional occasion, with his brother and son in attendance.

Prof. Ananth's last address as Director, IITM in "Alumni Day" was inimitable, as always. He struck his usual richly-humorous vein in recapping his career at IITM, and pointing the way forward.

The evening was capped by various announcements of financial contributions to IITM:

- Kris Gopalakrishnan donated Rs. 3 crores to the Thin Films Lab in the Dept of Physics, and Rs. 1 crore to the "MS Ananth Endowment Fund". His felicitation of Prof. Ananth, and the ensuing standing ovation were truly thrilling.
- The Mehta Foundation, who had earlier funded the "Bhupal & Jyoti Mehta School of Biosciences", announced $1.5 million funding towards "School of Biosciences II", an adjacent building. A video-taped message from Rahul Mehta for Prof. Ananth was played.
- "Desh" Deshpande has announced upto Rs. 50 lakhs matching funding for batch of ’73 fund-raising efforts. Based on this, the batch set a goal of Rs. 1 crore by December. Ramesh Narasimhan spoke about this on behalf of his batch.
- The ’75 batch had their Coral Reunion in December 2010, and were inspired to raise funds for the alma mater J Krishnan, on behalf of the batch, announced that Rs. 25 lakhs had been raised, and would be directed towards "Socially Relevant Projects", a key initiative of Prof. Ananth.
• Class of ’81 alumni had pledged Rs. 1 crore for their Pearl Reunion in Dec 2011, out of which Rs. 25 lakhs had already been raised. The funds will go towards “sustainable campus” initiatives.

• The ’83 batch had raised Rs. 50 lakhs. ‘Flute’ Bhaskaran spoke on behalf of the batch, and mentioned that 2 projects were in the running for selection— the MS Ananth Endowment Fund, and the Travel Grant Endowment. The batch later decided in favour of the MSAEF.

• The ’85 batch had pledged Rs. 5 crores, and had already raised Rs. 2.7 crores. On behalf of the batch, Mahesh announced that Rs. 3.5 crores will be targeted towards a corpus that other alumni & batches could contribute to—a welcome departure from previous practice.

With these pledges and donations, the “Golden Jubilee Alumni Fund” has reached the quarter-way point of the target of Rs. 100 crores, with Rs. 10 crores being potentially raised in 2011 alone, thanks to the generosity of alumni and well-wishers.
Shaastra Confluence is one more opportunity for the Alumni to visit the campus and also interact with the students. The students have an opportunity to showcase their technological skills and brilliance to the alumni. The confluence creates an environment that fosters interaction between the alumni and students, where the students seek guidance and gain inspiration to work for the technological growth of the nation.

The presentations also included exhibits of projects undertaken at the Center for Innovation (CFI). CFI is a unique students' lab, set up with the help of funds donated by the batch of 1981. More than fifteen alumni participated in Shaastra Confluence 2011.

The festival also brought together stalwarts from the fields of research, industry, public policy and entrepreneurship who shared their views on the festival's theme “Inspire the Future”. Dr. P.V. Indiresan (Former Director, IIT Madras and Padma Bhushan recipient), Dr. T. Asokan (Head Scientist, GE India), Dr. Sandhya Sekar (CEO IITM Research Park) and Mr. Ajit Narayan (CEO, Invention Labs, awarded Innovator of the Year 2011 by MIT Technology Review) were the distinguished speakers.

‘Bots’ were the order of the day at the ‘IIT Madras Shaastra Confluence’, a part of ‘Shaastra 2011’. The students showcased different kinds of 'Bots' such as the 'Alter Bot' which can scale any terrain and the ‘Orienter Bot’ which can be used by persons with visual impairment. Few bots were also GSM-enabled such as a GSM-Based Vending Machine to purchase medicines. Students also showcased installations that were entries in technical festivals.

Former director of IIT-M and member of the governing body of the Centre for Policy Research P. V. Indiresan urged the students to start questioning if they wanted to experience a future different from that of the older generations. "You are going to have a bright future only when you question the past. Questioning everything will always throw up new ideas," he said.

"The day you follow the herd, you will no longer be an innovator," said chief scientist of GE India Engineering Group, T. Asokan.

The reason there is so much attention around innovations is because of continuing crises the world faces, he added. "We should not try to solve problems for somewhere else but those we are currently facing," he said.

Chief executive officer of IIT-M Research Park Sandhya Snekhara talked about bridging the gap between the individual and the industry. "Multinational companies are relocating to India because there is a significant opportunity and an abundance of talented minds," she said.

"There is a huge gap between a brilliant idea and a commercially viable venture," she said.

A holistic understanding of the problem will help bridge this gap, she added.

Chairman and managing director, Invention Labs, Ajit Narayanan spoke about his journey as an inventor to inspire others.

Using his creation, Avaz, first assistive device for people with speech disabilities as an example he spoke about his challenges as an inventor.
EVENTS 2011
Re-union Day

Every ten years, as summertime nears,
An announcement arrives in the mail,
A reunion is planned; it’ll be really grand;
Make plans to attend without fail.

I’ll never forget the first time we met;
We tried so hard to impress.
We drove fancy cars, smoked big cigars,
And wore our most elegant dress.

It was quite an affair; the whole class was there.
It was held at a fancy hotel.
We wined, and we dined, and we acted refined,
And everyone thought it was swell.

The men all conversed about who had been first
To achieve great fortune and fame.
Meanwhile, their spouses described their fine houses
And how beautiful their children became.

The 30-Year Reunion:

The homecoming queen, who once had been lean,
Now weighed in at one-ninety-six.
The jocks who were there had all lost their hair,
And the cheerleaders could no longer do kicks.

No one had heard about the class nerd
Who’d guided a spacecraft to the moon;
Or poor little Jane, who’s always been plain;
She married a shipping tycoon.

The boy we’d decreed ‘most apt to succeed’
Was serving ten years in the pen,
While the one voted ‘least’ now was a priest;
Just shows you can be wrong now and then.

They awarded a prize to one of the guys
Who seemed to have aged the least.
Another was given to the grad who had driven
The farthest to attend the feast.

They took a class picture, a curious mixture
Of beehives, crew cuts and wide ties.
Tall, short, or skinny, the style was the mini;
You never saw so many thighs.

As our next get-together, no one cared whether
They impressed their classmates or not.
The mood was informal, a whole lot more normal;
By this time we’d all gone to pot.
It was held out-of-doors, at the lake shores;
We ate hamburgers, cole slaw, and beans.
Then most of us lay around in the shade,
In our comfortable T-shirts and jeans.

By the fiftieth year, it was abundantly clear,
We were definitely over the hill.
Those who weren’t dead had to crawl out of bed,
And be home in time for their pill.

And now I can’t wait; they’ve set the date;
Our sixtieth is coming, I’m told.
It should be a ball, they’ve rented a hall
At the Shady Rest Home for the old.

Repairs have been made on my hearing aid;
My pacemaker’s been turned up on high.
My wheelchair is oiled, and my teeth have been
beefed.
And I’ve bought a new wig and glass eye.

I’m feeling quite hearty, and I’m ready to party
I’m gonna dance ‘til dawn’s early light.
It’ll be lots of fun; but I just hope that there’s one
Other person who can make it that night.

Author Unknown
RE-UNION DAY

"Reunion Day 2011" on December 28, 2011 was attended by more than 300 alumni and family. It featured the Silver Reunion of the 96 batch, the Pearl Reunion of the 81 batch, and the Coral Reunion of the 76 batch. A highlight of the event was the release of the first-ever IIT Madras coffee-table book "CampusTimes", a collaborative effort between our alumni, Prof. Ajit Kolar (ME) and Kumanan Sathasivam. The book is loaded with excerpts from "CampusTimes", and rare and lovely photographs.

Campus tours were arranged throughout the day, and families were entertained with activities ranging from mehendi to magic. The institute interaction program started in CLT around 11:30 and lasted two hours. Prof. David Kajipala, Dean Planning & Alumni Relations, welcomed the gathering. Prof. Nagarajan (Advisor, OAA) and V Gopinathan (President, MAA) briefly presented various initiatives of their respective offices. The reunion batches were given their time on stage, enabling hilarious recollections of days gone by. The Director, Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthy, made a presentation on "IIT Madras: Vision and Plan for 2012-16". The audience was deeply engrossed in his talk and listened with rapt attention. Distinguished Alumni and Secretary IITM Alumni Charitable Trust, D Chandrasekhar, proposed the vote of thanks. A sumptuous lunch, sponsored by the Institute, followed.

After short batch-wise breakout sessions, alumni and families reassembled at CLT at 4 pm for high tea, followed by a mesmerizing rendition of carnatic vocal music by Mrs. Vasundhara Rajagopalan (wife of our alumnus, R Rajagopalan). This "Salute to the Madras Music Season" brought the day to a rousing close. The 76 batch had their official interaction with the Director on the next day, Dec 29th, again in CLT. This session featured more Q & A, and even more nostalgia. The 81 and 91 batches adjourned to coastal resorts (MGM and Taj Fisherman's Cove, respectively), and continued their revelry on the 30th, braving Cyclone "Thane"!

December 2011 again marked a time of great bonhomie and high spirits among alumni and their families. May the tradition continue forever!

'76 BATCH RE-UNION

IITM -Class '76's re-union was held in December 2011, more than 100 + batchmates were present.

'1976 Coral re-union, IIT Madras
'81 BATCH RE-UNION

The 1981 batch celebrated their Pearl Reunion thanks to the excellent arrangements made by Prof. Nagarajan (1981 B. Tech. Chemical Engineering). About 70 alumni attended this event with good representation from India and abroad.

While the formal portion of the event was short and sweet by design, the attendees had an opportunity to spend several days together at informal dinners, walks around campus during the sunny days. Cyclone Thane then unleashed its heavy winds and persistent rains, but despite that a few of us visited the CIF (sponsored in part by the 1981 batch) and were duly impressed by the range of innovative projects in flight by a truly committed and talented set of students. That day, we also witnessed the incredible power of distance learning that IITM plans to unleash globally. Thane’s impact will pale in comparison with tremendous positive and lasting transformational impact this online learning initiative could have for technical education not only in India but also in other countries worldwide. We were very impressed by this dedicated team of individuals and I encourage those of you from the 1981 batch with a flair for teaching to consider contributing your talents to this initiative.

Later on that evening Dr. Seetharam and family, Mr. V. Shanin and family were gracious enough to join the three out of towners for dinner and drinks at the resort (la Fisherman’s Cove) which was witnessing the wrath of Thane. But in the comfortable interior, Dr. Seetharam gave us a great preview of his Jan’12 talk on the future of energy and Mr. Shanin gave us his insightful thoughts on the Indian business environment. Messrs. Aga and V. Kannan kept everyone entertained.

The next day we all went our merry ways navigating through all the disruptions caused by Thane. Everyone reached their respective destinations safely albeit many a little late. But almost all indicated what a memorable time we all collectively had.

The distinguishing thing about this reunion (not surprisingly) was that most of us displayed pearl-like characteristics. Most of us had white (grey) hair while others had smooth like polished pearl heads (bald) but a few still had that rare black hair colors just like those rare black pearls. But the most distinguished pearl was the Professor who orchestrated the entire event literally solo. For this he deserves the 1981 PEARL AWARD for dedication and innovation.
'86 BATCH
RE-UNION

1986 Silver Reunion - The re-union went well - thanks to the OAA and MAA for the relevant arrangements. Children in a reasonably broad age group held the family activities arranged on 21st morning/early afternoon. On the second day, the evening session at MPM was a mix of serious business & fun as the alumni gathered together in a small hall to discuss ways & means of giving back to their Alma Mater. They were so engrossed in their discussions that they did not realise the passage of time. They finally wound up at 8:00 p.m. after which it was all fun with a band playing old English hits followed by another group entertaining the gathering with old time favourites in Hindi & Tamil while the serious business of refreshments & Dinner got underway.
As part of reaching out and networking with the alumni, the Office of Alumni Affairs arranged a series of banquets, Gajendra Circle meet in different cities in India.

**Bangalore Banquet**

We started the year with a banquet for alumni in Bangalore in Feb. 2011 at the Taj West End where Prof. MS Ananth presented the Strategic Management Project “Vision 2020” for IIT Madras. This was to facilitate an interaction between our Director, Prof. Ananth, and local alumni, industrialists, business leaders and luminaries from other walks of life. The Event, sponsored by our distinguished alumni, Shri Bhaskar Bhat (Managing Director, Titan Industries Limited) was a grand success.

**Mumbai Banquet**

The Bangalore Banquet was followed by a banquet dinner at Mumbai in April 2012 at the ‘Taj Mahal Palace’. This event was hosted by Ramadorai of Tata Consultancy Services. Prof. Ananth presented ‘Exploring Partnership Opportunities with India’s First IIT Research Park and shared his vision for IIT Madras, and the basic components of an emerging “Strategic Plan 2020”. Ms. Sandhya Sekar, CEO of IITM Research Park was also one of the distinguished speakers.
Chennai Gajendra Circle Meet

Later in the year, in November 2011, we had a meeting with the ‘Gajendra Circle’ of Chennai based IITM alumni at the IC & SR auditorium on campus to a dinner and interaction with the new Director, Prof. Bhaskar. The “Gajendra Circle” is a forum for ongoing interactions between alumni that have shown a deep commitment to and interest in IITM, and the leadership of the Institute. GC Chennai meets periodically and engages in dialogue with IITM leadership on the state of the Institute and its future directions. Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi presented his vision and plans for Institute development over the next decade.
PAN IIT MEET IN THE US

Prof. Nagarajan represented Office of Alumni Affairs at PanIIT 2011. As the Senior Professor attending, he also represented IIT Madras in the Directors' Panel on the last day. The Meet was attended by about 1,000 alumni, with nearly 100 coming from IIT Madras.

The IITM booth in the Exhibit Hall was sponsored by a NYC-based alumnus, Ram Sundaram. It was visited by nearly all IITM alumni attending.

The campus-wise breakout sessions were organized during lunch on Sunday, Oct 2. There was a lively discussion between the alumni present, and representatives of OAA (Prof. Nagarajan), IITMAA (President, Gopi & Secretary, Madhu), and IITMAANA (Justin Thomas, Secretary, Pradeep Mallick, Subba Viswanathan, Bob Nathan).
In 2011, as part of our efforts to create more avenues for the alumni to visit the campus, we initiated the ‘Leadership Lecture Series: Alumni Speak!’ which brings alumni leaders in various fields to share their knowledge and experiences with the campus community.

We invited Mr. Anand Rajaraman, Senior Vice President at Walmart Global eCommerce, where he heads up the newly created WalmartLabs, which focuses on the intersection of social, mobile and retail.

Dr. Sumantran, Executive Vice Chairman of Hinduja Automotive, UK, presented a lecture on Corporate Cultures and Innovation. Dr. Sumantran is also a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.
MEMORIES
&
MESSAGES
As an Administrator...

I have served as Dean-Academics and later as Director. I have always been approachable, and willing to try anything once! I told the Academic Section that if they wanted to approve a proposal, they didn’t need to do anything. But if they wanted to reject a proposal, they needed to write a one-page explanation in good English! This worked like a charm… Students, faculty and staff need to be given freedom and flexibility. Administration must ensure this. They need to establish good relations during “peace time” so that conflicts can be amicably resolved as they arise. Use a long rein, and pull them back only if they cross the line. In my years, this only happened 2-3 times.

I am pleasantly surprised at the number of accomplishments during my tenure as Director, and this is entirely due to the cooperation of everyone. A Director needs to have integrity, and stand up for principles; even the Secretaries in MHRD respect that. Lack of autonomy is not the issue for IITs; it is not being clear in your own mind about what you want to do. Powers that are not exercised, tend to rust. It is worth keeping in mind, however, that democratic institutions run more on perception of power than by the actual exercise of power! My vision statement helped greatly in clarifying where I stood on the big issues. Building trust in the community and making sure that bureaucracy does not destroy the fine line ‘between trust and accountability’ are essential.

My wife Jayshree played a key role; her excellent rapport with the campus community, her social work especially with the self-help groups contributed significantly to the sense of peace that prevailed in IITM. Her untimely demise was a severe blow to me although I did my best not to let it show in the discharge of my duties as Director. Jayshree herself would have wanted nothing less.

Overall I had a wonderful time as Director, barring a few media run-ins. As long as one is convinced about one’s integrity, one can ignore malicious media reports although they do hurt. The warmth during the send-off functions at the end of my tenure will always stay in my memory. My three noteworthy accomplishments? Faculty recruitment, Research Park, NPTEL….
I've always enjoyed teaching, especially undergraduates. M.Tech. level teaching was sometimes disappointing, though the fraction of good students has increased over time. 1/3rd of our Ph.D. students are good. That fraction must also increase.

When I started teaching, I was advised by senior faculty not to get "too familiar" with students lest they take undue advantage and misbehave. A few students did, but I ticked them off, and even that happened very rarely. I had good rapport with the students right through my career. I remember one of my students waking up his neighbour in class; I told him "If you want to, you also sleep. Don't disturb others!". I remember issuing a threat to a group of unruly students very early in my days in IITM: "Your strength is in numbers; so is mine, in numbers of another kind!" After that, they quieted down. It is important to establish good relations with the first batch you teach; then, the seniors hand down the word to their juniors. A teacher must be interested, and provide help when needed. You must show care outside the classroom and fight any injustice that comes to your notice. This stays in the memory of students.

There is a Gaussian distribution among students. If you share your enjoyment of the subject with the class, at least the good ones will remember the experience. It is good to accept that students may not always be in phase with you and not see it as a crime. After all we too were out of phase at times when we were students!

Where I am now in my life...

I'm at IISc as a Visiting Research Faculty in the Department of Chemical Engineering. I'm relearning how to solve ODEs and PDEs! I'm teaching a course this term on "Molecular Thermodynamics". I have my "mafia" of former students here, and I enjoy working with them. The research atmosphere is evident here, though the support structure needs improvement (relative to IITM).

Message for alumni...

I've always enjoyed excellent rapport with alumni, ChE or otherwise. Alumni have been very involved with the Institute during my term, and I urge them to stay engaged.
Campus Memories...

My IIT experience was formative. When I joined in 1962, IIT was not an established name, but my heart was set on IIT Madras, because of the advice of two of my uncles who were engineering academics, one, a faculty member at the Indian Institute of Science, and the other, the Director of the REC (now Nit) Warangal. When I took the JEE, it was, I believe, only in its 2nd year, and there were only 4 IITs, at Kharagpur, Bombay, Madras, and Kanpur. The general public knew very little about the IITs. IITM had a huge campus, but mostly sylvan and hardly built up. There was only one academic building, BSB, and 2 hostels, Krishna and Kaveri. Narmada was still under construction, as was HSB. We moved into Narmada, just as the plastering was going on, with only a vast open plain beyond. The academic environment was fiercely competitive, yet there was much camaraderie among fellow students. Given that our classmates were all bright, we soon found our respective levels, with only a handful really standing out academically. There were many subjects in the year-long system, 13 in the 3rd year, as I recall. There were surprise quizzes, much pressure... In the 5th year, 10-15 students were able to do research on a topic; it was a major effort, leading to a thesis, although I remember little of what I did. Other than the fact I spent a lot of time in the laboratory taking photographs of flames in the Thermodynamics Laboratory, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Heitland. I learnt a lot, particularly from my classmates, in the hostel, and in the library. We were adolescents when we entered IITM, and became adults - at least many of us did! - during our stay there. I was somewhat active in student activities, mainly as the editor of the magazine known as “Campastimes”. I believe the publication is now defunct.

Why I chose to give...

All alumni have a duty to acknowledge their debt to the alma mater, especially when they received a first-rate education that helped them in their later lives. Our education at IITM was practically free: the annual tuition was 100 rupees and the room cost 200, highly subsidized even by standards at that time. What a great deal for a terrific education! In my own case, doing something at IITM is my way of paying back, in a modest way, and also combine it with one of my personal interests. As an academic for almost four decades, I am cognizant about the importance of good teaching. This has led to my decision to institute an award for “Excellence in Teaching,” in memory of my parents, who were passionate about our education, especially at IITM - two of my siblings also graduated from this institution. Teaching is an important aspect of learning, and there is always scope for improvement, for everyone involved. The great schools around the world pride themselves on the quality of their overall education, particularly at the undergraduate level, and distinguished teaching by committed faculty members is an important contributor. Like all academic institutions that aspire to international standing, IITM should recognize and reward excellence in teaching; this would provide an impetus for everyone involved, faculty, students, administration, and employers. I know that such awards can initially generate controversy, about the criteria used, as well as the particular individuals singled out for recognition, but the questions raised subside, and the outcome will become primary. From my experience in sitting on several teaching award committees over the years, I know that there is hardly ever any significant dissent on the ultimate outcome; while teaching excellence may be hard to quantify, consensus quickly builds. The students, the ultimate arbiters of teaching performance, generally know a good teacher, when they see one! No institution can claim to be of international quality, unless it has truly committed teachers.
Where I am in my life...

I have myself been in the academic profession now for 40 years, something I never anticipated when I was at IITM. The time I spent at IIT Ahmedabad, which had several great teachers then, served to motivate me to become an academic. Subsequently, during my doctoral studies at MIT, where I was taught by more than half a dozen Nobel Laureates, I understood the intimate connection between good research and good teaching, which inspired me. I enjoyed my teaching. In my teaching career, I have taught undergraduates, MBAs, and executives. I have supervised over 50 PhDs. I set up and continue to run the undergraduate honors program at the Stern School of Business at New York University, where the top 7% of UG students are encouraged to do research. I consult globally, and have sat on the boards of several companies. I am still active in research and continue to publish in academic journals. My wife is an art historian with an academic interest, as well. Both my children studied engineering, but have since migrated to careers in private equity and investment banking, where they do make full use of their analytical skills learned. In my opinion, a solid undergraduate education in engineering, with a liberal dose of humanities and social science, is the best one can ask for.

Advice to students

Life is unpredictable, in a world that is changing rapidly. Keep an open mind. Learn as much as you can, particularly about how to think analytically. Get a broad perspective: learn the basics of mathematics, science, and humanities. Learn to apply some of these ideas while you are still at the Institute. Try not to get distracted by the need of the moment, since it will not matter even in the medium term, not to speak about later on in life.

Words for faculty

IITs are institutions of national importance, and indeed they have been defined as such by an Act of Parliament. Serving on their faculty is an honour and also carries with it great responsibility. The faculty have to play a more active role in life in India. IITs were set up when technology was a prominent focus in the newly independent India, as well articulated by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru; now the writ for the IITs should be much broader. Of course, they must aim to be top-class in research and teaching, but they must also translate knowledge into practical results. Faculty must engage with society more fully. They must help convert their research into practice and also take positions on policy issues such as nuclear power, spectrum auctions, pollution control, nano-technology, the NUID project etc., where their knowledge can inform public opinion. Many of these issues are hotly debated in the media in India and elsewhere today, but sadly, I do not see any prominent presence of IIT faculty. IIT faculty must become thought-leaders in debates on public policy and practice, especially on science and technology. For this, faculty in engineering and humanities must collaborate more and bridge the gap that Lord CP Snow talked about five decades ago.

Message for alumni

We have all enjoyed the benefits of a high-quality, subsidized education. Our IITM training is, for many of us, a big part of where we are today. We must, therefore, contribute to the well-being of our alma mater, either financially, or by other means such as mentoring students, or working with faculty. Building the future of IITs cannot be the sole responsibility of the faculty and the administration. Alumni must play a more active role, especially when they have the time and energy to do so. By the same token, alumni should also be encouraged to participate in the governance of these national institutions. India is unique in that alumni play little role in the governance of these elite academic institutions, which has become the preserve of bureaucrats and businessmen.
PHANEESH MURTHY
1985/BT/ME

Campus Memories...

I have many pleasant memories of a sprawling landscape, with deer running around. We had single rooms, which is a luxury now. I met many new people, the whole experience was very positive--- until scores from the first quiz came in! As an experiment, fresher in my year were located in a Seniors' hostel, Tapti in my case. The Tapti Seniors did not let Seniors from any other hostel rag us! They had the sole privilege....

Why I chose to give...

Government funding of IITs will be reduced sooner or later. Alumni-funded endowments can give Institutes a degree of independence. Many of us have done very well financially, and should now give back something in return for our inexpensive education.

Where I am in my life...

IIT education gave me a set of assets which I still leverage professionally—problem-solving skills, confidence that comes from being the best-of-the-best, networking, trust-building... I met my wife at IIM-A, and we have two boys. One is doing Computer Science at UC Berkeley, the other is in high school.

Advice to students

Plan your future. Use all the facilities available to you. I played for my hostel in 7 games, and this was part of developing an all-round personality. Try to get the best out of IIT.

Words for faculty

Benchmark yourself against global institutions. It is not enough to only benchmark in India. Ensure your research facilities and research output are world-class. In the UC Berkeley Parking Lot, they have 15 stalls earmarked for "NL"s Nobel Laureates. Aspire for that level of excellence. Current focus in IITs is on teaching. Research must be given more importance. The right mix has to be identified and sustained.

Message for alumni

Most of us are doing well professionally. We should try to give back in some shape or form. We need to form a strong network among ourselves and with the Institute. Alumni need to re-engage with IITM. The Institute might want to make the first move, using creativity and imagination to identify multiple models for engagement. My son in Berkeley gets a letter soliciting funds in his 2nd year, addressed to him! IITM alumni chapters need to get more active. This will automatically drive up poor-pressure on alumni to interact with the Institute.
MURTHY R NUNI
1985/BT/ME

Campus Memories...
I was known as “NVR” in those days. I was very keen on sports. I played hockey and basketball, participated in athletics.... All those debates, arguments and discussions in the wings shaped me. I learnt by talking and listening. The interactive environment on campus helped me develop several interests, including investments and banking. Eventually, I went to IIM Ahmedabad after IITM.

Why I chose to give...
What I am today is due to my stay at IITM, where I received inexpensive education of the highest quality. I want to give back to my alma mater in such a way that it benefits future students. My dream is that IITM will achieve international leadership status. I am trying to do my part to make this happen.

Where I am in my life...
I run a fund management business, specializing in VC and hedge funds. My IITM background has played a role in directing my investment in tech companies. Y2K was a major driver for investments in the IT sector. Taking advantage, I set up a private equity company in 96, and invested in tech companies until 2000. Later, I launched a global tech venture fund in Singapore, focusing on companies that either developed technology in Asia or marketed in Asia. I have invested in many companies started by IITM & IIMA alumni, and most have been successful. In ’02-’03, I made additional investments in hedge funds with an India market focus, and also turned into an angel investor. I moved to London in 2008, and live there now. I have one 10-year-old daughter.

Advice to students
Use your time to mould your personality; do not focus only on academics. Learn from your fellow students.

Words for faculty
IITM faculty have made a major commitment, even sacrifice, to do what they are doing. They obviously love teaching. They should also interact with industry, and help it grow. Teaching should incorporate practical aspects. The Institute should provide complete academic freedom. It should also market itself better to benefit student placement. The benchmarks here should be global, such as Imperial College, London, who does an excellent job of it.

Message for alumni
Come back to the campus frequently. Interact with students and faculty.
**Kris Gopalakrishnan**  
1977/ MSc/ PY & 1979/MT/CS

Campus Memories...

The IITM campus was a big, big change from Trivandrum. This was my first experience living in a hostel, living outside Kerala, speaking in English. However, during my stay at Anakanda, I integrated quickly. I was Lit Sec in my 2nd year! Ours was, I believe, the first batch admitted from Science to the Engineering stream. In fact, we were in limbo for the first semester until the Senate notification came. For me, this was a lucky break—a change from Physics to Computer Science. I have fond memories of Mardi Gras, of riding a motor bike day to Besant Nagar beach.... I truly enjoyed the campus—green, sprawling, one of the best in the world....

Why I chose to give...

Education is the best gift you can give to another person. For India to evolve to the next level, high-quality education, research and innovation will play a key role. IIT Madras represents a nexus of all three elements. By giving to IITM, I can play my part in spurring India on to greatness. This is my way of giving back to society, of showing support for the next generation of India. Of course, the fact that IITM is my alma mater plays a huge role in my giving....

Where I am in my life...

I have now spent 30 years with Infosys, in various roles. I am currently Executive Co-Chairman. For me, moving to Computer Science from Physics was a life-altering change. The IT industry impacts every aspect of everyone's life. It has made India a player in the global economy, has irrevocably altered the world's perception of India. Being part of this journey has been a rewarding experience.

I have one 12-year old daughter. My wife is a Trustee of Infosys Foundation. My brother is at Oracle, and stays in our parents' house in Trivandrum.

Advice to students

You have an amazing opportunity to take young India to the next stage. The whole world is now fixated on India. Access to global resources is not an issue for Indians anymore. If you were born after 1980, you have no hang-ups about the past; you are connected to the rest of the world, to technology at its most advanced. You also carry high expectations. The consumption credit based model has clearly resulted in a global melt-down. India needs a model that is sustainable, in terms of environmental impact, human values, etc. This again is a golden opportunity. Seize the moment. I am excited by recent start-ups by youngsters, they are clearly up to the task of sustainable innovation and entrepreneurship.

Find your passion and pursue that. If you like your core subject, continue in it. Otherwise, change and do your best.

Words for faculty

IIT faculty should be more ambitious. They must set audacious mission objectives. IITM should be known for a few big things. I am confident about IITM's faculty and their capabilities in this regard.

Message for alumni

Get engaged with IITM in whichever way you deem fit. Meet & mentor students. Give lectures. Form alumni groups and strengthen the alumni community. Sustain the alumni network and links.
RAMESH DAMANI  
1985/BT/CH

Campus Memories...

They were the best years of my life. When I joined IITM, I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know anybody. I had come all the way from Bombay to study Chemical Engineering. It turned out that being far from home made for a more enriching experience. Academics were challenging, a humbling experience. The inter-IIT Meets were memorable experiences. I loved the OAT movies, Taramani, Quark... Those were my formative years, and it was a great experience.

Why I chose to give...

It's about time I give back. We were so fortunate to receive the quality of education we did for what we paid. Someone had to foot the bills then, and I want to do my share now. If you don't give back, nothing may be left for future generations. My Dad believed in education and charity, and I learnt from him.

Advice to students

Follow your dream. Do what will make you happy, not someone else. Be clear about your passion for what you do; otherwise, it will not be sustainable.

Words for faculty

Getting into IIT burns out the students. Many wander around like zombies once they are in. Do your part to rekindle the excitement of learning. Allow students maximum flexibility in career choices.

Message for alumni

If you can give, give. Your gift does not have to be monumental; small contributions add up. You can also give time, for mentoring, etc. But stay involved with IITM, one way or the other.

Where I am in my life...

I have an M.S. in Biotechnology. I’m now commercializing ideas in medical devices and products, leveraging my knowledge in engineering and biology. My wife is also a biologist. My dad taught at IIT Bombay.
ASHOK KRISHNA (S. KRISHNASWAMY)
1974/BT/CH

Campus Memories...

The five years on campus were the best years of my life. My main recollection is the high quality of the faculty, and the impact they had on me. Unfortunately, I missed Prof. Ananth taking classes. I wound up choosing “chemical reaction engineering (CRE)” as my area of interest. I was a painter, a caricaturist for “Campus Times” (which, by the way, had fantastic quality of material). I was also on the Campus Finance Committee. We came up with “Mardi Gras”, from the then-popular Paul Simon song, “Take me to Mardi Gras...” The story behind Mardi Gras is that we had a paucity of good-looking girls on campus those days, and this was one way to draw them in! The education standards at IITM were so high, graduate school was a breeze! My Ph.D., completed in 18 months, was mostly a series of thought-experiments, and parts of my thesis went into the CRE textbook by the legendary Levenspiel.

Why I chose to give...

Five years ago, Chevron initiated a global University Partnership Program, including IITK and IITM. I was instrumental in getting IITM selected as a participant. I felt that lab upgrading was an urgent need, and funds were directed towards that, and towards a Chair Professorship in Chemical Engineering. My directing of funds to IITM was not only based on nostalgia, but rather my perception that they had the necessary competence. Recruitment by Chevron at IITM was started at my behest. I started a collaborative JV with Reliance Industries, with a focus on global energy services; the hiring was related to the JV. IT companies have done this successfully though this JV never took off.

Where I am in my life...

I was hired by Gulf (Chevron) right out of grad school. After 30 years, I’m still involved in cutting-edge technology development. I’m still a hard-core chemical engineer. My expertise lies in downstream processing—liquid processing, gas-to-liquid conversion, additives, lubricants, refinery processes... I’m very much involved in licensing of technology as well. 40% of the refineries in the world, nearly all in India, use Chevron technology. Licensing funds R & D, and keeps Chevron in the forefront of technology.

My wife, an 83 alumna, also works with Chevron. I have 2 sons. My older son did Industrial Engineering in UC Berkeley, and later an MBA. My younger one is a chip-off-the-old-block, doing his 2nd year in Chemical Engineering at UC Berkeley.

Advice to students

Be inquisitive. Question everything, even established texts! Push back, don’t accept anything blindly. Do not get enamoured with money.

Words for faculty

IITs should pursue global eminence, rankings. Faculty cannot lose touch with outside world. The younger mix today at IITM should help. Faculty need to get exposed to industry. 6-12 month industry sabbaticals should be encouraged, perhaps made mandatory at least once in everyone’s career. Chevron and Reliance will be happy to pitch in to make this a reality. Practical information should be taught, along with theoretical “fundas”.

Message for alumni

Stay involved.
RAM SUNDARAM
1988/BT/CE

Campus Memories...

I have fond memories of the campus. I loved my hostel life—the friends, the discussions, the arguments. I learnt a lot from the bright people around me. I was not the best of students. Prof. Kalyanaraman had a very positive impact on me. Against all odds, Prof. TT Narendran took me as his project student! I engaged in several cultural activities and inter-collegiate events. I played tennis. I handled finances at Mardi Gras. I recall being flush with funds which we also managed to spend quickly! No wonder finance fascinated me....

Why I chose to give...

IITM is part of your DNA, who you are. Giving back is something all should do, as we all have benefitted. This is a tradition in the U.S., but not really a part of any other country’s culture. It should become a natural thing to do, and we should all be happy to pitch in and help. Fund-raising is needed for brand maintenance and brand optimization. Much of it is a selling job with a single focus—say, making IITM the MIT of India.

I give to other causes as well—medical research, polio elimination among children, studies on learning disabilities and psychological issues.... I am a member of the Board of “Child Mind Institute”, where I am very active, along with my wife. I want to start a school for differently-abled children in Chennai.

Advice to students

Follow your heart. The opportunities are tremendous; take some chances. Everything is interconnected. Nothing goes in a straight line. There will be ups and downs, cycles of highs and lows. If things don’t go well, pick up the pieces and start over. Leave your comfort zone.

Words for faculty

Thanks for letting me graduate! Please ensure that the curriculum keeps up with the times, and that you keep abreast of technical challenges. Select good graduate students and train them well.

Message for alumni

Don’t hesitate to give back. Do your part to revitalize alumni relations, especially in North America where so many of us live.

Where I am in my life...

I am now a partner with Goldman Sachs in New York City. I founded a group in “credit trading” called “Principal Funding Investments” and built it up from scratch. I took my first job in Morgan Stanley at a low level, but it was in Finance where I wanted to be. I later moved to Merrill Lynch, then to GS in 2001. Our group was responsible for $2 million at the start, which grew to $1.8 billion by 2005. I met my wife in Chennai during my internship at Sundaram Fasteners. You might say that I married my boss’ daughter. We have two kids, 15 and 14.
K. V. RANGASWAMI
1965/BT/CE

Campus Memories...

I first entered the IITM campus on August 16, 1960. We were the first batch on campus. The ground floors of Kaveri and Krishna hostels were in place, and the first floor was being constructed. There were many difficulties (not enough water, etc.) but it was still enjoyable. BSB and Workshop were ready, but not the other buildings. For the first six months, classes were held elsewhere. We were transported in open lorries to AC Tech, Guindy College... but by December, campus facilities were completed. Coming from a semi-urban area, for me, exposure to an all-India environment was a novel experience, and, ultimately, the most rewarding one. There were so many languages, so many life experiences... I went from a state-centric to a Pan-India outlook. Playgrounds were lacking; tennis courts came in the 3rd year. The first inter-IIT on the Madras campus was held in our 4th year. The charm of the campus still endures. The authorities have preserved its uniqueness through all the development over the decades. Prof. Sengupta used to say that architects were chosen on the basis of how few trees they planned to cut down!

Why I chose to give...

To me, only IITM and L & T matter! The IIT experience gives one a status and also a broad outlook. It gets you to think big. I have always had association with IIT and the campus even later. L&T in association with IIT formulated a user-oriented M.Tech programme exclusively, and I was one of the main conceivers of such a project which is still going strong.

Where I am in my life...

I joined L & T in 1965. It was a good fit for me, emotionally as well as competency-wise. I recently retired in 2011, but am continuing as Advisor. IITM and L & T are my only benchmarks in life. I say that “IITM brand gave me the L & T job, and the L & T job earned me my Distinguished Alumnus Award.” My wife is a homemaker, and my son is with Microsoft in Seattle. I have two grandchildren.

Advice to students

Think big. Think long-term! Consider what you can do for your country. Don’t just follow only the materialistic path.

Words for faculty

Encourage students to have a Pan-India outlook. Get them to hone their skills, think outside the box. Faculty are the reason behind the IITs’ rise to fame. We owe them everything.

Message for alumni

Never forget that you are an IITian. Do your part to help the Institute and the students. At one time, L & T would never recruit from IIT because IITians were considered as hoppers and would not add to the resource-bank of the company. I worked from within to change that. There’s a very strong bond between L&T and IIT now in so many ways today. At one point of time 4 of the 8 directors on the board of L&T were IITians (two from IITM) (all DAEs).
JAGDISH DORE
1971/BT/CE

Campus Memories...

I have very warm memories of the campus. I never considered myself a very bright student, and the JEE results came as somewhat of a surprise. When I entered IITM, I had no idea what I was getting into. I took academics seriously only in my last two years (which, in those days, carried 60% weighting). I wound up learning many things besides engineering, and making many friends. Hostel life was great. I have vivid memories of being ragged, though I made friends with many of my raggers. Many in my batch later suffered the indignity of having to live in a Professor’s house for a month as punishment for ragging, though I never suffered that indignity. I have good memories of hostel cricket matches, going to hotels in Adyar (Runs, Buhari)… I must admit that our general level of knowledge about the outside world, including girls, was very limited. we were innocents. I was fortunate to know the two girls out of 238 in my batch (one of them because her roll # was right after mine!)”

Why I chose to give...

I was going to leave something in my will for all educational institutions that made me what I am today. Then I decided to make it easier for everyone, and give the gift now. By giving to IITM, I am repaying my alma mater for giving me an opportunity to do well.

Where I am in my life...

I got an MBA, spent some with Ferguson Constructions, then with HUL, finally wound up with the pharmaceutical major, Sandoz, where I stayed for 39 years, ending up as MD & Head of Asia Region. I left Sandoz in 2005 to join Matrix in Hyderabad. In 2009, I started consulting for the pharma industry. My company “SidVin Life Sciences” employs 7-8 people. I have also started a charitable organization, “SidVin Foundation”, which runs a school for tribal children near Coimbatore and has constructed a school building in Jaipur, among other activities.

My wife is a doctor, and I have two daughters. The elder is a journalist with “Hindustan Times”; my younger one is studying architecture.

Advice to students

IIT Madras is a great place. Make the most of it.

Words for faculty

I want you to make me feel proud of IIT Madras. I’d like to see IITM faculty win Nobel prizes (or their equivalents). I want international recognition for the excellence of IITM faculty. I want to hear of significant research contributions from the Institute.

Message for alumni

Give to IIT Madras, in whatever way possible.
Campus Memories...

I have many fond memories. We were the first UG students at Tapli Hostel, which previously housed mostly M.Tech’s. We immediately put Tapli on the sports map, especially in football. There were more than 90 of us, all from Mech. Engg. We were a tightly knit group. We introduced 6-a-side football, and also had the best bands. I also recall nightly visits to Taramani after studying, Mardi Gras....

Why I chose to give...

The University system in the U.S. gains its strength from being able to attract the best talent-faculty & students—from all over the world. It’s need to be able to compete with them. For this, IT’s need the best resources. Wherever Government funding is not adequate for this purpose, alumni can contribute and fill the gap. All alumni will want to give back sometime to IIT Madras. This is the right time to do it. Our batch, during our Silver Reunion, has set up an Endowment Fund that all alumni can contribute to. This will allow the Institute some flexibility in discretionary spending as needs arise.

Where I am in my life...

We were the last 5-year batch, and came out along with the first 4-year batch. Some of us took a summer course to prepare for entry into the job market, and finished in December ’84. Schlumberger recruited me off-campus, and I’ve been with them ever since. But I’ve had a variety of assignments all over the world--- Taiwan, Brunei, Thailand(where I met my wife & married her 4 years later in ’89). I’ve worked with ONGC, Oil India…. I’ve headed R & D, Technology, worked in Human Resources. I even started a dotcom company for Schlumberger. I’m currently Executive VP for Worldwide Operations. I have one daughter doing business & marketing at U Wisconsin Madison, and a son going to Northwestern.

Advice to students

Vast opportunities are now available. Try them out; don’t decide too soon. When you are young, you can take risks. You can experiment & learn. Keep an open mind and try different things. But you also have to work hard. There is no substitute for that.

Words for faculty

The impact of teachers on young minds is immense, whether at school or in college. Teachers have a burden far beyond their pay. They must provide the right advice, coaching, counsel, learning environment. They must appreciate the challenge before them. Good professors can attract a student to a subject. They are role models, and must live up to expectations. Sufficient attention must be paid to faculty to keep them motivated. Teachers must, in turn, constantly update your skills and knowledge.

Message for alumni

We have a responsibility to our alma mater. We must work to enrich and enhance the IITM brand name. We must help IITM students whenever we can. A network of alumni must be set-up worldwide that engages extensively with IITM, her faculty and her students.
Why I chose to give...

- My being a volunteer in the fund raising committee of GJAF
- The enthusiasm shown by my batchmates (1985)
- The cause for which my batch (1985) contributed
- The feedback mechanism available in the OAA regarding the deployment of funds

Experience

Smooth and convenient. Immediate response from OAA in case of any problems

Message

My interaction with the institute is more (both quantitively and qualitatively) as an alumna than as a student!! It is a fact that only very few women alumnae participate in any of the events or endeavour of the institute and this disturbs me a lot. I take this opportunity to request the woman alumnae to take that extra step to visit, participate and benefit by being part of this prestigious institute. It is very interesting, informative and useful being part of the alumni body.

Why I chose to give...

It was a pleasure donating to IIT Madras. After all it was this great institution that put us on very solid foundation to face the challenges of life well beyond mere career building.

Experience

I was particularly touched by a personal email written to me by Ramesh Nair (my batchmate) that made my decision to contribute easy.

Message

I would like to convey my best wishes to the alumni, faculty and the students.
Why I chose to give...

There is no other reason for choosing to donate occasionally to IIT Madras funds other than the tie up I have as an alumnus and, therefore, I would always like to give back whenever I can to the institute from where I learnt a lot.

Experience

Obviously it is a pleasant experience.

Message

I do not know how the system works at the campus now but when I was studying it was a lot of hard work to be put in regularly and yet a lot of fun. There used to be a lot of weightage to the periodical test which were many and on weekly basis and, therefore, only being regular in classes and whatever preparatory work required for the periodical was the only thing which helped permitting you enough time for evenings out and sports as well. I hope things are the same now and I wish that the faculty would encourage the students to take up jobs or start their own enterprise in an effort to give back to the country what it has done for you.

Why I chose to give...

I have been donating various amounts upto 10% of my income regularly (started in 1973) to various organisation particularly in eye/H@lth care, senior citizen support & education. I included IIT after returning to Chennai on retirement and finding out that IITs also need donation.

Experience

The happiness that is generated when a needy / deserving person gets vision / education / a square meal etc is a joy to behold

Message

We started our life by breathing in and are going to end it by breathing out. What we are is determined by what we do within these two breaths and how we have lived this life. It is the accident of birth that enabled us to be educated in institutions such as the IIT. Therefore it is enough if our children are given a sound foundation on ethics, our culture & education. The monetary wealth that we have generated can be given to those who are less fortunate than us.
Why I chose to give...

I owe the education and workshops at IIT a lot for what I was able to achieve, and it was highly subsidized when we studied. I wanted to give something back.

Experience

The experience was great, the whole transaction was simple, got a receipt as acknowledgement, got many thank you messages from alumni office, got a small momento with a thank you note, a facebook recognition plaque, all well thought through.

Where I am in my life...

I live in Singapore and IIT has a brand name internationally. The technological edge at the IITs in terms of their selection process, facilities, quality of professors, quality of education and innovation need to be maintained & improved to keep up with the engineering colleges around the world. There are lots of alumni who have strong emotional feelings for the institute, the Institute should harness these resources to build a stronger program, beyond finances.

Why I chose to give...

IIT Madras is the premier Institute of technology of our country. I am very happy that I graduated from the pioneering batch of 1965. The training and knowledge given by the Institute helped me in building up my profession of Civil Engineering consultations and contracts. It is my duty now to repay my Alma Mater with donations for specific purposes. With such donations forthcoming from Alumni I am sure our Institute will become a world renowned technical institution in the near future.

I appreciate the Office of Alumni Affairs to have come out with plans for specific donations and bringing them to the attention of Alumni thro' emails and correspondence. As Advisor of OAA Professor Nagarajan has written to me personal appeal letters which have been touching. The office of OAA is also quite active in acknowledging the receipts of Donations. I am proud of OAA and its working.

Indian economy is on upward trend. But then the rural population and lower middle class are struggling for day to day living. It is the duty of the faculty, Alumni and students to devise ways and means thro’ innovation and research to give them affordable and comfortable living. With the joint efforts of Alumni and faculty a need Analysis of common people can be prepared and the students, faculty and industrialists can jointly work together for providing solutions for the needs.

My call to the students will be to concentrate on their path of progress which will shape their careers. But at the same time keep in mind that it is their responsibility to Build Beautiful Lives of our countrymen.

"JAI HIND"
Why I chose to give...

Just like Corporate Social Responsibility, I have believed that everyone should also have an Individual Social Responsibility. After all, all of us are what we are now in the society because of inputs (like education, values etc) that have gone into us in the past. For me, the 5 year period spent at IIT Madras (1965-70) has played a major role in molding my career thereafter. Education at any IIT comes at a price - not just to the student but more importantly in the form of subsidy from the Government and the other agencies. With the cost of providing quality education being on the rise, it is not fair to expect the student to bear the burden since he is still a dependant. Hence, it is important for the ex-ITians to step in financially and help the system. If this trend is maintained, not only the present lot of students will be able to benefit from the system, there would also be no compromise on the quality of the education provided by the IIT. This is the reason why I chose to give to IIT Madras.

Experience

The giving process was like a dream coming true that I have been able to fulfill in what I have believed in.

Message

In my view, each and every alumni is as much of a stake-holder in the system apart from the present students and the faculty. After all, every alumni was a student once upon a time and every student will one day become an alumni. The common thread connecting the alumni and the student is the quality education provided at the institute by the faculty. Quality comes at a price. Just as it is important for the current students to absorb the education at the institute and just as it is important for the faculty to ensure quality education is provided to the current students, it is important for the alumni to do their bit within their means to keep the system going.

Why I chose to give...

I have attended the 2008 PAN-IT meet at IIT Madras, and since then have been part of the mailing lists and more informed about the activities at the institute and by various alumni. My education at the institute and the exposure have helped me enormously. I am grateful both to the institute, the faculty and other people who have played a role during my stay as a student as well as the Govt. of India, which had highly subsidised the cost of education at that time.

I sincerely hope that IIT Madras continues to be a premier institute for engineering education in India.

Words for faculty

It has been a great experience to be a part of IIT-Madras. We should strive to ensure that the institute continues to be a great place for education and research. I am sure IITM can contribute in certain multi-disciplinary areas of research, including renewable energy sources which is of utmost importance to the country currently.
Why I chose to give...

Needless to say I am an 85 batch alum... but I figured I’ll keep my identity anonymous as I am told that “the left hand should not know what the right hand gives”.

During the fund raising discussions for the 85’ batch contributions, I was clear that I wanted to donate some money but was not sure about how much I wanted to donate.

So why did I want to donate? I felt that the education that I received was highly subsidized and that I ought to repay my dues. I had a few questions as to whether this money was being used properly (short answer: it is), whether IITM needed the money (it does) or whether I should be using the same money to donate for other more deserving causes (I can write a few more paragraphs on why donating to IITM is a great idea but I want to keep this short and so will skip this part, because my basic premise is that I need to repay my dues irrespective of whether the payee is a deserving candidate or not).

I was not sure on how much to donate either. Donating as much as you can sounds good but is impractical as I would like to donate as much as I am comfortable with, without making a serious dent in my reserves. I figured a good place to start is to put down a number on what I think my education’s value was to me and donate at least that much. Unfortunately, that was not of much help either. While it is tough to put down a number to evaluate the cost of a similar education/branding etc., I am told that it costs about 10 lakhs + for a similar education in a local private engineering college and that it costs about 1 crore+ in an Ivy league school. Another benchmark could be setting aside one week to one months pay or some percentage of one’s net worth based on one’s affordability. All these numbers were much higher than what I was originally thinking of donating but at least helped me crystallize my thoughts somewhat. So I figured I would pledge 10 lakhs and start sending money in and as I had a few months to think it over as I could pay as time goes by and in the meanwhile I received the following forwarded mail on the 85’ yahoo mail group titled “The Art of Giving” (author unknown) and was bemused by the fact that it seemed to answer a few of the questions I had...I guess the seeker does find.

Message

“IT is more than a good educational institution. It is a complete environment that instills many of the traits that define excellent human beings. The IIT system provided us a great education, and valuable life lessons, at a crucial formative age of our lives. And this great life-enhancing experience was received at a very low cost. I think giving back is only a small way to repay that invaluable gift that IIT has given us.”
Why I chose to give...

I got a lot out of IIT in terms of the quality of the batch mates, teachers and other IITians I interacted with, the brand image of IIT and of course, the learning itself. They were probably the most enjoyable years of my life and we studied at practically zero cost. I had donated earlier too as part of the IITians at Microsoft in Seattle. In addition, donating to a worthy cause as part of the batch project seemed like a great idea.

Experience

The giving process was fairly smooth although there was a small confusion when I could not figure out how to say that I am contributing to the batch project as opposed to an ad hoc contribution.

Message

I believe the IIT tag has helped most of us and it is in our interest for the IITs to continue to maintain the high standards for years to come. Therefore, I request all alumni to contribute as much as they can to this worthy cause.

I hope the faculty and the students continue to reinvent themselves and keep the IIT flag flying high.
STAR DONORS
STAR DONORS

Mr. Phaneesh Murthy
[1985/BT/ME]
Purpose:
1985 Batch Project
(Alumni Endowment Fund)

Dr. Parasuram Balasubramanian
Purpose:
Young Faculty Recognition Awards
Institute Day prize 3 & Convocation Prize 2

Mr. Sridharan
[1980/BT/CH]
Purpose:
Prof. Ramanujam Memorial Award

Mr. Govind Krishna
[1985/BT/ME]
Purpose:
1985 Batch Project
(Alumni Endowment Fund)
2011

Mr. Sreeram Srinivasan
[1985/BT/MT]
Purpose:
1985 Batch Project
(Alumni Endowment Fund)

May 2011

Mr. Shrikumar Suryanarayanan
[1982/BT/CH]
Purpose:
Biotech Department Entrepreneurship Scheme

September 2011

Mr. Jagdish V Dore
[1971/BT/CE]
Purpose:
Sidvam Scholarship for Meritorious performance for a topper girl student in the 2 year M.Sc Programme

October 2011

Mr. Murthy R Nuni
[1985/BT/ME]
Purpose:
1985 Batch Project
(Alumni Endowment Fund)

July 2011
**STAR DONORS 2011**

**November 2011**

**Mr. K.K. Raman**
[1972/BT/EE]
Purpose: Convocation Day prize

**December 2011**

**Sampath H Srinath**
[1977/BT/EE]
Purpose: Institute Day prizes 3 no's

**January 2011**

**Mr. Subramaniam**
[1983/BT/EE]
Purpose: 1983 Batch Fund

**June 2011**

**Mohan Kumar K. G**
[1985/BT/ME]
Purpose: 1985 Batch Fund

**June 2011**

**Ramachandran Kallankara**
[1985/BT/ME]
Purpose: 1985 Batch Fund
FUNDED PROJECTS: A SAMPLER
YOUNG FACULTY RECOGNITION AWARDS

This is an award instituted by an alumnus Dr. P. Balasubramanian (1971/BT/AE, 1973/MT/IM) for recognizing young faculty who have done well in research and have been good teachers as well. Three awards would be given for faculty in two categories: two for faculty in Engineering departments, and the other for faculty in Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences and Management Studies. The award would include a citation and a cash award of Rs 25000/-. 

Suggested guidelines for awarding the YFRA to a faculty member are:
1. Age - must be less than 40 years
2. Teaching effectiveness - should have a teachers evaluation
3. Nominations - to be called for in the month of January
4. Research - publications in reputed journals, guidance of research students and sponsored research grants
5. Award presentation - on Teacher’s day
6. Selection Committee:
   Dean (Academic Research),
   Dean (Academic Courses),
   One Professor from the Engineering Departments,
   One Professor from Sciences / HSS / Management Studies departments

AWARDEES FOR 2011

**Engineering Departments**
Dr. Anuradha Banerjee, Applied Mechanics
Dr. Nitin Chandrachoodan, Electrical Engineering
Dr. C.S. Shankar Ram, Engineering Design

**Science, Humanities & Social Sciences and Management Studies**
Dr. M. Pattabiraman, Physics

Dr. Anuradha Banerjee

Dr. C.S. Shankar Ram

Dr. Nitin Chandrachoodan

Dr. M. Pattabiraman
PRAKASH NARAYANAN SCHOLARSHIP 2011

The Prakash Narayanan Scholarship is exclusively for Mathematics Department to be awarded to an M.Sc Mathematics first year student who has scored the top rank among the students admitted in IIT Madras. The amount of Scholarship is ₹20,000.

The Scholarship scheme was started in the year 2007. In 2011, the scholarship was awarded to Mr. Ananthanarayanan Vittal, Roll No. MA11C003 who holds the top rank in JAM 2011 [All India rank No. 1] admitted to M.Sc Mathematics programme at IIT Madras.

MOGANTI SRINIVAS MEMORIAL AWARD

Moganti Srinivas Memorial Award was instituted from the year 2009. The Scholarship is to be awarded to a M.A student with CGPA of 7.0 and above at the end of the sixth semester. The amount of Scholarship is ₹30,000.

As there were four nominees, the scholarship amount of ₹15,000/- per student was disbursed to the following students

1. Aneesh Mannava (HS07H003)
2. Irene Baby (HS07H011)
3. Kavitha Narayanan (HS07H012)
4. Sudheesh R C (HS07H023)

INSTITUTE AND CONVOCATION DAY AWARDS

The prizes, to be given out on Institute Day & Convocation, are available for alumni funding. An annual Institute prize of ₹5,000 (+ medal / certificate) requires a donation of ₹1 lakh (or equivalent in foreign currency) so that the award can be given in perpetuity. Similarly an annual Convocation prize requires a donation of ₹2 lakhs (or equivalent in foreign currency). Once funded, the prize will henceforth be awarded in the name prescribed by the donor.

ALUMNI ENDOWMENT FUND

(Initiated by the 1985 Batch)

The 1985 batch will make a contribution of ₹2.5 crore approximately, to form the initial contribution for an Alumni Endowment Fund. This amount will not be named after any specific batch, but will be kept open to encourage alumni of all years to contribute to the fund. The purpose of this Endowment is to fund initiatives that will have a key transformational impact on the Institute to keep it as a world-class institution of technological advancement. In case any further contributions come from the Batch of 85, or from any other batches, it will be added to this fund. Though initiated by the 1985 batch, the Alumni Endowment Fund will not have the tag of any year, department or batch. The fund itself would either lie with IITM or IITM Alumni Charitable Trust. A committee would be formed to plan the deployment of this fund.

Every year, the Director of the Institute will issue instructions on disbursements to be made from the fund, which will be less than the amount that has additionally accrued to the fund as returns from its investments. The capital of the fund and any additional capital contributed during the year will not be disbursed.

The selection of projects should further the cause for which the money was raised and should, therefore, be in line with the following

- Key transformational initiatives, where the results are not proven or have uncertain outcomes, and hence do not get funded from the regular government funds
- To act as catalysts in projects, to help take risks, some of which might get funded later by the Government after their success is proven
- Support the Institute to innovate with infrastructure and methods which will help it to maintain IITM as a world class institution.

The mechanism of selection, the specifics of the projects and the reason for their selection will be made public over the Institute website, or any other standard method of public communication in the future. This will ensure that alumni are aware of the way in which the funds are being deployed. The disclosure will also include a statement on the size of the fund, its earnings, disbursements and amount ploughed back into the fund.
C.K. Prahalad’s book, “Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid,” introduced the idea that businesses ought to consider the poor as consumers: a veritable fortune at the bottom of the economic pyramid. Building on this work, several multinationals and Indian companies have tried to create products and services tailored to the needs of the poor, or those in low-income categories. Within the global context, the recent economic turmoil has not only laid emphasis on ethical business practices, but also highlighted the need to “do good, and to do it well.” Social enterprises have a strong role to play within this context.

The Center for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CSIE) at IIT-Madras focuses on teaching and research related to social enterprise in India, with a focus on two fronts:

1. Education about social enterprises: It is widely recognized that if the poor are to pay for innovative products and services being developed by social enterprises, these products and services need to be designed for affordability. Academic institutions have a strong role to play in educating the scientists of tomorrow with the knowledge and skill needed to design and innovate for affordability.

2. Contributing to existing literature about social enterprise: The social enterprise sector is still relatively new. There is little common understanding on what constitutes a social enterprise. There is also little information available on what are the best ways to help the sector grow. Academic interest in this sector within India has been limited. Consequently, available literature is also hard to come by. It is estimated that in the whole of Asia there are just 25 universities that conduct research on social enterprises. Academic institutions such as IIT have a strong role to play in contributing to existing literature on the sector, through primary and secondary research methods.

IIT-Madras, with its strong emphasis on academic rigor and, more recently, on entrepreneurship, is ideally suited to host a center that furthers the dual goals of education and research related to social innovation and entrepreneurship.

CSIE seeks to distinguish itself from other work being done (e.g., at MIT Deshpande Center, Stanford CSI, IIT Delhi FITT, Skoll Center at Oxford) in the following ways:

- In its focus on delivering social enterprise knowledge primarily to engineering students, with the aim of developing their ability to develop and deliver technology solutions that creates social impact.

- In its focus on academic research that will seek to address problems exclusively in the Indian context.

- CSIE builds upon the existing ecosystem by catalyzing innovation and collaboration.

**Impact:**

The students are able to attain practical experience by working on projects in Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship Laboratory course or Rural field visit course.

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**MISSION**

To build an environment that will facilitate the creation of social enterprise knowledge through research, and empower students to apply their entrepreneurship abilities to develop solutions for greater social impact through academia.

This is achieved by:

- Education: Offering academic programs on social innovation and entrepreneurship for students across disciplines and degrees at IIT Madras

- Research: Providing an enabling environment for both student and faculty researchers interested in social enterprise research within the IIT campus

- Catalyzing innovation: Encouraging young innovators and entrepreneurs by assisting in the development of socially-beneficial products and ideas

- Collaboration: Creating an ecosystem that extends to other technology institutions, including IITs
e.g. Groups of students worked on CFI lab projects like ‘Electricity production through Stirling Engines’ with many phases of prototyping and design. Rural field visit projects were prepared after study at villages; the students completed projects like ‘Creating jobs and empowering women’, ‘Education and Services Group’, ‘Community business centre’ and ‘Paddy processing and sale’ as part of the course. The studies were carried out at an identified village.

The proposed solutions include business proposals with suggested business plan, operation and marketing plan. The students gain information through focus group discussion, interaction with village panchayat, people and social enterprises.

Product design and business model of 10 projects (e.g., Solar fuel stove for vendors of eatables, low cost diagnostics in health care, water purification, etc) were also prepared.

The minor course students have participated in various national and international teams and won awards. Details are in achievements section.

Coordination with internal organisations at IITM: CSIE organised a workshop with other socially relevant projects/organisations at IITM like Research Park, RTBI, SRF RUTAG, CFI and C-TIDES

Some of the achievements of CSIE are:

a) Research project funding from IDRC Canada, in partnership with Villgro Innovations Foundation

b) Instituted National level Academic Contribution Award in Social Entrepreneurship at Villgro Unconvention

c) The minor course students have participated in various national and international teams and won awards at Genesis 2011, Oxford Said Business School YBD competition 2011, finalist in Al Gore Sustainable Technology Venture Competition (AGSTVC) 2011, and BEST-India 2011 managed by The Association for Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India.
Center for Innovation is a Student Lab at IIT Madras which provides a space for students to give expression to their ideas. It was setup using the donation from the batch of 1981. The long term vision of CFI is to promote informal learning and foster innovation and invention in technology, with a high focus on technologies aimed at contributing positively to the environment and to the society.

CFI clubs serve as a platform where students come together, take up ambitious projects and work on them, guided by the faculty and alumni. By providing the needed infrastructure and equipment, CFI ensures that ideas and initiatives do not die out. The students are committed and enthusiastic about CFI, justifying the inputs. The projects successfully completed over the last several years as part of Shaastra’s Spirit of Engineering serve as an inspiration.

CFI Automation

A project has been formulated to automate the routine administrative processes at CFI. They have come up with a novel idea of using mobile call for authenticating access to the lab eliminating the need for Smart Cards, Fingerprint Reader, etc and the need to remember Pin numbers and create an electronic registry of all users. Users call a specific mobile number whenever they want to enter the lab. The mobile number is verified from a database of users who have access to the lab. They will then be sent a One-time Authorization Code which expires in 10 minutes. This code is punched in. For exit the user makes a call without the need for a code. This will be integrated into the Tool storage unit and Inventory. Motion sensors will be integrated into the system which will keep it informed about absence of users in a particular section, prompting the reduction of lighting there.

Projects

Human Computer Interface and License Plate Recognition System

The Human Computer Interface project aims to create an interface between humans and computers based on hand gestures, by mapping various mouse pointer operations in different hand postures. When the program is started, the webcam initiates and then detects and tracks the hand in each frame. Once the hand is isolated from the image, the
gesture is recognized using principal component analysis and haar classifiers. The tracking is performed using an enhanced camshift tracker embedded with the kalman filter.

The mouse pointer is moved according to the hand movement as and when required. When a special gesture is detected, the action associated with the special gesture (such as clicking) is performed.

The same web-camera module, coupled with laser-LDR pair sensor can be used for license plate recognition. When a vehicle arrives at the entry gate, it interrupts the laser-LDR pair sensor. This sends signals to the computer indicating the presence of a vehicle. An image is captured by the camera and sent to the computer for processing. The registration number of the vehicle is extracted from the image and stored in the main memory. When the vehicle leaves via the exit gate, a similar system installed there, recognizes the license plate number and compares it with the license plate numbers on the database. The numbers and characters on the license plate are recognized using a machine learning algorithm and stored in the memory. This project can be used to track the license plate of vehicles at traffic signals.

Path Follower a.k.a Wall-E:

The path follower bot is a semi-autonomous bot that is slated to follow a path defined by the user. In addition to the primary module, a secondary module that makes the bot avoid obstacles has been added.

The input by the user is given through the custom designed UI, from which the path is segmented into sectors using OpenCV. The signal is then sent to the micro-controller by serial port communication (RS232 level converter). In case of an obstacle encountered while following the path, the cameras detect them, and give vectors to avoid the obstacle and reach the desired destination.

The stereo-vision the bot provides, in combination with other modules such as GPS, can be used to provide virtual vision to blind people and help them navigate. The stereovision can be used to develop a substitute to LADAR (Laser Detection and Ranging). Thus the quadrators yaw and roll movements can be controlled and can help in its navigation.

Orienter Bot:

A support system for visually challenged people is an area of research that many organizations and colleges are working on. Students have developed a devise which can be used by visually challenged to navigate through obstacles. This device would incorporate inputs from GPS, accelerometers, an the internet. It aims to provide lane navigation (with support from Google Maps), obstacle detection and Voice Feedback to the user. The device is highly portable and can be worn as an accessory. Such a device will be exceedingly useful to the intended user as it provides much needed independence, through simple and effective technology.

Transformer Bot:

In a world where humanoid robots are increasingly being used to perform tasks too dangerous for humans, the transformer bot developed by the students under the CFI banner is one such initiative. Essentially a bot that can alternate between being a walking humanoid and a car, its utility lies in being able to walk on rough terrain and drive on smooth terrain. The inspiration for this project comes from the movie ‘Transformers’. The bot that is being developed at present is a mini-humanoid that can perform a variety of
tasks such as mimicking a clap, assuming an attacking position (and actually attacking if an object is nearby) and dancing. The bot is completely autonomous, that is, no human contact is required to make it work.

**GSM Bot:**

In this era of extensive and intensive mobile communication, the GSM bot promises to be a path-breaking advancement in the field of automation. This wireless technology takes away the curbs on the range of remote control from a few meters, making it possible to control its locomotion from any place where one can use a mobile. This is materialized by making use of a GSM modem which is installed in it, where you can send and receive messages using a SIM card from a commercial mobile carrier. The GSM bot takes instructions via texts (Short Messaging Service) in a prescribed format and executes them accordingly.

**Omithopter:**

An Omithopter or omirotore like Leonardo da Vinci termed them is an aircraft heavier than air, which flies like a bird by flapping its wings. An Omithopter is essentially a mechanical bird. The wings have a special feature of not only developing the lift but also providing the necessary thrust. The flapping is achieved by a gear assembly powered by an electric motor. The tail acts as a control surface giving both roll and yaw motions. Omithopters try to imitate the way a bird flies, thereby becoming a close to an ideal flying machine.

**Interactive Sensing Surface:**

InSenSe is an interactive sensing device that uses the conventional principle of captive sensing in a unique manner. Based on a phenomenon that was discovered while working on the construction of pressure sensing surfaces, InSenSe acts as a sensor and the changes in static charge brought about in it as a result of its motion are recorded. InSenSe can prospectively be used as an alternative to input devices that are currently available and can help realize the objective of developing a portable 3D sensing module. Its low cost and ease of functioning also make it ideal for small scale applications like interactive switches and intelligent lighting.

**Quadrotor:**

A quadrotor, an aircraft that is lifted and propelled by four rotors. Quadrotors are classified as rotocraft because their life is derived from four rotors. They can also be classified as helicopters. However, unlike standard helicopters, quadrotors use fixed-pitch blades, whose rotor pitch does not vary as the blades rotate. Control of vehicle motion can be achieved by varying the relative speed of each rotor to change the thrust and torque produced by each. Due to their ease of both construction and control, quadrotor aircraft are frequently used as amateur model aircraft projects.

**The Formula Car-Dare to Dream**

A group of passionate people dared to dream and so was born the ‘Auto Club’. They had the idea of participating in the Formula Student competition and decided to build a prototype to justify the investments required. They were able to meet the challenge of building a car in 30 days and it was driven all around the institute. The car was powered by a TVS Fiero FX 150 cc engine. Strong, powerful and revving up to speeds to 40kmph, it took the institute by awe. Though single seated, it successfully towed along 5 members standing on the chassis. The team aims to upgrade the car in all aspects, to make it more powerful, reliable and aesthetically pleasing.

**Want to Fly 1.2**

The “Want to Fly 1.2” unmanned aerial vehicles was a highlight of Shaastra 2007, 2008. The “Want to Fly 1” came off well from the very beginning and inspired the “Want to Fly-2”. Though it crashed in its first flight, it was able to come to display in a week and demonstrate the automatic flight capabilities with a smaller craft. “Want to Fly 2”, with a payload of more than 5kg, carries self-stabilisation and data collection sensors.

With a semi-automatic long-range flying capability, the craft can be used for defence and domestic patrolling and reconnaissance applications. Built within its Rs. 5 lakh budget, it seeks to be an indigenous alternative to the Rs. 25 lakh imported vehicles currently used in India.
**Cyclotron** *(Funded by Batch of 1977)*

Accelerator physics is of great practical value in India (and world over) and this would have long range impact in building man-power with very young people coming out with confidence in building particle accelerators. There are not too many student-built projects that compare well with the Rutgers Cyclotron, even in the USA. In India, this will be the first student-built cyclotron. We expect this project to have a huge spin-off effect in stimulating student’s enthusiasm in large-scale team projects. This project will have application in teaching and research laboratory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Project Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2010 | (1) Appointment of full time chief technology officer and launch of the project  
(2) Submission of the Proposal for Funding to DST |
| 2011 | (1) Constitution of team of students  
(2) Virtual Prototype design  
(3) RF power amplifier buffer stage design fabrication and testing  
(4) RF power amplifier main stage design fabrication and testing  
(5) Magnet design and fabrication  
(6) Ion source part design and fabrication  
(7) Ion source power supply design and fabrication |
| 2012 | (1) Magnetic field mapping  
(2) RF LC circuit design fabrication and testing  
(3) Ion source testing  
(4) Chamber, Dee and electrostatic deflector design fabrication and leak testing |
| 2013 | (1) Integration of Ion source, Chamber, RF system  
(2) Beam current and Beam energy testing |
| 2014 | (1) Submission of the proposal to DST for the funding to develop a beam line  
(2) Beam line design fabrication and testing  
(3) First test experiment |
SRP PROJECT
Sensing and Monitoring System for Mobile Eye Surgical Units
(Funded by Class of 1975)

Cataract is one of the leading causes of preventable blindness in India accounting for around half of the reversible blindness. Accessibility remains a huge challenge in rural areas for cataract surgeries. IIT Madras and Sankara Nethralaya, a leading ophthalmology institution, have jointly developed “Mobile Eye Surgical Unit” (MESU) that will travel to the remote areas and perform cataract surgery on-site. This first-of-its-kind effort has been given exclusive approval by Ministry of Health, Govt. The surgical units were inaugurated by the Heads of Institutions on July 22, 2011, and have received commendations from government and industry for application of technology for social cause.

The design and development of sensing and monitoring system for the various parameters and sub-systems in the surgical units during its operation, which is crucial to the operation of surgical units, was funded by Class of 1975 under Socially Relevant Projects. The sensors for monitoring various parameters were successfully installed and tested for their functionality. The MESU completed 35 surgeries in pilot mode in Chennai starting mid-December 2011, with all surgeries clinically successful and is scheduled to conduct surgery camps in rural areas in Vellore district starting third week of January 2012.
DEVELOPMENT OF NOVEL CARBON BASED CO₂ ADSORBENT NANOCOMPOSITES FOR INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS

(Funded by Class of 1988, Seattle)

Project Objectives

1. Synthesis of metal/metal oxide nanoparticles decorated carbon nanotubes / graphene nanocomposites by different techniques for the selective dispersion of metal/metal oxide nanoparticles on carbon nanotubes / graphene

2. Characterization of metal / metal oxide nanoparticles decorated carbon nanotubes / graphene nanocomposites

3. Investigation of CO₂ adsorption capacity in metal / metal oxide nanoparticles decorated carbon nanotubes / graphene nanocomposites at different pressures and temperatures

4. Investigation of CO₂ desorption capacity in these carbon based nanocomposite materials

5. Exploring the production of the appropriate material in sufficient quantities viability for commercial applications.

Principal Investigator:

Dr. S. Ramaprabhu
Professor
Alternative Energy and Nanotechnology Laboratory (AENL)
Nano Functional Materials Technology Centre (NFMTC)
Department of Physics, IITM, Chennai 600036

CVD set up for MWNs synthesis

TEM images of (a) MWNs and (b) Fe304-MWNs nanocomposite

(a) SEM, (b) TEM images of Pd-GNP nanocomposite

(a) SEM, (b) TEM images of Fe304-f-GNP nanocomposite
GRADUAND PLEDGE

The objective of the Graduand Pledge was to build awareness among graduating students and popularize the concept of giving to Alma Mater, before graduation. The students pledge an amount when they graduate and they can start donating this amount within a year of commencing to earn. This scheme works on the premise that tiny drops make a mighty ocean and small donors can make a big contribution, collectively. The pledge amount will go into a corpus and will be drawn upon by the Institute on a discretionary basis.

316 Graduand Pledged 6 lakhs in 2010.

Pledges in 2011

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No of Student Pledged</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With amount</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without amount</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rolling Trophy

Highest number of Pledges:
Tamraparani
Highest amount pledged:
Pampa (Rs. 5.41 lakhs out of which one student from M.Tech CS pledged (Rs. 5 lakhs))

Rolling Trophy for Highest number of pledges: Tamraparani Hostel

Rolling Trophy for Highest amount pledged: Pampa Hostel
contribute to grow!

TAM Club is a recurring donation concept where all members contribute regularly (i.e., on a monthly basis) with the intention of building a sizeable corpus over a period of time, so that the aims and goals of the institute can be achieved.

**TAM Club Status and Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Donation Amount (₹)</th>
<th>Donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun - Dec 2010</td>
<td>2,26,350</td>
<td>61</td>
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<td>Jan - Dec 2011</td>
<td>3,17,505</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deployment for Travel Grant</td>
<td>-4,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Amount / Donors</td>
<td>1,43,855</td>
<td>88</td>
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</table>

**TAM Club Fund Status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Amount (₹)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jun - Dec 2010</td>
<td>2,26,350</td>
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<td>Jan 2011</td>
<td>24,000</td>
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<td>Feb 2011</td>
<td>32,000</td>
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<td>Mar 2011</td>
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<td>Apr 2011</td>
<td>19,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>23,005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 2011</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2011</td>
<td>39,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2011</td>
<td>23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2011</td>
<td>21,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2011</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2011</td>
<td>41,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
<td>24,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,43,855</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Golden Jubilee Alumni Fund**

**Golden Jubilee Alumni Fund status report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>IITM</th>
<th>IITMACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr - Dec 2009</td>
<td>39.19</td>
<td>7.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan - Dec 2010</td>
<td>267.62</td>
<td>63.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan - Dec 2011</td>
<td>782.51</td>
<td>227.86</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1089.32</td>
<td>299.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Rupees in lakhs)

**Fund Status and Report with Graph**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>IITM</th>
<th>IITMACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 09 - Dec 09</td>
<td>39.19</td>
<td>7.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 10 - Dec 10</td>
<td>267.62</td>
<td>63.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2011</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>1.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2011</td>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>4.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2011</td>
<td>144.40</td>
<td>7.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2011</td>
<td>8.53</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>5.75</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 2011</td>
<td>16.97</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2011</td>
<td>446.69</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2011</td>
<td>42.65</td>
<td>114.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2011</td>
<td>48.62</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2011</td>
<td>15.67</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2011</td>
<td>7.40</td>
<td>1.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
<td>31.99</td>
<td>94.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>1089.32</td>
<td>299.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GJAF committee members along with Director - Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi and Prof. Idichandy
# Projects Overview

## Diamond (₹50-100 Crores)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES / TIER</th>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
<th>ESTIMATED VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endowments</td>
<td>Strategic Plan 2020 Endowment Fund</td>
<td>₹60 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Infrastructure</td>
<td>New Academic Complex</td>
<td>₹60 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Research Initiatives</td>
<td>Inter disciplinary Research Projects</td>
<td>₹50 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Amenities</td>
<td>New Hostels for Ladies and Men</td>
<td>₹60 Crores (2 Years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurship Initiatives</td>
<td>Incubation Complex to nurture Innovation</td>
<td>₹60 Crores</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Platinum (₹10-50 Crores)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES / TIER</th>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
<th>ESTIMATED VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endowments</td>
<td>Travel Grant Endowment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Infrastructure</td>
<td>Biotech II Building</td>
<td>₹10 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Research Initiatives</td>
<td>Research Projects</td>
<td>₹10 - 20 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Amenities</td>
<td>Sports Facilities</td>
<td>₹10 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurship Initiatives</td>
<td>IITM Venture Fund</td>
<td>₹25 Crores</td>
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</table>

## Gold (₹5 - 10 Crores)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES / TIER</th>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
<th>ESTIMATED VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endowments</td>
<td>Endowment Schemes for Named Chairs</td>
<td>₹5 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Infrastructure</td>
<td>Indo-German Centre for Sustainability</td>
<td>₹5 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Research Initiatives</td>
<td>Research Projects</td>
<td>₹5 - 10 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Amenities</td>
<td>'Smart' Classrooms</td>
<td>₹8 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurship Initiatives</td>
<td>Student / Faculty Led Enterprises</td>
<td>₹5 - 10 Crores</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Silver (₹1-5 Crores)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES / TIER</th>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
<th>ESTIMATED VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endowments</td>
<td>CFI / CSIE Endowment Fund</td>
<td>₹3 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Infrastructure</td>
<td>Addition and Alteration Work at OAT</td>
<td>₹3 Crores</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Research Initiatives</td>
<td>Student Satellite Project</td>
<td>₹2.56 Crores (1.5 Years)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>₹1 - 5 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Amenities</td>
<td>Research Scholar Enclave</td>
<td>₹1 Crore (2 Years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurship Initiatives</td>
<td>Student / Faculty Led Enterprises</td>
<td>₹1 - 5 Crores</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Bronze (₹25 Lakhs - 1 Crore)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES / TIER</th>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
<th>ESTIMATED VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endowments</td>
<td>Annual Lecture Series / Workshops</td>
<td>₹50 Lakhs - 1 Crore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Infrastructure</td>
<td>Lab Facilities</td>
<td>₹25 - 50 Lakhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Research Initiatives</td>
<td>Robotics</td>
<td>₹25 Lakhs (2-3 Years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Amenities</td>
<td>Energy Efficiency Initiatives for Hostels (E.g. LED lights, Solar Water heaters)</td>
<td>₹25 Lakhs - 1 Crore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurship Initiatives</td>
<td>Construction of New Quark</td>
<td>₹80 Lakhs (1 Year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student / Faculty Led Enterprises</td>
<td>₹50 Lakhs - 1 Crore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more details on these projects, please visit:  
http://gjfund.iitm.ac.in/about-fund