

COMPILED BY SANDEEP MUKHERJEE ('95 PHY MECH)

PARTYIN' AROUND THE WORLD

EVENTS TO COME!



CHENNAI

November 6, 2004, BITSAA Chennai Get-together

For those who have been eagerly awaiting the next BITSAA bash, here are contact details for the next alumni event.

Venue Chennai, India
Contact Srikanth Krishnamurthy
Email seethusri@yahoo.com



EAST COAST

November 6, 2004, Oasis 2004 - The Alumni Edition

Our annual events in the past years were a blast. We've had 200-300 people dancing and partying into the night. It has been a wonderful combination of Piloni music-nites and Roctaves all over again. Thanks to our generous alumni, we also met our fundraising goals and raised enough funds to continue our two endowments to BITS. This year Rajesh Hukku is the Chief Guest.

Venue Somerset Hilton, New Jersey, USA
Contact Nirav Shah
Email nrvsh@yahoo.com

PAST EVENTS!



NAGPUR

October 27, 2004, Nagpur Chapter

Venue Cafe Coffee day, VCA Complex,
Contact Sangeeta Patni ('85)
Email sangeeta_patni@yahoo.com

It was so much fun to meet up with everyone at 27th October at Cafe Coffee day. For people who could not come in, thought I would just send a brief informal mail out. From the minute that I walked in, I am sure this was going to be a great evening. While the place (CCD, I believe it's called) was noisy and evoked memories of our student days, especially with so many student milling around-the BITS gang was gung-ho! We did move out the cafe to have a quieter place (That was a great idea, Vipin!) and had fun lachchaing.

The members present were ranging from Mr. Kanoria who created the first Alumni association in Nagpur, a senior alumnus of 1970 batch - to a "fresher" alumnus Akbar M Kamal, of 2004 batch! There were 13 of us, and each of us was asked to share one memory of BITS that we remembered from our BITS days. From romantic memories to "Bhoot" memories to Student strikes, we had fun just listening to the others. Ajay Saraf who came back from BITS after a recent get together shared the stories from

recent visit. Vipin, who is visiting from US, shared the activities of the BITS Association in the Silicon Valley, USA. All in all, we all had fun. We all decided that we must meet again, maybe after Diwali, this time with our families, and plan out some fun and common interest activities - where we could have fun and do some serious networking - do business, collaborate, lobby with local agencies etc- and keep the BITS flag flying in this orange city.



SILICON VALLEY

October 24, 2004, Silicon Valley Chapter Golf Event

Venue Fremont Park Golf Course
Contact Ashish Garg ('01)
Email gargyboy@yahoo.com

Close on the heels of their East Coast counterparts, the Silicon Valley Chapter organized their first ever Golf Tournament on the 24th of October 2004. About 27 BITSians of batches ranging from 1972 to 1997 turned-up for the event at the lovely 9-hole Fremont Park Golf Course. The idea behind the event was to connect BITSians in the bay area via Golf and introduce Golf to people who have never played this great game before. **Vikram Pamarthi ('91)** and **Chandra Bhople ('74 EEE)** pitched in with free training classes for beginners before the event by helping new comers perfect their swing. The Golf Tournament was played in a "scramble" style by 6 teams and was finally won by the team of **Kinney, Juggy, Sanjay** and **Ashish**. Closest to Pin prizes were won by **Phalguni Nanda**, Kinney, and **Prem Talreja**. Vikram Pamarthi won the longest drive contest.

The best part of the event was the beer and jokes session at the end where all BITSians got together to do what they do best: party! Chandra Bhople describes his vision for the event, "We should have 100 BITSians playing golf in the bay area by this time next year. This would provide tremendous opportunity for BITSians to meet each other, network, and reminisce about their Pilani days far away from the day-to-day chores and challenges. Hopefully it will also help them in their career".

The grapevine has it that a BITS v/s IIT Golf Tournament might be on the cards next year. Now, how many BITSians would like to turn up for that!

SILICON VALLEY

September 19, 2004. Silicon Valley Chapter picnic!



Rain and associated inconvenience were no match for BITSian enthu and there were no damp spirits at this year's Silicon Valley chapter picnic held at Central Park, Lake Elizabeth in Fremont CA.

Venue Fremont, CA, USA

NEW DELHI

September 2004, BITSAA Delhi Annual Get-Together



The Delhi chapter held its annual get-together Dinner & General Meeting at the Indian National Science Academy Auditorium in New Delhi. It was an enthralling evening with Mr. Prithviraj Chavan as the Chief Guest for the evening – an ex-BITSian who has been Member of Parliament 4 times and is now Minister of State in Prime

Minister's Office with the Government of India. Dr. R K Mittal President BITSAA Pilani was the Guest of Honor. The evening included presentations to the guests and their spouses. The Minister was welcomed by the Senior Most Alumnus Mr. S P Sachar (Mechanical '50). Mr. A C Talwani (Electronics '53) read out the Welcome Address. A Citation to honor the Minister was read out by the Secretary of the Association, Pradeep Sethi

B.E. (Chemical '77). The Citation was presented to the Minister by Dr. Mittal on behalf of BITSAA.

Mr. Chavan released a CD of the BITSAA Online Directory by visiting the site live & opening his own page and a copy was presented to all BITSians present at the event. Vinod Puri (Electronics '64) and K K Sainani (Electronics '79) were instrumental in making this Directory a reality. The Hon'ble Minister then addressed the gathering of over 150 BITSians, including students between '50 to '04, their spouses & other guests.

After Mr. Prithviraj's speech that outlined his experiences and transition from Pilani to the PM's office, Dr. Mittal communicated recent BITS developments and BITSAA initiatives to the group. Mr. S K Kaila (Mechanical '54), President BITSAA Delhi Chapter, thanked the Hon'ble Minister & his wife for gracing the function. Special thanks were also extended to Dr. R K Mittal and his family, to Dr. Harivansh Chaturvedi and other guests from BIMTECH Alumni Association for joining on this occasion.

The special evening wound up around midnight with a few BITSians still reluctant to leave the premises!

Venue: Indian Science Academy Auditorium, New Delhi



LONDON

Sept. 17, 2004, BITSAA UK Get-together

Seven people turned up at the Fuel, in the order of batch - Sampath Jagannathan (92), Himani Gupta (94), Ramnish Kalsi (95), Priya Iyer (95), Ramprasad Torati "Ramp" (96), Prasanna Kumar (96) and I (96). Unfortunately Anupam Gupta (89 Batch) was stuck in the traffic and couldn't make it to the meeting. Anyways, thanks Anupam for choosing the venue. It was a very good choice.

Venue London, UK
Contact Sandeep Sharma
Email Sandeep.Sharma@samsung.com

EAST COAST

August 14, 2004, Pilani Masters Golf Tournament



The winning team with Venu Myneni (middle), a regular sponsor of East Coast events

The third Pilani Masters golf tournament was held at Princeton's famed Bunker Hill golf course. The final standings were as follows:

Winner: Ravi Mehra ('64)
 Runner Up: Ashish Sharma (son of BITSian)
 Third: Venk Sharma
 Closest to Pin: Rahul Banerjee
 Gamesmanship Award: Satish Paul
 Winning Team: Ravi & Rahoul Mehra with Venk & Chetan Sharma
 Runner-Up Team: KC and Ashish Sharma, Venu Myneni and Anupendra Sharma

EAST COAST

July 31, 2004, 1st International East Coast Wing Cricket Tournament



This first-ever BITSian-style Wing Cricket Tournament was a smash hit! Unfortunately as you can see above, we could not import a chair in time, so the trolley had to be substituted. The event was held at the John F. Kennedy Cricket Ground, in Sayreville, NJ. There were two female players, one of whom received the best batsmen award for her scintillating knock of sixes and fours! The winning team was headed by a BITSian woman as well.



Winners of the Wing Cricket Tournament

There were as usual, tons of awards and trophies for which were handed out as follows:

- DreamCricket Best Fielding: Gurdeep Chhabra (1978)
- DreamCricket Best Bowling: Srinivas Alladi (1982)
- NuWare Man of the Tournament: Vikram Datla (1990)
- DreamCricket Wing Cricket Best Batsman: Chandana (BITSian's spouse)
- NuWare Clash of the Titans Winner: Post-90
- Radiant WingCricket Winners: HCL Blitzkrieg!
- Radiant WingCricket Second Place: L, G and Night Cricket at ShivG!

The matches were umpired by Sarat Paladugu.
Venue Sayreville, NJ, USA

SYDNEY

October 17, 2004, BITSAA Sydney Picnic



Good food, great BITSian company, an inning or two of BITS style cricket, children's games and memories of Pilani days made for a cold yet fun-filled day at the BITSAA Picnic. Almost 40 people were at this event including alumni and family members.

Contact Ramaswamy Nagarajan
Email rnarajan@hotmail.com
Venue Sydney, Australia

WASHINGTON DC

August 27-29, 2004, Batch of '64 Reunion in Washington DC

BITS, Pilani, graduates from the Batch of '64 (Class of '69)



in India have been keeping in touch for a long time with the help of Manohar Baheti, Deepak Khosla, Ashok Surekha, Om Gupta, and some of the others. But the North American graduates were fragmented so Anupam Sachdev and Jasbir Saini started the process of locating the folks and planning the meet. Everyone started pitching in the effort. Thanks to internet search engines, emails and BIT69 directories they located the folks all across the USA and Canada. It turns out that 2004 was the 35th year since we graduated in 1969, so we called the meet "Paintees Saal Baad" based upon the famous movie "Bees Saal Baad" which was popular during the college days.

The meet started with the '69 graduates meeting in the atrium lounge on Aug. 27 at the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington Virginia across from the Washington Monument. There were warm hugs, surprises and excitement among old friends who were meeting after such a long time. This was followed by gift bags at the welcome desk. When everyone met for drinks in the suite in the evening the whole floor was buzz with excitement and non-stop conversations. Luckily, we had booked the whole floor except for some exceptions. Even though everyone was changed in looks over time it was quite clear that the 35



years had not changed anything. It was just a pause in the whole process. The evening was spent at a local Mediterranean restaurant called “Casablanca” with live entertainment to the delight of everyone.

Aug. 28 was spent with golf for some and meeting at breakfast. Then the rest of the day was spent mostly by touring the various sites, monuments and attractions in the Washington DC area. The evening started with folks getting together for drinks and group photographs. The finale was a dinner at “Bombay Palace”. The gathering started with more friends joining us for the dinner with families. This was followed by a DVD movie called “Paintees Saal Baad – The Lost memories of Pilani” created by Vinay Mehta specially for this event movie using photos and 8mm footage he took during his days in Pilani. We followed it up with a “Now and Then” slide show that included photos of each attendee from college days and then some taken more recently. Both movies were a great success since the peanut gallery was very active and everyone could identify with the photos.

Our keynote speaker was Om Gupta, a BITS '69 colleague from New Delhi. This was followed by a presentation by BITSAA. Late night was spent with jokes, conversation into the early hours of the morning. It was hard to break them up.

Aug. 29 was early morning breakfast gatherings and then sweet goodbyes. It was quite apparent that those days in Pilani had created a bond that was hard to break. The group was more like a family after all these years than just friends. Even though everyone was quite successful in their line of work, the emphasis was on friendship and not business, status or money. It was a great reunion based upon the comments and thank you notes received from everyone. Plans are now already in works for the next reunion in Las Vegas in year 2005. See tons of photographs on www.bits69.com

Contact Jasbir Saini
Email jssaini@yahoo.com
Venue Washington DC

HYDERABAD

August 21, 2004, Hyderabad Monsoon Bash



One of our annual dinner events, postponed from its regular date of Aug 14 to Aug 21 2004, was held at Chiran Fort Club. Over 150 BITSians along with family members participated. There was good interaction among the olderPilanians (as some prefer to be called) and the younger BITSians. Prof TSKV Iyer & Mrs. Iyer attended the meeting and presented his latest book to the association. With many PS2 students in Hyderabad, some CDs of events at Pilani were played / projected. While the hint of rain remained through out the evening, the spirits as usual were high. A robust round of Tambola and dinner culminated the evening.

Organizers: Sanjay Khendry, 98480 14070,
Sanjay.Khendry@SierraAtlantic.com (and many others)

HYDERABAD

June 19, 2004, CEL Dinner Event

Saturday June 19 2004, the QutubShahi Hall of Country Club-Begumpet was packed to capacity with BITSians past and present as the BITS student team from the Center for Entrepreneurship Leadership (CEL) presented the CEL concept and provided updates on the activities and plans. CEL was set up to promote the spirit of entrepreneurial thinking among the BITSian community in March 2003. The presentation was followed by active interaction between the CEL team and the alumni. The CEL student team also met with many alumni individually during their summer break. BITSAA Hyderabad will continue to be actively involved with CEL activities. We had about 180 BITSians attending the event. ♦