

BY SUKANYA V ['02 CIVIL] AND VERNON FERNANDEZ ['04 EEE] WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ENGLISH PRESS CLUB

APOGEE 2006

A round-up of the major events that were a part of this year's APOGEE.

The APOGEE 2006

Inaug inspiring speech given by the Chief Guest, M.S. Ananth, Director, IIT Madras. The speech, studded with amusing anecdotes and deep insights, managed to entertain and enlighten the audience at the same time. His views on education, in general, and student-teacher interactions in particular, were thought provoking and brought a restless and fickle audience to some stability.

Sponsorship generated is around Rs. 3.65 lakh this year. ALTERA, a leading manufacturer of programmable logic devices, agreed to be the title sponsor for Apogee-2k6 and Apogee-2k7 for an amount of Rs. 2.7 lakh (Rs. 2.35lakh-sponsorship amount, Rs. 35,000-prize sponsor) each year. They plan to hold a nation-wide design contest called INNOVATE which is going to be held during Apogee-2k7. INNOVATE is a nation wide multi-disciplinary engineering design contest open to all graduate and under-graduate students. It not only tests the designing capabilities but also the market value of the product designed. With the winning team getting two laptops and a fully paid trip to an embedded systems design conference to be held at San José, CA in April 2007, it ought to boost participation levels during Apogee-2k7. Keane sponsored the holy grail of all quizzes in BITS –BOB, OHT, et al.. The

software major Wipro and Infosys complete the list. Wipro sponsored Cyberfiesta for Rs. 30,000 while Infosys sponsored the Computer Science Association events for Rs. 25,000.



MS Ananth, Director, IIT Madras inaugurating APOGEE 06

APOGEE had some big corporate tags and sponsors this time. Sponsorship generated is around Rs. 3.65 lakh this year.

OVER HEAD TRANSMISSION

The first big Audi event of APOGEE 2006, Overhead Transmission (OHT) started off at 7.45pm. Turnout was impressive: 130+ teams including 20 outstation teams. It is worth noting that after a gap of few years ELAS managed the event. The Quizmaster was **Anustup Dutta**. The winners were a team named the "Stalwarts of BITS".

FOREX

FOREX – a game conducted by ECO-FIN assoc on the first day started on time. The game tried to simulate the actual currency

market by having booths for the capitals of different countries (Delhi, New York, European Union, London and Japan). At the start of the game, all teams were given an initial fund of 2 lakh INR equivalent each in five different currencies (Rupee, Pound, Yen, Dollar, Euro) making it a total of 10 lakh INR. Each round was preceded by a small bit of news, which would have affected the currency rates. The participants were allowed to trade one currency for another and thereby attempt to increase their total holding as the currency rates fluctuated. **Arun, Prashant and Vikram** from BITS won the event.

VLSI DESIGN CONTEST

It was time for the nerds to rack their brains at the VLSI Design Contest organized by the EEE association. The participants were asked to solve a mixture of design problems and answer a few objective questions related to Digital VLSI in a time limit of half an hour. The questions

CampusNotes

were set by Mr. Ninad Kothari and Ms. Shipra Bahl. The organizers said that they had followed a campus interview style in setting the elims paper. Though initially announced that 8 teams would qualify for the finals, they ended up taking 11. The finalists consisted of 8 BITSian teams and 3 Outsti teams. In the Oysters Lab they were asked to simulate and synthesize one design problem in HDL. The participants were evaluated on their approach to the problem, coding skills in HDL, synthesis and viva.

Madhusudhan Sardha and **Bharadwaj** emerged as the winners, followed by **Harshit** and **Abina**.

MITHALI

A confluence of creativity, coherence, imagination and talent, Mithali- 2006 was a huge hit with all the three clubs, Music, Dance and Mime putting their best feet forward. The evening was an expression of brilliance, inspiration, confidence and perfection. An overflowing audi perfectly summarizes the show. People fought for places inside and when the stairs and entrances were also crowded, the rest of them had to retract to FD-2 QT to



Dance Club – adding colour to Mithali

watch the show.

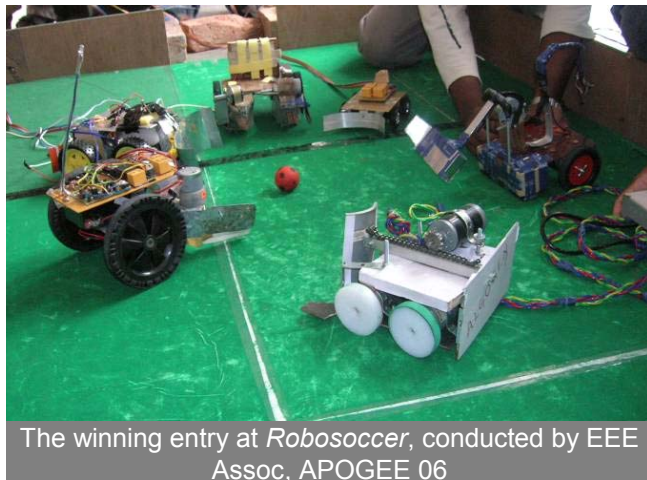
The CCTV presentation for Mithali had brilliant animation as usual. Music club's first piece was an instrumental fusion with a nice blend of western and classical music. Popular numbers from movies like Dil Se, Bunty Aur Babli, Taal received good response. A brilliant co-ordination and scintillating performance from the Music Club marked the beginning for the night, which only seemed to be getting better. The mime club's performance started with a small presentation about a school reunion plan. Dance club put up a dazzling show with four dances. They danced brilliantly to numbers

like

“Radha kaise na jaale,” “MumBhai,” a medley consisting of a song from “Bluffmaster,” and two Janet Jackson songs, they ended the show with the song “Chandralekha.” All the dances had new concepts with well-choreographed steps and props were used for certain dances. Overall, Mithali managed to meet the expectations of everyone.

CYBERFIESTA

“Unveiling potential“ seems to be the catchphrase this APOGEE and CYBERFIESTA 2k6 -an event conducted by the department of PEP was a strong testimony to this. Apart from the one-hour delay and a poor turnout, the audience did witness a few brilliant projects. The competition had 7 entries including an outstation one. First year enthu was very much evident from the fact that a few projects were entirely conceived by them. Take for instance the VIA VOICE-which would go a long way in helping visually impaired people control a computer. In fact this would also aid a person in controlling the computer while eating or driving. Another project worth mentioning is the MACINTOSH



The winning entry at Robosoccer, conducted by EEE Assoc, APOGEE 06

CampusNotes

OS X TIGER ON AN X86 PC (oops that's what it's called!!!!) which runs faster than Windows on any hardware with only generic drivers. GARBAGE COLLECTOR for .NET was a novel attempt- can be used to implement garbage collection algorithm in the .net environment. The MAVERAK AV PLAYER was simply outstanding!! It boasts of in-built functions like lyrics synchronizer, mood mode recognizer and Hindi mode operation. CRYPT MAIL, SOURCE CODE PLAGIARIUM and HIDE N SEEK.JPG were other innovative projects. The event was judged by a panel of three judges. The results were on expected lines. Karthik Ramgopal-a first year compsciite (MACINTOSH OS X TIGER ON AN X86 PC) walked away with the first prize. The second place went to Yuvraj Patel (GARBAGE COLLECTOR FOR .NET.)

BRAIN OF BITS

An amazing response from the junta left the organizer(ELAS) stunned- nearly 600 answer sheets were distributed, unprecedented in the history of the event. The previous BOB Jayendran Srinivasan was introduced with all his previously unknown credentials being revealed to an enthralled audience



OHT Winners with the Jedi Master, the event mascot

The stage had cartoon characters like Garfield, Tweety and Mickey Mouse – structures made by the department of backstage- and PAP put up an awesome, colourful backdrop having Winnie the Pooh and friends. As the Audi plunged into darkness, Jay walked in, to the tune of his favourite song “Hallowed be thy name”.

C.B.K maintained his lead. Aravind did not do enough.

The Trophy: This time around, ELAS had a few innovative ideas for going about their events, one of them being the revival of the acclaimed BOB trophy. The old plaster model of the clock tower (which was incidentally never returned by BOB '99, K.L. Arvind, after he won it) has been replaced by a glimmering 23" silver coated trophy. It has the words "In terminus, Illic est uno" inscribed on one of the faces of the octagonal base - meaning "In the end, there can be just one", rightfully so. Also inscribed is a list of BOB's starting from 1985 right up to 2005.

Stimuli

Stimuli, the biology trivia conducted by B1, was a treat for all the bio enthusiasts. The quiz consisted of a written elims, followed by the finals for the selected six teams. The questions in the finals were well set. The finals was spread over four rounds which included the typical finite bound round, audio visual

round, connect round and rapid fire round, which brought the proceedings to an end. A special round of applause goes to the quiz master Akshaya V L who was very professional in conducting the event. In the end Aashish Rao and Rahul Bharadwaj of MGR college, Chennai finished first, closely followed by Ashok Prasad and Ayshwarya Subramanyam of BITS.

Gamophilic

“Stick together team!” rang the call on the headphones. The enthusiasm was high and the tension rang even higher during the latter phase of the gaming event, Gamophilic. Over 50 teams took part in the preliminary round, which were followed by pre-quarters, quarters, semis and a final round. The winners of the event were The Cannibals: Ishan (havoc) Bhanu, Tarun Michael Johnson (tnt), Vishwajit Gaikwad (aka serpent) and Vivek Krishnan, who shall be winning original Counter-Strike CDs along with the prize money.

MyIndia Quiz

The much-feted India Quiz was hosted by final year students Renju John and Kavitha Karthikeyan, the event was sponsored by the BITSunami programme. The team named THE FINAL CUT comprising Rachit Parekh, R Vijay and Jayendran Srinivasan from BITS Pilani winning. The team WHO MOVED MY QUIZ? consisting of Arun Sethuraman, C B Krishna and Vernon Fernandez came second.

