

Department of Mechanical Engineering

18 - 19th September 2010

The Mechanical Engineering department day was marked with joy, celebration, close interaction between the past faculty members and the present generation, staff interfacing, nostalgia, introspection and brain storming for chalking out the future directions for the department.

All the former faculty members and retired staff members of the department were invited. They came in large numbers. The day began with a splendid breakfast get-together, which marked the beginning of an emotional home-coming out-burst.

The official program commenced in the forenoon with the opening ceremony and a 'Gup-Shup' session. The opening ceremony was uniquely designed for it was presided over by four children sitting on the dais, as guests of honor in a symbolic welcome to the future. The Head, Prof. N. Vyas extended a warm welcome to everyone present and briefly outlined the history of the department. The opening ceremony was conducted by Prof. Bishakh Bhattacharya. Former colleagues and members of the staff reminisced about their experiences in the department, the history of the department, the ups and downs of the past, and wished the department a bright and productive academic future. The strong sense of belonging, the emotional attachment to the Institute and the continued commitment to excellence was very apparent in the eyes of the former colleagues.

A campus tour was organized and while all were impressed by the development and growth of the Institute, some had serious concerns about the environmental quality of the campus and stressed the need for creating more green zones. The tour ended with tree plantation in the green area at the Northern Laboratories.

An Open House was also organized as part of the day's activities. It was coordinated by Prof. Nachiketa Tiwari. Approximately 300 school children from the city of Kanpur were invited and taken to the different facilities of the department.

The guests along with the campus community also enjoyed a cultural evening in the Outreach Auditorium which was coordinated by Prof. P. Venkitanarayanan and Prof. Sameer Khandekar.

The second day started with a research overview presentation by the Head of the Department, Prof. Vyas. Individual presentations highlighting the ongoing research at

the department were then made by the stream conveners: Prof. Sivasambu Mahesh (Solid Mechanics and Design), Prof. Subrata Sarkar (Thermal-Fluid Sciences), Prof. N.V. Reddy (Manufacturing Science) and Prof. Ashish Dutta (Robotics), respectively. A presentation was also made showcasing the singular achievements and progress made by the students in the development of the nano-satellite 'Jugnu'.

There was also a presentation of the six best BTech Projects. In a discussion on the importance of BTech projects most former faculty colleagues were of the opinion that this course should be retained in the present format as it is a most effective learning tool for BTech student. There was a poster session as well by the graduate students of the department. A main attraction of the day's program was a panel discussion on '**Engineering Education - Towards a Branch-less Paradigm**' which generated a great deal of argument and passion.

Two days, 48 hours, the mood was thoroughly nostalgic for some and full of expectations for others - Golden Moments, nevertheless, for one and all!