

## **The US West Coast Convention, Santa Clara**

16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2010

The theme of the IIT Kanpur Golden Jubilee Event in Santa Clara was “Reconnect! Rejuvenate! Rejoice!” The event succeeded in living up to and exceeding its promise.

The Alumni night was on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2010. Alumni attended in large numbers to celebrate the success of IIT Kanpur and to meet their old friends, mentors and gurus. The evening’s highlights were the announcement of the Rajeev Motwani awards and the nostalgia section, put together by Mr. Anil Gupta. There was also a performance put up by the Bhangra Empire. The main conference was on Saturday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2010. The day was action packed but easy paced with keynote speeches, professional tracks and other informative sessions and award presentations.

Each distinguished keynote speaker had his own distinct style of putting a point across. In styles ranging from inspiring to downright entertaining, they shared their unique perspectives about business, success and life.

The content tracks were a balanced mix of Pan-IIT alumni and other speakers from all walks of life. Attendees got an opportunity to choose between sharing table time with some very successful entrepreneurs in the Mentorship track, listening to inspirational alumni as part of the Inspiration track, or attending classroom style educational sessions in the Education track.

The Vision 2020 panel discussion and presentation, which was followed by a Q&A session, informed the alumni about the future plans of IITK and about the need for their continued support and participation in implementing these plans. The evening’s entertainment had an impressive line-up of performers; Rajiv Satyal’s comic standup routine, Tara Priya and Mona Sampath Dance Co’s awesome performances and the music of the popular band Indian Ocean playing well into the night. Sunday was the alumni cruise day and it turned out to be a bright sunny day with dance, food and perfect views of the San Francisco bay. There were reunions which happened throughout the event; informal chat sessions, heart-warming scenes of old classmates, seniors, juniors, all sitting together at tables, talking in the hallways, sharing their journeys, re-living the past and in many cases, plotting the future.

The Golden Jubilee event succeeded in re-igniting the West Coast alumni's interest in the affairs of IITK. The overall success of the event was a result of generous donations by the sponsors and a strong dedicated team of volunteers.

Volunteering for this event was a very enriching and satisfying experience. Everybody worked together for months and in the process formed lasting bonds and friendships. Seasoned experts mingled with fresh minds and it was wonderful to see participation across the wide spectrum of IIT Kanpur alumni in the Bay area.