Message from the Associate Director

I am immensely happy that IISc Alumni Newsletter is revived and the current issue is the second in this series. Every Alumnus considers the Newsletter as the most valuable means of communication between himself and his Alma Mater. This means of communication should be never ending and on behalf of IISc Director and on my behalf, I promise all the support from IISc for this cause.

IISc Alumni have been occupying several distinguished positions in Academic Institutions, Research Laboratories and Industries all around the world. They are now well placed to contribute to the growth of IISc. We witnessed in the IISc Global conference in Santa Clara last year that our Alumni are on the upbeat and are looking forward for exciting centenary events at IISc this year. I see that this issue of the Newsletter has coverage of the proposed programs of the Centenary Conference. Alumni will be delighted to receive the information so that they can plan their visit to IISc this year.

We are looking forward to generate and consolidate the vision of several well wishers of IISc on the direction in which IISc should move in the second century of its existence. Our Alumni should make a significant contribution in this aspect. I expect the Newsletter to act as a vibrant media to excite our Alumni to work towards this end.

I congratulate the IISc Alumni Association Executive Committee and the Editorial Board for rejuvenating the Alumni Newsletter in the centenary year.

N. Balakrishnan
Associate Director, IISc and Patron, IIScAA

IISc Celebrates

IISc is in the throes of the excitement of celebrating its Centenary. The Celebrations start on May 27, 2008 when it enters its hundredth year of the issue of the vesting order by the Government of India. It was then a small beginning with just three Departments (General and Applied Chemistry, Electrotechnics and the Library).

Jubilees are ways by which we mark the progress of institutions, nations, states and even individuals. Thanks to the link of metals with civilization, many of them have a distinct metallic luster: the more significant ones are Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Let us jump to 1934, when it was the Silver Jubilee Year. The records do not indicate any great celebration. However, we can celebrate in retrospect as C V Raman had joined as the Director in 1933. As the first Indian director he gave meaning to Indian in the title of our institute. He also added a fourth Department of Physics. The rest, as they say is history.

By the time of 1959 IISc was in a more assured position. The Golden Jubilee was celebrated with great eclat under the Directorship of Dr S Bhagavantam. The vestige of the Raj was still there in the presence of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, but the tryst with destiny was in its formative period, as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru electrified the audience with his address. There were only 11 Departments then.

In 1984 the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations under the Directorship of Prof C N R Rao announced to the world that a great scientific institution had joined the great league of institutions of higher learning. The then Vice President of India, Mr R Venkataraman, stated that the Institute has been a lofty peak of excellence. Mr R D Tata, President of the Court, appealed for opening studies in humanities.

Let the Centenary Celebrations begin!

S. Ranganathan

Upcoming Events


Division of Chemical Sciences will be organizing an International Conference on “Hydrogen and Hydrogen Storage; Methods and Materials” - January 3-6, 2009. Please visit the website: http://ipc.iisc.ernet.in/~H3_2009.

National Symposium on Electrochemical Science & Technology - July 18-19, 2008, organised by The Electrochemical Society of India, E-mail: ecsi@ureach.com
Editorial

It gives me great pleasure to be associated with the Alumni Association and being the editor of the Newsletter. For a person like me staying outside campus this is an opportunity to interact with intellectuals on the campus. The decision of restarting the newsletter was taken in one of the Executive Committee Meetings around December 2007 and the first issue was brought out in time and released on 3 March 2008, the Founder’s Day. On behalf of the Association I immensely thank all the contributors and members who fondly received the first issue. Now the newsletter will be a quarterly and this second issue is now in your hands.

The Editorial Board is making all efforts to bring out the latest news concerning to our esteemed Institute and the alumni. Important events, achievements, awards, etc., are some of the items that find place in the Newsletter. Information about the most important event in the history of IISc, the Centenary Celebrations, is finding its place in this issue. Editorial Board earnestly request all members of our Alumni to contribute to the newsletter by sending important information, their achievements, and articles of interest. Under the leadership of our Director and Associate Director the Alumni Association and its activities will improve further.

K.S. Rajanandam

Archives Cell

The Institute will be celebrating it’s Centenary in 2008-2009 and we wish to present to the Nation the immense scientific and technological contributions IISc has made since it’s inception in 1909.

As part of our Centenary Celebrations, an Archives and Publications Cell (APC) has been established to collect, catalogue and preserve all documents of relevance to the Institute, in all formats, audio or video. The Archival material would be of use not only for the general public but also for further studies and scholarly purposes.

Towards this endeavour IISc will gratefully acknowledge the receipt of documents, photographs, audio/video clippings or any other material in any format that you may have in your possession.

Contact Information:
IISc archives and Publications Cell
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012
E-mail : archives@apc.iisc.ernet.in
Web page : http://apc.iisc.ernet.in
Phone : 080 22932518, Fax : 080 22932066

One Hundred Glorious Years

The Institute’s Centenary Celebrations begin on 27 May 2008. During the year, there will be many occasions for the alumni to visit the Institute and participate in the festivities. We highlight below a few key events, so that you may note in your calendars.

The IISc Centenary Lecture Series started off in grand style with a lecture by Prof. C.N.R. Rao, Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister and former Director of the Institute; the previous issue of the Newsletter carried a short report. By the time this issue reaches your hands, Prof. Andrew Viterbi (University of Southern California, Los Angeles) would have delivered the second IISc Centenary Lecture on The Foundations of the Digital Wireless World. This lecture is scheduled for on 27 May 2008, the first day of the Centenary year; it will also mark the inauguration of the first of a series of conferences (see below).

Conferences: The Centenary year will formally begin with the Conference on Managing Complexity in a Distributed World (MCDES). Organized by the Institute’s Electrical Sciences Division, this conference will also formally kick off the Centenary Celebrations on 27 May 2008. The second IISc Centenary Conference on Advances in Mechanical Engineering (ICAME), will be held during 2-4 July 2008. We are sure there will be many more conferences during the year, so do please keep an eye on the Institute’s website (http://www.iisc.ernet.in/) for updates.

In addition to these thematic conferences, the IISc Centenary Conference, to be held during 13-16 December 2008, will bring the entire Institute community together in a grand celebration. As the Conference website (http://www.iisc.ernet.in/centenary-conf/) states, it is “the pièce de résistance of the year-long celebrations,” and will include “focused scientific symposia at the frontiers of science and technology; high impact panels on contemporary topics on research, technology, and education; IISc Showcase to highlight the contributions of IISc; public lectures; alumni events; and cultural programs befitting the centenary celebrations of the Institute.”

As we said at the beginning, there are many events during the year-long Centenary Celebrations which will give our alumni an opportunity to visit the Institute and re-connect with their classmates and teachers. We, from the Institute, look forward to a grand year of wonderful interactions with all of you!

T. A. Abinandan
Honorary Fellowships

The following achievers will be conferred Honorary Fellow of IISc. as a part of Centenary Celebrations:

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
Mr. Ratan N. Tata
Prof. R. Narasimha

The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, which is India’s foremost research institution, enters its centenary year on 27th May 2008. In making the hundredth year of its existence, the Council of the Institute had recently decided to confer the Honorary Fellowship of the Institute on Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, Mr. Ratan N Tata, Chairman of Tata Sons, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the architect of the Green Revolution in the country and Prof. R Narasimha, noted aerospace scientist. The Honorary Fellowship of the Institute is conferred on eminent scholars in recognition of their distinguished contributions to knowledge in the subjects in which the Institute is interested or on persons who have rendered eminent service to the Institute or on persons who have made a noteworthy and lasting contribution to the cause of science and industry in India.

In the 100 years of existence of the Institute, only 25 persons have been so honoured. Among those conferred the Honorary Fellowship of IISc are Jawaharlal Nehru, M. Visvesvaraya, C.V. Raman, J.R.D. Tata, A.L. Mudaliar, Vikram Sarabhai, S. Dhawan, Indira Gandhi, G.N. Ramachandran, Raja Ramanna, M.G.K. Menon, A. Ramachandran and C.N.R. Rao.

Achievers from IISc Alumni

Dr Baldev Raj, Director, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam and IISc Distinguished Alumni Awardee (2007) has been elected as a member of the German National Academy of Sciences. This is in recognition of his contributions to science-based technologies and discovering science while delivering technologies. Membership of the German National Academy of Sciences, in Engineering Sciences is a rare distinction as only 15 professionals have been recognized in Engineering Sciences as on date from all over the world. Dr Raj is the first Indian to get this distinction from the German National Academy of Sciences in Engineering Sciences.

Prof. Rakaesh K. Kapania alumni of IISc (M.E. Aerospace 1979) has been appointed as the Norris and Laura Mitchell Professor of Aerospace Engineering at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA. He established a world-class research program in the general areas of mechanics with emphasis on the finite element methods, fluid-structures interaction, multidisciplinary analysis and design optimization, deterministic and probabilistic mechanics, nonlinear analysis of composite structures, neural networks and adaptive structures.

Dr. I.S. Raju, alumni of IISc (M.E. 1967 and Ph.D. 1973 from Department of Aerospace) was awarded NASA Exceptional Service Medal for Exceptional Service to the NASA through contributions to the fields of Computational Mechanics, Fracture Mechanics, and Damage Tolerance of Aerospace Structures. He is currently at NASA Langley research Center, Hampton, Virginia, USA and is in a National committee monitoring the safety issues of space shuttle.

Editorial Board

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IISc Alumni Website Committee

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Dr. V. Gopalkrishna

Sri V. Babu Sathian
Dr. S. Vengadesan

Noble Prize Citation to our Alumnus

Presented to

S. Sampath

for contributing to the award of the
Nobel Peace Prize
for 2007 to the IPCC
IIScAA Activities

Alumni Association is becoming louder. The networking and interaction amongst alumni are increasing day by day. Since March 2008 more than 100 alumni has joined Alumni Association Family. Old students are looking for an opportunity to come together as evidenced by the Breakfast Meet held on May 18, 2008 brought more than 200 alumni together. Number of them for the first time coming to such meet were thrilled to be with their Senior students who are great achievers.

Prof. Rajeswari Chatterjee has taken the initiative to bring out a book on alumni reminiscences. Excitement is building up all around about the IISc. Centenary Celebrations. Members are coming with great ideas and high expectations.

Kudos:
April 2008 – Dr. P.S. Mukherjee of IPC Dept. and Dr. Dhirendra Kumar Simanshu of MBU Dept. have been awarded the INSA Young Scientist Medals. Dr. P.S. Mukherjee has also been selected as Young Associate of the Indian Academy of Sciences.

Prof. G. Mugesh of IPC Dept. has been selected for the Swarnajayanti Fellowship 2006-07 by the Dept. of Science & Technology (DST), India.

March 2008 – Prof. K.L. Sebastian of IPC Dept. has been awarded the Amrut Mody Chair.

Distinguished Alumni Awards
During the Centenary year we propose to honor many Distinguished alumni. Nominations are requested from Alumni, Head of the Institutions where our Alumni are employed and Chairmen of the IISe departments. Kindly visit IISe web site at http://www.iisc.ernet.in/iiscaan for information regarding the awards.

V. Babu Sathian
Hon. General Secretary, IISeAA

A Walk Round the Campus

There is a real buzz about the campus with construction activities going on in full swing to replace buildings which are also ready to celebrate many jubilees. Physics, Aerospace, and most of Biology will be moving into brand new buildings next year. A new structure to accommodate the Centre for Nanotechnology is taking shape from a bottom-up approach. An International Visitors Hostel with over hundred studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments is getting ready. All these are coming up at the northern end of the campus. Work on a new student hostel to accommodate about 500 students has also begun. Area is cleared for the new Informatics centre which will also house the library as well. In a years time the campus as we know it will still be there, but with all these additional structures planned in a way to make them merge with the rest!

- E D Jemmis

Construction in Progress

IISe Alumni Contact Information

IISe Alumni Association
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore - 560 012
Telephone: +91 80 23600180 / 22932597
E-mail: info@iiscalumni.com, ksrkranandam@gmail.com
Website: www.iiscalumni.com

Editor: Dr. K.S. Rajanandam, Hon. Joint Secretary, IISeAA

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