IIIT-Delhi Chronicles

News. As it is.
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Welcome back!

Time sure flies fast! It seems like it was only yesterday that we had released the first edition of the newsletter and here we are, ready with our second edition. We appreciate the feedback that we got from our readers in response to the first edition and we have tried to incorporate the suggestions as much as possible. Please keep the comments incoming as we love to hear your feedback and act upon them. Also, if you would like to contribute to the newsletter, drop an email to iiitd-newsletter@googlegroups.com. We hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we enjoyed producing it.

Mid Semester Exams
Deepali Kishnani

> "In a British University, a final exam question on Business was:
> "Define what risk is".
> The shortest answer ever at one word was:
> "This."
> The student handed the essay in and got 100%."

When does that sloppily and sluggishly rising student's stress level take a giant leap? When do those boring lectures finally start making much more sense? When do the cries of "Will you stop discussing it?" "Screwed it up, bigtime!" followed by those carefully counted "Wow. That went so well!" reach your ears? Mid semester week can be safely described as the "quickest" and the "quietest". When did it start? When did it finish? Arr, what? Did someone just give 3 exams in 24 hours? No, you never need to specify to either the Canteen Staff or the Mess Staff that the mid semesters are round the corner. That sharp rise in sales of cold coffee and Pepsi are enough to blow the trumpet of their arrival. Suddenly, all those "perpetually" occupied places in the campus find themselves silently brooding over the students' ignorance towards them. Not to mention, the importance enjoyed by the Lecture Halls, the M.Tech Labs, the B.Tech Labs and the Discussion Rooms. The importance of the mid semesters on the other hand does not need to be stated. They define the semester. After all, they test our learning and also define our grades.

> *"Well, tests ain't fair. Those that study have an unfair advantage. It's always been that way."*
>
> *Alan Dare Pearce*

This stressful week, our mid semester week, arrived on 22nd September, 2014 and bid us good bye on 27th September, 2014. The first blow was the schedule itself. I remember people having 4 exams in 24 hours. I remember people trying to get their schedule changed. I remember

People Hitting the Gym @ IIIT-Delhi

people writing mails for that and yes, I remember the smiles on their faces when the final schedule catered to almost all of their needs. I also remember people giving the exams with a lot of stress and tension, and then smiling and going out with friends on the last day of their exams. Of course, the memories of the latter are sharper and merrier. The mid semester exams come and go. They are gone with the wind. However, their learnings will stay with us, at least for the end semester to come.

Follow-up on IT Policy
Shayan Lahiri

In the August edition, I had written an article on the need for an IT Policy in the institute. Subsequently, I was invited to discuss this matter with the Chair IT Committee and I'm happy to say that action has been taken since then. The institute has created a new subsection called Policies on the website of the IT department. 2 new documents have been added and 3 older documents have also been transferred to this section. The policies outlined in the recently added documents offer more clarity on the usage of IT facilities in the institute and address some of the issues I had raised.

In addition to this, the Chair IT committee has this to say to all students: "Every student signs an honour policy at the time of joining and commits to proper use of IT resources. However, as the days pass by, memory of what was signed might fade. To quickly refer to the current policies, the IT department has decided to maintain the latest versions of all IT-related policy documents on their portal site at http://it.iiitd.edu.in/. Still in case of any doubt about what is one's rights and responsibilities in using the IT resources, please

feel free to get in touch with IT department's helpdesk. They would be happy to assist you."

More policies may need to be added later as and when they become relevant. But for now, it is a welcome change for the students to finally have the IT policies listed in one place for easy reference.

The Real Stuff: Research
Sahil Babbar

From this edition onwards we plan to bring the spotlight on some of the interesting research projects going on at IIIT-Delhi. These will be across disciplines, and cover the latest research our professors and students are doing. For this month, we have covered CERC – Cyber Security Education and Research Centre, a paper published at ICSE from IIIT-Delhi and Dr. H.B. Acharya's research interests.

CERC was founded on 23rd January, 2014 and in a short span of 8 months, CERC has inspired many, whether through captivating research or inspiring TechTalks or through various programs. CERC has conducted various significant programs like Continuing Education Programme (CEP), ISO Awareness Program twice with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Online Social Media for Policing with the Government of India, including the state Police.

CERC has attracted researchers from all over the world including Georgia Institute of Technology, Tallinn University of Technology and others. CERC graduated 3 Masters Students recently and also signed a MoU with CISO Academy. It has been allotted a part of the 'A' wing on the 4th Floor of the Academic building for residing the CERCians and their own universe. Being an emerging centre in Cyber Security, there are demands and also good opportunities for every IIITian to be a CERCian irrespective of whether you are an undergraduate or a Ph.D. scholar. On the kind of students CERC is looking for, PK said "Hard-working students who have interest in Cyber Security. Just the students should be hard-working and it doesn't depend on high CGPAs, but it also doesn't mean that you should be a four pointer!"

Talking about conferences, some of the most prestigious conferences held recently include International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE) held for the first time in India, in Hyderabad. Samit Anwer (M.Tech), Aniya Aggarwal (M.Tech), Rahul Purandare (Faculty) and Vinayak Naik (Faculty) presented their research paper 'Chiromancer: A Tool for Boosting Android Application Performance' in MobileSOFT held in conjunction with ICSE. Chiromancer is an app coded in Java which checks different applications for vulnerabilities and performance

issues inside them and reports them to the user according to his/her needs. This is one of the research projects which influenced researchers and industry people at ICSE who invited the presenters from IIIT-Delhi to do research with them. IBM Research Labs; Haifa, Israel was one of them. Samit Anwer along with the others is going to present his new research work at Mobile Software Engineering, Bangalore in a few months.

'Internet of Things', these three words have the potential to transform how humans live and is one of the straight from oven topics in research, where things are still setting up. Prof. H.B.Acharya has decided to devote his five to ten years of research to this topic. He is exploring 'What does the security policy for a smart space look like? How can we set up a proper (e.g. PKI) trust infrastructure so device and domains can authenticate each other? What happens when the "device" is a sub-domain: who is to be authenticated? (Just the controller of the sub-domain?) Does the perimeter of a smart space act as a proxy to examine incoming connections? If the last hop (non-IP), connections are unstable; what security solutions for Disruption-Tolerant Networks can be used here?'. The interrogation and exploration is going on with mind blistering possibilities. The professor is interested to work with hard-working and motivated students.

New M.Tech Labs
Shubhangi Prasad

Three new M.Tech labs have been constructed on the 2nd floor of the Student Center. They are a replacement to the old ones in the Academic building. With the growing multitude of research scholars now joining our institute, the former ones have now been converted to Ph.D. labs. The new labs are well-lit and well ventilated, giving students a conducive environment to work.

Each lab is designed to seat around 40 students. The cool temperature in the lab is a heavenly escape from the scorching sun outside. However, these labs lack cupboards which students used in the previous labs. Hopefully they will be incorporated soon.

One of the many pros of having labs in the Student Center is that it is a short distance away from the hostel and one does not need to walk very far for food breaks. The mess and canteen are right below. Also, there are many provisions for enjoyment in the floor upstairs. If the student still feels bored and compelled to do some real outdoor activity – the football ground, basketball court, tennis court and badminton courts - are all a stone's throw away. The relocation of the labs also assists the professors in working more peacefully. We have all had professors storming into the labs in the past and demanding the students to lower the noise levels.

However, the con of not having the labs in the academic building is that it was more convenient to work there. Academic building houses all the classrooms and professors' offices. Thus, during the day, one could simply attend classes and

work in the labs in between lectures. We didn't have to walk all the way to another building to do that. Working nearby, we could also consult our advisors more conveniently. The Library building was also closer to borrow books for reference.

The new labs are albeit a comfortable place to flock together and work. During our recent mid semester exams we saw many students utilizing this facility.

College Gym
Geet Gupta

"Bhai tu kahan jaa raha ?"
"Bandi banane."
"Hai ?"
"Yaar, Gym jaa raha hoon."

Our institute, other than growing academically, is starting to grow culturally as well. And with this, new trends amongst students are emerging. One such trend is "Going to the Gym". Students nowadays are "hitting the gym" more than ever. One reason for this sudden increase is the prices being reduced from Rs. 1,200 per semester to a meagre Rs. 200 per semester. That's less than 2 rupees per day! Another reason for this trend is that students are getting more and more health conscious. People have actually started realizing the importance of fitness.

There are various other reasons why one goes to the gym. Some people go because they want to be fit and keep themselves in good shape. Some go because their friends, belonging to the previous category, force them to come along. Some on the other hand go just to take a break from studies, assignments, quizzes, exams and not to forget, sleeping! Those who don't go, either don't find the time for it and/or play sports as an alternative and/or already have a girlfriend/boyfriend and/or think of themselves in shape, considering round as one of them.

The gym has multiple machines and equipment including treadmills, for those who wish to get into a shape from where they can start "making their bodies". The gym also has equipment that target specific muscle areas of your body; abdominal region or the abs, biceps, triceps, shoulders and chest, thigh and calf muscles etc. All of these are used by people depending on their needs i.e. getting fit so as to get a girlfriend/boyfriend, trying to be in shape so as to keep their girlfriends/boyfriends and so on and so forth. Jokes aside, one can find almost all the equipment for any of the needs that one visits the gym for.

One issue that some students highlighted was that there is no one to supervise the use of machines. Since so many students have started to use the facilities of the gym, a lot of wear and tear has started to happen. Someone must be there to supervise and ensure that all the machines are functioning perfectly.

I, on the other hand, have never been to the gym, and consider round to be the best shape

possible. The only Gym I have ever been to is Jim Corbett Park. I certainly would like to change that and hope to "hit the gym" from tomorrow. Just kidding!

Cultural Activities
Shayan Lahiri

Following events were some of the highlights of September.

1. Audio Bytes, the Music club of IIIT-Delhi, organized a Karaoke night on 5th September in C21. Many freshers attended the event and it was noticed for the first time that many M.Tech and Ph.D. students also attended it. The event went on for 3 hours and performances were mainly done by students who had prepared songs in advance, however, there were a few impromptu performances put up as well.

Artathon - Students busy in the competition.
Credits: Tasveer (IIITD's Photograph Society)

2. Prodigious Painters, the Art club of IIIT-Delhi, organized an Artathon on 2nd September. 20 teams, of 2 members each, went through 5 rounds of challenges. In each round, the materials required for the challenge were scattered in different places and the participants had to find them before they could begin. One of the rounds was a finger painting round. In another round, a mask making competition was held. 6 teams qualified for the final round which was a painting/sketching competition in which the theme was music.

3. Trivialis, the Quiz club of IIIT-Delhi, organized a quiz on 9th September. The topic was Brands and Companies, and was hosted by Geet Gupta, a B.Tech 4th year student. There were 25 questions total in which participants had to identify the Brands after being given some infamous incidences or historical events that occurred in the lifetime of the company.