

# Ping!

*Farewell !!*

**“Our memories of the ocean  
will linger on,  
long after our footprints  
on the sand are gone.”**

## Editor's Word

Imagine yourself sitting in a roller coaster. A variety of emotions engulf you from starting to the end of the ride. When the coaster is just about to start, you are excited and anxious. A sudden rush of adrenaline triggers off as it ascends the gradient and so does your excitement level. But you are aware that a steep dive follows immediately after! As the coaster hurtles down with full speed, the ride becomes unbearable and you want it to end soon. But three more rounds are left and in the upcoming rounds, you adjust yourself to the fear of ups and downs. Now you have learnt to enjoy the ride, especially in times when it goes down with full speed and tends to set your nerves on edge. After the first round, you were driven crazy and wished that the coaster stopped right there. But at the end of fourth one, the ride is all over and you still wish you could have another ride — just one more time!

But why does all this needs to be mentioned here? Well, the answer lies with the passing-out batches of the institute, who must have related this description with their own mindset by now. Having spent 4 years of their life in the institute, it is now time to say goodbye to the “leaves of the banyan tree”. With memories to cherish and friendship worth preserving, they are departing with a lot more than just a degree (or two!) and some bookish knowledge. Though many might say that life after college is full of fun, freedom and enjoyment; but their heart still says “just one more time!” and this is where the memories of a simple yet safe, secure and friendly campus environment wins over the lavishness of metropolitan lifestyle. We wish the outgoing students best of luck, and hope that they accomplish the journeys of life successfully.

Nothing in the world can be more depressing and demotivating than saying goodbye to your friends who are passing out in four years, while you yourself sit inside a cubicle and work hard to get the dual B.Tech+MS degree! To all those who relate themselves to this trivia, we would like to remind that IIIT-H is one of the top institutes which offers world-class research programs, and people from other reputed institutes get admitted to the dual degree programs at IIIT-H. Hence they must identify the underlying opportunity and enjoy their work, rather than taking it as a burden. After all, it is the power of students undertaking research that has built the image of our institute as a pioneer in IT research and development.

The summer of 2012 is going to be full of activity. While the ‘fifth year’ students will be changing gears to complete their research quickly, the third year students will be having a first-hand experience of honors program and research that many might be taking up in their upcoming years. A fresh batch of wannabe IT experts will be getting ready to start-off their journey in the institute, and in the meantime the campus will be preparing itself to welcome the new batch. But what about the Ping! team? After having released the last edition of current academic year, will we degenerate into oblivion? Well, we will get more spicy and interesting news for you from the campus and ensure that when you return from vacations we have a lot to tell you. We wish you all a very happy and ‘cool’ summer vacations. See you again in August 2012. Till then, Goodbye!

This is Anshul, signing-off for the year!

[anshul.bhargava@students.iiit.ac.in](mailto:anshul.bhargava@students.iiit.ac.in)

# Campus Buzz

After a brief silence following the hustle-bustle of Felicity, the campus once again rose to activity. As the volunteers oscillated between Himalayas and Nilgiri for setting up the R&D showcase, and mobs of crazy students invented new colours and textures on Holi, the campus once again resonated with energy and enthusiasm.

The 3rd & 4th of March saw the institute hosting its **Research and Development Showcase** for the twelfth time since its beginning. The two-day event consisted of a showcase of selected exhibits and demonstration of research projects

which showcased some of IIIT-H's most recent developments in research and technology innovation. The main objectives for the showcase were to provide the visitors an opportunity to get firsthand experience about IIIT-H's cutting-

edge research and technology development, excite research interest in college and university students and faculty, help the industry discover IIIT-H's innovative research and transformational technologies and identify areas for research collaboration with the institute. For the entire two days, "what's new" was the talk of the town. With a huge participation of more than a thousand students from outside IIIT-H along with visitors from companies like Microsoft, Cisco etc, the event was a huge success on all the three fronts. Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Scientific Advisor to Defence Minister and Director General, New Delhi, was the Chief Guest for the show-

case and delivered the inaugural lecture. The event featured over 200 exhibits and demonstrations and received overwhelming response from all sections of the targeted audience. Needless to say the event was a huge success, with the college looking forward to other such exhibitions in the future.

After the Research and Development Showcase, it was time to have some boundless fun. **Holika Dehen** was organized at the Felicity ground on 7 August at 9:30 pm. **Dhulandi** on the next day was celebrated with a great amount of zeal and animation (albeit arguably a little too much) at the football ground from 10 a.m. onwards. What

started as a perfectly sane celebration – with people applying *gulaal* on others, playing with water, dancing and fooling around, soon turned into a perfect case study for the thesis on behavior-of-caged-animals-when-let-loose.



*One of the exhibits in R&D Showcase*

Each face looked like a wonderful idea of an abstract art painter, with the gamut of colours blurring the visage. People were thrown into mud, rolled over there, thrown again whenever they tried to clean themselves. The guys, half-naked, were chased and flogged with tattered t-shirts. The majority of girls giggled from the sidelines whereas a few joined the flogging ceremonies. "Anarchy", someone might have said... but everyone present was having just too much fun for that.

# Hailstorms turn into beautiful drizzle

*Sounds uncanny, doesn't it? Well neither is this article about the fake claims of some magician, nor is it about the weather reports of Shimla and Gulmarga! This is about something which happened in our own campus, and changed the way most CCNSB students look at their research fields in their starting years.*  
Reports Shriyaa-

In January, when I received a mail informing me that the CCNSB was planning on organizing a symposium in two months, I wondered what it would be like for me to have an entire day bombarded with discussions on Science, amongst geniuses from different fields talking in Greek and Latin. This was my reaction despite being a dual degree student in CNS and so was the case with my batch-mates. And, whenever I peep into the PhD and MS labs on the second floor in the Vindhya building, I am in awe of my seniors engrossed in something that I do not really make sense of. But then, one dormant corner of my brain reminded me of recurring lines in the poem by John Keats 'A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever'. And there it was — the answer. Science is simply a source of perennial joy and happiness to one who understands its beauty.

On the sunny morning of 26th February, 2012, members of the CCNSB at IIIT-H were a mix of emotions. Some tensed, some excited, some anxious, some perplexed and others too pre-occupied to be any of these. It was their first one-day symposium, titled 'Current Trends in Computational Natural Sciences'. The Centre plans to make this a regular annual affair. All 140 participants, of which 40 were from colleges other than IIIT-H, were registered formally, handed over an abstract book which contained a glimpse of all talks to be held throughout the day and a name-tag. The programme began commendably as per schedule, with an inaugural address by Dr. Rajeev Sangal reminiscing his days when he stayed at the HCU campus and made life-long acquaintances — many of whom were present as speakers. The entire day was broken up into three sessions; each of them chaired by Professor Kalidas Sen from HCU, Dr. Harjinder Singh and Dr. Abhijit Mitra.

The symposium began on a bright side with an intriguing talk on "Deterministic Chaos: The middle kingdom" by the keynote speaker Professor R. Ramaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad. What followed was a discourse on topics varying from 'use of computer aided drug design methods for a new class of clinical candidates' to 'Insights

into condensed phases'. A talk on 'Multi-scale modelling of memory' by Professor Upinder Bhalla from NCBS Bangalore was liked by all. From IISER Pune, Professor Arnab Mukherjee's talk on 'Molecular mechanism of DNA intercalation' was preceded by a big applause as it was his first invited speech, revealed by the professor himself. Professor K.P.N. Murthy, whose talk was scheduled in the end, obliged the listeners by skipping a few parts and focusing on what he thought was the essence of his talk.

The Centre had also organized a logo design competition to bring out the creative side of the budding researchers. A bunch of great ideas came to light and two designs by Sourav Chatterjee and Namra Maheshwari, were voted to be the best ones. There was also a best poster competition judged by some of the visiting professors. They had a tough time deciding on the names during an hour long poster session. Eventually Broto Chakrabarty, Krishna Kant Singh, Monika Sharma, S. Ramakrishna and Ragini were hailed winners.

The symposium was a good platform for an exchange of ideas among the professors as well as the students. It was this very spirit with which the event was conceived almost two months ago. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Deva Priyakumar, the convener. He was grateful to all speakers for accepting the invitations within a day of sending requests. The event would not have been such a coordinated one without the help from students, the house-keeping staff and Mr. Debanjan (for all the food arrangements). Towards the end, Dr. Abhijit Mitra did not forget to mention the outstanding work done by Dr. Deva Priyakumar.

Attendance of all undergraduates in the CND branch was made compulsory as informed through mail. Everyone found something to take home and thus, the event was an experience for all. Silently, having expected a day of hailstorms, it turned into a beautiful drizzle (pun intended) helping newly planted seeds like myself to germinate, and to eventually grow into a tree, spreading shade all over.

# Bullock Cart to FlipKart !

From sowing, irrigating and harvesting crops in a field to an air conditioned cubicle, as a software developer in one of the fastest growing companies in the country, his is a journey that only a few can imagine, let alone undertake.

Meet Udaykiran, a UG4 CSE student, born in Mupkal in Nizamabad district, Andhra Pradesh.

Having stayed in a village with a population of around seven thousand people, he was scared at the deluge of people he saw after alighting from his train at Lingampally railway station. It was only after he saw his uncle on the station that he was relieved!

So how was the journey, I ask? He smiles and says it was bumpy yet worthwhile.

Born in a small village, Uday's parents were married off at an early age. Neither of them received any formal education but they always encouraged Uday to study hard and excel in academics. After finishing tenth grade he decided to move to Guntur for further education. He also prepared for competitive exams and got outstanding results. His efforts led him to the CSE program at IIIT-H. The difference between Mupkal and Hyderabad was big, and the transition phase was very testing. He experienced many firsts at IIIT-H — using a computer for the first time, it took him nearly 5 minutes to search for 'P' on the keyboard during the IT Shivir session. On a side note he also shares a similar experience of one of his friends who was hitting the upper corner of '3' to print '#! Jokes apart, he gives credit to Prof. Jawahar's organized lectures and teaching which helped him bridge the gap.

Incidentally, his friends share that he did not talk with anyone and gave only one word answers in first semester. They thought he was shy, but Uday reveals, "I had studied in Telugu medium till tenth and did not know English. When I came here everyone was talking in English, so I felt out of place and thus did not interact much. Such was my apprehension that I called up my uncle one day and asked

him to take me home.". Then what kept you here? "A bit of courage and people around me like Meera Marathe Ma'm who helped me improve my English. It was the only class in my first semester where I spoke."

Well, he is no doubt shy, and it took sufficient prodding from our side to get him talking. Were you always like that? "No, it was worse before", he confides. "In my fourth semester I was taking ES course. Our group had to make a presentation and we all had to speak in turns. When my turn came, I froze and could not utter a single word. My friends took over, but yes I was scared out of my wits."

So, how did you manage your placement interviews? You surely had to speak before a panel there. He confides that initially there were hiccups, viz. during internships he was rejected in the final round of Microsoft interview. However he did not lose hope. He knew his shortcomings and for more than a month, before the placement season, he practiced every answer in front of a mirror.

Changing gears, I ask him about his friends in village. He informs me that most of his friends are married and have kids. In Mupkal, like in many places in India people get married at an early age. However,

he hastens to add that he has made it amply clear to his we-will-find-your-bride-relatives that he has no plans of an early marriage. :) In our conversation he makes an interesting point, "Earlier people used to get married early and most of them were arranged, but now the whole concept of marriage has changed. We have 'trial-time', 'live-in-time' and yet some of them fail. Something is amiss in our new concept of marriage."

I ask him about farming and if he intends to pursue it at any point in time. He sadly points to the lack of honesty among middlemen and how a farmer is



cheated at every stage. A farmer fights a lonely battle against the very people and establishment who should support and encourage him. This has led to a large number of next generation farmers migrating to cities in search of better opportunities. The interviewer would like to point out that in a recent study by CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices) it was found that a farmer is forced to sell his/her paddy 20-30% below Minimum Support Price (The study was carried out in five states).

For those of you who are unaware, Uday gave his first dance performance during Felicity 2012. The performance was no doubt brilliant but how did he get the confidence? He explains, "Since I first entered college, I always wanted to dance. Many a times, I would just close my door, play some music and randomly dance to the tunes. So the urge was always there, it was just a matter of platform and time."

The clock and my questionnaire tell me that we were done. I can see the hard work, grit and determination put in. I ask him what inspired him to work so hard. He won me over with his response, "My father inspires me to work hard. He gets up at 4 am in the morning, feeds the cattle till 6 and then goes to the fields, returns at 9 am for breakfast, goes back at 10 am, has lunch with my mother who takes it to the farm and returns home at 8 pm in the night. 16 hours of back-breaking labour everyday, throughout the year, without a single holiday! Even though I am half their age, I do not work for half the number of hours they put in."

(With Special Inputs from Jayendra Rakesh, Sri Kalyan)

PS: We at Ping! believe that every life is an inspiration, every journey a reward and every story worth a story-teller. Please let us know if you want to share something, we hope we will be able to do justice to it.

## Design, with a touch of innovation

Design-Driven Innovation reveals how leaders such as Apple, Nintendo, Alessi and Whole Foods Market build an unbeatable and sustainable competitive advantage through innovations that do not come from the market but those which create

new markets. Everyone in the modern world is now looking for "The Innovative Designer".

Keeping this as the underlining idea, MIT Media Labs recently organized a five-day Design and Innovation Workshop from 26th to 30th March in New Delhi. Sakshi Gupta, Shivani Poddar, Somay Jain, and Akshat Khandelwal (myself) — all from UG1 attended the Workshop. The selection process involved an elaborate application form which tested our basic hardware and software know-how. We were divided into different tracks based on the choices we filled in the form. My track was Sensor-Mediated Environments, which proposed new strategies in creating intuitive, customizable interfaces for human-computer interaction through inventing cutting-edge sensor technologies. Sakshi's track was Design for Interaction which took a focused look at how the choices we make as designers influence the way people use products. Shivani's track was imaging on Steroids. The students in this track were expected to create an entirely new class of imaging platforms that have an understanding far exceeding human ability to produce meaningful abstractions well within human comprehensibility.

Somay's track was Living Mobile, a track which was based on app-development and focused on designing interfaces and experiences for groups of people on the move.

All the instructors were Ph.D students at the MIT Media Lab. They guided us right from brainstorming of the idea to the actual development of the prototype. I had never thought the way I did in those five days. The instructors gave us a totally new and unmatched insights in the way we looked at things around us, as if everything had some hidden meaning! It was an amazing experience and the institute even funded us for the workshop, along with 50% exemption from attendance. The Workshop takes place annually and I would urge the students of IIIT-H to attend these five days of designing and innovation!

On a side note— In our case, it was decided by the institute that if you are in first year, you won't get full exemption from attendance for attending such workshops as it is assumed that first years don't have adequate experience or projects to boast of and attend such workshops. But yes, after the workshop we now have a projectcount++ and hope that next time when we go for similar workshops, full exemption is granted!

# Bhaiya! Ek Watermelon !!

*In the previous issues of Ping!, we have covered interviews of various faculty members and administrative staff. This time around, we feature an interview of our own Juicewaale Bhaiyya. Out of the three people working at the Juice centre, two were very reluctant to give the interview. So, we conversed with Dinesh bhaiya and tried to get an insight into the lives of all three of them.*

## **Tell us something about yourselves.**

I'm 26 years of age and hail from Rajdhanwar, Jharkhand. We are all relatives. Ajit is my cousin while Divakar is my brother's brother-in-law.

## **Are you married?**

Yes, I'm married and have two kids.

## **So when do you go home?**

We go home every 6 months, though not in the vacations. We take turns for that.

## **You must be missing your family quite a bit. Who all are there in your family?**

(Reminiscingly) Yes, I do miss home but then I have to work. Mine's a small family — my parents, wife, two kids and my sister.

## **Since when are you in Hyderabad? When did you come to IIIT-H?**

I came to Hyderabad in 2002. I have been at IIIT-H since the past six years. There was another person with me (Pintu) who now handles the juice centre at NIFT.

## **Where did you work before coming to IIIT-H?**

I used to work at Bombay juice centre, Chirag Galli. After that I worked at NIFT and now I'm here.

## **How much do you earn a month? How much credit do the students owe you?**

The earning varies a lot day wise. It increases significantly during the days of the non-veg mess. On an average the monthly profits are around Rs. 18,000. Students owe us around Rs. 6,000.

## **That's a huge amount! How do you trust the students so much?**

(Smiling) They're students after all. I trust them. I often write the money down in a diary though.

## **You have been here in Hyderabad since the past 10 years? How do you like the city?**

I have hardly visited any places in the city. We have work all day and also don't take any holidays. So we don't get any time to roam around the city.

## **What's your daily routine?**

We wake up at around 9 and go to the market to get the fruits. After that the whole day from 12 noon to 12 midnight we are busy making juice. We close our shop at

around 1am and then wind up by around 3 in the night. We keep doing this day in and day out. There is a lot of work.

## **Do you have any language problems with the Telugu speaking students?**

Not much. I have picked up some of the dialect in my time here and so I do understand their references regarding the juices!

## **You have been here since a long time. Do you intend to do something different in the foreseeable future? Have you thought about bringing your family here?**

I am quite satisfied with how things are going currently. I don't intend to do anything else. Bringing my family here is not possible. My parents are quite aged and settled well there. We have our land and the rice and wheat fields. Coming here now is not possible for my family.

## **Do you interact with the faculty here? Are you happy with the provisions and the rates set?**

I don't interact much with the faculty. My main interaction is with BLN Sir. He sets up the further discussions with the faculty and Students' Council. I'm happy with the provisions provided and the rates set are also satisfactory. I pay a monthly rent of Rs. 2,000, plus water and electricity charges. Overall I'm very happy here at IIIT-H.

## **You spend your whole day giving people their favorite juices. Which is your favourite juice?**

I like the seasonal ones, especially mango.

## **Which juice do you find easiest to make?**

Well, watermelon is the easiest!

# An act of benevolence

Date- 28/04/09

3 years back, it was afternoon time (around 1-2 pm) when an accident took place at the cafeteria (Coffee Shop /Jersey) . The sugar cane juice guy's (Srinivas) fingers were crushed while making the juice and his hand was badly wounded . He was immediately taken to the hospital and at that time it seemed that he had almost lost his hand.

Thinking of same creates panic. It's hard to picturize what the situation would have been at that very moment. By looking over the injury it seemed that lot of money would be required for treatment. So, the students were asked to contribute/donate money for this cause . Many people came forward to lead the initiative and the news regarding the accident spread across all the people within a span of few hours. It was hoped that the collection would be around 5-8k but to the surprise of all by the next day the whole collection been raised was a sum of Rs 27 k. Not to mention this amount got collected in a span of 1 day and that 400+ students came forward to contribute for same. The records still remain, people from all batches UG, PG, MS, Ph.D and MSIT all came forward and contributed for this cause.

As is said-*action speaks for itself* , it still might seemed unbelievable but it happened— Rs 27 k were collected in just one day! The important part of this whole incident is not about the money collected but the attitude and spirit that was exhibited by the students, which was commendable.

In the words of the guy who was leading the initiative , Adita Teja- "*The gesture itself speaks volumes about our helping spirit which we all showed in a time of need . The way some people have taken the initiative to spread the word and collect money is worth*

*mentioning*"

Some part of the money was given to the sugarcane guy to meet the cost of his treatment . The rest has been used for several noble causes such as contribution to flood affected people. At present we have Rs 10.5 k of it remaining.

The incident is not so big but the learning and the way the things took place are plausible. This is what we call the power of **student community**- people are ready to take challenges, face hardships doesn't matter in what form they come. This is one of such several incidents which have happened in the past, and hope that in the future too the students of IIIT-Hyderabad will exhibit similar attitude and spirit.

*"For there are times which come and go, what lies still is our true self, our character "*

-Piyush Arora

# Cultural Updates

Just a week before Mid-2 Exams, again came the cultural season to add to the flavours of fun and rejoice. The **Inter-House Collage** was organized on 3<sup>rd</sup> March in SH1. There were five teams from each house, each comprising of two members. Teams were given a maximum time limit of 90 minutes to make a collage on the topic "Man vs. Environment". Lots of interesting designs were seen being implemented creatively on a sheet, which made it very difficult for the judges to decide the best. The results were as mentioned below:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Medha Pathak and Saumya Chaudhary (Aakash)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sharan Girdhani and Navya Raghava (Prithvi)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Vidit Gupta and Manushree Vijayvergiya (Agni)

The very next day, **Inter-House Sketching** was organized at the same venue. It was an individual event of five participants from each house. The topic for sketching was "Fear", on which some very good and scary sketches were made in a time limit of 1 hour. Abhishek Paliwal of Vayu bagged the 1<sup>st</sup> position, followed by Shivraj of Prithvi (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Palash Pandya of Aakash (3<sup>rd</sup>).

The next events in the series were **Inter-House Instrumentals and Group Singing** on 19<sup>th</sup> march, which were pretty competitive too. Interestingly, in Instrumentals, all the winners were from UG2!. The results were as follows :

#### **Instrumentals:**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Ruchit Agarwal(Aakash)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ayush Tewari(Prithvi)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Venkatesh Potluri(Aakash) and Archit Chouhan (Prithvi)

#### **Group Song:**

#### **Classical :**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Urmi Ghosh and group (Vayu)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rohit Talwar and group (Agni)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Prateek Goel and group (Prithvi)

#### **Western :**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Sakshi Gupta and group (Aakash)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Urmi Ghosh and Group (Vayu)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Priam Parashar and group (Agni)

This was followed by **Inter-House Skit** on 24<sup>th</sup> March at the Basket ball court. It was a great depiction of the acting talents in IIIT-H. Mr Srinivas (a professional theatre artist) was invited to judge the event. Masum Lodha, Raveesh Motlani, Prashant Gupta and Diksha Yadav were announced as best performers. The results were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vayu
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Aakash
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Agni
- 4th Prithvi.

Then, after several postponements, the **Solo singing** competition finally took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. The Judge for the event — Dr Ravindra Tejasvi (a well-known music director) duly appreciated the performances. In classical solo, the first position went to Prateek Saxena of Prithvi, the second position to Radha Manisha of Aakash and third to Shariq Khan and Anirudh Beria of Vayu and Agni respectively. In western solo singing, Urmi Ghosh and Ishan Misra (both Vayu) secured the first position, and the third position went to Radha Manisha (Aakash) and Priyam Parashar (Agni).

Finally came the last and most important event in the cultural calendar, i.e. the **Cult-Night**, which took place on 6<sup>th</sup> April. The whole of IIIT-H witnessed some amazing performances and the effort put in by every house was clearly visible. Although there was an unavoidable time-delay in starting the event and some unprepared performances which the audience didn't enjoy much, it was overall a great success. The results are as follows :

#### **Group Cultural Dance:**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Praneetha and group (Prithvi)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Urmi Ghosh and group (Vayu)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Tanvi Gupta and group (Aakash)

#### **Western Group Dance :**

- 1<sup>st</sup> : Yash and group (Prithvi)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Akshay Mani and group (Aakash)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Kalyan and group (Aakash)

#### **Classical Solo Dance:**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Jyoti Jha (Vayu,UG-1)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Meghana Yadav (Prithvi, M-Tech)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Praneetha (Prithvi, UG-3)

#### **Western Solo Dance:**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Meghana Yadav(Prithvi, M-Tech) and Ruchit Bhatt(Agni,UG-3)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Parag Gupta(Aakash,UG-2)

Finally, this year's cultural calendar resulted in **Prithvi** topping the Cult charts followed by Vayu, Aakash and Agni, in that order.

# Who are my seniors ?

As my first year in college comes to an end and I am on my way to become one of the 'seniors', I often have dreams and thoughts of my first days in college. Those days of terror — of hiding from seniors, being thankful if I managed to sneak past a large group of them and cursing my fate if I didn't! Now after a year in college, I often laugh at those memories of my terror and fear, of how some of my friends would lock themselves up in their rooms to avoid the interactions! How thankful we were for the strict no-ragging policy in college!

Then again, even more often I think about the loss this lack of interaction led to! I mean on attending the farewell of the fourth years I realized I don't know my seniors! My father had always told me about how cool his seniors were and how they all still meet each other and hangout at times! What can I tell him?

"Dad, Archit sir taught me DS."

"Oh! Sanidhya Kashyap! Ya, he's a good teacher for C-pro"

"Sankalp who? The music-loving IT-wiz?"

Is this how I will remember my seniors? Will I ever know which shows Sankalp Sir likes, or that Piyush Shukla can sing? Will ITWS be the first words in my mind when I see Ishan Misra ten years later?? I most certainly hope not but most probably they will. That's because I hardly know them on a personal level! That initial hesitance on my part and the attitude of my family and the faculty had created a divide which couldn't be bridged completely in one short year! And this has often made me wonder whether the implementation of those rules regarding the 10 pm curfew and the no visiting to seniors' rooms have actually increased this divide. I wouldn't want to ask my boss for his passing certificate to make sure he actually was at IIIT-H too! I would much rather know him personally. But the way things stand I will have to! I sincerely hope that the atmosphere in IIIT-H changes and the inter-batch interactions pick up again. However this is tough without an active initiative from the student bodies to change existing rules. Just like overprotective parents who often do more harm than good for their children by shielding them from the trials of life, aren't we at this college sort of doing the same? Shouldn't we actually encourage juniors to meet seniors and learn from them since the very start of their college life? Going to rooms may also be allowed as long as the juniors are okay with it. Rec-

ommending 'healthy interactions' between batches isn't sufficient or even possible if we adopt stringent measures to segregate the first years from the rest of the college. Yes their safety is important but aren't we overdoing it a bit? This is the question we need to ask ourselves and hopefully the answer we get will be the right ones.

# I know no God, but her..

Spices, flowers and some music,  
is all, that she has ever been  
And her words that echo ,long after  
she has left and is nowhere to be seen;

And at night when I hear her coming,  
I pretend to sleep, and then I hear  
Her whisper into my ears, things she said  
and then could not say so clear;

She tells you how special you are,  
and there's none like you, anywhere  
How much you mean to her  
and to the world out there;

Her eyes speak it all, and her smile, mystic.  
a saint so pure ,you fear losing all the day  
"No, I would last forever", she says to you  
And then that's all ,you always pray;

She has a dream ,she never told,  
to see your smile never gone,  
That's all she ever wanted  
a simple truth, that lingers on;

I find her awake before I am,  
and working when I sleep,  
She never complained or lost that smile,  
she has somewhere in the deep;

Men pray to stones, and mud and paint  
But I haven't seen them talk  
neither do they move or smile  
nor they hug, or (with you) take a walk;

I know no more about them  
But I have known this all along  
I know no god , but her  
Maa ,tell them i wasn't wrong;

- Piyush Bansal (UG1)

# Shalom !

*Parting is not easy. And when you have spent four glorious years of your life in a safe, secure environment with your dearest friends and acquaintances, sentiments surge up into the nerves and compel you to stay back forever. Giving words to such emotions and summing up these four years within minutes is what has been attempted in the farewell speech that Archit Jain delivered. We give it a place in Ping! so that those words can be carried along forever as an epilogue of the remarkable journey that the passing-out batch has been through.*

Dear faculty members, batch-mates, seniors, juniors and friends

I wish you all "Shalom". Call it my incompetence or inability but I for one could not decide whether to say goodbye to an old life or welcome a new one. Shalom is a Hebrew word and is used idiomatically to mean both 'hello' and 'goodbye'— a beautiful and apt word to capture our sentiments and dilemma. The word becomes more relevant as it also means peace, completeness, and welfare of all beings.

Today marks an important milestone in our long journey to step out of darkness and ignorance. We celebrate this day mindful of the fact that the future beckons us to do better— it expects of us to uphold the values and teachings of our professors and parents and enjoins us to share the fruit of knowledge with those around us.

I wish to speak on two topics today, what I learnt in the college and what can we together do to improve the student life at IIIT-H.

Beginning with the first one, I learnt that college life allow you to fail. Those who avail themselves of that rare opportunity grow by leaps and bounds and the rest degenerate into oblivion. Your speaker today wanted to learn basketball but made no serious attempt at it for the fear of failure. Today, I see around me great players who did not know 'B' of basketball when they came in first year but some of them are now playing for the institute team. It is the power of such incidents which help you appreciate when JK Rowling, in her famous Commencement address at Harvard talked about the "fringe-benefits of failure" and how they help turn a stone to sculpture. It is in that spirit that I urge all of you to do things you have never done before during your college life.

College life taught me not to support people but support a cause for people represent and fight for a cause. I had the pleasure and joy of interacting with various shades of people. This has enriched me as a person and it is in this spirit I urge you all to take some time out and talk to people around you, both friends and strangers.

College life has taught me the value of small things at life. I realized in college the importance of my mother waking me up every morning for here I had to do this on my own, I realized the importance of home-made food, I realized how tough it was to clean your own room when your friends would dirty it after birthday celebrations. These and many other small things make you value people around you and appreciate the efforts they put in to make your life easy, It is in this spirit I urge all of you to talk to the housekeeping staff, guards and even the newspaper boy, acknowledge their jobs and listen to their stories for it is then you will see how rich life is and how blessed are we all.

College life gave me the courage and belief to opt for things that were tough to do. Whenever I had to choose a project/course I would choose the one which was the toughest for I believed it will help me to learn the most. It taught me not be complacent which can come in if you compete but keep pushing your boundaries which happens when you want to excel. It showed me a glimpse of the arduous journey that entails when one wishes to fulfill his/her desire to excel. In words of Kennedy, "We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade, not because it is easy, but because it is hard, because this challenge will measure the best of our energies and skills, because this challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win". It is in this spirit I urge all my juniors to take up tasks that are tough, take up tasks that are challenging and take up tasks that will make you burn midnight oil.

I now come to the second topic I wish to speak on that is what can we do together to improve student life at IIIT-H.

Before I begin, I would like to answer a question that most people ask me- why should I do this as I will not get anything tangible out of it. This is a pertinent question and I wish to answer it in words of Hillel, who talks why we should work not only for ourselves but also for others. He says "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And when I am only

for myself, what am 'I'?" And if not now, when?"

It is my belief that Students Parliament and other student groups are a vital organ for an effective student governance and improving faculty student relationships. It has to play a proactive role in student life with the spirit of cooperation and not opposition. Today the student life is plagued by 3 problems and to solve this we need 3 people. I call this 3P for 3P. The three problems are proxies in class, plagiarism and addiction to poisons viz alcohol, drugs and what not. The three people viz professors, parents and most importantly peers have to work together in a concerted manner to fight this menace. This will take time but we have started the process this year and I hope we will see positive results soon.

It is my belief that we need to produce students who are good coders, dancers, players and what have you. This can be done if we give students a platform and some time to themselves to work on something they are interested. We need more clubs contributing substantially and actively over the year to the student life. I was one of the members of Ping! This October we will finish three years in publication and still going strong. We have our own history and story now and I see an untold story in every club waiting to be narrated. My own association with Ping! has been very rewarding and this has led to Prof. Govindrajulu nickname me as Ping! Jain.

Lastly, it was a pleasure to be a class representative of my batch. Prof. Kamal in his message to the batch wrote that this is "possibly the most promising batch to join the institute to not only do well but also guide juniors". There can be no greater compliment than this one. We studied hard, partied harder, were obedient but also firm when we felt something was wrong. It was an honour to serve such marvellous people.

To conclude I would like to say

To the faculty members We will miss the "Pardon" of Prof. Jawahar, tremor when Prof. Biswas would come and stand over your head in electronics lab, insightful lectures of Prof. Kannan where he could relate anything to everything and nothing to anything, Prof. Kamal's one liners "hard luck, "ok", "sure", Prof. Govindrajulu's anecdotes on married fellows and his enthusiasm to teach, Kaul sir's "is that ok?", Appaji's "What can I do? Talk to the Dean!" and many more such people who have made an indelible impact on our lives. I see this as an opportune moment for us to endeavour that our bonds and affinity do not diminish or weaken

over time. Dear Sirs and Ma'ams, we hope that you will continue to guide us and inspire us in the many journeys of life still left.

To my fellow juniors, college life is like a Baskin Robbins shop. Do have a scoop of every ice cream present. Then choose one or more (subject to the money you have or in my analogy the time you can devote to each activity) and relish it. Let your farewell speech read out that there was nothing in college I did not try my hand on, including having or an attempt to have a girlfriend.

To my fellow batch-mates I dedicate a small poem that each one of you would want to read out to the guy sitting next to you

*College mein aaye the yeh sochkar,  
dost bnaeyenge hum khoj khoj kar |  
tanha tanha din kateein,  
jaane kahan hum tumse milein |*

*dost toh hain kahan  
par tumsa koi hai he nahin |  
diya hai tumne har waqt saath,  
galti hone par bhi chodha nahi hai haath |*

*dosti, yaari ka matlab tumne sikhaya,  
har pal humne hi tumhe sataya |  
har aadat the bure humari,  
phir bhi tumne har baat nihari |*

*bhule nahi hum woh pehle mulakat,  
jab tumne ki thi haskar pehle baat |  
bhule nahi hain hum woh tumhara aana ,  
jis din hona tha hume ravana |*

*kya mange tumse aur,  
bita hua har pal ban gya hai ek daur. |  
agar kahan aawaz aayi ya hua kahin koi shor,  
toh aankhein dhundenge tumhe usi ore |*

*bus sankshipt mein hai tumse kehna ,  
ise yaad rakhe rehna. |  
chota sa paigam hai ,  
humare zindagi mein aapka bhi ek naam hai... | |*

To all of IIT-H ... I read out the words of Shelley with a longing that they come true.

"Meeting and parting are the ways of life, but parting and meeting is the wish of my life."

I wish you all once again Shalom!

# Ping! Wall

## From Last Night on..

It's like the world changing shape  
It's like the devil losing its cape.  
It's like finding a new direction  
For an otherwise pointless existence.  
It's like a new lesson learnt  
To heal a soul so burnt.  
It's like facing the monsters in my head  
With you by my side, killing the dread.  
It's like discovering the known, yet again.  
But with your eyes, all the inhibitions slain.  
It's like shedding the ties, the bonds, the chains.  
It's like losing myself, even while judgment rains.  
It's like living for tomorrows, and not today's.  
It's like feeling your presence, in so many ways.  
It's like peeling off my masks, one by one  
And celebrating each new facet that's born.  
It's like holding on to that one embrace.  
And searching for that musk, in every place.  
It's like inviting a stranger in your deepest thoughts.  
Then forgetting his strangeness in undoing the  
knots.  
It's like rain, on the driest, most mundane days.  
Soaking up my being, washing with it all the grays.  
It's like so many things, yet so few.  
It's like nothing that's seen, and everything that's  
new.  
It's like asking for the times that went amiss.  
It's like asking if it can get any better than this!

-Anonymous

## Return me that blank sheet of paper

Return me that blank sheet of paper,  
Which folded into shapes of dreams  
Origami of my honest childhood,  
One day taken away by a breeze  
Unrestrained.

Return me that blank sheet of paper,  
Where I wrote my heart in pencil,  
So that I can erase again if I err,  
Never did they touch any heart,  
Impermanent.

Return me that blank sheet of paper,  
Where she had accidentally written her name,  
She never knew but I preserved,  
It was my heart, and it had her name,  
Forever.

Return me that blank sheet of paper,  
Today I want to read it again,  
To search those unwritten words,  
That scream into my ears for my only err,  
My guilt.

Return me that blank sheet of paper,  
That you have pieces of, torn  
At a time when I am alone with lorn,  
You are far away with my sheet, smiling  
In love.

-Anonymous

# Ping! Wall

## Masked Face

Take off that mask u have been wearing all along,  
you don't need to wear it ,it wont make u strong,  
a smile on your face and twinkle in your eyes,  
but what hides beneath that mask is hate and lies.

Your face is so calm,composed and mild,  
but anger rages in you, like an immature child,

Take off that mask! Just take it off!

be as pure as water so you can quench someone's  
thirst,  
so you may blessed and not cursed,  
smile like the river and laugh like the rain  
crush all the hatred and and wash out the pain.

In joy and mirth you do bloom,  
watching someone else's gloom,  
the joy in your voice cannot soothe the sad soul,  
the poor guy is already burning,why do you add  
coal?

Be a good person if you really want to be,  
your big disguise is not fooling me!

throw the smiling mask ,if your smile is from your  
heart,  
but if its not ,you are a loser from the start.  
you can say you are feeling cold when its so hot,  
but behave like somone you are not!

i don't have a mask..... just one smiling face,  
i tried to keep a mask, but it wont stay in place!  
i don't need a mask to hide behind,  
my face will always show you my mind.

one day you shall feel the regret,  
of wearing that mask which will make you sweat!  
you wont know how you feel inside,  
and you'll want to throw your mask aside,.

so, take your mask,and throw it on the ground,  
you can do it now, there's nobody around.  
you don't need to be what you are not,  
SO TAKE OFF THAT MASK BEFORE YOU ARE  
CAUGHT!

-Anonymous

# Ping! Recommends

This issue will cover a few game-related recommenda-  
tions.

**FIFA12 updates(PC):** A month ago EA Sports released the  
much awaited patch for FIFA12 which reflects the  
changes of the January transfer window in the game. It  
also brings with it the typical enhancements that we have  
come to expect from EA Sports in their January releases.  
Along with the updated squads, players have been given  
more accurate faces and hairstyles (eg: Benoit Assou-  
Ekotto has been given an afro). Also improved is the  
Player Impact Engine that was introduced in the October  
release of the game. Much maligned earlier for making  
the game more unrealistic rather than realistic, the cod-  
ers at EA have come up with a much refined version and  
it does seem to have rectified the over-enthusiastic na-  
ture of the earlier version and surely seems the way for-  
ward now. Another bit of news sure to excite those bored  
with the manager and be-a-pro modes is the availability  
of an EURO12 game mode as downloadable content. The  
update concerning the team squads and game play has  
already been released while the EURO12 expansion is  
scheduled to be released on the 24th of April.

**Angry Birds - Space (iOS, Android):** Rovio Entertainment  
Ltd. have finally released another version of their ultra-  
popular Angry Birds franchise, Angry Bird - Space. This  
time the raging fowls find themselves in space with their  
omnipresent nemesis- the green pigs. Those who thought  
that the franchise was getting a bit long in the tooth,  
think again because this game offers with it not only the  
expected updates of new birds but also some interesting  
interstellar physics variations. As we have come to expect  
from Rovio, this version also has a huge number of levels  
and themes to keep one interested (though iOS owners  
may have to shed a few extra bucks for the full version).  
So happy slingshooting!

# Ping! Team

**Special thanks to:** Dr. Giridhar Rao

**Advisory Members:** Aditya, Archit, Himanshu,  
Ishaan, Ishan, Kaustav, Mayank, Nahil, Nitish, Rishi,  
Sankalp and Shipra.

**Writing:**

UG2: Shriyaa, Kaushik

UG1: Aditi, Akshat, Aneeq, Deepak, Harrshit,  
Monica, Nikhar, Parth, Priya, Raveesh, Shivraj, Sud-  
hanshu and Vibhav.

**Designing:** Aashit, Deepank, Saumya Chaudhary and  
Saumya Dwivedi

**Logistics:** Chetan, Sachin

You can contact us at ping@students.iiit.ac.in

Website: ping.iiit.ac.in