

## BITSAA

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*T*he BITS Alumni Association (BITSAA), Pilani is a voluntary and

cosmopolitan association of students that is headed by the Dean ARCD, Dr. R.K. Mittal under the patronage of the Director, Dr.S.Venkateswaran.

In the first semester of every academic year, BITSAA invites the Silver Jubilee batch of alumni and organizes a get-together, which includes a meeting with the Senate and a cultural evening, besides the regular snap sessions and visits around the campus. The alumni also address the students in the Engineering Theatre and counsel them about their future. This is one event attended by students from all years and disciplines and almost everyone in their final or pre final year attend it without fail. It is quite fascinating to listen to the anecdotes they relate as the feeling of nostalgia envelops them. The alumni are also kept informed about what's happening on campus through a newsletter, *The BITSian*, which is sent to every alumnus registered under the various chapters all over India and abroad. In October 2001 three students of batch of 1987 opened the BITSAA chapter in New York.

As the semester comes to an end, the association organizes a Tea Party at VFAST, where the Director, Deputy Directors and the faculty members share their experiences with the batch passing out. The batch snaps are yet another of the association's responsibilities where the outgoing students' photographs are taken discipline-wise. It is quite fascinating to find yourself dresses up suddenly in suits or saris where all through your BITSian life you have lived in a pair of faded jeans and discoloured t-shirts. While talking about t-shirts one is suddenly reminded of the 'Sales' that are an inherent part of BITSAA's schedule where T-Shirts, Caps, Posters and the like are sold.

The students seldom tap the huge resources of BITSAA. The website of the body is well maintained and a lot of information can be found out about students of BITS who have excelled in almost all spheres of life. Recently Mr. Rajesh Hukku, Chairman of the I-flex Solutions Ltd. (a former BITSian) was awarded the Ernst & Young, entrepreneur of the year award in IT. Many of us also know that Mr. Mahesh one was of the members of the team of animators for Oscar award winning movie, Shrek.

People who want to study abroad are often found to search the website in order to establish contact with the alumni who can help them in the pursuit of their goals. All in all, BITSAA serves as a connection between the students and their *alma mater* even after they leave the campus.



*Cactus Flower 2003*

