

The First Global 30 under 30 Awards

2005

Professional Excellence
Arts & Culture
Sports
Innovation
Academia & Research
All Round Leadership
Community Leadership
Entrepreneurship

BITSAA

Presented by: BITS Pilani & BITSAA International Inc.,



dedication

This award is dedicated to all those young BITSians who thought and acted differently, who challenged the status quo, rewrote the rules, and created their own paths. To the leaders, innovators, researchers, academics, students, entertainers, entrepreneurs, winners, engineers, scientists and concerned samaritans who came from every corner of India. To the best examples of what it means to be a BITSian.

Global 30 under 30 Awards - 2005

The Panel and the Awards

The Global 30 under 30 Awards are presented once every three years. These awards are the highest recognition by the BITS Pilani community to thirty students or alums for their extraordinary achievements before the age of 30. All students from Pilani, Goa, Dubai and Distance learning programs are eligible to participate.

2005 is the first year that the awards are being presented. Those chosen to receive these awards have been selected by six highly accomplished members of the BITSAA community:



Mr. Dilip D'Souza – Writer and columnist



Dr. Satish Gupta – Founder, Cradle Technologies, & Chairman, BPO Frontline



Mr. Rajesh Hukku – Chairman, I-Flex Solutions



Dr. SP Kothari – HoD of Economics, Accounting & Finance, MIT Sloan



Prof. LK Maheshwari – Director, BITS Pilani



Prof. AP Mathur – Professor of Computer Science, Purdue University

On behalf of the panelists, and the rest of the community, I am proud to present the winners.

Anupendra Sharma
Cofounder, BITSAA
& Chairman, Awards Committee
BITSAA International
New York City



Ishan Shukla (2003)

Category: Professional Excellence

Age: 21 years

M.Sc.(Tech.) General Studies, BITS Pilani

Ishan was the Runner-up in the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2005 competition in the Short Film category. Animation is his life. He is self-trained, and having built expertise in this field, trained another BITSian and created an amazing film, "The Last Renaissance", with real characters and virtual surroundings, shot entirely in Pilani with actors from the Hindi Drama Club. The film brought them to the 6-nation finals in Yokohoma, Japan. With record floods in Bombay, their flight was delayed, leaving them only 18 hours to land, create, edit and produce a film that other teams had 36 hours to make. Ishan and his partner produced a film that won the 2nd Prize. He intends to build a career in animation after he graduates from BITS in 2007. Ishan is the youngest winner ever of this award.



Kavikrut (2002)

Category: Entrepreneurship

Age: 21 years

M.Sc.(Tech.) Finance, BITS Pilani

Kavikrut was a key member of the team that devised the Mobile Medics idea to bring healthcare to rural India for one rupee a day. Kavikrut helped the team win first place at Conquest 2005, the national business plan competition at BITS, Pilani, and second place at Bzzwings 2005, a similar event at IIM Bangalore. The creative idea went on to win the 2005 Outrageous Business Plan Competition, conducted by the Eugene Lang Center for Entrepreneurship at the Graduate School of Business, Columbia University. He is also in one of only two Indian teams at the 2006 Asian Moot Competition in Thailand. Kavikrut is very active at BITS. He is the Coordinator for the Department of Photography, Student Editor of BITScan and a member of the BITS Swimming Team. Kavikrut will graduate in 2006.



Aditi Pany (2000)

Category: All-round Leadership

Age: 23 years

M.Sc.(Hons.) Economics, BITS Pilani

B.E.(Hons.) Electrical & Electronics Engineering, BITS Pilani

Aditi was the first woman president of the BITS Pilani Students Council. She was also the Founding President of the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (CEL) at BITS-Pilani, one of the top five centers of entrepreneurship in India. She started the Rural Entrepreneurship Division at BITS, and collaborated with Asha and the NSS in Pilani to promote handmade products from the region. She organized the very first Ideas for Rural India, an annual event during APOGEE that brings together people with innovative and sustainable ideas for rural development. During her internship at the National Council for Applied Economic Research, she co-authored a seminal piece of work titled "Growth & Equity: Does Governance Really Matter?". She also worked on an article, "Don't Romanticize the Village", which appeared in a leading national newspaper. In 2005, Aditi founded the BITSAA Women's Council, to serve as a platform for women alumni to support each other towards professional success. Aditi works at TARAhaat, an internationally recognized organization that helps rural entrepreneurs in India and uses technology innovatively to distribute products and services. She dreams of returning to her native Orissa one day to start her own rural entrepreneurship business.



Durga Mithra Prabhu (1999)

Category: Sports

Age: 23 years

PhD, Monash University, Australia

M.Sc.(Hons.) Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani

Durga has been a sportsperson all her life. Between 1995 and 1999, she won several gold, silver and bronze medals in the 100m, 4x100 meters relay and the triple jump. Her team set a national athletic meet record in the 4x100 meters event. She was also a star athlete at the BITS Open Sports Meet where she won several track and field events. Durga was an active member of the Dance Club at BITS, and was recently selected to perform at the opening ceremony of the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. In 1997, Durga won the C. Subramaniam Best Student Award for "Character, Conduct and Academics", and was the top ranked high school science student in the state of Tamil Nadu. She has helped organize several workshops in her chosen research area both in India and Australia. She is currently pursuing her PhD at Monash University in Australia, and has a number of publications to her credit.



Divya (1999)

Category: Arts & Culture

Age: 23 years

B.E.(Hons.) Mechanical Engineering, BITS Pilani

Divya is a prominent actress in South Indian cinema with more than 10 films to her credit in Tamil, Telugu and Kannada. She was spotted during the Miss India competitions, where she was Miss Chennai runner-up. Although she received a number of offers to work in movies, she chose to limit her activities while she finished her degree at BITS Pilani. Her screen names include Kaniha or Kanika (Tamil) and Sravanthi (Telugu & Kannada). Her films include 5 Star produced by Mani Ratnam, Autograph, Dancer, Edhiri (Tamil), Ottessi Chepputanna (Telugu) and Annavaru, Sye (Kannada). Divya is presently working on a Tamil movie called Godfather.



Srikrishna Sridhar Murthy (1998)

Category: All-round Leadership

Age: 24 years

B.E.(Hons.) Computer Science, BITS Pilani

Srikrishna is the first employee outside Dell USA to be recognized by the Dell Foundation as a "Volunteer of Distinction", an award given to four individuals every year for leadership in community activities. He is a member of the Board of Trustees at Dream-a-Dream, a volunteer at Janaagraha, an NGO working towards participatory democracy, and a BITS.aid core team member. Srikrishna founded the theatre group "Version One Dot Oh!" in Bangalore in 2003, and has directed 5 shows of 3 plays, and raised close to INR 150,000. The group won the Young Directors Theatre Festival Award organized by the Centre for Film and Drama in Bangalore in 2003. Srikrishna held top positions at BITS at Kannada Vedike, the Computer Science Association and the Dance Workshop. He took part in six plays and won the intra-BITS badminton singles championship in 2001. Srikrishna has received several awards at Dell, and has filed three patent disclosures.



Amit Thakral (1997)

Category: Community Leadership

Age: 26 years

B.E.(Hons.) Chemical Engineering, BITS Pilani

Amit is the founder trustee of Sparsh A healing touch, a public trust and an offshoot of the Infosys foundation. He has been involved in raising money and providing support to charity organizations in India at the grass root level. These organizations include Nivara an old-age home, a medical camp for the construction workers at Infosys, a school for the mentally challenged, SASA an orphanage, and Manavya an organization working for HIV positive children in Pune. He has motivated other employees at Infosys to follow his example in giving back to the community. For his efforts, he was honored with the "Infosys Excellence award" for social consciousness, the highest internal award at Infosys. He is one of the youngest Infosconsions ever to receive this award.



Suhail Kassim (1997)

Category: All-round Leadership

Age: 26 years

PGDM, IIM Ahmedabad

B.E.(Hons.) Electrical & Electronics Engineering, BITS Pilani

Suhail is currently an officer at the Tata Administrative Services. He has worked with Tata Motors, Tata Steel, and Tata Chemicals and is currently at VSNL in South Africa. Suhail has worked with six non-profit organizations. At Analog Devices, Suhail received the Award for Excellence in Contribution, becoming the only trainee in Analog India history to do so. He won the Surendra Nath Scholarship for ranking in the top 10 in IIMA (2003), and won prizes for papers presented at IIM Calcutta, IIM Kozhikode and Indian School of Business in 2002. Suhail won the 1st Prize for Innovation by Sristi in 2001 for the International Blanket Day. He has also won a number of Chess Awards at the BITS Open Sports Meet.



Shameek Chakravarty (1997)

Category: All-round Leadership

Age: 27 years

MBA, Indian School of Business
B.E.(Hons.) Computer Science, BITS Pilani

Shameek has worked with the MV Foundation, helping tackle child labor in rural Andhra Pradesh, and with Samarthanam, an organization that works with blind children. He is the founder of MENSA Hyderabad. At Sun Microsystems India, he was one of five engineers selected for the worldwide engineering excellence program. Shameek is currently at ISB, as the Asian Mentoring Chair of the Global Social Venture Competition, and as the President of the Entrepreneurship and Venture Capital Club. He represented ISB at the Thunderbird Global Innovation Challenge in 2005, the world's largest academic innovation competition, and was amongst the ten finalists. Shameek has worked hard on a number of initiatives to increase BITS interest in ISB. He is a recipient of the National Talent Search (NTSE) scholarship.



Shilpa Sambashivan (1997)

Category: Academia & Research

Age: 25 years

PhD, Biological Sciences, UCLA
M.Sc.(Hons.) Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani

Shilpa was awarded the 2005 Amgen Dissertation of the Year Award from the Molecular Biology Institute at UCLA. She also won the Pauling poster-prize at the American Crystallographic Association's annual conference in 2004. Her most notable research publication was in the prestigious journal, Nature (Sep 8, 2005 issue) where she wrote about Amyloid research, presenting new and important insights into neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Shilpa has also been actively furthering her passion for Bharatnatyam and has performed at several locations in Los Angeles.



Kranthi Kiran Tumma (1997)

Category: Arts & Culture

Age: 25 years

M.Sc.(Hons.) Mathematics, BITS Pilani

B.E.(Hons.) Electrical & Electronics Engineering, BITS Pilani

Kranthi is a math wizard, who has made over 800 public performances including television and radio shows on calculations since February 1993. He has received an Award from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and has been widely written about in the media. BBC London did an article on Kranthi called "Walking Computer". His performances have included the All India Mathematics Teachers Associations, Ramanujan Mathematics Academy and the Assam Academy of Mathematics (Guwahati). He is currently working as a software engineer.



Prasanna V. Krishnan (1996)

Category: All-round Leadership

Age: 26 years

MBA, Wharton

M.S. Computer Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

B.E.(Hons.) Computer Science, BITS Pilani

Prasanna has won many awards in academia and business. At Microsoft, where she worked most recently, she was named one of 15 Fast Track employees with potential to be future company leaders. At the Redmond-based firm, she co-designed two patent winning technologies, and received a recruiting All-Star Award for two consecutive years for active involvement in college recruiting and hiring women. Prasanna was named one of the five Siebel Scholars for academic excellence and leadership, an award that is given to five students chosen from 5 top computer science programs and business schools, while she was studying at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, from where she obtained a 4.0 GPA. At UIUC, she won the CS Department C.W. Gear Outstanding Graduate Student Award, and her thesis was nominated for the David J Kuck Outstanding Thesis Award. She was ranked 2nd in the graduating Computer Science class, and was a Bronze medalist in her batch at BITS Pilani. Prasanna stood third in the All India CBSE Examinations, won the National Talent Search Examination scholarship, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Golden Jubilee Fellowship Award in (1994), the Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship for three consecutive years (1994-1996). She has performed many classical dances for non profits such as Asha & CRY. Prasanna is currently an MBA student at Wharton, and married to Kartik Hosanagar, another 30 under 30 winner.



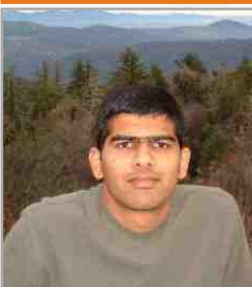
Krishna Hegde (1996)

Category: Community Leadership

Age: 26 years

MBA, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth
B.E.(Hons.) Computer Science, BITS Pilani

Krishna is passionate about developmental projects in India. He worked with Seva Mandir, where he studied the impact of rural development projects on social cohesion, as well as with eGovernments Foundation, where he collaborated with the Registrar General of India to develop standards for the Birth & Death Registration systems in India. He has volunteered with Janaagraha Bangalore for improving citizen participation in governance. Krishna has received several scholarships and awards including the National Talent Search (NTSE) scholarship given to 750 students every year in India, the BITS Merit Scholarship, the JN Tata Endowment Scholarship, the Mahindra Scholarship and the Enterprise Excellence Award at Hindustan Lever, where he worked after graduation from BITS. Krishna co-founded BITS2Bschool, an initiative to help BITSians get into the top business schools. Krishna started and moderates BITSAA's largest global yahoo group (Bangalore), which has over 2,400 members. He was an active member of the Bangalore team that raised over \$75,000 for BITSCoNECT, the project to wire the Pilani campus. The largest non-campus musical event in BITS history was attended by over 1,000 people. Krishna coordinated the media blitzkrieg in India in the run-up to the inauguration of BITSCoNECT. He is currently a student at Dartmouth, and will be joining Lehman Brothers in trading in New York.



Jagadeesh Krishnan (1996)

Category: Innovation

Age: 26 years

M.S. Electrical Engineering, Arizona State University
B.E.(Hons.) Electronics & Instrumentation, BITS Pilani

Jagadeesh is one of the youngest members to be nominated to the Group of Technical Staff at Texas Instruments, Dallas. He has designed the industry's first switch-mode audio power amplifier in deep sub-micron technology, and has been the first to integrate a switch-mode audio power amplifier on a base-band chip in a cell-phone. He is the first author on three papers in this field, and the first inventor on five patent applications. Jagadeesh is a professional reviewer of Journal Papers at the IEEE.



Garima Kochhar (1995)

Category: Academia & Research

Age: 27 years

M.S. Computer Science, Ohio State University

M.Sc.(Hons.) Physics, BITS Pilani

B.E.(Hons.) Computer Science, BITS Pilani

Garima has received a number of awards for her research work in Computer Science at the Ohio State University and at Dell, where she currently works. She has 11 publications to her credit. At Dell, she received the Director's Award, as well as several on-the-spot awards. Garima was a member of the Dell HPCC Team that won HPC Wire 2005 Readers and Editors choice awards for best Price/Performance HPCC Servers. At OSU, she was awarded the Distinguished University Fellowship. Garima loves to run. She has participated in several 5K runs, and was a member of a Danskin 2004 relay team. Garima was actively involved in theatre and drama at BITS. She was also a member of the Student Senate.



Nikhil Kumar Srivastava (1995)

Category: All-round Leadership

Age: 27 years

MBA, Harvard University

M.S. Stanford University

B.E.(Hons.) Electrical & Electronics Engineering, BITS Pilani

Nikhil has set a world record for designing the world's fastest Indium Phosphide semiconductor circuit with a switching time of 2.08 pico seconds. He has authored multiple papers and has authored two patents. He served on semiconductor industry standards committee in the USA. He co-founded and developed Anuradha Foundation, a US based non-profit organization focused on education and mental health in India. Nikhil worked for four years at a venture funded startup in LA, where he received company awards for outstanding performance every year. He also received the first prize and best project "Decision Analysis", Stanford University (2000), the second prize in the Integrated Chip Design Competition, Stanford University (2000), a School of Engineering Fellowship, Stanford University (1999-2001). He obtained a 4.0 GPA at Stanford and a 10.0 GPA at BITS Pilani, where he graduated as the top ranking gold medalist student. Nikhil is the first BITSian to attend the MBA program at Harvard Business School, where he is currently a student.



Manik Reddy Pullagurla (1995)

Category: Academia & Research

Age: 27 years

PhD, Medicinal Chemistry, Virginia Commonwealth University
Bachelor of Pharmacy, BITS Pilani

Manik is the recipient of the Lowenthal Award for "excellence in the research of genetically based neurological diseases" at VCU where he completed his PhD in 2003. He was also awarded the JD Smith Award (2004) and the Dean's Award (2004) given to the outstanding graduate student of medicinal chemistry. In the last three years, he has written nine publications, and has one patent pending. Manik was the second runner-up in the Virginia Academy of Science presentation on "Novel 5-HT₆ antagonists" in 2003. He completed his post-doctoral studies in anti-HIV research at the University of Georgia in 2004, and is currently a senior research scientist at Navinta Pharmaceuticals in New Jersey.



Sreekhhar Cheboyina (1995)

Category: Innovation

Age: 27 years

PhD, Pharmacy, University of Mississippi
Masters of Pharmacy, BITS Pilani
Bachelors of Pharmacy, BITS Pilani

Sreekhhar invented a novel method of making pellets for drugs, and filed a patent in the US, while completing his PhD. He won the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association's GP Nair Award, as well as the ML Schroff Medal and Cash Prize from the Indian Pharmaceutical Association in recognition of securing the highest percentage of marks / CGPA in the final B.Pharmacy examinations in 1999. He will graduate with a 4.0 GPA from the University of Mississippi, where his academic accomplishments have been recognized with memberships in the Rho Chi and the Phi Kappa Phi honors societies. Sreekhhar has authored/co-authored 5 publications in the Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Technology, International Journal of Pharmaceutics and the Indian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Drug Metabolism and Disposition. He has presented his research work in several regional, national and international conferences including the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), the Controlled Release Society and the Southern Regional Discussion Groups.



Minakshi Krishnan (1995)

Category: Community Leadership

Age: 27 years

MHA, Ohio State University
M.Sc.(Hons.) Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani
Bachelor of Pharmacy, BITS Pilani

Minakshi has worked tirelessly on a range of projects for a number of charities in the US and India. She completed the Mardi Gras Marathon in Feb 2005, and raised funds for the Whitman Walker clinic, a Washington DC based organization helping HIV/AIDS patients. She has worked with the Association for India's Development on projects such as Gana Chetna, an integrated rural development project in Orissa, the publication of a book - Taking Sides to guide community health workers by Tamil Nadu Science Forum (2001), Kalpavriksh a study on effects of mining on natural habitats (2001). With Asha for Education, she has worked on Asha Samajic Vidyalaya Support a Child and the Barli Development Institute for Rural Women in Indore. Minakshi has been Service Corps volunteer at The Advisory Board Company and an American Red Cross volunteer for blood drives.



VT Bharadwaj (1995)

Category: All-round Leadership

Age: 27 years

PGDM, IIM Ahmedabad
B.E.(Hons.) Electrical & Electronics Engineering, BITS Pilani

VT holds the distinction of having topped his batch both at BITS Pilani, where he was a gold medalist, and at IIM Ahmedabad. At IIMA, he was named the Nestle and Omega scholar for Academic Excellence. At IIM Lucknow, he received the Leadership in the Making Award (2001), given to potential future business leaders of the top business schools in India. VT is a classical music singer and dancer. He was the President of Ragamalika and helped organize Sangamam the Indian Classical Music Festival at BITS. He was also active in the English Press Club. VT is currently working as an engagement manager in McKinsey & Co. He has been published in the McKinsey Quarterly, and IIMA's Vikalpa - the Journal for Decision Makers.



Kartik Hosanagar (1994)

Category: Academia & Research

Age: 28 years

PhD, Management Science & Information Systems,
Carnegie Mellon University

M.Phil, Management Science & Information Systems,
Carnegie Mellon University

M.Sc.(Tech.) Information Systems, BITS Pilani

B.E.(Hons.) Electronics & Instrumentation, BITS Pilani

Kartik has the distinction of being the youngest professor at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, where he accepted an offer at the age of 25. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Technology Management. His research has been published in top journals including Management Science and conferences, including International Conference on Information Systems, ACM Conference on Information Retrieval - SIGIR, Workshop on IT & Systems. Kartik has won a number of awards including the William Cooper award for best thesis in Management or Management Science (2004), the Best Paper Award, Doctoral Consortium in Technology, Policy and Management, Netherlands (2002) and the e-Business Research Center, Pennsylvania State University Doctoral Dissertation Award (2002). He was offered the Castanga fellowship (1999-2000) at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Doctoral Fellowship at Carnegie Mellon University (1999-2001). He is an NTSE Scholarship award winner. Kartik loves volleyball and has participated at fund raisers for Asha, and CRY. He was the topper of his Instrumentation batch. He is married to Prasanna Krishnan, another 30 Under 30 winner.



Shivakumar Swaminathan (1994)

Category: Innovation

Age: 28 years

M.S. Electrical Engineering, Duke University

B.E.(Hons.) Electrical & Electronics Engineering, BITS Pilani

Shiva received the IBM Fellow Award in 2005 and the IBM Distinguished Engineer Award in 2004 for his work on IBM's PowerPC based chips. He has been nominated as one of the 50 most promising early-tenure employees of IBM worldwide. Shiva has two sole inventor patents and four other pending patents. He has two IBM Invention Achievement Awards for the patent filings, the IBM Author Recognition Award for research contributions in the area of VLSI testing and numerous IBM Bravo! awards for technical excellence. He is a resident expert in the field of VLSI test at IBM Raleigh, and a member of the technical vitality council. Shiva also has many technical publications at IEEE conferences and awards to his credit. He was a Silver Medalist at BITS, Pilani.



Swati Satpathy (1994)

Category: All-round Leadership

Age: 28 years

M.Sc.(Tech.) Information Systems, BITS Pilani

Swati is one of few BITSian women to be hired directly into Hindustan Lever Limited's (HLL) general management trainee program. At HLL, 3 of her projects won the Enterprise Excellence Award. One of her projects was nominated for the Unilever International IT Award and is considered best practice at Unilever world-wide. Swati was the first woman at HLL's Haldia Chemicals plant. Swati has done outstanding community work with Seva Mandir, an NGO, executing a UN funded project to establish a rural entrepreneurship program for women across 6 villages in Rajasthan. In 2003 she moved to Unilever's global headquarters in Rotterdam as the youngest expatriate. Swati is passionate about the development of her home state of Orissa and plans to start a socially responsible, for-profit organization that popularizes art and craft from the region.



Sridhar Nagarajan (1994)

Category: Community Leadership

Age: 28 years

M.S. Industrial Engineering, SUNY Binghamton

M.Sc.(Hons.) Physics, BITS Pilani

B.E.(Hons.) Chemical Engineering, BITS Pilani

Sridhar has demonstrated his commitment and leadership to community activities since he joined BITS in 1994. He worked at the NSS for three years, before being named President in 1997. Sridhar coordinated awareness programs for adults and activity-based learning programs for children in Basgaon near Pilani. He has also worked on peace initiatives between India and Pakistan through a Peace March, joint Independence Day celebrations and a joint IndoPak fundraiser for the recent South Asian earthquake. He volunteered for relief efforts following the Tsunami disaster in South India, and he currently works on development initiatives such as sustainable health, education and rights issues, through the Association for India's Development(AID) in the US and in India. Sridhar is currently the Fundraising Coordinator for the AID San Francisco Bay Area chapter. Sridhar has also won the IBM Server Group Achievement Award in 2002.



Ranjani Varadan (1994)

Category: Academia & Research

Age: 28 years

PhD, Biochemistry, University of Maryland, College Park
M.Sc.(Hons.) Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani
B.E.(Hons.) Electronics & Electrical Engineering, BITS Pilani

Ranjani is an outstanding researcher in the field of protein chemistry, with 20 publications in this subject. One of her research works (with Professor David Fussman of UMCP), appeared as the cover story in Molecular Cell magazine, a leading research journal for molecular methods and biochemistry. The research explains why linkages between certain cell-regulating protein molecules determine their function. An understanding of these proteins could ultimately lead to better drug therapy for treating cancer or neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. In the past, Ranjani has worked with advisors at Stanford University's School of Medicine, IISc Bangalore and MIT. She received the Graduate Research Excellence Award, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UMCP in 2004, and won first place for a poster presentation in UMCP's Bioscience Research and Technology Review Day in 2002. Ranjani is currently completing her PhD.



Rahul Gopal (1994)

Category: Arts & Culture

Age: 26 years

B.E.(Hons.) Civil Engineering, BITS Pilani

Rahul is the band leader and Drummer of South India based rock band No Idea, which is a well-recognized name on the circuit. The band was formed in 2000, and the current line-up has been together since May 2002. The band is one of 3 Indian Rock acts to have ever toured abroad(just back from a tour of Norway) , and has worked with UNICEF on AIDS awareness workshops. Rahul has also featured as a model in several advertisement campaigns.



Girish Venkataramani (1993)

Category: Academia & Research

Age: 29 years

PhD. Carnegie Mellon University
M.S. Computer Science, University of California Riverside
M.Sc.(Tech.) Information Systems, BITS Pilani
M.Sc.(Tech.) Engineering Technology, BITS Pilani

Girish is a nanoscale computing expert, and currently working on a PhD at the Carnegie Mellon University. His cutting-edge research within the Phoenix group at CMU is helping solve the problem of getting beyond Moore's Law using electronic nanotechnology, modeling design and synthesis of circuits and circuit substrates. Girish has built the first complete high-level synthesis flow that can compile all of ANSI-C into a physically synthesized circuit designed for the nanoscale era. His work was nominated for the Best Paper Award at CODES-ISSS 2005, and he has published an invited paper at ASAP 2003, in addition to several other conference and journal papers. Girish has published 9 refereed conference papers, 2 journal paper; 1 journal papers and 2 conference paper are currently under review. Girish's goal is to become a research faculty in academia, and explore new approaches to system design in a future that will breakthrough our current limitations.



Amol Bakshi (1993)

Category: Academia & Research

Age: 29 years

PhD. Computer Engineering, University of Southern California
M.S. Electrical Engineering, University of Southern California
B.E.(Hons.) Computer Science, BITS Pilani

Amol has excelled in Computer Science at USC, where he has maintained a 4.0 GPA. His dissertation is being published as a book under the Parallel and Distributed Computing Series by John Wiley & Sons in 2006. Amol has 15 publications. Prior to joining USC, Amol worked at Hewlett Packard in India, where he won two awards for technical excellence. Amol is part of the core management team of BITS2MSPHD, which is advising BITSians on getting into MS and PhD programs at the world's top universities on scholarship. Amol has made a big push to get more BITSians admitted on scholarship at USC.



Maresh Ramasubramanian (1993)

Category: Arts & Culture

Age: 29 years

M.S. Computer Graphics, Cornell University
B.E.(Hons.) Computer Science, BITS Pilani

Maresh works at Dreamworks Studios in Los Angeles. He is a core member of the Oscar-winning team for Shrek. He was the Lead Effects Animator for Shrek2 and Madagascar, and the Head of Effects on Over The Hedge (releasing 2006). Maresh has published and presented papers twice at the premier Graphics' conference - ACM SIGGRAPH. He won the Best Project Award at APOGEE 1996 for developing a 3-D modeling and rendering system. Maresh is a supporter of BITS, and is looking to start a practice school station (coop program) at DreamWorks.



Sriram Kumar (1993)

Category: Community Leadership

Age: 29 years

M.Sc.(Tech.) Information Systems, BITS Pilani

Sriram runs for causes. He has been actively involved in the India Literacy Project for over six years. He was instrumental in making the Race for Literacy the premier 10K race in Mountain View, CA. This year's race had over 600 participants and raised more than \$26,000. Sriram has raised \$50K alone in races over the past few years. He is Captain for the ILP Team that ran the 199-mile Saturn Relay twice. He also completed the Big Sur Marathon in April 2005.

Global 30 under 30 Awards - 2005

Thanks to



BITSAA Awards Committee

Roy L Ashok
Anuradha Muralidharan
Anupendra Sharma

Contact Information

BITSAA Awards Committee
anupendra@bitsaa.org