VESIT Connect

Since 1962

Contents

ETRX Farewell

-Tanvi Shinde

The students of BE Electronics celebrated their farewell ceremony on 15th April 2019 as they walked down the four years of memory lane of their time at VESIT. The amphitheatre was glimmering, as the students, all dressed up in suits and dresses, assembled on this memorable day. Their HOD, Prof Kavita Tewari, while addressing the students remarked on how they were an exceptional batch. This was reiterated by some of their teachers like Mrs Navita Kant.

This farewell was organized by their juniors with the assistance of some staff members. Vignesh Joshi, a junior on the organizing team, stated that it was fun planning and implementing various events for the event. The atmosphere was lit up by the dance and musical performances by the juniors and some BE students like Hemant Wakchaure, Soham Sawant and many more, who also set the stage on fire by their memorable dance performance. This was followed by fun games. A few include a push-ups competition where the guy with maximum pushups won some goodies. Another game included tying a chilli to the back of the contestants and trying to put it in a bottle.

The prize distribution ceremony saw Mr Ankit Panvalkar getting the Outstanding Student of the year, along with many other interesting categories.

Finally the students helped themselves to some delicious treats as they bid a tearful adieu to their beloved college. Aaryaa Padhyegurjar remarked that she had a lot of fun at the farewell and she was going to miss her friends and teachers at VESIT dearly.

Students of BE-ETRX

Dance performance by ETRX students

ETRX students enjoying their farewell

Music performance by ETRX students

CMPN Farewell

–Pratik Chainani

The CMPN B.E. farewell was celebrated with great pomp and elate in the amphitheatre on 15th April 2019, at 12.30 pm. The amphitheatre was meticulously adorned with colourful balloons and various kinds of party props to add a fun element in the farewell. With the theme "We part to meet again", the organizers, i.e. the third year students invited their seniors by including coding and programming in their invitation.

Various events like dance, singing, rapping, stand-up comedy were conducted and the B.E. students performed very well. The comical acts consisted of satirical humour along with nostalgic memories of the four years that they spent together. There was inspiring speech by Deputy HOD of Computer engineering department Dr. Gresha Bhatia for guiding the students to face the real world. Finally the event concluded with cutting of cake by CRs of all the classes followed by snacks and refreshments for the students.

"I am glad we could happily bid farewell to our seniors. I am extremely grateful to have such a supportive team. After all, things end but memories last forever. And we ended up adding one more memory for them. We hope they had a great time. We will miss them a lot!", said Sumit Manwani (D12B), one of the organizers.

The cutting of cake by the respective CRs in the Drawing Hall

EXTC Farewell

-Hiten Makhija amd Tanvi Shinde

"Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes. Because for those who love with their heart and soul there is no such thing as separation." -Rumi

The Final year students of EXTC bid adieu to VESIT in a memorable Farewell arranged by their juniors of D14 on 15th April with the help of Aarti Sawant Ma'am and few other staff members. All the BE students, adorned in pretty dresses, assembled in the auditorium, where the HOD Ms. Shobha Krishnan addressed them warmly. A representative from each division, Apeksha Yadav (D19A), Shubham Safaya (D19B) and Abhed Mhatre (D19 C) gave heartwarming speeches where each spoke about his/her journey of engineering and some memorable moments on VESIT campus. This was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony, where the CR's of the classes joined the HOD ma'am to cut the cake. The stage was then set on fire by dance and musical performances by the juniors as well as BE students. While Ms. Kajal Raut and Ms. Shruti Sang from D19B sang songs, the band of Mr. Nishant More, Mr. Chinmay Warang and Mr. Aniket Kanalu and Mr. Ajay Gulabani gave an outstanding performance. Junior too joined in with a few students from D14C performing at the event. Soon the teachers too joined in the merriment with students.

Prof. Chintan Jethva mimicked film stars like mimicked film stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Shahrukh Khan and Amir Khan, as he tried to convey the message "Life is hard but you should walk through it and never give up".

Prof. Chintan Jethva imitating Bollywood stars (courtesy of VPC)

Prof. Murugendra Vasmatkar recited a poem written by him. Towards the end of the programme, an awards ceremony was arranged where hilarious prizes were awarded to the students with titles like 'Mr/Miss Scholar', Best dancer, 'Best couple', 'All-rounder', 'Politician', 'Bathroom Singer', etc. The ceremony ended on a delicious note, as the students helped themselves to tasty treats. Said Archit from D14, "I enjoyed the food and performances the most. I am certainly going to miss VESIT dearly. "The performance by D14C was overwhelming." added Mr. Shubham Safaya, who is also the General Secretary.

(From left to right) Juniors (D14B) singing along with their seniors (D19B)(courtesy of VPC)

Prof. Murugendra Vasmatkar reciting one of his poems "The College Days"(courtesy of VPC)

INFT Farewell

-Ninad Wadode

On 15th April 2019, a small farewell party was arranged on 5th Floor in classroom 523 for students of BE-IT. The Farewell was organized by the students of D15, Athul Balakrishnan, Chirag Bellara, Gayatri Belapurkar, Rajpreet Singh, Milan Hazra(CI), Anurag Shelar(CR) were the main incharge for the event. The Farewell Party started at 12.00pm and was initiated by welcoming the students with a little heartwarming poem. All the teachers and staff of IT branch were invited and Dr.

Surprise gift to the seniors of BE-INFT

Shalu Chopra(HOD) of IT Department spoke a few words about the batch and gave them suggestions for their further journey.

There was a cake cutting ceremony by the class council of D20 and all the teachers of IT Department. The class was decorated with beautiful memories. After the cake cutting ceremony the first Performance was a beautiful Retro song by Nihar Abhyankar from D10 following that was a group performance by the students of D20. Two students from D20 they performed beautiful songs, Vipul Khitani played Guitar and sang a melodious song. After that There was a standup performance from Rajpreet Singh from D15 following that Vishal Israni performed a mono-acting set that was his first performance when he started to perform in VESIT.

There was prize distribution ceremony which included some fun categories and winners were awarded with medals. After that there was a group performance by the boys and girls of D20. Vishal Israni displayed a beautiful video of all their memories and time spent together by addressing each and everyone in the class and said a few words about each and everyone by sharing a little memorable moment that he had with each one of them. Vipul and Kaustubh also expressed few words about there memorable journey. A photo booth was arranged for the students where they clicked photos and there was food arranged for the students and as a memory every student of D20 was given a keychain with their name printed on it. The end of the event was DJ arranged inside the class and everyone enjoyed the party.

The girls of BE-INFT

INST Farewell

-Yash Keskar

The month of April teaches us that everything in life has a prologue and an epilogue. April saw many of us bid farewell to our favourite superheroes and TV show characters. However, there was one goodbye that filled the Instrumentation Department of VESIT with a sense of inevitability. On 15th April, 2019 class room 119 of VESIT witnessed the farewell ceremony of final year (BE) INST students.

In attendance for the event were the luminous faculty of the INST department led by Dr. P.P. Vaidya, HOD(INST) and Dr. (Mrs.) Sangeeta Prasanna, vice HOD(INST). The faculty present included Dr. MD Patil, Mrs. Kadambari Sharma, Mrs. Jaysree Ramakrishnan, Mr. Kader Shaikh, Mr. Gopalkrishnan and Mrs. Madhumati Khuspe. The placement incharge of the college, Mr. A Naganada also graced the occasion.

The ceremony was organized by third year (TE) and

second year (SE) INST students to signify the passing of the torch. Some of the students involved in organizing the event were D13(TE) students namely Rahul Ghorpade (Cultural secretary),Harsh Maheshwari, Yash Keskar, Nikhil Sonawale, Deep Jain, Mahima Zhambani whilst the D8(SE) students involved were Reshma Sawant, Jayesh Korgaonkar, Jagruti Sawalkar and Shripad Joshi.

The farewell ceremony began with a note of thanks given by BE INST student, Chaitanya Kulkarni to the entire faculty attending the event. After the vote of thanks, BE INST students began to felicitate all the faculty members that had helped them with their group projects. Following the felicitation ceremony, prizes were distributed for some of the best projects that highlighted BE INST's four year long journey of

hard work and diligence. To conclude the event, the entire faculty took the stage to give their individual speeches about the D18 class of 2018/19. The entire event left the students of D18 in tears but also injected them with the bravery to face a new world of hardships.

One of the project groups getting awarded at the hands of the HOD (Instrumentation) Dr. P.P.

Faculty members of the Dept. of Instrumentation with the students of D18

Assistant Professor Mr. Kader Shaikh sharing a light moment with the departing students.

MCA Farewell

-Atique Kudchi

The months of April and May are super hectic for students with the submissions, vivas and practicals happening all at once, not to mention the shadow of the end semester exams continually looming overhead does not help with the stress levels.

What does help though, are the Farewell programs that are held for the passing out batches of all the branches, where the Juniors put together a function as a last bid goodbye to their Seniors as a show of appreciation for all the guidance and experiences they have shared.

SY Afternoon batch during their dance performance

The MCA Branch Farewell took place on the 20th of April in the Amphitheatre from around 12:30 PM onwards, and it was a very visually pleasing sight with blue and white balloons adorning the stage.

The show was commendable, considering that the students had put everything together at the last minute, among all the frenzy of the submission weeks.

The entire show was conducted by the anchors, who were Tarandeep Singh Saini (MCA2A) with Anuja Pawar (MCA2A) and Neha Patil (MCA2A) with Mehul Tuteja (MCA2B). First Years Jinang Vora (MCA1B) and Rohit Pandey (MCA1B) took over to

Akshay Salekar raps while Tarandeep Singh beatboxes

conduct a few fun games to occupy the audience.

The Second Year Afternoon batch had even put together a dance performance, which included Vaishak Nambiar, Vinay Pednekar, Vinay Pawar, Pratibha Pal, Meghna Patil, Sanica Kamble, Karishma Chavan and Akshata Bahulekar.

One of the games put together was a twisted version of "Blind Man's Bluff", wherein the blindfolded denner is guided by an individual, but the Guide uses assigned codewords to direct the denner.

Tarandeep Singh Saini, Akshat Upadhyay (MCA2B) and Mehul Tuteja sang to the rhythms of the guitar while Akshay Salekar (MCA3B) rapped to a beat.

The lunch happened at 2:30 PM, which had Noodles, Paneer and French rolls, Soft drinks and Ice-Cream.

The program ended with a speech from Rishabh Singh (MCA2A), President of the College and small gifts for all the passouts, with relevant aesthetic VESIT motifs on them.

The event turned out to be surprisingly good, considering the short notice under which it had been produced, with full credits going to all the innumerable passionate people that worked behind the scenes to make it happen and it made a great evening of memories for all the people, who had full stomachs and hearts to take home.

Blind Man's Bluff underway

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

-A.A. Milne

VESITians shine at eYantra Ideas Competition'19

-Gayatri Belapurkar

It was yet another prestigious moment when a team of students from VESIT won under the category of 'The Best Algorithm' in the eYantra Ideas Competition 2019. The team comprised of students of D15, Information Technology, Gaurav Sahu, Gayatri Belapurkar, Chirag Bellara, and Sahil Sahu.

The competition which spanned over a period of around 6 months came to an end on the 6th of April, 2019. During this period, the students were mentored by Mrs. Charusheela Nehete. The eYantra team from IIT-B too guided the students as to where their focus should be, what was required from them and how it was to be approached, by conducting timely review sessions and by asking for demonstration videos and live demonstrations of the project.

The first step was the idea selection round which took place around late September'18 to early October'18. Many teams from all over India submitted their prototype ideas, which were first screened by their college and then sent to the eYIC team, out of which 362 ideas were selected for the next round.

The second step was to build a working prototype. The students from the Department worked on a project called Street Quality Identification Device (SQUID), which detected the potholes on the road and displayed them on a live map to the government officials along with the intensity and exact location of the pothole. This prototype, which started off as a semester 5 IoT project, was then presented at the regional finals on February 21, 2019, at KJ Somaiya College of Engineering. The students were awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5000 and a drone for the eYantra lab of the college. They were selected for demonstrating their project in the national finals, which was held in IIT Bombay. Twenty-one teams from all over India got this opportunity of a lifetime, at the end of which, teams were given participation certificates and six teams were awarded under five categories, namely 'Best demo', 'Closest to Market', 'Best Hardware', 'Most Innovative' and 'Best Algorithm'. The eYIC team at IIT-B had also arranged sessions to motivate the students, increase their creativity and to teach them how to look for problems to create innovations for. The students also got a chance to have a look at previous year's prototypes which had now been taken past that

The students of Team SQUID receiving their award under "Best Algorithm Category" at the Grand Finale of eYIC 2019

stage, to production level. The students were later given an opportunity to intern at IIT-B under the eYantra Summer Internship Programme 2019.

All in all, it was a journey full of ups and downs for the team, which taught them a lot and ended up bagging an award at the national finals. We congratulate the students and wish them the very best for their future endeavors.

Workshop on Neural Networks

-Rashmi Singh

On March 30th, Ms. Khushboo Peswani and Ms. Karthika Kamath from Women In Data Science, Mumbai conducted a workshop on Convoltion Neural Networks for Be.teaching the students the basics of Neural Networks. The Conference was attended by the students of Information Technology, Computer Science and Masters in Computer Application.

During the conference, the keynote speaker, Ms.

Karthika Kamath spoke about the difference between supervised and unsupervised learning. She then went on to conduct an interactive coding session with the students, she helped them make their own neural network using python libraries like keras, matplotlib, numpy etc. on Google Collaboratory. She explained the entire program in great detail, varying certain parameters to help the attendees understand the implications of the various lines of code.

The speaker spent the next half of the conference explaining how the neural networks could be used for image classification, the different layers in CNN and talking about the future of CNN. She also showed a functional code, submitted as a problem solution for a Kaggle competition, written to identify the oil palms in a given locality. The workshop concluded with the speaker and the attendees discussing the current applications of CNN and its future.

VESIT Voice

-Gayatri Belapurkar

Hello VESITians! As we bring to you the April issue of VESIT Connect, we couldn't help but notice how the streak of victory continues on multiple platforms. VESITians have always been good at academics and have had high aims, but this year seems to have brought with itself a new kind of enthusiasm and the hard work of students and teachers does not fail to reward. This issue, while narrating the stories of two such achievements, also made us nostalgic as we penned down the last memoirs of final year students. Students from the college have won under "Best Algorithm Category" in the eYantra National Finals. VDC yet again put the stage on fire with their energetic performance. April also witnessed the Symposiums of all the Societies as they concluded their academic year with a bang. A workshop was held which aimed to encourage women in Data Science. This year, in the VESIT Diaries section, we have Shantanu Mulay sharing his story with us.

The month of April, however, comes with its pre-exam jitters. The college is filled with an air of urgency and tension, with students running all over the place, trying to make it through what might probably be the toughest time of the entire semester. We wish everyone a happy April and hope the students fare well in their practical exams and vivas.

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VDC Sets the Stage on Fire

-Shruti Bondre

"Dance is the hidden language of the soul of the body" -Martha Graham

The month of March brings in a number of dance inter-college competitions. VDC- The VESIT Dance Crew- a crew of dedicated dancers from VESIT, who represent the college at such competitions,have been setting the stage on fire with their powerful performances.

VDC participated in about a twelve competitions and have won eight of them. All the 14 members of the crew; Aman More, Sudarshan Gaikwad, Sayali Moghe, Ruchika Udasi, Gauri Jadhav, Priyank Sewani, Akansha Ahuja, Takshan Shetty, Rahul Panicker, Shubham Sawant, Jui Vichare, Shubham Haryaan, Aishwarya Silvaal, Namrata Sonavane put in intense hours of practise to perfect their moves. They practiced their enactment after college hours in the amphitheater forgetting the heat and tiredness of the day.
They won the First prize at the following competitions:

- AAVISHKAR at King Edward Medical College on 1st March 2019
- AAKARSHAN(Dare to Dance) at KJ Medical College(Vidyavihar) on 4th March, 2019
- PRATISHTHA(Verve) at Shah and Anchor Kutchhi College on 7th March, 2019.
- TATVA MOKSH LAKSHYA at SIES Graduate school of Technology on 8th March, 2019
- AAKANKSHA at Terna Medical College on 13th March, 2019.

They won the second prize in the following competitions:

- ETAMAX at Father Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering on 1st March, 2019.
- FOOTLOOSE(Surge) at KJ Somaiya Institute of Information Technology on 8th March 2019
- BALLISMUS at HBT Medical College on 8th March 2019.

VDC is the true example of hardwork and perseverance. With their untiring dedication and love for dance, they have set the right example for anyone in the Dancing Fraternity or in any field that yields the best results with hard work.

VDC Crew crowned as champions

Societies

CSI SYMPOSIUM - CYNOSURE'19

-Omkar Jaladi

CSI-VESIT's Annual Symposium - Cynosure'19 was held in the college auditorium on 01 April 2019 at 3:00pm. As the academic year comes to an end all the councils gear up their symposiums balancing their last minute submissions simultaneously. Cynosure 2019 celebrates the all round successful year achieved by the team in conducting well organised events. The theme of the symposium followed this year was –Retrotech and the auditorium was beautifully decorated in concordance with the theme.Goodies were provided to all the students who were part of the symposium which included a Quechua bag, Stapler, Punching Machine, Diary, Folder,Coupons, etc.The symposium started with the Chief Guest, Mona Deshmukh Madam, lighting the lamp and initiated the event.The new CSI app and website were launched followed by the launch of CSI's Annual Magazine which was on display as well. A Felicitation ceremony was held where all the students who won prizes in events all throughout the year were given certificates and goodies. The ceremony was followed by the CSI Chairperson, Adarsh Shetty,

Chief Guest Mona Deshmukh launching annual magazine of CSI

giving a very emotional speech briefing the audience about the experience and how hard work of each and every member contributed towards put-

ting up such a great event for CSI. The day ended with food being distributed amongst everybody which included Chocolate ball, Ice cream, Swarma, Burger, Cake, etc. As the participants enjoyed their food, the council had a small photograph session and cherished their time together. In the end it was a day to remember for the whole CSI council.

CSI Chairperson Adarsh Shetty, signing off speech

The roots of education is bitter, but the fruit is sweet.

-Aristotle

ISTE SYMPOSIUM -SYNERGY'19

-Sreevidya Iyer

They say, all good things come to an end. In celebration of all the successes of the academic year, technical societies conduct symposiums to felicitate their illustrious members and bid farewell to their presiding B.E. committee members. The VESIT chapter of Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) conducted their symposium on 28th March 2019. The theme of the symposium was 'Tribute to the Indian Armed Forces'.

The event started with the lamp-lighting ceremony by staff incharge Dr Asawari Dudhwadkar. Brigadier Sushil Bhasin, a distinguished TEDx speaker, a Master Corporate Trainer, for Leadership and self-development and an author was the chief guest for the event. His words inspired the students and reminded them the importance of time-management. His presence proved as a morale-booster for the winners and the attendees alike.

Chief Technical officer Sagar Raisinghani and his technical team unveiled this year's magazines, Cognizance '19 and Mirage '19. All the winners of events conducted throughout the year were awarded various gifts and certificates. The most exciting prizes were the 'Member of the Year' from S.E.'s and T.E.'s

and 'Class of the Year' also from S.E.'s and T.E.'s.

Member of the Year (S.E.) - Jatin Acharya(D10)
Member of the Year (T.E.) - Mitesh Goplani(D12B)
Class of the Year(S.E.) - D10
Class of the Year(T.E.) -D14B

One of the highlights of the event was the farewell speeches by the B.E. council members. They spoke about the role ISTE played in building their confidence and moulding their character during college years and acknowledged the contribution of all the members towards the council in the past year. They even took some light hearted ribs at their council members and friends.

Chairperson Murlidhar Sharma giving his farewell speech

Co-Chairperson Bhavika Shahani signing-off with her speech

Chief guest Brig. Sushil Bhasin delivering a motivational speech

After the symposium, all the attendees were served snacks and desserts from popular joints across Mumbai. The event was a befitting finale to another wonderful year of ISTE.

Jatin Acharya receiving the Member of the Year award

IEEE SYMPOSIUM -MELANGE'19

-Arya Kasulla

After a successful year of fun loaded and eclectic events, IEEE-VESIT summed it up with their

Welcoming all the attendees at the start of the symposium

final part of this academic year-the symposium. Inspired from the theme "Time travel", IEEE-VESIT awarded all the participants and winners with certificates and prizes for the events they held throughout the year.

It all started with the secretary and MPO of the council Bhargav Deshpande and Akshara Gadwe addressing the audience with all that has happened in this year, followed by the teacher incharge of the council, Ms. Gresha Bhatia speaking a few words and congratulating the council members for the various shows they had put up during the year. The annual magazine and the website were launched shortly after. This was followed by Prize Distribution ceremony and a video of small recaps of the good times shared. In an interesting way to show the behind the screen working of the council, the members made a music video in the background score of a recently popular Bollywood movie 'Gully Boy'. Lastly, food and drinks were served in the amphitheater. All in all, the aesthetics as well as the technical team of IEEE-VESIT gave a fun filled and a nostalgic end to this academic year.

Participants receiving awards from Dr. Gresha Bhatia

"The measure of intelligence is the ability to have fun."

-Albert Einstein

ISA SYMPOSIUM ENGAUGE'19

-Pranav Phale

A grand adieu marked the event of culminating the events of this academic year through the Annual Symposium Engauge'19 on 2nd April,2019.

International Soceity of Automation has come a long way since it's inception in 1991 with about 159 members at present standing at the highest pedestal as the local chapter in VESIT. This year ISA VESIT has stretched its wings to all the departments and thus has catered to the interests of the students by conducting multi-domain workshops.

Analytics of Human Perception being the theme of the event emphasised on Personality enhancement and lateral thinking. It witnessed a huge enthusiastic crowd comprising of members as well as non-members, along with the teaching staff.

Dr Prasad Godse commencing the event

Our highly regarded Chief Guest Dr. Sagar Karia ,Guest Speaker Dr.Shorouq Motwani and HOD, Dr. P.P. Vaidya comenced the event by lighting the lamp, followed by Ganesh Vandana in the voice of our beloved faculty member, Mr.Prasad Godse.

As a mark of respect The Chief Guest, Guest Speaker and the faculty members were felicitated for constant support and guidance through all out ventures, with bouquets and mementos.

We take great pride in releasing ISA's Annual Magazine, Envisage'19 that was unveiled by our esteemed guests and the entire editorial team. As the main attraction of the event a video was played that comprised of the hardships, commitments and the eternal joy we received after delivering an array of events.

Unveiling of ISA's Annual magazine Envisage'19

This year ISA-VESIT has raised it's standards by taking new initiatives like ISA APP, ISA WEB PORTAL, DIGITAL NOTICE BOARD, NEWSLETTER AND 3D PRINTER which has helped it jump leaps and bounds as a technical soceity.

Next up, was a summary of all technically rich events that ISA conducted throughout the year. Winners of the same were awarded with trophies, certificates and cash prizes.After the prize distribution, a polling activity in which the audience had to answer questions on the relevance of facts and opinions on some trending affairs. The Opinion of the majority was displayed and analysed. The second session by our Guest Speaker, Dr.Shorouq Motwani in which a personality test was conducted providing a description of who you are followed by a brief explanation of the 16 types of personality. Followed by the interactive session our President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary gave their farewell speeches. Our faculty Advisor Mr.N. Gopalakrishnan shared the VISION STATEMENT of the academic year 2019-2020 and Vote of thanks. The attendees then proceeded to the amphitheatre for refreshments and goodies.

Awards and Certificates distributed to winners

Engauge'19 thus marked the end of another successful year for ISA with loads of memories to cherish. We all stand committed to keep the wheels of progress of ISA-VESIT moving.

Musings and Expressions

Cometh the Humour

-Atharva Gupte

I flipped through the pages of Bombay Times on a Sunday looking for celebrity gossip and my eyes caught the 'Around Mumbai This Weekend' section where I came across the modern adaptation of 'A comedy of Errors.' It was followed by a short description of the play; the first comedy written by William Shakespeare and how it is still one of the most cherished plays. Following this was another event by a young budding Stand-up comedian performing in an open mic. Having two such different forms of comedy on a single page, out there in a world which is trying to get united over diversities, was indeed fascinating.

Honestly, we have come so far from the origin of comedy, in the medieval period, where the courts of the emperors had a jester whose purpose was solely to entertain the king and the court officials. Nowadays, we have every kind of humor available on the internet. From prank videos to stand-up co-medians making their bread and butter to memes of all kinds to funny comics and this list goes on and on. It is a well known saying that 'Laughter is the best medicine' but looking at the current scenario it's more than that. It is a ray of hope for all those who have given up on life. It is a getaway for those who are stressed out from their daily lives. Hence to cope up with this ambitious, fast-paced and ever relentless world, laughter is indeed the best drug. We also see people going to laughing clubs and laughter therapy because laughter is an antidote to stress, pain and conflict. It draws people together physically, mentally and socially which can trigger positive and healthy changes in your body.

A study found that humor led to increased pain tolerance, believed to be caused by the release of endorphins, the body's natural pain relievers. Laughter therapy even works if patients can't find anything to genuinely laugh about, as forced or fake laughter still releases endorphins. Another study found that neuroendocrine and stress-related hormones decreased during laughter. In one particular case, an 88-year-old female patient was diagnosed with advanced gastric cancer and opted not to receive cancer treatment. Instead, she was prescribed laughter therapy, which took place in a laughter-inducing environment. The program was structured so that the patient felt safe and relaxed, and that it increased her joy of living. Just over a year and a half later, an endoscopy revealed that her condition significantly improved, and 5 years after her initial diagnosis, she remained in good condition.

Humour is a relief, a medicine, a positive in a world of negatives and also a career option for some people. It works in weird ways and it can help you get out of an awkward situation and also help you get out of a life-threatening disease.

"In conversation, humor is worth more than wit and easiness more than knowledge."

-George Herbert

Second Hand Memories

-Ananya Chetlur

Somewhere in a far away room, a doting mother sits and narrates to her child the glories of the times that were. Her special child, born without the gift of vision, carefully absorbs and attempts to reconstruct the marvels that are beyond her grasping reach. She sits in complete rapture as her mother relives her life through her memories, stories of soldiers with handlebar moustaches and big guns, stories of playing around in the sunset, stories of steam locomotives, with their huffing and their puffing, stories of Maharajas and their palaces. Then the mother's narrative paradigm shifts to the present. She makes her daughter touch, feel and listen, while she vividly describes her sight, that her daughter may have a semblance of vision. The little girl doesn't realise it, but tears are seeping from her mother's eyes. They say a mother's love is the most protective of forces. But there are some things even a mother's love cannot cure. The mother takes heart that there is hope in the future, though. Treatments, surgeries, operations that can create what doesn't exist in her daughter's life. She is recalled to the present when her daughter clutches her knee as she stumbles. Till such time as the dreams of the future can enter the realm of reality, the only condolence she can provide her child is her memories. Second-hand memories. But who said second-hand is bad? To the little girl for whom the world is just a figment of her imagination, these memories are a fortune; they flood her eyes with the visions that escape her sight, and fill her heart with wonder, and the thrill of discovery.

Kaleidoscope

-Gaurav Shukla(D9A)

I grew like the green grass with you,
Realizing that the blue sky wasn't my limit;
Pumping me forward like the red beating heart;
Cherishing every moment with you,spent in the bright yellow sun;
I melted for your smile like an orange candy;
You made my life as beautiful as a violet orchid;
Bringing peace like the evening indigo sky;
All the shades together and my life was joyful as a rainbow
Mixing them together you painted my shirt Black!

"Looking into the soul" - **Naren Khatwani (D7B)**

"Appearances are deceptive" - **Tejas Doke (D9A)**

"There are no shortcuts to any place worth going."

– Beverly Sills

VESIT Diaries

-Yash Keskar

Mr. Shantanu Mulay, an alumnus of the 2016 INST batch of VESIT shares his story with us. After graduating from VESIT in 2016, he worked as a production manager at a food and beverage enterprise, before pursuing an MBA from the prestigious Faculty of Management Studies-University of Delhi. He co founded Savoire Faire Hospitality shortly afterwards and dedicates all of his time to his brainchild.

Q.Tell us something about yourself.

Hello everyone. You already know I'm Shantanu. I'm a fairly recent VESIT alum. I graduated from the batch of 2016 as an Instrumentation and Control Engineer and then did my post graduation from FMS with the batch of 2019 in the full time MBA program.

I don't know the answers but I think I've begun to understand how to ask the questions.

Q.Share a glimpse of your personal life.

I currently live in Pune where I'm about to start my business venture and am often in Thane for business pursuits.

Q.Tell us something about your college life.

My college life in VESIT consisted of a lot of "focus" on extracurricular and co-curricular activities. Too much for my own good. I was a part of IEEE and worked in the Organization team in Praxis for 3 years towards the end of which I worked in the core committee (for three years we struggled to make our tech-fest relevant on the Mumbai stage but in vain). I was part of the group which started a formal college league for Football. I was in a band called Insurgence which gave (rather sub-standard) performances in an amphi full of students. College was extremely educational not despite but because of these activities.

Life at FMS was memorable. I met some incredible people and then I met some others. I fell in love with understanding how things worked. I feel that I got equipped with some tools which are important to analyse a given situation. Most importantly, I was reminded again that students from superior colleges aren't necessarily superior in intellect.

Q. Let's talk about your professional life.

I experiment and I move around. I am a very strong believer in diminishing marginal utility when it comes to learning. You can learn 80% of something in time 'X' but to get to 99%, you may have to spend '10X' the time. Which is why I think at an early stage of my professional career, it served my interest to work on something for a few months and move on.

I've worked full time as a Production Manager in a manufacturing company, I've interned at a tech start-up, I've volunteered full-time at an NGO, I've worked for a corporate conglomerate and I can now draw from these diverse experiences and knowledge pools before making decisions for my business venture.

Q. You've done your masters from the Faculty of Management Studies, can you throw some light on how you prepared for the CAT, the GDs and PIs.

CAT is a tricky exam to prepare for. What I mean is that some people are naturally suited to do well in it and for some, it may take a lot of hard work to crack it (often due to no fault of their own). Due to this, I don't believe that any two people should have the same approach to prepare for CAT. Fortunately for me, I belong to the former category.

I understood very early that I just needed to finetune my test taking skills. For 3 to 4 months, all I did was take tests and analyse the results with painstaking detail. I'd give 1 or 2 tests a week, analyse what I did right or wrong in those and try to implement the findings in the next test. I punctuated these tests by sectional tests whenever I felt like some section needed more work. In the last month, I stopped any sort of preparation I was doing except test taking.

I don't suggest anyone to follow this approach though. What an individual should probably do initially is to take a couple of tests and understand what their strengths and weaknesses are. Basis this, you should be able to understand how much time and effort needs to be given to reach the level you want to.

Q. Any tips for the management aspirants of VESIT, how to crack the entrance exams, whether having a work experience on your profile is beneficial than joining a MBA program as a fresher.

I think it is my responsibility to point out a few things.
1. People will often tell you that you should get some experience before going to a b-school to get the best out of what you will end up studying there. They aren't wrong but what they ignore is that the opportunities that you may get as a graduate of VESIT and those you will get as a graduate from a top b-school are poles apart. Pre-MBA experience definitely helps- it'll help your profile when you apply to companies for your Summer Internships and even for your Final Placements, it'll even help you understand the concepts in college better but if the job you end up getting as an engineer isn't great, if there is no actual learning or it doesn't add much value to your profile, it probably won't be as helpful as some people point it out to be.

2. The harsh reality is that today, CAT has been reduced to a qualifying exam only. Once you qualify for the GD-PI stage, you should forget about your CAT score. What really matters here is your actual performance in your interview and equally or perhaps even more importantly, your profile. The college will look at how attractive you will be to potential employers. Sadly not a lot is in your hands by this stage. Your scores in 10th, 12th and graduation are locked. What you can however do the following-
Get a good job- brand name of the company, responsibilities managed etc matter
Get certifications- check out which certifications are valued by b-schools. An example is CFA
Get internships- internships with good companies work well

Mr. Shantanu Mulay

Position of responsibility (POR)- get good PORs which show that you can manage other people and that you are a leader. It's better to have diverse PORs. Also, something like a 'Class Representative' probably won't make the cut.
Hobbies- if you're really good at something (read state level or national level), highlight it
I don't recollect any coaching center ever mentioning having to build up your profile but I think it's just as important as cracking CAT. As VESIT students, the top colleges will be hesitant to give you an admit; give them a good reason to take you in.

3. Coaching classes aren't the right option for everyone.

4. Lastly, hold out for a top b-school. It's worth having to wait an extra year, in my opinion.

Q. Students often associate the life of a management graduate from a top B school as a luxurious one, one where there are multiple doors to success. What is your take on this, is this preconceived notion anywhere close to reality?

I think so. Don't get me wrong, your two years in the b-school will be difficult in all probability but if you play your cards right, you stand to get incredible opportunities at the end of your 2 years. Your network improves drastically which will helpl you throughout your career. The average salary offered in a top b-school is 6-7 times that of a regular engineering college. You have incredible support from the top colleges to start your own business also. In my case for example, I have opted to take a 'Placement Holiday', giving me the license to pursue my business venture. If it so happens that I fail, I can come back and sit for placements that happen in college anytime in the next two years.

The b-school life is incredibly job oriented, sometimes at the cost of learning. Do take that into account.

Q.Today the world is advancing at a rapid pace, can you throw some light upon activities that students can do from the beginning which will help them get an edge.

From an MBA perspective, I think I touched upon this in a previous answer. From a general point of view however, I strongly feel that college is the time to experiment. Try starting a business, explore opportunities outside college, go to competitions and meet people outside your bubble, make acquaintances of people from different educational backgrounds.

From a job point of view, try interacting with alumni as much as possible. Many might be doing very interesting things and may be aware of opportunities that you weren't aware about.

Q.What do you think is the importance of extracurricular activities in a student's life and how to manage them.

Extracurricular activities can help with real world learning, working in teams and with other people, they can help build up your confidence and help you get in touch with your passion and things you really like. They however shouldn't be all that you do, in my opinion. I don't know how to find this balance though. If you think of a way, do let me know.

Q.As a professional, what can you say the companies are looking for, in freshers?

I won't presume to know this, since I haven't hired people myself. From what I've seen though, they look for the knowledge the candidate has (obviously). More importantly, I feel that they are looking for a story. Think about this carefully, I won't elaborate.

They look for instances where you've handled pressure and responsibility and how you reacted in these situations. They unconsciously look at how well you speak and present yourself but you already knew that. The recruiter is just a human like you and me. Step into their shoes and try to understand what they want to see in a candidate.

Q.Any message for the new generation at VESIT?

Please do something to connect the alumni network of VESIT back to the college. Study how IITs and BITS' of the world have done it and emulate them. The secret to the sustained success of the top engineering and business colleges in part is their alumni network. Ours isn't too bad either, leverage it.

Additionally, don't be afraid to take risks. Don't be afraid of uncertainty. You are far too young to know what you want from life. I still don't know the answer and I know people far wiser than me who are just as clueless. I know of people who have quit their jobs within a month. You can easily find examples of people who have changed their career paths at the tender age of 30, 40 or 50 even and achieved success in their new field.
If someone says they know exactly what they want to do in life, they probably haven't explored enough and are due for a quater-life or mid-life crisis; if not, they've probably found enlightenment.

Lastly, don't listen to a word anyone says (including me, which is quite paradoxical in truth) before critically examining it. Stay curious.

"Don't let the fear of losing be greater than the excitement of winning."

– Robert Kiyosaki