



Vidya Vikas Education Trust's  
**Universal College Of Engineering**  
Kaman, Vasai – 401 212  
**Department of Civil Engineering**



# The Benchmark

Issue 002: September 2018 Edition

## ACES InExCon

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## Words of Wisdom

### *Drishti*

*An upgrading in knowledge and experience coupled with improved performance is highly expected. This is the mantra for any success.*

- Mr. Dinesh Sukumaran

### *Altitude*

*Alumni are those branches of a tree that have grown thick & bark; although are blooming and flourishing outward from the main bark of the tree (college), they still remain connected and prove to be a continuous testament of everything that is right about the way college is educating & training its students.*

- Alumni Inspirations

## Page 03

*Both, Dr. Himanshu Raje & Mr. Giridhar Malpani shared with us their impeccable career timeline and the experiences they had throughout their careers which led to certain keynotes to various aspects regarding engineering in general.*

- Inauguration of ACES

### *From H.O.D.*

*With immense pleasure we are introducing the second issue of 'The Benchmark'. The highlight of this issue is, the most awaited students chapter 'ACES' inauguration, for which my heartiest congratulations to the post bearers and their team. Hoping this will further enhance the skill sets of the department.*

### From General Secretary of ACES

Association of Civil Engineering Students (ACES), under The Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI), is the Student Chapter of the Civil Engineering Department which strives to enhance the academic and social environment of students by helping them discover hidden talents within themselves, familiarize them with the latest & recent trends in the field of civil engineering as well as allowing one to mingle with fellow peers and seniors, thus enabling fruitful networking.

“ This time of the semester, we all have crossed halfway through the term. This is the time when students need to be motivated, need a clap to the ear, need a pinch on the arm, and might even need a slap on the face. Keeping that in mind, we have tried to focus all the sections on motivating our readers with several inspirations and success stories, with a hope that this edition uplifts the spirits of our readers and gets them back in the game. ”

-From Editor's Desk

# *Drishti*

## *Article on motivating and guiding students on participating on and off campus and, considering competitive packages and to be flexible in mobility*

*-by Mr. Dinesh Sukumaran*



**About the Author:** *The Author has pursued his M.com & MBA in Financial Management. He has wide experience of 22 years and has been working in Training and Placement for the past 12 years. Currently, he is working as Sr. Manager in Corporate Relations & Career Development at UCOE, Kaman.*

Civil Engineering is one of the most sought-after options among students in India as it is one of the core branches. With regard to final placements it requires a lot of genuine effort from the side of volunteering students.

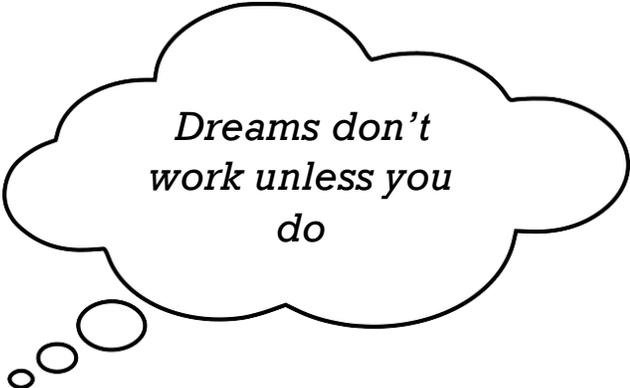
Students should focus from day one during their engineering program as where they want to reach, what they want to do with regard to their career. A career after civil engineering is very rewarding. There are jobs that involve supervision, construction, design, and analyses of private as well as public projects, such as dams, highways, canals, and bridges. The profession requires excellent skills for both administration and supervision of projects.

Now with regard to campus or off campus placements, a planned approach is required. The placement and package in core sector is very different from the IT sector. In IT sector opportunities for civil engineers could be as trainee engineers, where they will be trained and accustomed to the software solution and services to the civil engineering and construction industry. Of course, the starting packages in IT industry for any engineer are high as compared to core sector. You should not be worried about the disparity, reason in core it's more focused on theoretical knowledge, understanding and application of practical knowledge in your area of specialization. It is always better that a candidate could have an upper hand during selection if he/she has done numbers of relevant long or short projects in support to their degree.

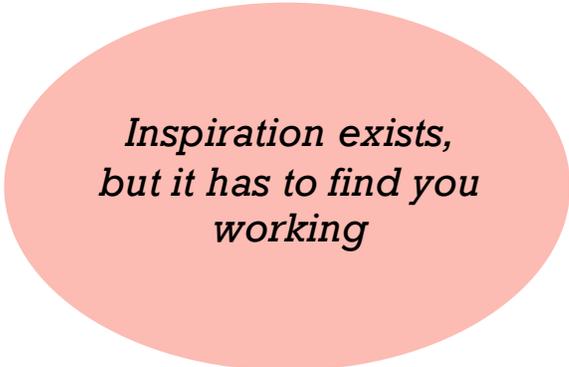
In core sector, a fresher is hired as site supervisor, site engineer, surveyor, material manager etc. The liking and focus is more on technical and people management. Your attitude and patience is tested high with regard to your liking in the area of interest, your job profile, working condition, people management, your communication. For this, the initial hiring will be as an 'intern' or 'trainee engineer', where you would be required to be on stipend for 6 to 9 months. During this period, you are assessed 360° and based on your performance your role is decided. Competitive compensation is the rule of the industry, as no good company favors losing a talented resource. A good advice is that you spend 2-3 months on site as an intern and learn all the basic thumb rules and standard operation procedures. This will reinforce your confidence and then may opt for better profile and pay. Also, one should learn softwares like; Staad pro, Microsoft Project, Revit and AutoCAD. This will add value to yourself rather than having a basic degree.

The location is mostly on the site only. The working could be odd hours, very much possible. The aspirant needs to have flexibility in moving to different locations as and when required by the company. A good and enthusiastic resource always gets early attention if he/she is keen in learning and delivering better performance. Getting a job as a site engineer is very easy. But staying there and learning is very difficult. Once you have a solid 3 years of site exposure your value in market is very high and there's a great scope for a better career.

An upgrading in knowledge and experience coupled with improved performance is highly expected. This is the mantra for any success.



*Dreams don't  
work unless you  
do*



*Inspiration exists,  
but it has to find you  
working*

## Inauguration Ceremony of ACES

The Department of Civil Engineering is proud to officially present 'Association of Civil Engineering Students' (ACES), the student chapter, in association with 'The Institution of Engineers (India)' (IEI), and had a successful Inauguration Ceremony on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. The event was graced by the presence of various dignitaries like, Dr. Himanshu Rajee, Honorary Secretary of IEI Maharashtra State Centre as the Chief Guest, Mr. Giridhar Malpani, Executive Director at BookBySlot as the Guest of Honor, Dr. J.B. Patil, Campus Director, Dr. Ajoy Kumar, Principal, & Mr. Rajesh Dubey, HOD of Civil Engineering.

The Ceremony was commenced with a warm welcome of our dignitaries followed by lamp lighting and prayer song. Our dignitaries were then felicitated and later, Mr. Ayush Kottari, General Secretary of ACES, gave his welcome address and briefed about the objectives of ACES. It was a proud moment for the ACES committee as it was at that moment when all the dignitaries revealed and launched the logo of ACES, Student Chapter. The logo seemed to be well appreciated by all dignitaries.

The gathering was then addressed by Dr. J.B. Patil, followed by a Mr. Giridhar Malpani, and finally a very valuable address by Dr. Himanshu Rajee. Both dignitaries shared with us their impeccable career timeline and the experiences they had throughout their careers. These Keynotes shall prove to be extremely useful "Words of Wisdom" for the future career pursuits in the technical realm. The various highlights provided by Dr. Himanshu Rajee regarding IEI were awe striking & these highlights are hoped to be a booster in encouraging our members to participate in various activities within the department.

The function further proceeded with a final address by Mr. Rudra Chauhan, Chief Editor, who gave an insight for initiation of newsletter "The Benchmark". The Pilot Edition was graciously launched by our Dignitaries.

The function proceeded further with the batch distribution of various post bearers of ACES committee, The function was then concluded by a vote of thanks from Mr. Rajesh Dubey, and with a hope to flourish more with the newly formed students chapter.



*Festival of ignited minds, Festival of innovative ideas, Festival of challenges...*

### **"TANTROTSAV 2K18.....!!!"**

Tantrotsav, the technical festival of Universal College of Engineering, has become, one of the most awaited intra-collegiate event; for students get to showcase, experiment and challenge their own potentials. The seeds of this event were sown in year 2016, by Dept. of Civil engineering and it resulted as the fruits gained at various IIT's. Thus, the popularity of the event so disseminated, that it was widespread amongst the other department of the campus. And altogether in 2017, it became an integral part of the college. The sole motto of this event is to give a platform to the students to showcase their technical skills grasp through academics. Also the event aims to highlight various competitions held under the banner of IIT's.

Thus, Tantrotsav is an initiative to engage students in various competitions to meet-up the IIT levels. To polish the technical skills by conducting the competitions/mock events on practical application of theory studied in syllabus and to develop the analytical thinking, leadership qualities and competitive ethics among the students. It also helps to identify the potential candidates, to be trained for such national level competitions, and represent our banner at all reputed institutes.

Last year the event observed, a successful participation from most of the students, including F.E and inter-disciplinary participation. The events like Take – off, Seismism, Rapid Survey, Rock – On, Wave Breakers, Urbania, Cant – Fall, Bridge IT, D-Code, Obfuscator, Web Kraft, App-a-thon, Home Automation, Electrica, Electrade, Vise Clutch, I only give negative feedbacks were conducted for students of all the departments. Egg Drop Challenge became the major attraction of the complete event, wherein mock event was also conducted for faculties. The fruits of this exercise were observed, when our students flared the UCOE flag consecutively at nine IIT Techfests, bagging the top positions.

IIT's captured till date, need a mention. Amalthea- IIT Gandhinagar, Techfest, Aakaar- IIT Bombay, Fluxus - IIT Indore, Technex – IIT Varanasi, Megalith – IIT Kharagpur, Elan&nvision- IIT Hyderabad, Cognizance- IIT Roorkee, Techkriti – IIT Kanpur. Students would get a special advantage through this Tantrotsav, to test their skills and rightly shine out at upcoming IIT event, Amalthea – Gandhinagar, which is scheduled on 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October. So we are hoping for one more success feather on the cap.

***"Opportunities don't happen. You create them....!!!" - Chris Grosser.***

So All the Best..... And Make the Best out of it; for Tantrotsav is rightly waiting for your participation on October 06<sup>th</sup> 2018.....!!!!

*-Ms. Sharvari Rath & Mr. Vineet Gupta (Tantrotsav Head Co-ordinators, Faculty, Dept. of Civil Engineering)*

# Altitude

## Alumni Inspirations

Alumni are those branches of a tree that have grown thick & bark; although are blooming and flourishing outward from the main bark of the tree (college), they still remain connected and prove to be a continuous testament of everything that is right about the way college is educating & training its students. Here is one such alumnus, **Mr. Hiren Varade**, and his testament of how UCOE helped him to reach where he is right now.

Just an Engineer, like anyone reading this; I hope my journey encourages you but more than that I want it to be a good relatable read. I will be briefing through my days at UCOE to my current employment in Cincinnati, USA. I encountered Kaman in 2013 and ended up studying there for three years entering in 2<sup>nd</sup> year as a direct diploma student. Whilst in my first year, UCOE was still transforming and establishing its benchmark, following years onwards, we had a league of legendary professors in the civil department and it went through like a drama with ups and downs which made it worthwhile altogether. I was an average student and my curricular achievements were at an ordinary range. Was it worth to enroll in UCOE? Well Yes, UCOE had appropriate resources, experienced faculty and adventurous daily travel to college. What aspects you liked? I liked the sports and cultural events wherein students had the competitive spirits and enjoyed the gathering; Another event which occurred every semester was the viva, I liked the fact that I couldn't win the viva, but I could survive it by either being lucky and having 'V' in the surname or by receiving unheard sarcastic insults. Altogether, I wouldn't have asked for a better place to be than UCOE for those three years of my undergraduate term.

After graduating from UCOE, I was unsure whether to start working or further my education. I started applying for my Masters in US and started working on site in Mumbai. I too

struggled to find a job right after graduation and even after landing one I didn't seem to enjoy it. Soon enough, I had an admit from the University of Cincinnati with scholarship and the program seemed appropriate, but I never had any peer go to the US for construction and it seemed like a gamble with news channels conveying all the misconceptions; it was a tough call to take. I stuck with my gut feeling and flew to Cincinnati. The Master program was comprehensive, and I did land up a job after numerous scrolling on LinkedIn for about 8 months. My scope of work is elaborate and the work culture is engaging. I like the fact that I am treated as an integral part of the organization and I think this aspect of uplifting the younger stakeholders of the organization is a culture I would always prefer. Were there failures or difficulties? Of course there were, here the competition goes global and you end up competing with people from 150+ countries.

I hope to enjoy working for quite a few years in the USA and will be looking ahead for potential challenging opportunities wherever I find one. I look forward to return to Mumbai at some point of time because that was my ultimate goal, to be able to survive the lifestyle in Mumbai. I stuck with my gut and took responsibility for my decision and worked hard to achieve it, maybe that's all everyone needs.

- *Hiren Varade, Civil 2016, UCOE*

## IIT Experiences



Tantrotsav is a platform to practice the practical application of book knowledge, which further aids to succeed at IITs, something not provided by many universities & colleges.

- *Mr. Vaibhav Tank*



Apart from being exceptional in every way, the sheer magnitude of participation and the competitive atmosphere in the IIT events compels us to be the best of ourselves, and the successful deliverance gives a big solid boost of confidence in each individual.

- *Mr. Vatsal Shah*

The impeccable support and hospitality provided by the IITs during the techfests, not only encourage us to showcase the best of our talents, but also inspire us to improve the standards of our techfests.

- *Mr. Jatin Bhuta*

The various competitions at several IITs opens up a world of knowledge that lies beyond the academics, and shows us the things that are possible only if you try.

- *Mr. Sumit Gupta*



Much thanks to the chance of trial & practice at Tantrotsav, wondrous record-breaking structures can be built at these IIT events if only proper balance of both, academic & practical knowledge is applied, which is not only the need of the industry, but also a proof of your excellence and caliber.

- *Mr. Ravi Kanojia*

The path-finding guidance provided by our faculty members, to help us participate in many of IIT events, is like compass to a navigator; without it, we'd be wandering off in random directions leading us nowhere.

- *Mr. Miraj Thaker*



Every Challenge presented at IITs is an opportunity to look out beyond the ordinary, seek out inspiration from all the content out in the world, and to dig deep into our mind & heart and search for innovation that makes you stand out above everyone.

- *Mr. Pritesh Mewada*

It is always difficult for a woman to prove her skill and excellence in any field. But my victories at several such the IIT events have given me the boost of confidence to stand tall and strong no matter what comes my way.

- *Ms. Sakshi Singh*