

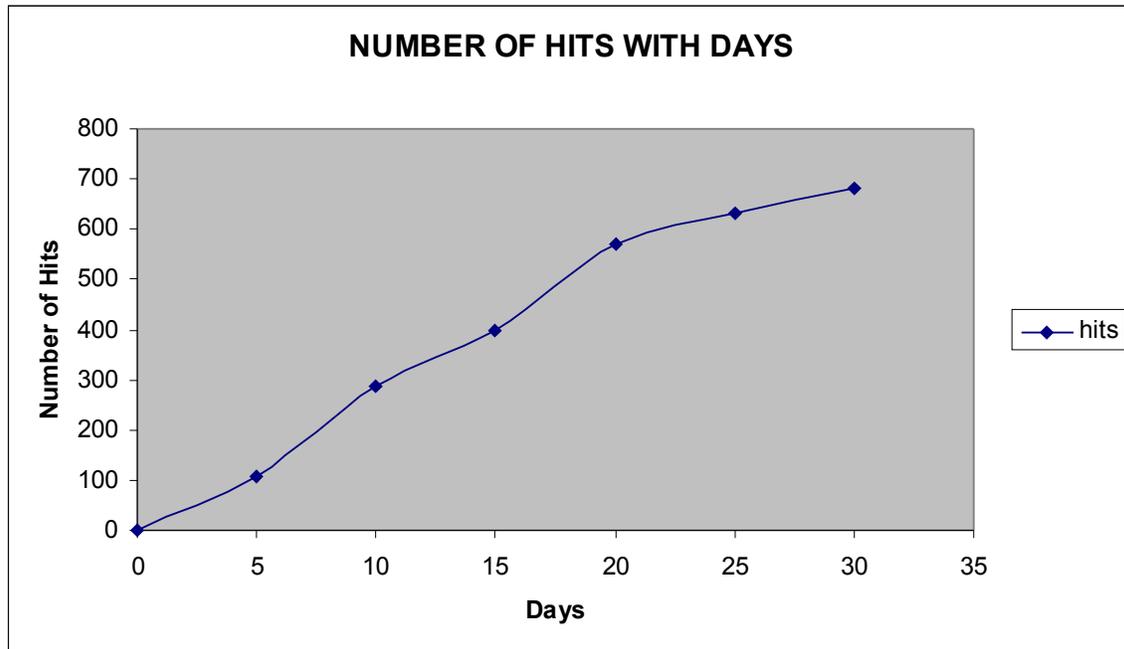
AACEG E NEWS

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ENCOURAGING FEEDBACK



The number of hits at CEG Alumni Association website increased from 3519 on May 26, 2009 to 4212 on June 25, 2009. More than six hundred hits in a month for a relatively dormant site is encouraging. We have sent E Mail to about one thousand five hundred alumni about the availability of the Newsletter at the website after the release of each issue. We are expecting the number of hits to increase after the release of June Newsletter.

Our thanks are also due to the encouraging messages received from Sundararaman (1968 M), R.S. Ganesh (1998,M), Aruna Amaresan (1998 CS), Vadhiraj Sakaranarayanan, V. Saravanan, Tapan Kumar Das and others.

At present we are intimating the release of monthly Newsletter by E Mail. Our address data bank as far as Email addresses are concerned is small. We hope to send the E-Newsletter directly to Alumni and to enlarge the E Mail data bank of addresses in due course.

UNITARY UNIVERSITY WILL FUNCTION FROM 2009

The Tamil Nadu State Government made the announcement on Wednesday, June 25, 2009 that a separate Unitary University comprising of College of Engineering, Guindy, Madras Institute of Technology, Chromepet, Alagappa College of Technology and School of Architecture and Planning will start functioning from the current academic year. It is expected that the creation of a unitary University will give a fillip to post-graduate education and research in the state. There is a wide spread opinion that Faculty at Anna University Main Campus are increasingly occupied with administrative duties such as admission, examinations and monitoring of the 136 engineering colleges affiliated to the University with little time for research and innovative teaching.

It may be recalled that a unitary University was created in 1978. It had an enviable reputation as one of the top technical institutions in India during its functioning from 1978 to 2003. It was then converted to an affiliating University.

AUTOMATIC ENROLLING OF PART TIME BE STUDENTS

It is a pleasure to gratefully acknowledge the efforts of Dr. Samuel Knight, Director, Centre for Professional Development Education and Dr. M. Sekar, Dean, CEG for making suitable arrangements to enable the graduating Part-Time BE students to automatically enroll themselves as members of College of Engineering, Guindy Alumni Association. For full time students their consent is obtained on completion of their coursework to transfer their caution deposit amount to CEG Alumni Association as subscription for Life Membership of the Association. A similar procedure will be adopted for Part-Time BE students also by CPDE.

The addition of Part-Time students to the membership will increase the strength substantially and the annual recurring income due to subscription will be a boost to our corpus fund.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

Michael Topping arrived in India in 1785 with the designation Astronomer and Surveyor, East India Company. He studied the currents of Bay of Bengal and also confirmed the latitudes and longitudes of the Ports in Coromandel Coast by astronomical observations. He initiated a proposal to build an astronomical observatory. In 1790 his proposal was accepted and the observatory came into being by 1793.

British decided to expand the irrigation works in the Madras Presidency in the 1790s. Michael Topping, the marine surveyor was selected to do the necessary survey works. He was appointed superintendent of Tank Surveys in 1794. But there was an acute shortage of manpower. He proposed to the governing council that youth of Indo-European parentage who were wards of Madras Male Asylum can be trained by him in surveying. In addition to helping him, the trained personnel can also assist the Collectors in their land surveying. He pointed out that the trained surveyors would not need any interpreters, would be better suited to the prevailing weather conditions and they would cost only one sixth of what a British military surveyor will cost. His proposal was accepted and that marked the beginning of Survey School in Fort St. George on 1794 which grew into College of Engineering, Guindy.

(Modified from Madras Miscellany by S. Muthiah, The Hindu dt. 08-06-2009)

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AT ALUMNI CLUB

A number of new facilities have been made available to the members of Alumni Club in the past two months. Six guest rooms have been constructed adjacent to the existing auditorium and the Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mannar Jawahar inaugurated the guest rooms at a pleasant function. The rooms can be booked by Alumni Club members for their use or for their guests.

One more tennis court in the north south direction was opened by Sri Ramesh Krishnan, former Davis cup player and captain. It is to be noted that no greenery was affected by the construction.

A practice cricket pitch laid adjacent to the new tennis court was inaugurated recently. The inaugural function attracted a huge crowd of cricket stalwarts of yester year which included P.C. Prakash, S. Kadiresan and others.