

GUBS ACTIVITIES 2007-2008

The Gujarat University Botanical Society (GUBS) activities for the academic year 2007 — 2008 were inaugurated by Prof. N. R. Ladhawala, Head, Mathematics Department, School of Sciences, Gujarat University. Dr. Hitesh A. Solanki is the Staff—in—Charge of GUBS for the academic year 2007 — 2008. As part of the activities, the M. Sc. part — II students welcomed the M. Sc. Part — I students during the function.



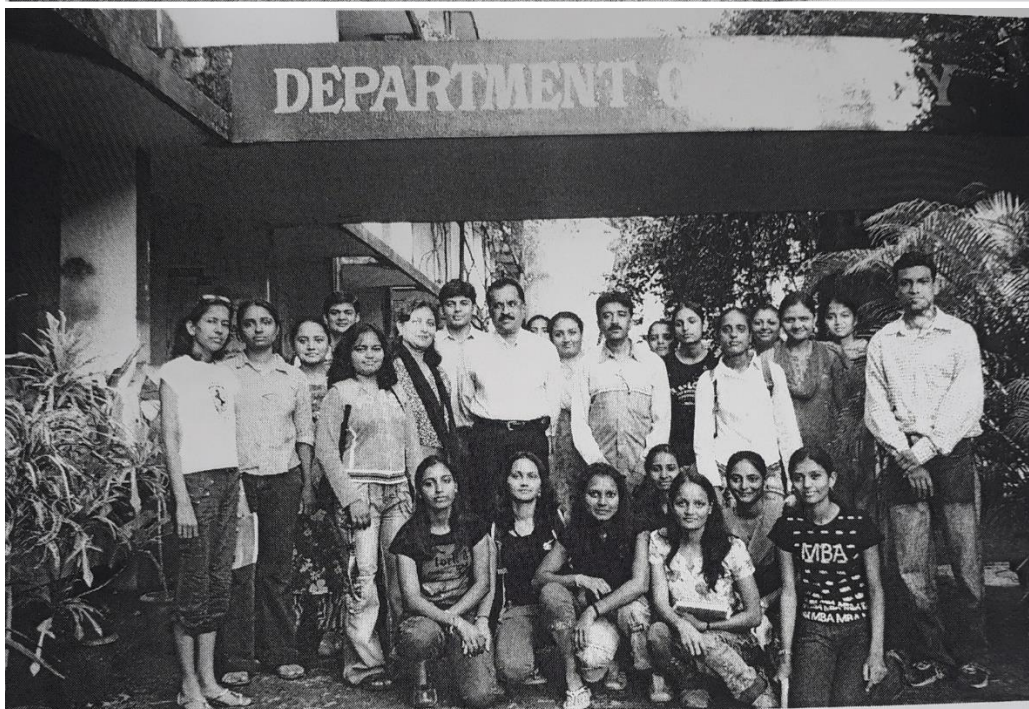
Bioinformatics is an emerging scientific discipline which is the interface between biological and computational sciences. It has pivotal role in unlocking the information encoded in the flood of data generated by genome, metabolome, transcriptome and proteome research. Today bioinformatics can be rated as number one career in the field of life sciences. There is, and will be a great demand of trained manpower in this field.

The Applied Botany Centre (ABC), Department of Botany has initiated a new course M. Sc. Bioinformatics for the year 2007 — 2008. More than 100 students appeared for the entrance test as a part of the admission criteria. The M. Sc. Bioinformatics course was formally inaugurated by the Vice — Chancellor, Dr. Parimal H. Trivedi on Tuesday, 21st August, 2007. Dr. B. V. Patel, Dean, Science Faculty and Prof. U. C. Pande, Director, School of Sciences were also the guests of honour during the Inaugural Function.



The staff and students (M.Sc-II) of Department of Botany went to Kerala for a Botanical excursion in October, 2007. The study tour involved visit to Research Institutes like National Institutes of Oceanography(NIO), Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute(CMFRI), Kerala Forest Research Institute(KFRI), Indian Cardamom Research Institute(ICRI), Central Tuber Crops Research Institute(CTCRI), Universities like Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)- Biotechnology Department, Kerala Agriculture University(KAU)- Department of Floriculture and Pomology and Medicinal plants, National Bureau of plants Genetic Research (NBPGR), University of Kerala- Botany Department; Gardens — Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute, Spice Garden, Subhash Bose Park, Blossoms Park; Hill Stations : Munnar, Thekkaddy; Water falls — Athirapally, Cheeryapaa, Ninamulapara, Beaches — Kovalam Beach, Marari Beach; National Park — Ernakulum National Park, Sanctuary — Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Thattekad Bird Sanctuary and Plantations — Rubber, Banana, Areca, Pineapple, Coconut,

Coffee, Cocoa, Pepper, Elephant yam, Tapioca, Oil palm, Tea, Elaichi and Rice. Thus, thirteen days excursion was scheduled- academically. Dr. Archana Mankad and Dr. Hitesh Solanki accompanied the group as Excursion in-charges.



The Research and M.Sc.- Part II students (total 12) attended and presented papers in International Seminar on "Changing Scenario in Angiosperm Systematics and XVII Annual Conference of India Association for Angiosperms Taxonomy, organized by Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur in November 2007. It was indeed an experience for young researchers and students in an international meet.

Prof. O. P. Saxena, Ex. Head of the Department of Botany has been awarded P. Maheshwari Gold Medal during the Annual Conference of Indian Botanical Society at Gwalior during 28-29 November 2007. Mr. Santosh Singh, Ph. D. student has also won the Young Scientist Award during the same meet at Gwalior.

Dr. Archana Mankad was on the Panel of judges for evaluation of projects by students in the Western Region Science Fair (for school children and teachers) by GUJCOST at Science City on 3rd December, 2007..

University School of Sciences, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad have instituted 'Professor J. J. Chinoy Memorial Lecture series' since 1996 being organized by various departments of USSC by rotation. This year, the Professor J. J. Chinoy Memorial Lecture for 2007- 08 was organized by the Botany Department, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad. Professor S. D. Purohit, Course Director, Biotechnology Department Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur delivered the same on Innovative Approaches for Cheaper & Better Micropropagation Technologies on Monday, 18th February 2008 at 11.30 A.M. Prof.U.C.Pande , Guest of Honour, Director-USSC welcomed the gathering. Dr.H.A.Pandya gave a briefing about the Memorial Lecture. Prof.Y.T.Jasrai introduced the Chief Guest and Dr.B.V.Patel, Dean-Science Faculty graced the occasion and gave the Presidential Remarks. Students, researchers and faculty members from various departments of USSC and affiliated colleges attended the lecture. Participants numbering more than 250 expressed their satisfaction on very simplified though very informative deliberation on the chosen topic by the invited speaker. As a token of respect and appreciation a Citation was presented to Prof. S. D. Purohit at the end of the function.

