Pranava Singhal

The first speaker was Mr. Pranava Singhal. Popular in campus as the energetic instructor of the Theatre Art and Production course, he is renowned for his multifaceted profile, as Secretary of Dramatics Clubs of Hyderabad (DCH) as well as the CEO of Axis Diesel International. At Aspire, Mr. Singhal gave a brief overview of his career. He spoke about his deep interest in dramatics, as well as his management education which he pursued parallel. He stressed on the point of working on what we feel interested in and gave the wonderful example of Tom Sawyer’s painting episode. He also emphasised the importance of bouncing back, saying that “Your assumptions are the windows of your life. Keep gleaning to see the picture.”

Jayesh Ranjan

Following Mr. Singhal was Dr. Jayesh Ranjan. Dr. Ranjan is the Managing Director of the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC). His previous assignments have been in the Tourism Department of the state government as its Secretary, and in Hyderabad Urban Development Authority (HUDA) as Vice Chairman. A highly qualified civil servant, Dr. Ranjan has been closely associated with BITS Pilani. He presented his last lecture in a unique manner, by narrating the stories of four of his colleagues in the IAS, who were incidentally from BITS Pilani. The ideas enshrined in his tales were diverse. He spoke about people who had achieved all the success in life, yet ended up with a broken family. Another incident was of a person who went the wrong way in life, but certain incidents corrected him and now he is quite successful. His frank manner, was extremely endearing, and his anecdotes earned him a lot of applause from the audience.

Shakti Sagar

Mr. Shakti Sagar is the Managing Director of ADP Pvt. Ltd., a fully owned subsidiary of Automatic Data Processing, Inc. USA with revenues of over USD 10 Billion. He was also the chairman of CII, Andhra Pradesh. With over thirty five years of cross-function experience in the Office Automation and IT/ITES industry, Mr. Sagar has worked with many start-up ventures and also played a key role in their success. In his talk, he stressed upon the importance of thinking differently. He urged the audience to listen to their conscience. He also said that, in order to succeed, we need to look at ourselves, rather than blaming others. He mentioned his own story, how he began as a salesman, and today was the MD of a corporation.

Ajita Suchitra Veera

Among the distinguished guests present at Pearl was Ms. Ajita Suchitra Veera, a filmmaker. Her claim to fame was her film “The Ballad of Rustom”, an Oscar nominated film. Ms. Veera spoke about her love for cinema, how I during her childhood, she would be deeply engrossed with movies. A graduate of the Film and Televison Institute of India (FTTI), she was also a top student at school. Specialising in genetics, she spoke about how she received her acceptance letter from the FTTI, on the day before her departure to the US for her higher studies. She emphasised the importance of faliures in ever success. She also mentioned the hardships of film-making, about the enormous amount of multitasking required. At the end of the speech, one question was on everyone’s mind, for her “How do I become a filmmaker?”

Zakir Alladin

Zakir Alladin is the founder of Mowzz Audio, a lights and sounds start-up. Mr Alladin did his schooling in Hyderabad Public School and later on completed his DFM in Finance from Symbiosis International University. Mowzz Audio, a start-up conceived by Zakir Alladin in 1992, is a company which provides an A-Z solution for all your lighting and sound requirements for any event. It began as his interest in lights and sounds, and tday it is one of the top Lights and Sounds company.He emphasised the importance of following our hearts, not heads. He said, that it is important that we work for our dreams, and not care about the money. He said that, it is when we lose, we get our learning moment. He also spoke about the importance of originality. To quote him, “Do something new. Do not reinvent the wheel.”