

Hollywood launch for IIT batch

Star Trek actor Brian Brophy to deliver a lecture, conduct theatre workshops during foundation programme for IIT-Gn students

By **Dhwani Pathak Dave**

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Hollywood comes to IIT Gandhinagar. Actor Brian Brophy who has films like Shawshank Redemption, Armageddon and Star Trek: The Next Generation to his credit is all set to deliver a lecture, welcoming the new batch at the premier institute.

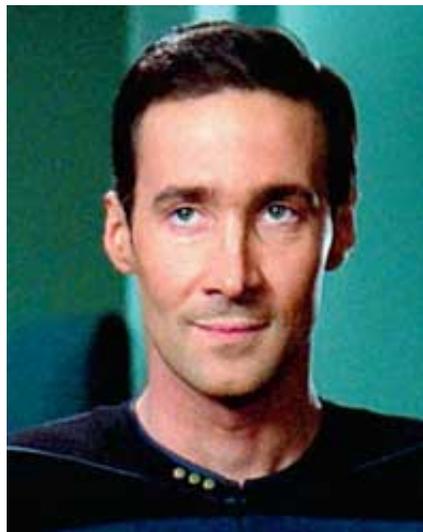
Brophy, a visiting lecturer at Banaras Hindu University, will be joined by other experts who will conduct the orientation programme of the 140 students of the new batch on July 21. The five-week orientation programme will go on till August 24.

“As we want the students to have more practice-oriented programmes, we have designed sessions that will be participatory in nature,” said assistant professor Srinivas Reddy.

Apart from Brophy conducting theatre classes for students, there will also be pottery sessions, photography, animation, painting, writing, history and music sessions (learning tabla and guitar), besides workshops on film craft and RTI.

Reddy added, “Students will be encouraged to watch movies like Half the Sky, Mr Holland’s Opus and other great classics. The film screening will be followed by a discussion and movie review.”

Interestingly, the foundation programme does not include technology or engineering-related subjects. Reddy explained, “In my opinion, films, music and photography too involve a lot of science and technology.



Brian Brophy

For example if you are watching a film, you get to understand lights and camera angles, too. We do not want students to only be devising formulas and building bridges.

They have to be sensitised to what happens to the population when a bridge is

built. It is all about putting things in perspective. We want the students to adapt to a holistic approach.”

This year, too, IIT-Gn has gifted a book to every student in the new batch. “This year we have given the students ‘The Last Lecture’ by Randy Pausch. Last year, the students were sent The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho. The students are supposed to read the book before they come for the foundation programme where we have discussion on the book,” said Reddy.

Randy Pausch was a computer science professor whose last lecture ‘Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams’ became a phenomenon. While delivering the lecture in front of 400 people at Carnegie Mellon University, Randy, a patient of pancreatic cancer then, beamed out slides of his CT scans to the audience. On July 25, 2008, he lost his battle with cancer. He had written the book ‘The Last Lecture’ in celebration of the dreams we all strive to realise.

THE NEW BATCH

This year, IIT-Gn has increased its intake to 140 students from 120 earlier. Amit Prashant, dean, academic affairs, said, “This year we have introduced B Tech (Civil). So, while we had three streams with 40 students in each, this year we have four streams with 35 students each, taking the batch size to 140.”

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