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A Newsletter for Don Bosco University family, alumni and friends

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**DON BOSCO UNIVERSITY AWARDED
"UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR" BY FICCI**



Seventh Convocation of the University



Workshop on MATLAB and GNU Octave



Launching of NSS Cell at the University



Symposium on Nanotechnology in Electronics: Ushering in Nano and Molecular Electronics

Message from the Vice Chancellor

The other day, in conversation with an eminent Professor and Educationist on the status of education today in our institutions, there was a theme that surfaced several times in the course of that exchange of ideas. Put briefly, a phrase that summarizes it neatly would be **'We've lost the words'**...

'We've lost the words'... stands for a whole gamut of developments that have taken place ever since the digital revolution has taken the world in its grip. The advent of satellite television and DTH services has slowly, but steadily, invaded the sacred space of communication in the family. Gone are the cozy evening get-togethers and leisurely dinner table conversations. The newscasts, the quiz shows, the soap operas, the dance and music extravaganzas, round the clock sports telecasts – **'We've lost the words'** to this endless one-sided chatter from the ubiquitous television sets in the living room, in the bed room, in the kitchen, on the cars...

'We've lost the words'... is a powerful image to portray a gradual transition that has taken place in the quality of inter-personal dialogue between generations – parents and children, teachers and pupils, the young and the old...

'One important skill area that is underdeveloped in a digital culture is face-to-face interpersonal interaction'. Research has shown that it is only in face-to-face communication that a person collates and integrates 'multi-modal sensory information' such as changes in mood, expression, tonality, gesticulations of those in the group. These non-verbal clues are as much the 'message' as the medium of the message.

Research, again, underlines another aspect of face-to-face communication, namely, bringing about social interaction – the opportunity to listen to the other person, and the role such interactive communication plays in harmonizing thought patterns and concepts. 'What matters are the many ways we connect only when we're physically together'.

It is indeed a challenge to fashion a model/models to touch base with whole new generations that flit in and out of the 'real' and the 'virtual', that seem more at home in the virtual and the distant rather than the proximate and the real... and, still greater a challenge to win a few battles for their minds against the allurements of the virtual world and the bombardment of the advertising agencies?

We seem to have lost the words... when we have to deal with the plight of the social media generation, their inability to communicate at a personal level, their obsession with moving images and light chatter...

We seem to have lost the words... to help connect their impersonal lives and their rich virtual worlds...

Yet another challenge facing the educators today is about promoting **'The finer things in life'**... By finer things in life is meant cultivated



sensibilities and desires for a variety of things attributed to a cultured person, such as, a love for reflection and abstract thinking, a passion for reading, an appreciation for good music, an appetite for history, an ability for logical thinking and communication, a way with the use of words and their nuances, a deeply rooted conviction that a cultured person is compassionate, is socially committed, knows his or her own place in the world and has a modest and realistic image of himself or herself.

How does today's young people view the finer things in life? The indications are that we are increasingly coming across generations whose ability to conceptualize, internalize abstract ideas and concepts are being impaired. We are dealing more and more with individuals who are being fed on a diet of 'utilitarianism' that says, 'persons, goods, services are meant to be used and exploited. If they don't work, throw them aside!'

This is a challenge that families and educators have not yet learnt to respond to in an adequate manner: art and literature, music and poetry, philosophy and logic, history and culture, debate and the fine art of conversation, manners and cultured behavior, compassion and commitment. We have to find new ways of making **'The finer things in life'** appeal to the digital generation, new ways of touching base with them on the centrality of these aspects in fashioning a fuller and richer life....

Looping back to the idea that I started with, **'Have we lost the words'** to convey this vision as well? Do we have need to fashion a new script, a new narrative? Perhaps, yes...

Here, at Don Bosco, the realization that, perhaps, **'We've lost the words'** may be central to building a new script that focuses our efforts on moulding dependable human beings rather than learning how best to ape the West and churn out batch after batch of globally acceptable workers...

The year is coming to an end... Christmas and the New Year are just round the corner...

May this Christmas be for you a blessed season of hope and love!
May peace be your gift and your blessing all through the New Year!
May you find many reasons for happiness!

- Fr Stephen Mavelly
Rector & Vice Chancellor

University of the Year Award

The University was awarded 'University of the Year' (among universities in India in existence for 1-10 years) by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at the 14th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2018: A Global Conference & Exhibition held in New Delhi, 30th October 2018. The University also got a 'special mention' for its social commitment in this summit.



Mr R Subrahmanyam, Secretary-Higher Education, MHRD, Government of India, gave away the 5th FICCI Higher Education Excellence Awards to 13 Educational Institutions and eminent personalities in the field of education. The award recognises the achievements of educational institutions and personalities that have contributed towards the development of the sector in the country. The award was received by the Pro Vice Chancellor, Fr Joseph Nellanatt on behalf of the University.

Among the dignitaries present at the summit were Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE); Mr Pawan Agarwal, CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and Ms Sobha Mishra Ghosh, Assistant Secretary General, FICCI.

Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India. Its history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies.

A non-government, not-for-profit organisation, FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry. From influencing policy to encouraging debate, engaging with policy makers and civil society, FICCI articulates the views and concerns of industry. It serves its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry across states, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies.

Seventh Convocation of the University

The University on 8th September held its Seventh Convocation at the Atrium of Academic Block II where 766 students received degrees (UG, PG and PhD).

The event was graced by His Excellency, the Governor of Assam and Visitor to the University Prof. Jagdish Mukhi along with various institutional heads of higher education in India.



Congratulating the graduates, the Vice Chancellor, Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavelly said, "This evening is all about you – we celebrate your success in reaching a significant milestone on your journey. Let me wholeheartedly congratulate you all on your achievements. I am sure, you are immensely proud of yourselves on arriving this goal...During your years here, you would have realized that this University has been designed to provide you with the best of ambiance to grow and develop, to blossom into leaders of tomorrow...leaders with a human face, dependable persons, leaders with a vision who leave significant footprints wherever they find themselves, leaders passionate about making a change in the lives of the less privileged".

Extending his best wishes to the graduating students, the Chancellor, Fr. Januarius Sangma said, “I wish and pray that your intellectual acumen and achievements assist you greatly; and may the values you have imbibed here enable you to live your lives as true Bosconians, wherever you are and whatever you do”.



In his Presidential Address as the Visitor to the University, the Governor of Assam, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi said, “I am glad to see that social commitment is a way of life here at the University. You embody the hopes and aspiration our country. Today, more than half of India’s population are 25 years old. By 2020, India will have the youngest average population of 29 years. Therefore the role of youth will determine the future of our country. In this context, a sustained engagement by you in the economic and social development will shape our country”.

In this context, a sustained engagement by you in the economic and social development will shape our country”.

The number of graduates from various programmes of study were: B Tech (177), BCA (27), M.Tech (31), MSW (56), MCA (18), MBA (35), Psychology (20), Mass Communication (7), Education (9), Physics (19), Biochemistry (2), Biotechnology (5) and Microbiology (19). Also 328 students graduated through the Distance Education.



Gold Medals were awarded to 17 graduates with the highest CGPA in their respective programmes of study, while the Vice Chancellor’s Gold Medal and the Chancellor’s Gold Medal for contribution to the campus life were awarded to Sheyashi Das (UG) and Memorial Kharkongor (PG) respectively.

Chairman of IIM Shillong at the University

Shri Shishir Kumar, Chairman, Board of Governors of IIM Shillong visited the University’s Tapesia Campus today, 29th October 2018.

Apart from being the chairman of the Board of Governors of IIM Shillong, Mr Bajoria is the Head of the S K Bajoria Group based at Kolkata, which is engaged in diversified activities including the manufacture of specialised refractories for the steel industry, insurance broking, and third party administration for health insurance.



He is also a past president of the Indian Chamber of Commerce. He has been on the board at Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd, and West Bengal Industrial Development Corp. Ltd.

Visit of Prof. Roberto Ravera

Prof. Roberto Ravera, who is the President of Ravera Charity and Research Foundation, and Director of Ravera Children Rehabilitation Centre in Italy, and Dr. Martina Ardizzi, a Post Doctorate fellow and a researcher in the field of neuropsychology, visited the university from the 23 October - 1st November 2018.

During their stay, they visited and worked with the Department of Psychology and conducted rigorous workshops on several important topics related to neurobehavioral development, socio-emotional aspects, consequences of childhood and adolescence trauma on neurobiological and emotional system, Research in the area of Neuropsychology and Trauma, Community based Violence and Consequences on Children's Personality Development. Professor Roberto also conducted colloquia for the students of the university, sharing his field experiences, engaging the faculty and students in case studies in his area of expertise in child psychology and dealing with traumatized children.



Prof. Roberto had conducted workshops for the students and faculty members last year too and this is his second visit to the University.

Launching of NSS Cell at the University

The University on 24th September held a launching ceremony of National Service Scheme at the University's Tapesia Campus.



Addressing the NSS Volunteers, the Vice Chancellor Fr Stephen Mavely spoke on the importance of service for the community, and also highlight that though the University have already been deeply involved in community led initiatives and improvements through the University's Centre for Development Studies and Initiatives and through the Department of Social Work, the new NSS Cell will be a new platform to volunteer and bring about changes not only in the lives of the surrounding community but in the lives of the volunteers.

In this short programme, the Director of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Riju Sharma gave a short speech on the aims and objectives of the NSS and what it means to be an NSS volunteer. The pledge taking by the volunteers was administered by Fr (Dr) Biju Michael, the Registrar of the University.

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is a Central Sector Scheme of Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. It provides opportunity to the student youth of 11th & 12th Class of schools at +2 Board level and student youth of Technical Institution, Graduate & Post Graduate at colleges and University level of India to take part in various government led community service activities & programmes. The sole aim of the NSS is to provide hands on experience to young students in delivering community service.

MoU with Nanoinformatics

An MoU between Assam Don Bosco University and Nanoinformatics was signed on 5th November, 2018 at Azara campus of the University. It was signed by Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Pro Vice Chancellor, ADBU and Mr. Atiqure Rehman, Managing Director, Nanoinformatics, in the presence of Dr. Manoranjan Kalita, Director, School of Technology, ADBU, Dr. Sunandan Baruah, Director, Center of Excellence for Nanotechnology, Dr. Pranab Das, Head of the Department, Computer Science & IT and Mr. Shahnawaz Hussain, Training and Placement Officer, ADBU.

Nanoinformatics is engaged in manufacturing of IOT based ERP Solutions, research, design and development and consultancy in the field of IOT based ERP Solutions and related fields. This MOU between ADBU and NANOINFORMATICS has been signed with an objective for enhancing, within the country, the availability of highly qualified manpower in the areas of IOT based ERP Solutions. Recognizing the importance of research and development in the areas of IOT based ERP Solutions, as well as imparting industrial training to the engineering/technology/sciences students, the University has formed an association with Nanoinformatics, where in various specialized training would be given to the students and they would be assigned with live projects straight from the Industry.



In addition to research and innovation, the students will get an opportunity to work on site with the industry, thus gaining a real time experience. And those students who would be excelling in their respective projects will have an opportunity get recruited in Nanoinformatics and their cliental.

Community Children's Day

The Center for Development Studies and Initiatives (CDSI) of the University on 17th November organized a Community Children's Day at Medhikuchi Community Ground where local children from various villages participated in a number of activities organized for them.

Apart from organizing party games and sports, the CDSI invited Dr. Anuradha Baruah, a renowned Children's Book writer and a retired Professor of Botany at Guwahati University, for a session of story reading. Dr. Anuradha Baruah has published 14 Children's Books and has received a number of awards including NCERT Award for best Children's Literature, Dr. Nirmal Prabha Bordoloi Sahitya Award, Pradip Sinpani Award etc and has also written a number of dramas for children and had regularly conducted children's programme on radio and television too.



After participating in various sport items, children huddled together around Dr. Anuradha, who travelled more than an hour to be with them, to read stories from her book. One can see the undying love and excitement on her face as she started telling them story, after stories.

Dr. Anuradha also donated 60 children books to the CDSI. The CDSI and the University convey our sincere gratitude to her for being with us and making it a special and unforgettable day for the children.

Symposium on 'Nanotechnology in Electronics: Ushering in Nano and Molecular Electronics'

The symposium on "Nanotechnology in Electronics: Ushering in Nano and Molecular Electronics" was organized by the Department of Electronics and Communication on 11th August 2018.

At the beginning of the Symposium Dr. Jhimli K. Das, Convener and HoD, Department of ECE gave an overview of the Symposium where she mentioned that Nanoelectronics is nothing but application of nanotechnology in electronics.



The first session began with a lecture by Prof. Sunandan Baruah on a topic—"Nanoelectronics: New concepts in transistor design". He started the talk by putting questioning the gathering, "Are we happy with our cell phones?", and showed a video that explained how future cellphones may look like if nanotechnology is employed in it. He said that microelectronics is slowly merged to nanotechnology, and gave a brief introduction on the word 'Nanos' which is a Greek word meaning 'Dwarf' that is used to express the components in 10⁻⁹ scale. He also mentioned that new substances can be created using this technology where different layers of particles can be used in different ways.

The next session was on "Passive Nano-electronics Components" by Prof. Pranayee Datta, Dept. of Electronics Communication and Technology, Gauhati University. She explained about passive components like resistor, capacitor and inductor in nanotechnology context and its characteristics in optical domain, showing some of her research work in this field. Her talk also covered Quantum Mechanics, Memristor and Memristor Biosensor. She concluded her talk saying, "for development of nano-electronics, a partnership between science and engineering is essential". Dr. Hassan Mujtaba Jafri of Uppsala University & Mirpur University of Science and Technology, took over the next session on "Molecular Electronics". He explained the reason why research at molecular level is essential for future electronics. His topic also included molecular junction, challenges of molecular electronics, state of the art methods etc.

The Final Session was a panel discussion, where Prof. Sunandan Baruah, the moderator invited the panelists Dr. Indrani Dakua, Asst. Professor, Dept. of ECE, ADBU and Mr. Kumares Sarmah, Asst. Professor, Dept. of ECT, Gauhati University to express their views. Dr. Dakua explained the topic related to new dimension of nano and molecular electronics. Mr. Sarmah shared his research experience in the field of communication in the context of Nanotechnology. The symposium ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Parismita A. Kashyap, Co-convener of the Symposium.

Invited Talk in Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry organised an invited talk on 15th September 2018 at the Crystal Hall, Tapesia Campus. The speaker was Dr. Basanta Kumar Rajbongshi, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Cotton State University, Guwahati. Dr. Rajbongshi obtained his PhD degree from IIT Kanpur and the talk he presented was extracted from his PhD thesis work which centred on the properties of a set of molecules that he synthesized, that function as extremely stable fluorophores (molecules that can emit light at a lower frequency following absorption of light of a higher frequency), and also have the ability to convert light to electricity (photovoltaic). Moreover, the molecules he talked about, absorb in the visible region of



the solar spectrum, and this allows for their possible application in the fabrication of solar cells. They were modelled on a pair of naturally occurring fluorescent proteins found in the jellyfish *Aequorea victoria*, found in the west coast of North America.

His talk touched on many aspects including the molecular of the fluorophores, the photochemical processes that take place on irradiating them with light, their crystal structures and finally on their applications as organic photovoltaics with particular emphasis on their usefulness in solar cells.

The talk was attended by all students and faculty members of the Department of Chemistry and also by faculty members from the school of Life Sciences.

Certificate on Specific Learning Disabilities

The Department of Psychology and Counseling in collaboration with North East Counsellors' Association conducted a 12 day certificate course on 'Specific Learning Disabilities and Remedial Education' from 20th August to 1st September, 2018.

The course primarily focused on the acquisition of in-depth knowledge in the area of Specific Learning Disabilities. The main resource person for the course was Ms Rumana Fatehi, President of Institute for Exceptional Children, Mumbai. Ms Fatehi is an expert in the field of SLD with an experience of more than 30 years.

During the first week Ms Fatehi focused on training the participants on SLD, the diagnostic criteria, screening and intervention for the same through case studies and handbooks of the children suffering from SLD. The participants were also given a detailed orientation about Curriculum-based assessment, Bloom's Taxonomy and Individualized Education Programme (IEP). In addition, she also thoroughly explained about the case documentation and practical work that the participants needed to carry out for completion of the certificate course.



The second week of the workshop aimed at providing hands on training in the field with the assistance from experts from various allied fields like Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Special Education and Counseling. Professionals with expertise in the field of SLD, Ms Meenakshi Borthakur, Dr Sangeeta Goswami, Dr Bani Chakraborty, Ms Manashi Devi, Ms Neel Harit Kaushik, were invited as Resource Persons with the aim of providing the participants a holistic idea in the area. They covered topics on Neuro- Developmental Disorder and Intellectual Disability, Communication Disorder, Autism Spectrum Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, Sensory Integration Disorder, Role of other Professionals in helping children with SEN and Basic Skills in Counseling, Counseling Children, Parents, and Teachers, Life Skills Program and Social Skills Program. Another resource person, Ms Nivedita Tiwari also conducted a session on Arts Based Therapy to aid in the remedial education for the children.

As the workshop concluded after 12 days of theoretical sessions, the participants will be placed in various institutions where they will apply their theoretical learning in practical for a period of 1 month with a hope of acquiring practical knowledge on the same.

Visit to IIT Guwahati

On the 30th of October 2018, students of the 3rd semester MSc programme, of the department of chemistry, were taken on a day-long field visit to the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. The purpose of the visit was to give students, first-hand exposure to sophisticated, state-of-the-art spectroscopic, crystallographic and chromatographic techniques, the principles of which they had been taught in their coursework.

Our students were first taken to the Central Instrumentation Facility (CIF) where they were given a demonstration of the working principles of a scanning electron microscope, a transmission electron microscope, an NMR spectrometer, and a plasma set-up. They were shown the working principles of several sophisticated instruments in the chemistry department as well. The students were accompanied by Dr. Manash Deka and Dr. Bhaskar Sharma.

Workshop on MATLAB and GNU Octave

A two-day workshop on 'Computational Physics using MATLAB and GNU Octave (WCP 2018)' was organized by the Department of Physics on 26 – 27 October 2018.



The purpose of this workshop was to enable the participants to implement numerical analysis to solve problems in physics for which a quantitative theory already exists. The software tools used for the same were MATLAB (which is a paid software) and GNU Octave (which is a free and open-sourced software). The participants were provided with hands-on experience of developing software code on Linux workstations for various physical problems, apart from talks on various topics in the field by eminent resource persons.

The chief guest at the inaugural session, Prof Madhurjya P. Bora, Head of the Department of Physics, Gauhati University stressed upon the importance of Computational Physics and the need for free and open-source software in today's world in his inaugural address. The convener for WCP 2018, Mr Parag Bhattacharya from the Department of Physics, DBU, then presented an overview of the programme for the workshop.

The first session of the workshop comprised of two talks. The first talk, titled Computational Physics: An Introduction, was delivered by Prof Madhurjya P Bora. Prof Bora illuminated the auditorium with numerous illustrations and live demonstrations on the subject, thereby setting the stage and context for the workshop. This was followed by another talk, titled Introduction to Numerical Methods, which was delivered by Mr Parag Bhattacharya, Asst. Professor in the Department of Physics, DBU. In his talk, Mr Bhattacharya introduced the participants to some of the commonly used numerical methods used in Physics.

The remaining sessions for the first day were continued in the Computer Lab. Each participant was provided with a PC running Ubuntu 16.04 LTS. The participants were introduced to the softwares, i.e. MATLAB and GNU Octave, by Mr Parag Bhattacharya. They were provided with the time to explore the GNU Octave IDE, and were familiarised with the basic elements of the computational software: matrices, scripts, iterations and functions.

The first session of the second day began with a talk, titled Monte Carlo Simulations, which was delivered by Dr Samrat Dey at the Crystal Hall. This was followed by continuation of the hands-on sessions in the Computer Lab, wherein the participants were given step-by-step demonstrations on solving physical problems using MATLAB and GNU Octave. The participants were also provided with a set of eBooks and lecture notes for the entire workshop for future reference.

Even though the workshop was intended mainly for Physics students, it was also open to interested participants from the branches of Chemistry, Mathematics and Engineering. 64 participants from different universities in Assam and Meghalaya participated in the workshop.

Invited Talk on 'Opportunities in UI/UX Designing'

The Department of CSE&IT organized an invited talk on "Opportunities in UI/UX Designing" on 4th October 2018.

The resource person for the talk was Prof. Pradeep Gururaj Yammiyavar from the Department of Design, IIT Guwahati. Prof. Yammiyavar is a senior professor with 30 years of academic experience working in the area of multi and interdisciplinary Design programmes related to Innovation, Management & Technology. Prof. Yammiyavar is also a specialist in innovation, user centered design, usability engineering and information technology.

The talk focused on the importance and applications of design in the areas of computer science, information technology, mechanical engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, and other related areas. Also case studies on user interface design (UI) and user experience (UX) for mobile applications, and social networking. It was an eye opener towards career opportunities in UI/UX design for the participants. The talk was attended by 100 students from M.Tech, B.Tech, MCA, BCA and also by faculty members from the department.



Industrial Visit by Engineering Students

The First Semester students of Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering on 10th November 2018, paid a visit to M/s Assam Tube and M/s Supreme Plastic Industries.

This visit was organized to cover practical/on-shop part of topics like Moulding, Metal casting, Forming & Plastic moulding, which are newly included by AICTE under the subject “Workshop/ Manufacturing Practices”.



Students were divided into four groups, with each group guided by a technical guide from the company who explained various processes. During this visit, students witnessed how finished products like Flat Bars, TMT Bars, Angles, Channels etc. are made from metal scrap. Along with the Soaking and Heating zones of the furnaces, they were shown the processes of making billets from the molten metal, various hot rolling & cold rolling operations.

At Assam Tubes, students visited various workstations located in the plant and experienced how the plastic moulding of common items like Chairs, Tables etc. are carried out. Some of the notable processes they learned were: mixing of raw materials, tooling, injection moulding, product assembly, testing & quality control.

Presenting the University's Social Commitment Initiatives at IAU Conference

Mr. Victor Narzary, Assistant Professor (Senior), Department of Social Work represented the the University at the International Association of University's (IAU) 2018 International Conference on Higher Education Partnerships for Societal Impact, held at Kuala Lumpur from the 13-15 October 2018.

During the conference he was also invited to present a paper entitled, “Reimagining partnerships for societal impact: social commitment programmes of Assam Don Bosco University”. The presentation was based on the rich experiences of the university's diverse community engagement programmes. The unique model of the university's social commitment programmes was well received and there was much appreciation for it among the participants. The University, being the Cluster Leader of the IAU Cluster on Sustainable Development Goal #7, Mr. Narzary also networked with satellite universities to augment the activities of the cluster.



Science Awareness Programme

The Department of Physics organised a general awareness programme on Science – ‘The World of Science – 2018’ on 8th November, 2018 in the atrium of Academic Block II of Tapesia Campus where a number of scientific models were demonstrated.



The programme showcased various scientific applications which a lay person does not understand at first glance. Students of the Department of Physics set up various stalls where they explained to visitors, the applications involved in vacuum cleaner, how we see colours, atmospheric pressure, gravitational waves, lever, etc. The working models demonstrated and simplified the complicated principles of science behind the objects and activities of our day to day life. The awareness programme was conducted to mark the 151th birth anniversary of Marie Curie (who was born on 7th November 1867).

The second round of the programme was conducted at the neighbouring schools with an aim to eradicate the fear of taking up higher education in Science and also to sow and induce an interest to study Science among students in High School. The faculty member in charge of the programme, Dr. Ngangom Aomoa, expressed his satisfaction over the impressive participation from two Science Clubs of the Department – Physik and Astronomy and also over the visitors and their expressed appreciation.

Dr. Samrat Dey, Head, Physics Department said that these science popularisation programmes will be a regular activity of the department of Physics.

Foundation Day Celebration

The Department of Psychology and Counselling observed the 6th Anniversary of its Foundation Day on 10th October 2018. In line with the Department’s theme for the year, the celebration focussed on ‘Multicultural Perspectives towards Wellbeing; North East India and its Stress Combat Strategies’.

On this day, students from the Department staged a short musical drama in the morning assembly and set up Stress Analysis Stalls, where students and staff could get their perceived stress level measured by the Perceived Stress Scale and get a relevant feedback note. Around 200 people visited and got stress analysis test.



Apart from this, the Department also organized a Poster Making Competition on the theme of the year, decorated the Atrium with Posters on Stress Awareness, Stick Your Comment Board, and a Photo Booth. The celebration ended with a movie evening and a review discussion and evaluation of the movie.

Consultative Workshop on Fieldwork Education

A one-week 'Consultative Workshop on Fieldwork Education for Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Programme' was held at Tapesia Campus on 8-13 October 2018.

The workshop was designed to orient a delegation from Samtse College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan (SCE-RUB), on key components of fieldwork education within social work education. The workshop covered areas, such as, understanding of the fields of social work, models of fieldwork education, supervision and evaluation of fieldwork activities and learning. It also facilitated the development of a fieldwork manual for the BA in Social Work (BASW) programme to be launched by the Samtse College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan, in Autumn 2019.



This workshop was a part of the larger partnership which began in 2016, between the Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU) and the SCE-RUB, to share and facilitate knowledge-sharing, programme development, research, and students' and faculty exchange.

The workshop was attended by faculty of the SCE-RUB, namely, Dr. Ganeshman Gurung, Coordinator, BASW Programme, SCE, Dr. Sonam Daker, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Chhetri, Mr. Sangay Wangchuk, and Mr. Tshering Dorji, who is also on a deputation for pursuing his Master of Social Work from the ADBU. Facilitators for the workshop were Fr. (Dr.) Biju Michael, Registrar, ADBU, Dr. Riju Sharma, Director, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Lukose P. Jacob, Head, Department of Social Work, Ms. Ainamlin Dkhar, Dr. Jacob Islary, Mr. Dominic Pendanam, Ms. Bibharani Swargiary, Dr. Joseph Riamei, Chairperson, Center for CODP, TISS Guwahati, and Mr. Victor Narzary. The workshop was coordinated by Mr. Victor Narzary, while, Ms. Memorial Khongkai and Mr. Tshering Dorji were the rapporteurs.

SPIC MACAY at Azara Campus

An hour long Rajasthani Folk Cultural Show was held at the Azara campus on 27th September, 2018. The show was organized by the Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY), a non-political nationwide voluntary organization that organizes programmes of classical music and dance, folk arts, crafts, yoga, classic cinema screenings, heritage walks, etc. inside school and college campuses throughout the world to make students more aware about Indian and world heritage.



The troupe that visited ADBU consisted eight members who belong to the Langa and Manganiar community of Rajasthan. Different musical instruments like Dholak, Sarangi, Bhangam, Morchang etc were introduced during the show by one of the troupe members and also explained the significance and basis of their songs and music. The group started with a mesmerizing bhajan and then continued to sing melodious folk songs. The songs were in local Rajasthani language 'Marwari'. The songs were then followed by two marvellous gypsy dance performances where one of the dancers balanced seven pots on her head setting her feet on glasses, dishes and knives. Again another dancer through her dance moves bent down to collect two rings with her eyelids. The audience was captivated by their skills and lively performances.

InSPA Best Performance Award to Dr. Sabiha

Dr. Sabiha Alam Choudhury, HoD Incharge of the Department of Psychology and Counselling, received the InSPA - P. K. Subbaraja Trust Best Performance Award which was presented during the inaugural session of the 8th InSPA International conference on School Psychology at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam on 11th October, 2018. This prestigious award is given to those who have contributed extraordinarily for the promotion of Psychology services in India. The award has been instituted by the P. K. Subbaraja Trust, Rajapalayam, Tamil Nadu. She is the only person from North East India to have received this Award in the year 2018.

Blind Walk - Project Vision

The NSS Unit of the School of Technology participated in the World Blind Walk organized by Project Vision on the occasion on World Vision Day to spread awareness for eye donation with the help of various organisations on 11th October, 2018.

The Blind Walk programme was a sight to behold as an unending line of people walked blindfolded, shoulder to shoulder down the usually busy street of Panbazar - from Food Villa to Don Bosco School at 6.30 am. More than 200 people participated in the Blind Walk guided by fifty visually impaired students from Montfort School, Jorabat and Jyoti Niketan, Narengi. The walk was supported by Rotary International, Lions International, Rotaract Club of Guwahati Luit, FAsCE India, Art of Living, NavJan Trust and Assam Don Bosco University.

Twenty NSS volunteers accompanied by two faculty members and the Director of the School of Technology, Prof. Manoranjan Kalita participated in the walk.



Workshop on HIV/AIDS Counselling



The Department of Psychology and Counselling organized a one day workshop on 'HIV/AIDS Counselling' on 4th October for the students of Masters in Psychology and Counselling at the University.

The guest speaker was Ms. Doly Barman, Counsellor, ARTC, Gauhati Medical College & Hospital who has 13 years of professional experience in this area of HIV/AIDS counselling. The workshop was conducted to help students gain a clearer picture and an in-depth knowledge regarding this area of counselling.

Topics covered in the workshop included various medium of transmission of HIV, preventive measures to be taken, how HIV/AIDS testing are done, how HIV/AIDS counselling can be provided to the individuals, specially to the couples etc. Some short films and videos related to HIV/AIDS were also shown to the students.

Invited Talk on 'IoT: the next Big Billion Dollar Wave

On 30th October 2018, Mr. Dhruvajyoti Sarma, AVP and Head of Engineering, KPIT Technologies Ltd was invited to give a lecture on 'IOT: the next Big Billion Dollar Wave" at the Department of Electronics and Communication, School of Technology, Azara Campus.

Mr. Sarma started the talk with a brief discussion on IOT and the IOT based products designed by KPIT Technologies Ltd. He also showed some demonstration videos of the products made by them. He discussed about how ideas can be realized into systems to solve common human problems through IOT. He also spoke about various terminologies used in IOT and its probable future growth and discussed about the scope of further studies and job opportunities for students in the field of IOT.



Self-Awareness Workshop for Canteen Staff

The Center for Development Studies and Initiatives (CDSI) in collaboration with the Department of Psychology and Counselling conducted three sessions of a Life Skills Programme for Campus Canteen Staff of Assam Don Bosco University on 31st October, 13th and 20th November 2018.

The programme highlighted the 10 life skills given by the World Health Organization: Self-awareness, Empathy, Critical thinking, Creative thinking, Decision making, Problem Solving, Effective Communication, Interpersonal Relationship, Coping with Stress, Coping with Emotion. The coordinators for the programme are Ms. Sampreeti Das, Assistant professor, Department of Psychology and Counselling and Ms. Hazel Berret Wahlang, coordinator, CDSI.



Sensitization Trip to Amguri and Saralpara

On November 4-5 2018, the 2nd year MBA students went for a sensitization trip to Amguri and Saralpara with a hope to gain better understanding of the struggles and challenges of people with less privileges in the society.

Students were accompanied by Fr. Paulus Guria, Sr. Ruth, Mrs. Binolin, Mr. Bikash Kalita and Mr. Abhinav Sharma. On 4th November, they visited Amguri CARE Center and had a short interaction programme there.



A welcome programme was organized by Bosconians in Amguri along with the German officials from the Child Aid Network under the leadership of their president, Dr. Martin Casper in the morning and soon after the programme, the team headed to Saralpara and organized Children's Mela for over 600 children from nearby CARE Centers established by the Salesians in collaboration with the Child Aid Network. The MBA students socialized and organized various sports and activities for these children. The programme concluded with distribution of blankets to all the children, which was followed by lunch for everyone.

National Education Day Celebration

The School of Management, as a part of their social commitment programme Prajjwal, organized National Education Day Celebration at Kharguli Campus on 11th November, the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, great freedom fighter, eminent educationist and the first Union Minister of Education.

The faculty coordinator for Prajjwal, Mr. Hrishikesh, assisted by Mr. Abhinav, spoke at length about the contributions of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in transforming the education scenario in India and the importance of education in socio-economic upliftment of the society to the gathering. This was followed by various competitions like essay writing, drawing and poetry recitation for Prajjwal students of the neighbourhood.



World Animal Day Celebration

The Department of Zoology in collaboration with Eco Club, Assam Don Bosco University, joined thousands of other organizations and individuals around the globe in celebrating World Animal Day, 4th October 2018.

The programme for the day included two sessions with an aim to sensitize the students and faculty about the importance of wildlife and the role they play in our efforts towards sustainability. The programme was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Francis Fernandez, Controller of Examinations.

The first session named 'Into the Wild' included two popular talks by Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar and Dr. Deba Kumar Dutta. Dr. Lahkar gave a talk on the "Conservation of Endangered Species and Its Habitats in Assam", and Dr. Dutta spoke on "Indian Rhino Vision 2020 and Revival of Manas National Park". The talks were followed by a demonstration of equipment used in the field for Wildlife Studies.



The second session included an Open Quiz Competition - Brain Teaser - in which students from the three schools (Humanities, Life Science, Applied Sciences) actively participated. To further achieve the objective for the day, two documentaries were screened; Kalia: The Lost Gibbon and Thumbelina. In the Valedictory Session, the Registrar, Fr. Biju Michael and the Controller of Examinations, Fr. Francis Fernandez distributed prizes to the winners of Brain Teaser and Photo Mania (Mobile Photography Competition). The programme concluded with a Plantation Drive #GoGreen where forty four saplings, contributed by the Assam Forest Department, were planted in the campus by the students and faculty members.



RESEARCH PULSE

This quarter was full of activities pertaining to the research scholars, like completion the PhD Course Work, declaration PhD Course Work results, research proposal presentations, PhD Pre-Submission Seminars and Viva Voce Examination.

PhD Course Work 2017: The research scholars of 2018 batch had their concluding phase of the PhD Course Work during the month of November 2018. Thirty-seven research scholars of the batch attending the course work did very well and their results were declared on 9 November 2018.

Research Proposal Presentation/Registration of Research Scholars: Eleven research scholars of earlier batches presented their research proposals, some of them were advised to modify their proposals before applying for registration.

PhD Pre-Submission Seminar: The following research scholars presented their PhD Pre-Submission Seminars successfully:

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| 1. Manoda Sangma | Department of Social Work |
| 2. Ashwini Kotrashetti | Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering |
| 3. Silveira Cedric Thomas | Department of Management |
| 4. Satyabrata Borgohain | Department of Management |
| 5. Daisy PJ | Department of Education |
| 6. Neli Lolia | Department of Education |
| 7. Reen K Joseph | Department of Psychology and Counseling |
| 8. Elizabeth Walling | Department of Education |



PhD Viva Voce Examination: Six of our Research Scholars have successfully completed their Viva Voce leading to the award of PhD degree of Assam Don Bosco University –

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| 1. Nandita Prodhani | Department of Physics |
| 2. Nabamita Das | Department of Language Studies |
| 3. Anupa Lahkar | Department of Mass Communications |
| 4. Melboureen Sunn | Department of Biotechnology |
| 5. Kisholoy Choushury | Department of Mass Communications |
| 6. Deba Kumar Mahanta | Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering |



*Wishing you and your Dear Ones
An abundance of the peace and joy that the Christ Child brings...
May Your New Year be replete with blessings all around!*

-Don Bosco University Family