

SPARK



A Newsletter for Don Bosco University family, alumni and friends

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EIGHTH CONVOCATION
OF THE UNIVERSITY



Vicar General visits the University



International Summer School
on Human Rights for Social Development



Certificate Course on Neuropsychology
and Its Applications



UCC Workshop on Evaluation Reforms
in Higher Education Institutions

Message from the Vice Chancellor

It was indeed an eye opener for me to be present at the Annual Conference of the International Association of Universities (IAU, Paris), held this year at Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP, Puebla, Mexico), a month ago.

The Conference had as its overall theme 'Transforming Higher Education for the Future'. It showcased innovative ideas from Universities around the world who are engaged in trying to shape sustainable, democratic societies, and helping to tackle some of the biggest challenges they face.

It was a bracing experience to see how this transformation of higher education is coalescing around a few key themes and concerns common to all societies, whether they are developed, developing or under-developed: programmes and projects that work towards sustainable development, internationalisation, leadership and innovation.

While many countries today, especially the developed ones, are trying to extricate themselves from the impact of globalisation with protectionist policies in trade and commerce, by stroking fears of loss of identity and nationality with pseudo-patriotic and fundamentalist rhetoric, by setting their faces decidedly against immigration, by attempting to re-write history to suit narrow, sectarian agendas, and by seeking to perpetuate the gains of unfettered capitalism, colonialism and technological superiority, there are certainly signs of a counter-current: institutions of higher education all over the world are focused on:

- *sustainable development (with ventures across borders as sustainable philosophies and practices do not recognize national borders),*
- *internationalisation (inevitable in the age of the internet, e-commerce and social media),*
- *leadership and innovation (free of the shackles and agendas of multinational hegemonies and interest groups).*

Inaugurated at the Puebla Conference was a series of documentary films, initiated by the International Association of Universities (IAU) and produced by BBC StoryWorks who sent their camera crews to 30 odd Universities from around the world to conceptualise and develop appropriate storylines around unique initiatives that these universities have undertaken to underline that, as the IAU website says, 'Higher education is instrumental to the development of sustainable and democratic societies; shaping minds, promoting diversity, ethical leadership and social responsibility. In light of increasing global challenges, higher education institutions play a key role



in addressing the societal transformations that lie ahead... Each film highlights how a different university contributes to these goals: through projects that work towards sustainable development, internationalisation, leadership and innovation '.

The links to all these films, including the one on our University's efforts in the area of affordable clean drinking water in the villages around our campus, are provided at the IAU website: <https://www.iau-aiminghigher.org/index.html#all-films>.



(a screenshot from a BBC Storyworks Production on the University's Safe Drinking Water)

If you prefer to get directly to our movie, you have it on our website (www.dbuniversity.ac.in): <https://web.dbuniversity.ac.in/a-bbc-storyworks-production-don-bosco-university-safe-drinking-water/>

The year is drawing to a close – Christmas and the New Year are round the corner. Let me wish you the joys of a Christmas and the New Year spent with family and friends. As you gaze at the loveliness of the Babe of Bethlehem, may you wonder again at the closeness of God to our mundane lives: "God comes to us where we live... He loves us as we are!"

**- Fr Stephen Mavelly
Rector & Vice Chancellor**

Eight Convocation of the University

The Eighth Convocation of the University was held on 7th September 2019 at Tapesia Campus of the University where 816 students received degrees in various programmes.

Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, the Honourable Governor of Assam, presided over the function as the Visitor to the University and delivered the Presidential Address. The Chancellor, Fr. Januarius Sangma, and the Vice Chancellor, Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavelly also spoke at the solemn function. A host of dignitaries from Civil, Church and Academic institutions of the region also attended the occasion.



In his presidential address, Professor Jagdish Mukhi said, “The government of India wants to establish the country as an ‘AI Garage’ which means that if a company can deploy an AI technology in India, it will then be applicable for the whole developing world. AI research in India will focus on healthcare - increasing access and affordability of quality healthcare; agriculture - enhancing farmer’s income, farm productivity and reduction of wastage; education- improving access and quality of education; smart cities and infrastructure- efficient connectivity for the burgeoning urban population; and smart mobility and transportation- for smarter and safer modes of transportation and better traffic and congestion problems.”

While appreciating the Assam Don Bosco University, the Governor also said that University is creating and disseminating knowledge and skills in core as well as frontier areas of education, developing reservoir of youth power, which effectively participate in nation building.

The Chancellor of the University, Fr. Januarius Sangma said, “The role of the universities is very important to all sectors as the key institutions in processes of social change and all-round development. It should also contribute in a concrete way to upholding democratic values that will help our country, and humankind in general. Respect, fraternity, dignity for every kind of work, non-violence, standing for truth and principles, upholding the dignity of life, compassion, kindness—these are but some of the values that we need to live for. This is how we build a nation; this is how we build humanity.”

Giving a report on the University, the Vice Chancellor Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavelly, said, “Assam Don Bosco University is becoming a nerve centre for the development of the North Easter Region. The University has taken up development initiatives in 42 villages that surround the University. It is an ideal location for the packed extension and social commitment programmes of the University. It’s in our plans to ensure that every graduate of our University will have committed themselves to several months of meaningful social work during the course of their study at the University.”

“Our Internal Quality Assurance Cell is channelizing the efforts and measures of the university towards academic excellence. It has been working actively as the think tank of the university, taking on the dual roles of initiator and monitor of all quality enhancement works of the university,” added the Vice Chancellor.



At total of 816 degrees were conferred, 212 were from Bachelor of Technology, 21 from Master of Technology, 43 from Master

of Computer Application, 37 from Master of Business Administration, 67 from Master of Social Work, 21 from MSc Psychology, 14 from MSc Physics, 32 from MSc Chemistry, 15 from MSc Biotechnology, 2 from MSc Biochemistry, 21 from MSc Microbiology, 42 from MSc Zoology, 12 from MA Education, 28 from Bachelor of Computer Application, 33 from Bachelor of Commerce and 13 from BA Philosophy. 12 doctoral degrees also conferred in various disciplines. Under the online education programme, 191 from across the globe, were also conferred degrees in various disciplines.



Gold Medals under various categories were awarded to 20 outstanding graduates with the highest Cumulative Grade Point Average in each program. The Chancellor's and the Vice Chancellor's medals, for overall outstanding performance and notable contribution to campus life were awarded to two graduating students at the Convocation.

Visit of Vicar General

On the evening of 15th October 2019, Rev Fr Francesco Cereda, the Vicar General to Rector Major paid a visit to Tapesia Campus of the University. Fr. Cereda came to Guwahati to attend the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Salesian Province of Guwahati on 17th October 2019 at Salesians' Provincial House, Guwahati.



While touring the campus and seeing the developments, he interacted with a number of students at various places and was very happy to see the dream of Salesians in establishing a University in this part of the world being realized. He reminisced that a few years back during his first visit he had paid a visit to this campus when there was not even a road.

After touring the campus, a prayer service and interaction session was held at the Salesian's chapel in the residence with various religious communities in the campus – wardens, nurses, students etc. He appreciated the fact that the Salesian community has been collaborating with other religious community in realizing the dream of Don Bosco in the campus as apparent from the presence of various religious orders.

The Vicar General is the first collaborator of the Rector Major (who is the head of Salesians) in the government of the Society and has ordinary Vicarious power. He takes the Rector Major's place whenever he is absent or impeded. To him is entrusted particularly the care of religious life and discipline.

The Vicar General was accompanied by his Secretary Fr Saimy Ezhanikatt and the Provincial of Guwahati, Fr. Januarius Sangma.

Summer School on Human Rights for Social Development

A ten-day International Summer School on Human Rights for Social Development: Frames and Agents was held at the Assam Don Bosco University today. Addressing the participants and invited guests, Dr. Ursula Fasselt, Professor of Social Work and Health and also the Convener of the Summer School, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, said, "It was a very inspiring week – we all experienced a journey which brought us from a theoretical concept – every person being endorsed with inalienable, indivisible, universal Human Rights – to a deep feeling about the necessity of social change in order to fully implement those rights."

The International Summer School was attended by thirty-five students from different parts of India and Germany. During the ten-day period, they attended lectures on human rights for social development, sessions on Yoga, games and sports, did field visits to Human Rights agencies, interacted with development practitioners, and completed Art Projects on Communication for Human Rights. The Valedictory Programme comprised Exhibition of the Art Projects: Collage-making, Street-theater and Film-making. The Exhibition was the outcome of the weeklong intensive workshops facilitated by Ms. Meike Porz and Prof. Bernard Kayser from Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, and Jai Kishan S. Gunasekaran and Kaushik Bhuyan of Mass Communication Department (ADBU). The Report of the National Conference on Social and Behaviour Change Communication for North Eastern Region which was jointly organized by ADBU, UNICEF Assam, and Tezpur University, earlier in the year, was also released during the event.



Inaugurating the Exhibition of Art Projects, Fr. (Dr.) Stephen Mavelly, Vice-Chancellor, Assam Don Bosco University thanked Prof. Ursula Fasselt, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and faculty and students from Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and several other Universities of India who attended the programme. He said, "Human Rights for Social Development is about reaching out to the peripheries. It is about ensuring that all human beings are able to live with dignity and respect." He called upon everyone to participate in their respective institutions, communities and countries to make it possible for all to enjoy their rights. Attending the programme as the Guest of Honour, Ms. Ananya Goswami, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF Assam, appreciated the hard work carried out by the students and the faculty. She said, "It is evident from the presentations of the collages, street theatre and the short-films that the students have worked really very hard. I am glad to see that your work is grounded on the succinct realities of society." She urged the students to continue working hard.

As part of the International Summer School, a World Blind Walk was organized on the 17th of October in collaboration with NAVJAN. A group of fifteen visually impaired children from Jyoti Niketan (Guwahati) led the walk which saw large-scale participation from among the ADBU faculty and students. Speaking on the occasion, Fr. Jose Mappilaparambil, Director, NAVJAN said, "Donating one's eyes for those who cannot see is a blessing for the self and for those that one leaves behind after death."



In order to bring in grass root experiences into the class room, Mr. Samudra Gupta Kashyap, Ms. Ketaki Bardalai, Executive Director, Shishu Sarothi, Ms. Sheetal Sharma, ARIAS Assam, Mr. Laxminarayn Nanda, UNICEF Assam came in at different points of the summer school as guest faculty. It may be mentioned here that four faculty from Germany, Prof. Ursula Fasselt, Prof. Carola Berneiser, Ms. Meike Porz and Prof. Bernard Kayser spent a fortnight at Assam Don Bosco University and taught in the Summer School. On the other hand, faculty from ADBU, Dr. Riju Sharma, Director, SHSS & Convener of the International Summer School, Victor Narzary, Programme Coordinator, Jai Kishan S Gunasekaran, Kaushik Bhuyan, Shanthalembi Lisham, Bibharani Swargiary, Ainamlin Dkhar, Hazel Wahlang and Dipyasuruj

Konwar delivered lectures and facilitated sessions during the Summer School.

BlindWalk 2019

The University in collaboration with NavJan organized a BlindWalk on 17th October 2019 at Tapesia Campus of the University with an attempt to raise awareness among the students and staffs, the importance of eye donation.

The event was flagged off by Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavelly at 8:30 in the morning at the main gate of the University. Around 180 students and staffs participated in this blindwalk and walked blindfolded upto the Academic Block II Atrium where a short conclusion programme was held.



There are 39 million people across the globe that is blind. India is now home to the world's largest number of blind people with 15 million persons. (WHO 2010) At present approximately only 35,000 corneas are collected in India every year, whereas 150,000 are required annually to combat corneal blindness. As a result, the patient line-up and wait to get a corneal transplant keeps getting longer with each passing day. Furthermore, the cost of cornea transplant in addition to unavailability for corneas makes it practically impossible for underprivileged people to access these medical remedies.

NavJan is a Social Development Wing of North-East Independent Delegation, for the empowerment of the people of North-east region through its socio-economic, cultural, developmental initiatives.

Inauguration of Community Computer Education Programme

The University inaugurated its Community Computer Education Programme under Community Education Programme - education for sustainable development anchored by the department of Social Work, here today, 19 September 2019 in the presence of community children and university fraternity.



The project aims at creating and providing a platform and environment where community children and members can get access to E-education. The center especially targets the students of Government Schools around ADBU Sonapur campus; and envisages bridging the gap between theory and opportunity for practice on real computers of the government school children that teach computer lessons to students without computers. The students thus while attending theory computer classes in schools will get opportunity for practice with computers in the Computer Center at ADBU. The project 'aims at contributing towards sustainable Development Goals – Quality Education (SDG-4), Gender Equality (SDG-5), and Reducing Inequality (SDG-10)' according to Dr. Jacob Islary the programme coordinator.

The Computer center is housed in the University Service Center within ADBU campus. It has fifteen state of the art desktops that are able to handle – online and offline – basic to high end modules including programming, research and development oriented workshops and training. The first batch had 12 students and they have completed the course successfully; currently the second batch of 26 students and the third batch of 35 students attending the courses.

Speaking on the occasion Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Vice Chancellor, Assam Don Bosco University hailed the efforts of the team members for the project and recalled and expressed gratitude to University College Dublin Volunteers Overseas, Ireland for their 'collaboration with Assam Don Bosco University in actualizing the programme', and emphasised on 'the need for quality service to the community children if development is to be inclusive.' Certificates of completion were distributed to the 12 graduating students during the programme followed by refreshment for community children.

Certificate Course on Neuropsychology and its Applications

A Certificate Course on Neuropsychology and its Applications was organized by the Department of Psychology and Counselling in collaboration with experts from the University of Parma, Italy and Excel Hospital, Guwahati on 30th September – 5th October 2019 at Tapesia Campus.

At the inaugural session, Fr. Stephen Mavelly, the Vice Chancellor highlighted the contribution of the university to the communities surrounding the university through the Community Counselling Center and appreciated the initiatives and voluntary services being rendered to the neighbouring villages by the Department of Psychology and Counselling.



In his keynote address, Prof. Roberto Ravera, Founder and Director of Ravera Children Rehabilitation Center, shared his experience of dealing with children in Africa who had been traumatized, neglected and faced abuses of various levels. He gave a presentation on the works that they have done in setting up Children's Home and helping these kids deal with various challenges they are faced with. He emphasized on the study of trauma from the neuropsychology perspective where there are many new challenges as the society changes and progress. He also reminded that, psychology is a heuristic science where the complexities of human thoughts, emotions and behaviors are influenced and changed by environment and a new avenues of research and studies are open up to understand that complexities. He encouraged the participants to go out of the box and experience the complexities of human world and contribute our effort in bringing about a change for the wellbeing of human life.



Dr. Virginia gave a brief outline about the aims and objective of the course. She explained about the multidisciplinary approach of science to understand human problems. The main aim of the course was to understand how the genetic makeup of a person influences and changes the psychological as well as the physiological aspect of a person. By understanding the anatomical and functional aspect of the nervous system, one can understand the causes of various mental illnesses as well as their behaviors, thus the course is undertaken to highlight the relationship of the human body and environment in the wellbeing of a person.

Fr. Biju Michael gave a concluding remark by sharing that ethics take reverse approach to neuropsychology in the understanding of human cognitions and behaviors. He also mentioned about the relation of human intelligence with emotional intelligence in the way we process our thoughts and connecting it to feelings.

During this one week course, various lectures and discussions on child development and developmental disorders, state of mind, mindfulness, self control, mentalization, nature and nurture, nervous system of the human body, anatomical systems, biological systems, genetic clusters, trauma and attachments etc were held. These lectures were conducted by Professor Roberto Ravera and Dr. Virginia Ravera. On the last day Dr. Anweshak Das (Consultant Psychiatrist) discussed about the 'The Bridging Gap of Neuropsychiatry and Neuropsychology'.

The course was attended by 44 participants from various parts of India.

UGC Workshop on Evaluation Reforms

A workshop on 'Evaluation Reforms in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)' for the Northeast region was organized by the University Grants Commission (UGC), North Eastern Regional Office, at Assam Don Bosco University, Azara Campus, Guwahati, on 4-5 November 2019. The workshop was held with an aim to deliberate and understand the evaluation reforms and practices introduced by UGC in the higher education, and, it consisted of five sessions where various experts in the field delivered lectures and a discussion on the best practices in evaluation by higher institutions in the end.

In his welcoming address, Dr. Nikhil Kumar, Education Officer, UGC, explained about the reason why UGC came up with Evaluation Reforms in Higher Education Institutes in India, saying, "Amidst rapid demands of constant changes put forth by globalized economy, the Higher Education sector in India is going through its transformation stage and the UGC, in this connection, has introduced evaluation reforms for comprehensive assessment of the students inculcating the critical thinking and to unleash their potential to take the baton of change and growth".



The Pro-Vice Chancellor of Assam Don Bosco University, Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, in his opening remarks commended the efforts of UGC in formulating such reforms in the evaluation systems of the Universities and HEIs. In the same session, Prof. T.K. Majumder, the Vice Chancellor of Techno Global University, Meghalaya also expressed the need for immediate implementation of the reforms and at the same time raised his concerns on challenges that come along with such reforms.

The inaugural session was also graced by Dr. Gopi Chand M., Deputy Secretary, UGC NERO; Prof. Gur Saran and Prof. R.S. Pavithr from Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra; Fr. Dr. Biju Michael, Registrar, Assam Don Bosco University; and Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, Director, School of Technology, Assam Don Bosco University, along with 100 participants including Controllers of Examinations, Officers and Examination Staffs from 45 Universities and Autonomous Institutions from North East India. The Workshop had 6 sessions including the Concluding Session. The Sessions and the experts who took the sessions were given below:

1. Problems of Existing Examination Structure – Prof. Gur Saran, Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra
2. Evaluation Reforms in Higher Education - Prof. R.S. Pavithr from Dayalbagh Educational Institutions, Agra
3. Assessment Management - Prof. Gur Saran, Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra
4. Evaluation Reforms (Assessment) in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in India - Prof. Anthony Rose, Director-Entrance Test, Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune
5. ICT in Evaluation- Prof. Atul Wadegaonkar, Senior General Manager, MKCL

Act of Kindness at Ferrando Transit Shelter Home

On the occasion of Children's Day, the Rotaract Club of Pine City, Alumni of Assam Don Bosco University and Bansara Eye Care Clinic collaborated to brighten the lives of the children living in Ferrando Transit Shelter Home, Shillong on the 16th of November, 2019. During the inaugural function Sister Teresa Salemthangi, the Director of the Home, shared a brief history of the incomparable charitable work undertaken by the organization ever since its inception in 2008. Currently sheltering around thirty young girls, the home takes extensive care of all its inmates, providing them with a healthy environment and quality education.

An interactive session was also conducted where Ms Hazel Wahlang, coordinator of Center for Development Studies and Initiatives, made all the girls of the home dance to the beats of some euphoric songs. This was followed by a Free Eye Screening Camp organized in collaboration with Bansara Eye Care Centre where all the girls of the home were given an eye check-up and free medicines. The visiting team also handed over clothes, eatables and stationary items donated by students and staffs of Don Bosco University to the young girls residing in the home.

Workshop on CNC Machine and Robotics

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Technology, Assam Don Bosco University organized a two day workshop on “CNC Machine and Robotics” on 17-18 October 2019 at Azara campus.

The workshop began with an introduction on the industrial applications and necessity of CNC Machine and Robotics by Prof. Manorajan Kalita, Director, School of Technology, followed by a lecture on ‘Introduction to Robotics’ by the workshop Coordinator and HoD of Mechanical Engineering Department, Ms Leena Nemade.

Lectures were also delivered by Pranjal Sarma and Harajit Das from the department of Mechanical Engineering on “History and Current trends in Robotics and 3D printing” and “ Basics of CNC Machine” respectively. These lectures were followed by a practical session conducted by Mechanical Engineering Department in CNC Lab.



On 18 October, lecture sessions were conducted by alumni of the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering Nayan Jyoti Kakati and Sidartha Bora on “Robotic Making” and “3D Printing”. The workshop ended with a Quiz Competition held for the participants.

Workshop on ‘Introduction to Basic Mathematics’

The Department of Mathematics in collaboration with Department of Economics organized a two day workshop titled “Introduction to Basic Mathematics” at Administrative Block 1, Assam Don Bosco University on 17-18 October 2019. The purpose of the workshop was to reintroduce basic mathematics to the under graduate student of Economics and Mathematics to help them understand better the concepts and applications.



At the inaugural session, the Vice Chancellor Fr. Stephen Mavelly spoke on the importance of mathematics in our daily life and the need to eradicate fear of mathematics. He also encouraged the students to spend more time in solving mathematical problems – which is a key to master mathematics.

During these two days lectures were delivered by Dr. Saugata Purkayastha, Dr. Sanjay Dutta, Dr. Hemen Bharali and Dr. Fokrul A Mazarbhuiya. The workshop was attended by 38 participants and it was coordinated by Dr. Hemen Bharali, HoD, Department of Mathematics and Dr. Kasturi Goswami, Department Incharge of Economics.

Workshop on Project Cycle Management and Mobilization of Resources

The Department of Social Work organized a 5-Day Workshop on Project Cycle Management and Mobilization of Resources on 21 - 25 October 2019 at Tapesia Campus.

The workshop aimed to improve an understanding of different stages of project and its management including Planning (identification and designing), Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Documentation and also dealt with resource mobilization techniques. A central value of Project Cycle Management (PCM) method is that all aspects of the project are reconsidered throughout the project cycle to ensure that any changes which have occurred are included in the project design.

The workshop commenced with an introduction of the faculty members of Social Work who took different sessions and



topics on PCM. The participants were divided into 4 groups to make the learning process participative and each group was facilitated to identify a core issue based on situational analysis, develop problem tree and objective tree. Logical Framework tool was used to develop four project proposals by four groups. This was helpful to understand the idea of making the project for the development of the marginalized communities. There were also sessions to impart knowledge on the sources and techniques of mobilizing resources for the projects developed.

The sessions consisted of Concepts of Projects Cycle Management, Project planning and its importance, Project identification (situational Analysis and Problem Tree Analysis), Designing of Project: Objective Tree Analysis, Logical Framework Approach: Concept of Results Based Management, Budgeting, Monitoring (Performance Indicators – Input and Output), Evaluation (Effect-Impact), Development of concept paper for projects, Sources to mobilizes resources, Strategies for resources mobilizations and Skills required for resources mobilizations.

There were 24 participants from 8 Development Organizations in India and MSW students who specialize on Management of Development Organizations. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Lukose PJ, HoD, the Department of Social Work.

Health Camp by Vita Scientia

Vita Scientia Club (Department of Bioscience) organized a health camp on 12 November 2019 at Tapesia Campus in collaboration with Excelcare Hospitals Guwahati. The team from Excelcare consisted of Dr. PK Das, two nurses, a medical executive and an assistant.



The main aim of the programme was to extend the health services to the village communities around the University and also for the supporting staff of the University. The Health check-up activities included monitoring of Blood Pressure, Blood group, Height/Weight, random sugar and medical history. The check-up was held for 80 people including students, local men and women and also some faculty members. During the health check-up there were certain participants who required immediate medical attention and were referred to further diagnosis by the doctor. The programme was seen as a huge success for students and for the community people.

Session on '3-D Printing'

The Department of Mechanical engineering conducted an interactive session on “Knowhow3D” at Azara campus on 15 November 2019. Mr. Sidartha Barman from Knowhow3D delivered a lecture and showed how 3D printer works.

The 3D printing process builds a three-dimensional object from a computer-aided design (CAD) model, usually by successively adding material layer by layer, which is why it is also called additive manufacturing, unlike conventional machining, casting and forging processes, where material is removed from a stock item (subtractive manufacturing) or poured into a mold and shaped by means of dies, presses and hammers. The term “3D printing” covers a variety of processes in which material is joined or solidified under computer control to create a three-dimensional object, with material being added together (such as liquid molecules or powder grains being fused together), typically layer by layer.

The training program was coordinated by Mr. Pallav Gogoi, Assistant Professor from the Department of Mechanical Engineering.



Trainings on Royal Enfield

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, in collaboration with Royal Enfield had been conducting various training programmes at the Regional Training Center of Royal Enfield, located at the School of Technology, Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU) since its inception.

A two week Summer Training Programme was conducted for four students from Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Meghalaya from 29 July to August 2019. During the training, trainers from Royal Enfield gave them hands on training on different Royal Enfield motorcycles. At the end of the course, the successful candidates were given joint certification from Royal Enfield and ADBU.

A free technical familiarization course for the Mechanical Engineering 3rd semester students of the School of Technology was also conducted for a week during 16-20 September 2019. Both the training programmes were coordinated by Mr. Pranjal Sarma, Assistant Professor from the Department of Mechanical Engineering.



Workshop on Computational Physics

A two-day workshop on Computational Physics 2019 using Python (WCP 2019) was organized by the Department of Physics on 1-2 November 2019.

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 tool used for the same was Python (which is free to use). 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 first session of the workshop comprised of two talks. The first talk, titled An Introduction to Computational Physics using Mathematica, was delivered by Dr. Shubhankar Roy who illuminated the auditorium with numerous illustrations and live demonstrations on computations in Physics using Mathematica. This was followed by another talk, titled Why Python?, which was delivered by Dr. Subir Sarkar from Arya Vidyapeeth College, Guwahati. In his talk, Dr. Sarkar introduced the participants to the Python as a high-level programming language. With demonstrations using Jupyter Notebook, he showed how Python provides an intuitive tool for analytical tool that helps the user to focus more on the problem than on the code.

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. During the first technical session, the participants were introduced to the Python compiler and IDLE by Dr. Subir Sarkar. They were provided with the time to explore the Python syntax, and were familiarised with the basic elements of the programming language. The afternoon technical session was taken by Mr. Parag Bhattacharya, who instructed the participants on the installation of Python and various packages on Windows as well as Ubuntu. This was followed by the instructions on importing and creating packages and modules, as well as the application of Python in solving a few physical problems.

The first session of the second day began with a talk titled "Fundamentals of Numerical Analysis" which was delivered by Dr. Samrat Dey in the auditorium, wherein he elaborated on the common numerical techniques for root finding, integration and solving differential equations. This was followed by the hands-on sessions in the Computer Lab, wherein the participants were introduced to the use of arrays and user-defined functions in working with physical data. They were then introduced to data visualization tools, such as 2D plots, scatter plots and density plots.

Apart from the students from the Department of Physics, ADBU, research scholars, undergraduate and postgraduate students from other universities like Rajiv Gandhi University (Arunachal Pradesh), Bodoland University (Assam) and University of Science & Technology (Meghalaya) participated in the workshop.

Theatre Workshop



A two-day Theatre Workshop was organized by student volunteers of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Assam Don Bosco University Unit, at Arun Shankar Bhaduri Balika Vidyalaya High School on 16-17 August 2019.

15 student volunteers from the Department of Social Work, Mass Communication and Language Studies participated actively to carry out the theatrical sessions. The event was coordinated by Miss Hazel Wahlang, Co-ordinator of UBA-ADBU Unit. About 40 students studying in Grade 6-10 participated in the workshop.

The workshop commenced with an ice-breaking session among the students and the volunteers. On the first day, they were asked to introduce themselves and describe their hobbies in an attempt to connect with the volunteers. Soon the students were introduced to the basics of drama, features of acting skills as well as the basics of mime act. Some of which included voice modulation, body posture and movements, quick reactions to one's current environment and respecting others' space on-stage. The second day of the workshop aimed at imparting qualitative drama skills among the participants and at the end of the day 12 girls, who proved to be very good and interested in acting were selected to undergo further training at the University and will be allowed to perform an act or two as a UBA-ADBU Unit initiative.

The World of Science – An Awareness Programme

The Physics Department celebrated the birth anniversary of Marie Curie and Sir C.V. Raman on 7 November 2019 by organizing "The World of Science 2019," an awareness programme on science where the students and faculty members of both the co-curricular clubs of the department, viz., Physik Club and Astronomy Club, as well as some other members of the department visited the neighbouring schools.

In this outreach programme a number of scientific models simplifying different aspects of science around us were displayed and demonstrated. The working models demonstrated and simplified the complicated principles of science behind the objects and activities of our day to day life with a view to eradicate the fear of higher education in science among school children and to inculcate scientific temper in them. This year the programme was organised under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), a flagship programme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India. Around 50 students of Arya Vidyapath School and 100 students from Kamarkuchi High School actively participated in the event. Dr. Ngangom Aomoa, Asst. Professor, Department of Physics was the Coordinator of this programme.



Awareness Programme on Mushroom Cultivation

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Assam Don Bosco University Unit, in collaboration with the Department of Biosciences organized an awareness programme on "Importance of Mushroom Cultivation" on 19th August 2019 at Arabari Village. Seven student volunteers of Vita Scientia Club accompanied the resource person Dr. Monika Soni, Assistant Professor of Assam Don Bosco University.

The aim of the programme was to provide knowledge about the importance of Mushroom Cultivation among the people residing in the village. The resource person gave a presentation on edible and non-edible mushrooms and the importance of cultivating edible mushroom. After a brief presentation, the student volunteers facilitated a Focused Group Discussion to understand the perspectives of the participants on mushroom cultivation as this was crucial for further steps on mushroom

cultivation could be taken. Most participants were interested in the cultivation as this could add their family income while providing them food at the same time. However, there were some participants who cited lack of space in and around their house for such a cultivation though they were also interested in learning the art of mushroom cultivation.

The programme triggered an interest in the minds of women in the village who saw mushroom cultivation as a way to promote healthy food and enhance their income.

Prajyuktam and NERICT 2019



The Technology Fest of the School of Technology Prajyuktam along with NERICT 2019 was held on 24-26 October 2019 at Azara Campus of the University.

The Technology Fest was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Prof. Gautam Baruah, Director IIIT Guwahati and Guest of Honour Mr. Kashi Nath Hazarika, former CMD NEDFi on 24th October in the presence of the Pro Vice Chancellor, Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Director of the School of Technology, Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, faculty members and students.

Mr. K.N. Hazarika, the Guest of Honour, in his address highlighted about various achievements in the history of Space, starting from the first landing of human in the moon to the present day where we have come a long way. He congratulated the School of Technology for organising Prajyuktam in a much better way year after year and urged that Prajyuktam should be a platform for innovation and entrepreneurship. He expressed that even in the modern day there are people suffering from hunger, people who cannot afford higher education, and health care has become too much expensive. He said that it is the responsibility of the new generation to innovate and come up with new ideas to find solutions to these problems.

During these three days, various events including Youth Parliament, Jack in the Bot, Make-a-thon, Robowar, Web Designing, Coding, Constrode'fice etc were conducted.

Vigilance Awareness Week

The Vigilance Awareness Week, 2019 was observed in Assam Don Bosco University from 28th October to 2nd November, 2019. The theme for this year's vigilance awareness week was "Integrity- A Way of Life". The observation of Vigilance Awareness Week commenced with an Integrity Pledge by all the faculties, students and staff members administered by Fr Stephen Mavelly, the Vice Chancellor on 28th October morning.

On 29th October, a Debate Competition was organized by Literary Club on a topic "Social integrity is the only key to National Development" where 10 students participated, forming a team of 5 members each for and against the topic. The Debate Competition was moderated by Dr. Lukose PJ, HoD, Department of Social Work and was judged by Dr. Zacharias Tirkey from the Department of Education and Ms. Pratikshya Bezbaruah from the Department of Physics. On the same day, a Poster Competition was also organized where 10 students participated. The competition was judged by Ms. Sampreeti Das from the Department of Psychology and Dr. Milton Joseph from the Department of Education.



On 30th October, 2019, a Walkathon was organised where both the faculty and students participated. The participants walked from Academic Block I to the nearby Village with an aim to create social awareness. Again, on 31st October, 2019, nine students from the Department of Language Studies, performed a Street Play in Sonapur Market to create social awareness. The theme of the play was "Integrity".

On the concluding day, special prizes and certificates were distributed by Fr Stephen Mavelly, Vice Chancellor, Assam Don Bosco University to the winners and participants of various competitions held during the week.

World Animal Day 2019

The Department of Zoology, in collaboration with the Eco Club, joined the thousands of other organizations and individuals around the globe in celebrating World Animal Day on 4th October, 2019. The Department is proud to support this global movement to raise the status of animals by using this special day to raise awareness about how our actions, as Homo sapiens, in one way or the other, affect the animal kingdom. The event is a global celebration for all animals and the people who love and respect them. The event kickstarted with an inspiring thought-sharing session by Liza Changkakoti, First Semester Student, at the morning Assembly. The talk revolved around the idea that today nature is in trouble because of our actions, and how every tiny step taken by every individual can make a significant difference.

Two competitions were held for the day: Debate and Extempore Speech. The Debate competition sparked a vigorous discussion on “Scientific Collection as a barrier towards Conservation” among the debaters. The participants at the Extempore Speech competition displayed immense enthusiasm in relaying their thoughts on topics given to them. The afternoon session included a lively educational open quiz competition, Brain Teaser, conducted by Mr. Nilutpal Mahanta, Research Scholar, Gauhati University. An engaging documentary titled “The Race to Save The Amur Falcon” was screened towards the end of the programme.

Observation of Indian Constitution Day



As per the directive from All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), the School of Commerce and Management observed 26th November as the Indian Constitution Day. This was the day the Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly back in 1949.

The students of MBA, first and second years, got together to watch the “Constitution Day” celebration held in New Delhi which was broadcasted live through the projector after singing the National Anthem. The Student leaders read out the Preamble, for others to listen and note down important points. This was followed by a Debate, also organized by the student body themselves, regarding topics related to the Indian Political situations as well as topics on the historical events that led to the current scenario India is facing as a country.

The same day also saw an interaction programme with Assam State Legal Services Authority on various topics based on the Constitution of India.

Sensitization Trip to Amguri and Salbari

The Second Year MBA students went for a two day sensitization trip to Amguri and Salbari on 28-29 October 2019 in Kokrajhar District under the guidance of Fr. Paulus Guria, Sr. Magdalene, and Mrs. Binolin and 2 faculty members, Mr. Hrishikesh Debnath and Mr. Abhinav Sharma. After travelling for about 5 hours, the students reached Don Bosco High School, Amguri and were received with a hearty welcome from the students at the Amguri CARE center along with Fr. Ignatius and the staff.



On 29th October, the group went to Salbari to organize a Children’s Mela for inmates of CARE centers in collaboration with Child Aid Network, Germany who also came under the leadership of their President, Dr. Martin Casper. The MBA students socialized and entertained the students in different ways with various games, sports and dance performances.

The programme concluded with the distribution of blankets to all the children followed by lunch for everyone.



RESEARCH PULSE

PhD Course Work Conclusion:

PhD Course Work that started in the month of April 2019 was completed on 28th of September 2019. We started Course Work with 71 admitted researchers out of which 64 were found eligible to continue further. The result was declared on 1st November 2019.

Research Proposal Presentations:

The following Research Scholars presented their research proposals and have been approved for registration with/without modification of their proposals:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Arjun Chetry | Computer Science & Engineering |
| 2. Nilakshi Devi | Electrical & Electronics Engineering |
| 3. Azharul Alom | Electrical & Electronics Engineering |
| 4. Seyievono Savi | Commerce & Management |
| 5. Bijoy A. Sangma | Commerce & Management |
| 6. Patrick Johnson | Commerce & Management |
| 7. Ashok Kumar Sandil | Philosophy |
| 8. Shomavo Chakraborty | Mathematics |
| 9. Myrul Islam | Zoology |
| 10. Mariana Dkhar | Life Sciences |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Hoineichin Haokip | North East India Studies |
| 2. Kaustubh Bhattacharyya | Electronics and Communication Engineering |
| 3. Bikramjit Goswami | Electrical and Electronics Engineering |
| 4. Maushumi Lahon | Computer Science and Engineering |
| 5. Viraho Angami | North East India Studies |
| 6. Ashit Kumar Paul | North East India Studies |
| 7. Purchila Jamir | Comparative Religion |
| 8. MC Rasmin | Mass Communication |
| 9. Medari Janai Tham | Computer Science and Engineering |
| 10. KJ Antony | Comparative Religion |
| 11. Joseph Mathew | Management |
| 12. Kakoli Das Kalita | North East India Studies |
| 13. Rose Mary Koch | Education |
| 14. Aparup Sharma | Management |

PhD Viva Voce Examination: Since the Eighth Convocation of the University held on 7th September 2019, eight of our Research Scholars have successfully completed their Viva Voce leading to the award of PhD degree of Assam Don Bosco University:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Krishna Kumar Thakur | Management |
| 2. Bimla Jaishy | Physics |
| 3. Hoineichin Haokip | North East India Studies |
| 4. Jayashree Katti | Computer Science and Engi-neering |
| 5. Elizabeth Walling | Education |
| 6. Manoda Sangma | Social Work |
| 7. Bikramjit Goswami | Electrical and Electronics Engineering |
| 8. Subra Mukherjee | Electronics and Communication 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

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