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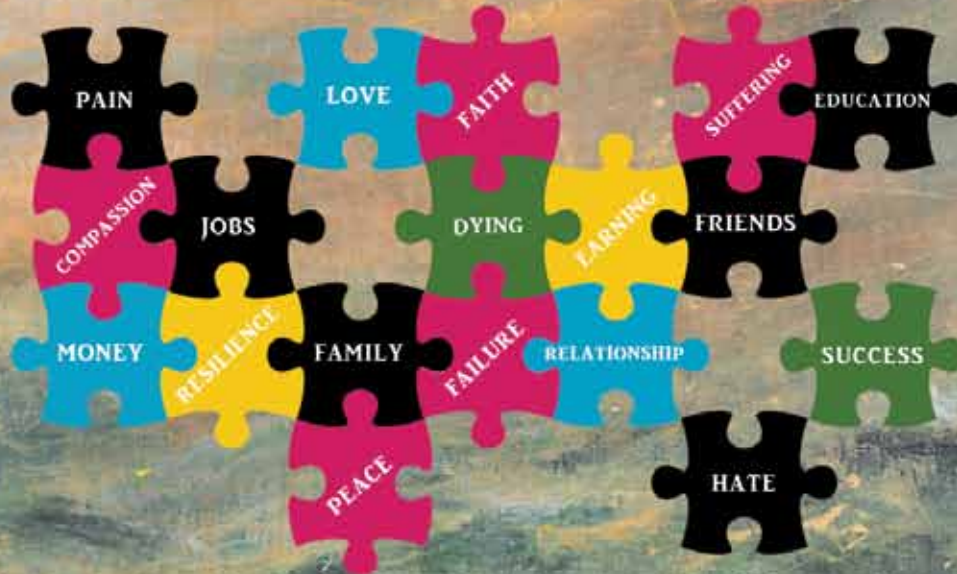
PARK



A Newsletter for Don Bosco University family, alumni and friends

Volume 12 | Issue 1&2 | 2020

*Searching for meaning...
in the bits and pieces of life...*



Faculty Development Week - Spring 2020



eNabling NorthEast Award



Our Response to Covid19



National Conference on Trends in Modern Physics

Message from the Vice Chancellor

This whole experience looks so surreal. It seems just the other day when the world as we know it came crashing down all around us. We were under lockdown (*a new term we still keep gawking at...*). Ever since that fateful day in mid-March, we have been living through extraordinary times, the like of which will probably not be repeated in our lifetimes...

This locked-down existence, how does one look at it? *As a challenging time?* – the established world order seems to give way... *As a disconcerting time?* – disturbing reports abound of life and death decisions about who gets saved, who is dispensable and can be left to die... *As a revealing time?* – laying bare the heroism of some as well as the selfishness, personal priorities, grabbing of resources by the rich and the powerful... *As a disturbing time?* – with disquieting questions about the deeper realities of life which, earlier, would have been smothered under the relentless pace of our driven days and nights... *As an unsettling time?* – when all is under control again and life gains a semblance of normality, what will the new normal look like?

It is out of the gruesome experience of having lived through the horrors of the concentration camp at Auschwitz that Viktor Frankl, the Austrian psychiatrist, gifted the world with his memoir – ‘Man’s Quest for Meaning’. It is a riveting look at how, when layer after layer of our complex mechanisms at self-preservation fall away, and we stand exposed, literally naked, it is only the primary purpose of life – *the quest for meaning* – that can prop us up.

Frankl’s book was in the tradition of the great existential philosophers, who could pose the right questions, who could look deep into the collective and personal ‘angst’ that we go through, and who could tell us more about ‘getting into the pain of things, the pain in the universe’ as a way to seek redemption...

This particular existential analysis of his Frankl termed ‘logotherapy’ – a method of healing the soul by cultivating the capacity to find a meaningful life. In this, he echoed Nietzsche’s oft-quoted aphorism: ‘He who has a *why* to live for can bear with almost any *how*!’ In this search for meaning, together with most existential thinkers, he recognized suffering as an essential piece not only of existence but of the meaningful life.



‘Searching for meaning... in the bits and pieces of life’ - This is our theme for the academic year 2020-2021. It has been framed against this once in a lifetime scenario being played out in front of us as well as through us. We are the players as much as the victims. This pandemic keeps stripping away most of our illusions about what is ‘normal’. It picks relentlessly at the core of our erstwhile certainties about life and death, about self and the other...

The search for meaning suddenly looms large on our horizon – it remains the one resilient crutch that will see us through it all. As we do so, Frankl tells us in his inimitable style: “Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms — to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.”

‘Search for meaning’ and a ‘right attitude’ to face this ever evolving scenario are the tools we have in hand. Both call for courage to pick up the pieces, and to walk on with changed perceptions and changed selves, one day at a time, navigating through the challenges and the pitfalls, battling the lethargy and the listlessness, recognizing and confronting the inevitable bouts of despondency and depression... THAT is the continuing search for meaning in the bits and pieces of life (no more a cocooned existence now... at least for a while)!

Welcome to the New Academic Year – online for now! ...and see you soon back on campus with a renewed zest for life and living, song and dance, timbrel and harp... ‘but no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation...’ (T S Eliot in ‘The Journey of the Magi’).

**- Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavelly
Rector & Vice Chancellor**

Don Bosco University Ranked Among Top 200 Universities

The Assam Don Bosco University is ranked among the top 200 Universities in India and it is the only Private University in North East India that made it to the top 200 by National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India.

The University is in the same rank as Amity University, Mumbai; Christ University, Bengaluru; Sharda University, Greater Noida; Central University of Gujarat; Central University of Kashmir; Central University of South Bihar etc. According to NIRF, the rankings are based on the following parameters:

Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR)

- Student Strength including Doctoral Students (SS)
- Faculty-student ratio with emphasis on permanent faculty (FSR)
- Combined metric for Faculty with PhD (or equivalent) and Experience (FQE)
- Financial Resources and their Utilisation (FRU)

Research and Professional Practice (RP)

- Combined metric for Publications (PU)
- Combined metric for Quality of Publications (QP)
- IPR and Patents: Published and Granted (IPR)
- Footprint of Projects and Professional Practice (FPPP)

Graduation Outcomes (GO)

- Metric for University Examinations (GUE)
- Metric for Number of Ph.D. Students Graduated (GPHD)

Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)

- Percentage of Students from Other States/Countries (Region Diversity RD)
- Percentage of Women (Women Diversity WD)
- Economically and Socially Challenged Students (ESCS)
- Facilities for Physically Challenged Students (PCS)
- Perception (PR) Ranking

Peer Perception

- Academic Peers and Employers (PR)



The University declared 'Engaged University of the Year 2020 Asia Pacific'

The University was conferred with "Engaged University of the Year 2020 Asia Pacific (Entrepreneurship and Engagement Excellence) Award" on January 10, 2020 by Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial & Engaged Universities (ACEEU), Science Park, Netherlands.

The award recognizes the University's monumental work in community engagement and social service – bringing about changes in the lives of people around the University campus. Don Bosco University won the award against stiff competition from the final shortlisted institutions across the Asia-Pacific region including Swinburne University of Technology (Australia), Fuzhou University (China), Melbourne Polytechnic (Australia), Singapore University of Technology (Singapore), University of the Sunshine Coast (Australia) and Australian Catholic University (Australia).

Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Assam Don Bosco University, Fr (Dr) Joseph Nellanatt received the award, on behalf of the University, at a ceremony held at Taj Resort & Spa, Kochi, Kerala on January 10, 2020.



Commenting on the Award, the Vice-Chancellor, Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavelly said, "It is a validation of the University's engagement in 'Service Learning' – a unique feature of Don Bosco University that integrates academic inputs, relevant community-centered activities followed and preceded by structured reflection in an intertwined partnership. It combines a learning process that results in academic, civic and personal development while, at the same time, tackling the challenges affecting the wider society".

The University won eNabling North East Award 2019-20

We are glad to announce that the University was selected as the Winner of the 7th eNabling North East Award 2019-2020 in the category ‘Health, Sanitation and Well Being’.

The winning project was the invention and installation of solar water purifiers in the neighbouring villages of the University, titled ‘Bixudha Jol Asoni’ - a safe drinking water project. The same project was also featured by BBC Storyworks Production in 2019.

The award was bestowed upon the University on the 7th edition of the eNorth East Award 2019-20 by North East Development Foundation, concluded on 20 June 2020, as the culmination of months of nomination process, and three days of virtual jury (due to Covid-19) for selecting the best sustainable development practices of North East India.

The final event (held virtually first time in the history of the programme due to Covid-19) declared 23 sustainable development projects (11 winners and 12 special mentions) of North East India as winners and special mentions (runners up) in as many as 10 categories including – Access to Public Schemes, citizen services and e-governance services; Agriculture & Rural Development; Biodiversity and Sustainable Development; Livelihood and Income Generation; Education and Learning; and Health and Sanitation. Mr. K. Moses Chalai, IAS, Secretary of the North Eastern Council (NEC) graced the occasion as a Chief Guest along with other dignitaries.



Don Bosco University – the only Private University in NE featuring in ARIIA 2020

Assam Don Bosco University was put in the ranking band of 26-50 (all in this ranking band are considered equals) among the private universities in India in the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA), Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. A total of 674 universities and institutions were ranked in this latest report of ARIIA.

The University was the only one from North East India featured in the ARIIA among private Universities – the other institutions featured in ARIIA were IIT – Guwahati, NIT Silchar and NIT Arunachal Pradesh which were established by Central Government. ARIIA Report was released on 18th August 2020 by the Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu.

What is ARIIA?

Ministry of Education, Govt. of India initiated ‘Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)’ to systematically rank education institutions and universities primarily on innovation related indicators.

ARIIA considers all major indicators which are commonly used globally to rank most innovative education institutions/ universities in the world.



Indicators

Programs and Activities on IPR, Innovation, Start-up and Entrepreneurship
 Pre Incubation & Incubation Infrastructure & Facilities to Support I&E
 Annual Budget Spent on Promoting and Supporting I&E Activities
 Courses on Innovation, IPR and Entrepreneurship Development
 Intellectual Property (IP), Technology Transfer and Commercialization
 Successful Innovation and Start-ups & Funding Innovation & start-ups

Total

Weightages

7.5
 7.5
 13
 05
 32
 35
100

University's UBA Team won National Level Photostory Competition

The University's Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Team was one of the five winners in the competition 'Unnati ki kahani Chitro ki Jubani' - a photostory competition that showcased the best photographs taken by UBA Volunteers in the villages adopted. The competition was organized by Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in commemoration of the India's Independence Day celebration 2020.

There were 827 participating institutions across India and each winning team received Rs 5000 cash award. These photo entries will be displayed in the Photo Album Book which will be presented to MHRD.



The University congratulates Ms Hazel Berret Wahlang, UBA Coordinator and her team for the wonderful works they have been doing through UBA in organizing various awareness campaigns and working together with the villages in a participatory developmental activities.

Our Response to Covid-19

As a response to the outbreak of Covid19 and in accordance with Government's instructions on a nationwide lockdown, the University suspended all activities on campus. However, during this lockdown the University quickly adapted itself and conducted online classes, tests and examinations for the final semester students. As a number of families in the villages surrounding the University campuses struggled amidst shortage of food supply, food packages were delivered to a number of families with a permission from the local authorities. Some activities carried out so far are given below:

Distribution of Food Packages:

With many families being forced to stay at home to prevent further spread of Covid19, a new challenge was afoot – shortage of food. The University got permission from local authorities to distribute food packages to those who needed the most. Families were identified by the local authorities, food packages were prepared by volunteers from the University and were distributed to 1500 families. Food packages were also distributed to stranded construction workers and tea garden workers. The villages covered are Hatimura, Upper Tapesia, Amgdin, Belguli, Bamunkhat, Khulkhuria, Uralbasti, Sonaru Batali, Laflonggaon, Damrapathar, Hirapara, Ghogua, Hohara and Somata under Sonapur Circle and Keotpara under Azara Circle.



Counselling Services

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the concern for mental health rises sharply due to the unprecedented stress, anxiety and uncertainty among people of all walks of life. As a response to this situation, the University's Department of Psychology and Counselling stepped up in providing mental health services through tele-counseling in collaboration with DHARA HELPLINE, receiving calls from the COVID19 frontline workers and the general public. The tele-counselors had attended training and discussion sessions on tele-psychology and tele-counseling hosted by Global Pandemic Response Forum under eminent psychologists and psychiatrists prior to volunteering for this service. The Department of Psychology and Counseling has a faculty strength of 3 Clinical Psychologists, 3 Counseling Psychologists/ Psychotherapists and a Special Education Trainer (Ph.D) promoting mental wellness.

Online Classes and Examination

At the outset of the outbreak of Covid-19 and the beginning of lockdowns, the University immediately took action and started conducting online classes through various platforms including Zoom, Google Meet, Cisco Webex etc. With the admission season caught up in the middle of this pandemic, entrance tests platforms were designed quickly and entrance tests for BTech, MTech, MCA and MSW were conducted successfully. Following the UGC's Expert Committee's recommendations and guidelines regarding examinations in the Universities, the University immediately took steps without a pause and successfully conducted online examinations for its final semester students using the University's Online Examination Portal and mobile app designed for the examinations.

Faculty Development Programme

The University organized a one week workshop on Service Learning from 8-14 January 2020 at Tapesia Campus with Prof. Andrew Carlson and Prof. Suzanne Walfoort from Minnesota State University, USA as the resource persons.

During this workshop, the resource persons engaged the participants in various activities with an attempt to make them understand the values and importance of Service Learning. Participants were grouped according to their departments and then were tasked to find out how best they can incorporate Service Learning in their academic goals and also in their lesson plans. These plans drawn with the guidance of the resource persons were then presented by each group.



Service Learning enables the integration of academic inputs, relevant community-centred activities followed and preceded by structured reflection in an intertwined partnership. It envisages the combined endeavors of faculty, students and community members to engage in a learning process that results in academic, civic and personal development while, at the same time, tackling the challenges affecting the wider society. Its strength lies in the transformational potential of a pedagogical strategy that evokes action, reflection and change: in our students, in us as educators and in our communities.

The University conveys its sincere gratitude to Prof. Andrew Carlson and Prof. Suzanne Walfoort and wishes them all the very best in all their endeavours.

Farewell to Fr (Dr) Biju Michael

The University on 21st August 2020 bade farewell to its Registrar, Fr.(Dr) Biju Michael who has been elected as the Regional Councillor of the Salesians of Don Bosco for South Asia Region. A short gathering was held at Azara Campus where various Directors and the Vice Chancellor Fr.(Dr) Stephen Mavelly expressed their gratitude to him for his service at the University.

Fr. Biju Michael joined the University as a Registrar in 2017 after being a Dean of the Salesian Theological Studentate 'Ratisbonne' in Jerusalem from 2011 to 2017. His contribution as a Registrar at the University will be fondly remembered in the annals of the University's history. The University wishes him Godspeed in his new mission as a Regional Councillor of South Asia.



On this occasion, the new Registrar Fr. (Dr) Johny Jose was also introduced to the University faculty and staff. He was the Principal of Don Bosco College, Kerala from 2006-2020 and holds a PhD in Computer Science and Engineering.

International Yoga Day 2020

The International Yoga Day 2020 fell on Sunday this year, therefore, Yoga session was conducted on the lawns of Academic Block I on the following Monday, 22 June 2020.

In spite of the ongoing pandemic, there were some faculty, staff and research scholars on the campus who could take part in the session. Care was taken to maintain social distance and each participant wore a mask. The session was led by Dipyasuruj Konwar, a final year student of BA (Hons) English. A total of 15 participants performed various yoga postures.



As per the instructions from the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, the speech of the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was also uploaded on the University's official youtube channel, Facebook page, and Twitter.

International Women's Day 2020

Azara Campus: A Special Morning Assembly was held on 5 March 2020 to mark the International Women's Day 2020 as this year the International Women's Day falls on a Sunday. Speaking about the significance of this day, Dr. Nabamita Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Language Studies, said that International Women's Day is celebrated annually on 8 March in order to honour Women's rights in all spheres – political, social, economic as well as cultural. She mentioned in her talk that though the world has made advancements in many fields, no country has achieved gender equality in the true sense of the term. Dr. Das emphasized that collectively we can make this change happen in our society by challenging the stereotypes that the society creates, broadening our perspectives as well as fighting biases and injustice. The talk culminated with a video highlighting the essence of being a woman in the 21st Century.

Tapesia Campus: At Tapesia Campus, the University organized a special assembly in the morning where Dr. Ngangom Aomoa spoke on the history of International Women's Day and the status of women in ancient India saying, "During the Vedic age, more than 3,000 years ago, women were assigned a high place in society. They shared an equal standing with their menfolk and enjoyed a kind of liberty that actually had societal sanctions. The ancient Hindu philosophical concept of 'shakti', the feminine principle of energy, was also a product of this age". He added that we also found a teaching that 'A girl also should be brought up and educated with great effort and care. (Mahanirvana Tantra)'

In this short programme, women faculty members and staffs were felicitated and Daisy and her friends presented a group song.

Kharguli Campus: At Kharguli Campus, a power point presentation was made on various women on the campus and was shown at the Assembly.



Don Bosco's Feast Day Celebration

On 31st Jan 2020, the Feast of St. John Bosco (Don Bosco) was celebrated at both Azara and Tapesia Campuses with holding special assembly in the morning.

At Azara Campus, floral tributes were paid to the bust of St John Bosco by members of the management and also by staff and student coordinators. A short presentation on the life of Don Bosco, prepared by Mr Ankit Panda was shown and toppers of the Autumn Semester 2019 were also felicitated on this occasion.

At Tapesia Campus, the celebration of the Feast of St John Bosco began on 29th evening with a Bosco Nite where musical performances, quiz competitions and a bonfire were held. And on 30th January, a movie 'The Two Popes' was shown in the Auditorium of Block -I as a part of the celebration. On 31st morning, dance performances, video on the life of Don Bosco, a speech from the Vice Chancellor, and prize distribution of Poster making competition, Quiz etc were held at the Atrium of Academic Block – II.



National Conference on 'Trends in Modern Physics'

A two day national conference on 'Trends in Modern Physics 2020 (TiMP 2020)' was held on 24-25 February 2020 at Tapesia Campus. The Conference, organized by the Department of Physics was the second conference of its kind organized at the University.



At the inaugural session, Prof. Sudhakar Panda, FNA, NNASc, Director of NISER, was the Chief Guest while Prof. N. Nimai Singh, Head, Physics Department, Manipur University, and Prof. Dilip Kumar Choudhury, Retd. Professor of Physics Department, Gauhati University, were the Guests of Honour. Dr. Samrat Dey, Head of the Department of Physics, shed light on why the Physics Department is carrying out TiMPs in particular and all the events, in general. Dr. Debajyoti Dutta presented a brief overview of the conference. He also explained that the purpose of organising these annual conferences in Northeast India was for the young researchers of the region to share their ideas and also solicit suggestions and help from renowned academicians from various parts of the country. Dr. Monmoyuri Baruah, Director, SFAS and Prof. Atri Deshmukhya, Head, Physics Department, Assam University, also spoke on the occasion.

The inaugural session was followed by the plenary talk delivered by Prof. Sudhakar Panda who discussed about the possible scope and challenges in Physics, with a special focus on HEP. The conference proceeded with five oral technical sessions with a number of invited talks and contributory talks dedicated to the trust areas - particle physics, astrophysics & cosmology, plasma physics, nuclear physics and material & nanophysics. The invited speakers included Prof. N. Nimai Singh and Prof. Mrinal K. Das from Physics Department, Tezpur University; Prof. Atri Deshmukhya and Prof. Madhurjya P. Bora from the Department of Physics, Gauhati University; Prof. B. N. Jyrwa from Physics Department, North-Eastern Hill University, Dr. Smruti Ranjan Mohanty from Centre of Plasma Physics – IPR and Prof. Sunandan Baruah. This was followed by an interactive poster presentation session wherein a large number of posters were presented.

In the valedictory session feedback from the participants were collected and vote of thanks was delivered by the convener Dr. Debajyoti Dutta. Dr. Ngangom Aomoa and Mr. Dipjyoti Sarma were the co-conveners in the conference where eighty participants from sixteen institutions of Northeast and other parts of India presented their research.

Workshop on Research Methodology

A one-day workshop on “Research Methodology” was organized by the Department of Commerce on 27 January 2020 with an aim to develop an understanding of research in the field of Commerce and Management.

The sessions were informative and threw light on various aspects such as definition of research, the purpose of conducting research, and the six steps of conducting a research - problem definition, developing an approach, research design, fieldwork, data analysis and report preparation, and Presentation - with each topic being examined thoroughly. The workshop concluded with a discussion on the ethical issues in research including plagiarism-related issues.



GATE Pre-Examination Training Programme

The Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE) successfully conducted a six month (August 2019 to January 2020) GATE Pre-Examination Training Programme for the final year students of the Department. The students were trained by the Professors of the Department and were equipped with the relevant resources and strategies to tackle questions corresponding to the latest GATE pattern. On 24 January 2020, an online examination of 2.5 hours duration was conducted for all the students who enrolled for the Programme. The students were evaluated by the Professors and, in addition, they were encouraged to evaluate themselves to further allow them to face the Examination with confidence.

3-Day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp

A “3-Day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp” was organized by the School of Technology, Assam Don Bosco University in collaboration with Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India from 31 January 2020 to 3 February 2020. The Camp was organized with an aim of planting a seed of entrepreneurial mindset in the participants.

The Camp was inaugurated by Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, Director, School of Technology, Assam Don Bosco University. In his address, Professor Kalita focused on the need to create an awareness about entrepreneurship and emphasized on adopting local entrepreneurship, considering the low industrialisation rate in Assam and the neighbouring North-Eastern States. Further, Professor Kalita iterated the significance of the Act East Policy which will facilitate close ties between the North-Eastern Region and other ASEAN countries and can therefore, provide ample opportunities that can boost industrialization in the NER.



The first day of the workshop was conducted by “Start-Up Assam” a local start-up training organization headed by Mr. Pan-kaj Gogoi, one of the key resource persons of Assam Start-Up Nest under the Government of Assam. Mr. Gogoi provided an overview of his role in building and creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the state of Assam. Mr. Jayant Jalan focused on approaches to pitch an idea to venture capitalists for the much-needed seed capital for a start-up. The session concluded with an interaction with Mr. Neeraj Gautam Hazarika, Founder Director, Bor Noi. Mr. Hazarika introduced the students to Target Addressable Market, Market Research, and Project Report.

On the second day, the sessions were presided by Mr. Abhishek Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce. Mr. Chowdhury acquainted the students with monetization strategies for generation of funds. This was followed by a session on cash-flow quadrant by Mr. Th. Johnson Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

The final day of the Camp was dedicated towards familiarizing the participants with the practical facets of industries. The students were divided into two groups, one group visited Supreme Industries while another group visited Torsa Machines, both of which are located at Export Promotion and Industrial Park, Amingaon, Guwahati. After the visit, there was an open discussion among the students and the officials of the two Units.

Royal Enfield - Assam Don Bosco University

As part of the Industry-Academia collaboration and to further the alliance between Royal Enfield and Assam Don Bosco University, a UCE engine was delivered to the Department of Mechanical Engineering by Royal Enfield under its CSR programme on 31 January 2020.

This will aid in the learning process of the students by way of enhancing their skills and understanding. Fr. Joseph Nelanat, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Manoranjan Kalita, Director School of Technology, the representatives of Royal Enfield, and the faculty of the Department were present in the occasion. The program was initiated and coordinated by Mr. Pranjal Sarma, Faculty of the Department.



Training of Trainers

A 7-Day Workshop on Literary Criticism & Theory, and Phonetics & Phonology titled 'Training of Trainers' organised by the Department of Language Studies concluded on 23 January 2020 at Tapesia Campus.

The training programme was organized for teachers from Samtse College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan as they are gearing up to introduce modules on Phonetics and Phonology. According to Tashi Gyeltshen, an Assistant Professor at Samtse College, 'The training programme was very well structured with theory and practical sessions and 'made us more confident in starting the modules in our college'.



Workshop on Fuel Conservation

A one-day workshop on "Fuel Conservation for Engineering Students" was organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, Assam Don Bosco University in association with Indian Oil, PCRA, BPCL and Hindustan Petroleum on 14 February 2020.

The students of the Department of Civil Engineering participated in the workshop where Mr. Ranjan K. Baruah, a social entrepreneur was the speaker in the workshop. In this workshop, Mr. Baruah gave insights into fuel conservation and the role of engineers in generating sustainable fuel to create a better world for the future generations and urge the students that the responsibility lies with the present generation.



Industrial Visit to IIT Guwahati

On 15 February 2020, the Sixth Semester Students of the Department of Civil Engineering visited a Water Treatment Plant and other related sites at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G) under the supervision of Dr. Girija T R., Head of Department. The industrial visit enabled the students to relate their theoretical knowledge to the practical aspects of the course on Water Treatment in Environmental Engineering.

Workshop on Basic Plasma Physics 2020

A two day workshop on Basic Plasma Physics was organized by the Department of Physics on 12-13 February, 2020 for under graduate students of North East India to motivate them to take up plasma physics as their specialization in their higher studies.



In the inaugural session, Rev. Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavelly, the Vice Chancellor welcomed the participants to the workshop and the university. He also expressed the interest of the university in the use of plasma technology for water purification.

The technical session began with an 'Introduction to Plasma' by Dr. N. Aomoa, Asst Professor, Dept. of Physics which was followed by a talk by Dr. Sumita Sharma, DST Woman Scientist, IASST, about research in experimental plasma physics. After these two talks, the participants had hands on session with the glow discharge plasma device in plasma laboratory and conducted experiments to study the Paschen law and I-V characteristics of the glow discharge device.

On the second day, Dr. Pratikshya Bezbaruah, ADBU, opened the technical session with a talk on research in theoretical plasma physics. After the talk, some videos on the applications of plasma were shown. After that, the participants visited Centre of Plasma Physics –Institute for Plasma Research (CPP-IPR), Nazirakhat, Sonapur, where they were shown different laboratories and interacted with the scientist and students of the institute. In the afternoon technical session, Dr. Partha Saikia, CPP-IPR, gave a talk on plasma diagnostics.

Before the workshop concluded with a Valedictory Session, a feedback session was conducted by Dr. Samrat Dey, Head, Department of Physics where the participants gave oral feedbacks about their experiences. At the valedictory function, a certificate of participation was distributed by Dr. Monmoyuri Baruah, Director of the School of Fundamental and Applied Sciences.

The workshop was attended by 28 external participants coming from seven colleges and institutes of Assam and Meghalaya and the students of the Department of Physics.

Industrial Visit to AEGCL

On 12 March 2020, 25 students of B. Tech. (Eighth Semester), accompanied by Mr. Sunil Deka and Mr. Papul Changmai of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE), visited the 400 KV Grid Sub-Station under AEGCL situated at Kukurmara, Mirza (Assam).

Mr. Dilip Kumar Padgiri, AEGCL, guided the students throughout the entire visit through demonstrations on various equipment and acquainting them to the sections of the substations which also included the control room. The students gained knowledge about the different parts comprising the substation - such as the lightning arresters and post insulators, CVTs with wave traps (for PLC purpose), earth switches, line reactor of 3 MVAR (used with the line incoming from Silchar to compensate for reactive power), CTs and PTs, Bus reactor, SF6 CBs - as well as their functions. The idea of the industrial visit is to render to the students practical experience of the real world, electrical systems operation and its related issues, and the visit is expected to bridge the knowledge gap between industry and academia.



Lecture on 'Research Potential in Herpetology'

The Department of Zoology in collaboration with Eco Club organized a lecture on 'Research Potential in Herpetology' on 10 February 2020 at the Auditorium of Academic Block I, Tapesia Campus. The lecture was a part of a series of lectures christened 'Science behind Nature'.



The lecture was delivered by Prof. Sushil Kumar Dutta, a renowned herpetologist, who worked at Utkal University and North Orissa University as a Professor in Zoology till he retired in 2012.

In his lecture, he reminded the students of Zoology that there is an ample scope for research and growth in the discipline and encouraged the students to immerse and fall in love with nature. He touched upon the distributional pattern of various species of amphibians, reptiles in India, South-East Asia and Africa and discussed the important roles played by scientific community in conservation and said that having knowledge of systematics, taxonomy and biodiversity are the key aspects of conservation. The University and the Department of Zoology conveys its sincere gratitude to Professor Dutta for taking a time out to interact and inspire the students despite a busy schedule.

EGTET 2020

The 1st Springer International Conference on Emerging Global Trends in Engineering and Technology (EGTET 2020) was the third Conference in the EGTET series organized by the School of Technology, Assam Don Bosco University. The Conference, held on 6 and 7 March 2020, was based on the theme "Smart City". The primary objective of the Conference was to bring together researchers working in diverse areas of Science and Technology (S&T) to interact and exchange new ideas as well as to explore possible collaborations among the participants.



A total of 65 research papers were received from various Institutions across India which included research works from National Institute of Technology (Srinagar), Manipal University (Jaipur), Thapar Institute of Engineering (Punjab), North Eastern Hill University (Meghalaya), Jorhat Engineering College (Assam), Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (Bhubaneswar), Birla Institute of Technology (Jharkhand), Gauhati University (Assam), and Assam Don Bosco University (Assam).

The inaugural session was graced with the presence of the Chief Guest, Professor Dharendra Nath Buragohain, Founder Director and Emeritus Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, and Guest of Honour, Professor Dhiraj Bora, Vice Chancellor, Assam Science and Technology University. The programme also witnessed the presence of two eminent guests, Professor Yumnam Jayanta Singh, Director, NIELIT, Guwahati and Professor Sukumar Nandi, IIT-Guwahati.

The technical session began with a keynote address on “Visible Light Communication” delivered by Dr. Karel L Sterckx, Director, Bangkok University Centre of Research in Optoelectronics, Communications and Control Systems (BU-CROCCS). This was followed by three informative and engaging sessions by Professors from foreign Universities which included “Green IoT (G-IoT) Ecosystem for Smart Cities” by Dr. Vasaki Punaswamy, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia; “Intelligent Intrusion Detection System through Optimized Machine Learning” by Dr. Biju Issac, Department of Computer and Information Sciences, Northumbria University. Deliberations from researchers in India included “Urban Motility with Special Emphasis on Smart Transportation” by Dr. Jenita Mary Nongkynrih, NESAC, Meghalaya, “Micro-grid Power Management Issues for Smart City” by Professor Durlav Hazarika, Department of Electrical Engineering, AEC, and “Technological Challenges and Issues of Connected Vehicles” by Professor Kandarpa Kumar Sarma, Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE), Gauhati University.

EGTET-2020 has proven to be an ideal platform - for industry professionals, researchers, engineers, and academics from across country and the world - to share their views and present their finding and to eventually raise awareness among stakeholders to lead us a step further towards achieving the dream of smart city development.

Webinar on Cyber-safety

The Institution Innovation Council (IIC), Assam Don Bosco University in association with Department of Computer Applications organized a Webinar series on 18 May 2020 and 19 May 2020 on the noteworthy subjects of “Cyber Security Challenge” and “Cyber Safety”. The speakers were Dr. Varun Kapoor (IPS), Additional Director General of Police, Madhya Pradesh and Mr. Arjun Chetry, Assistant Director (IT), North Eastern Police Academy, Meghalaya.



On Day 1, the awareness session was conducted by Dr. Varun Kapoor through an initiative - BLACK RIBBON - where he focused on aspects and dimensions of cyber security such as (i) Use of cyber space, (ii) Components of cyber-crime. (iii) Digital footprint, (iv) Phishing, (v) Smishing, and (vi) Social media usage and cognizance. The session concluded with an engaging question and answer session. The session was attended by approximately 200 participants from across the globe which included students, professors, cybersecurity professionals and police officers.

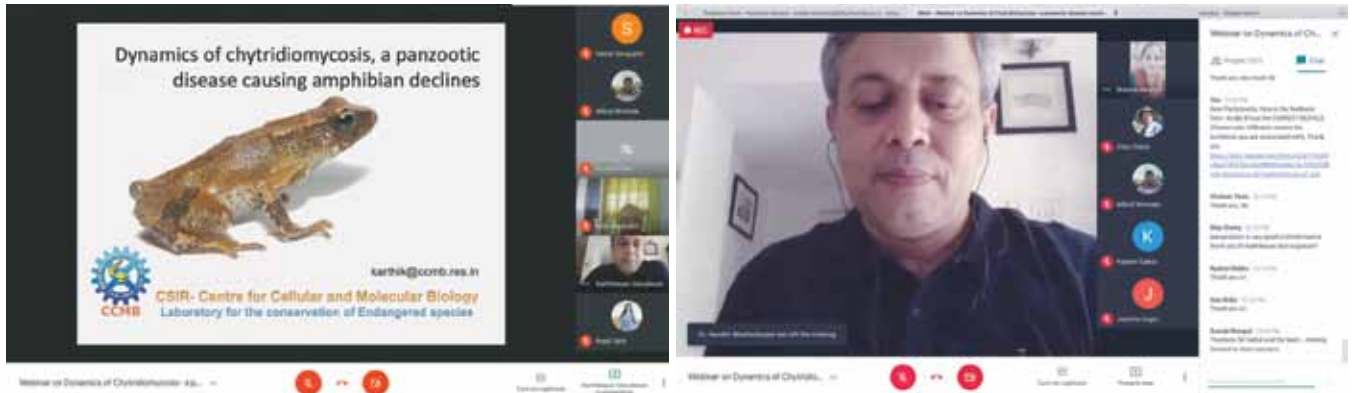
On Day 2, Mr. Arjun Chetry, Assistant Director (IT), North Eastern Police Academy, Meghalaya was the speaker. The session included a series of presentations on various facets of Cyber Space: (i) Cyber space facts of India, (ii) Smart grasping of smart devices, (iii) Equation of data with power, (iv) Cyber attacks, (v) Vulnerabilities in android applications, (vi) Virtual Private Networks (VPN), (vii) Usage of social media in smart devices, and (viii) Trackers. Towards the end of the session, the speaker answered questions raised by the participants. There were approximately 100 participants and the video gained around 700 views.

The webinar was immensely successful owing to the hard work put in by all the members of the Organizing Committee: Dr. Uzzal Sharma, President IIC, Assam Don Bosco University; Mr. Arjun Chetry, Assistant Director (IT), North Eastern Police Academy, Meghalaya; Dr. Varun Kapoor (IPS), Additional Director General of Police, Madhya Pradesh; Mr. Ankur Goswami, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Civil Engg.; Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Civil Engg; and the students of the University, Mr. Arnob Das, Mr. Sagar Basumatary and Mr. Deep Rai.

Assam Don Bosco University has always been engrossed in the expansive evolution and success of its students and this two-day webinar was a step forward towards accomplishing and executing its intent and purpose.

Webinar: Dynamics of Chytridiomycosis: A Panzootic Disease Causing Amphibian Declines

As Homo sapiens braves the Covid-19 Pandemic Era, another group of organisms - the amphibians - has also been fighting for its survival amidst a fungal panzootic disease, Chytridiomycosis (amphibian chytrid fungal disease). To shed light on this deadly disease which is responsible for a global decline of amphibians worldwide, the Department of Zoology in collaboration with the EcoClub hosted Dr. Karthikeyan Vasudevan, Scientist-F, LaCONES, CCMB, Hyderabad, for an interaction with 150 wild-life enthusiasts from across the country. The Webinar entitled "Dynamics of Chytridiomycosis - A Panzootic Disease Causing Amphibian Declines" was held on 16 August 2020.



Dr. Vasudevan shared his concern regarding this deadly invasive fungus among the amphibians which has led to the extinction of 90 species worldwide (Scheele et al., 2019). He cited the ongoing research work in his Laboratory, which is challenging yet exciting. Dr. Vasudevan further pointed out that this is a fertile area, a spawning ground rather, for research.

The participants showed a keen interest in the event, particularly in the Q&A session during which Dr. Vasudevan took to clarify their doubts.

The Department is grateful to Dr. Karthikeyan Vasudevan for his time and willingness to serve as Speaker for the Lecture Series Science behind Nature #3.

Scorpions : The Incredible Arachnids

The Department of Zoology in collaboration with the EcoClub, Assam Don Bosco University hosted a webinar on "Scorpions: The Incredible Arachnids". The event was conducted in two days, 8 and 9 August 2020. The speaker was the (also) "incredible" Pratyush P. Mohapatra, Ph.D., of the Zoological

Survey of India. Dr. Mohapatra introduced the participants to the wonderful world of Scorpions and the plethora of research gaps where students with a quest for greater knowledge on scorpions, can explore. The sessions received a good response from participants belonging to various parts of the country as well as overseas. The total number of participants was close to 300.



The Department is grateful to Dr. Mohapatra for sharing his valuable time to engage and interact with the academe community.

Awareness Programme on BS IV Technology

An “Awareness Programme on BS IV Technology” was conducted on 15 February 2020 by the Board of Research, Innovation and Technology, Assam Don Bosco University in association with the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Azara Campus.



Mr. Poonam Chowdhury, Deputy Manager of Ashok Leyland, delivered an informative lecture on the implementation of BS IV emission norms in India. The major difference between the existing BS-IV and forthcoming BS-VI norms is the presence of sulphur in the fuel. While the BS-IV fuels contain 50 parts per million (ppm) sulphur, the BS-VI grade fuel only has 10 ppm sulphur content. A total of 30 students participated in the Programme.

Awareness and Skilling Programme on Plastic Technology

The Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) Guwahati organized a three-day “Awareness and Skilling Programme on Plastic Technology” from 28 February 2020 to 2 March 2020. The first two days were hosted at the CIPET campus and the third day was hosted at the School of Technology, Azara Campus.

At the CIPET campus, students gained access to live demonstrations by experts from CIPET and also obtained a practical exposure on the Design of Plastic Products and Molds, Fabrication of Molds, as well as Processing of Plastic Products and Testing of Plastic Products. In the sessions conducted at Azara Campus, representatives from CIPET, Dr. H K Deka, Senior Technical Officer, Mr. Lian Jacob Tangpua, Assistant Technical Officer, and Mr. Debajit Kalita, Assistant Technical Officer, delivered interesting lectures on Plastics Materials & its Applications, Advanced Plastics Processing & Testing of Plastics Product; Processing of Plastics & Fundamentals of Plastics Product & Mold Design; and Recent Trends in Polymeric materials and Processing. The Programme concluded with a brief session on ‘Plastics – Wonderful Materials for Engineers’ by Mr. K. J. Ghai, Director and Head, CIPET, followed by concluding remarks by Fr. Joseph Nellanat, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Assam Don Bosco University and the distribution of certificates to the participants.



RESEARCH PULSE

PhD Coursework 2020

This year, a total of 60 students were selected to begin their journey of research in various areas. The inauguration of a 6 month long coursework was held online on 15 June 2020 where Prof. Shakuntala Lashkar delivered a keynote address and the oath taking was administered by Fr(Dr) Stephen Mavelly, the Vice Chancellor. 26 students from Social Sciences and Humanities and 34 students from Science and Technology are now going through their coursework online.

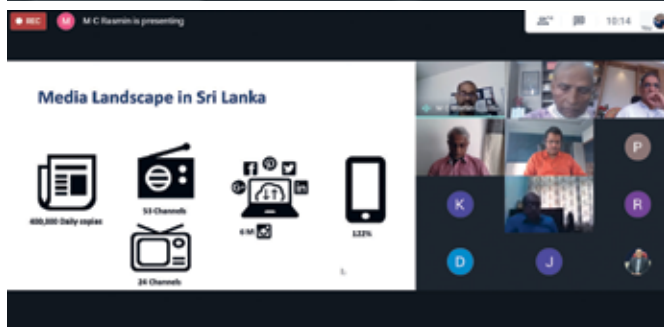
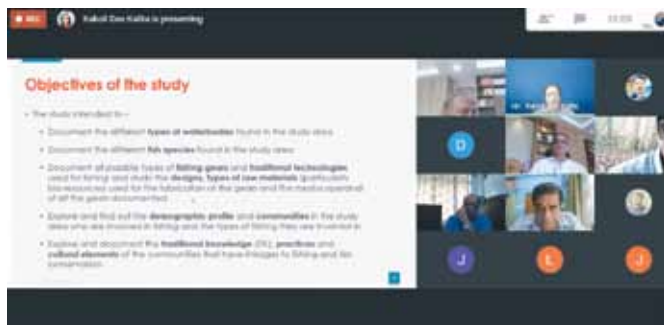
The course is well designed to suit the needs of a modern day research scholar. It is a 12 credit course equally split into three papers:

1. Research Methodology with statistical techniques and computer applications – evaluated by assignments and written test,
2. Subject Specific Course – evaluated by assignments and written test and
3. Literature Review – evaluated by report evaluation and presentation.

PhD Viva Voce

A total of 5 students successfully defended their thesis in the Viva Voce Examination held in the month of August 2020.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Kakoli Das Kalita | Noth East India Studies |
| 2. Jaison Varghese | Social Work |
| 3. MC Rasmin | Mass Communication |
| 4. Purchila Jamir | Comparative Religion |
| 5. Rosily TE | Education |



PhD Pre-Submission Presentations

A PhD Pre-Submission Presentations were conducted online for 11 research scholars from 12-18 August 2020. The following are the students, their departments, guides and topics.

1. DS Vidhya - Electronics and Communication Engineering
2. Jessy MJ - Social Work
3. Chandra Kanta Bhattacharjee - Biotechnology
4. Dominic PT - Social Work
5. Marie Kalita - North East India Studies
6. Joby Mani - Social Work
7. BijitDebbarma - Management
8. Mitra Das - NEIS
9. Kuntal Sarma - NEIS
10. Agnes Humtsoe - Education
11. Francis Senastian - Management

