

SPARK



A Newsletter for Don Bosco University family, alumni and friends

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Tapesia... the bees are back!

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Message from the Vice Chancellor

The other day I had the privilege of visiting CERN (The European Organization for Nuclear Research) where physicists and engineers are probing the fundamental structure of the universe. CERN's main area of research is particle physics – the study of the fundamental constituents of matter and the forces acting between them.

What is the universe made of? How did it start? Physicists at CERN are seeking answers, using the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments to study the basic constituents of matter – the fundamental particles. The process of making the particles collide together close to the speed of light provides the physicists clues about how the particles interact, giving them insights into the fundamental laws of nature and the origins of the material universe.

Founded in 1954, the CERN laboratory sits astride the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva. It was one of Europe's first joint ventures and now has 22 member states. India became an Associate Member a couple of years ago (adapted from the website of CERN).

Here are some of the topics engaging some of the best minds in the world at CERN, and the mind-boggling experimental set-ups that have been created there over the years...

Here are some of the topics engaging some of the best minds in the world at CERN, and the mind-boggling experimental set-ups that have been created there over the years...

Antimatter : The Big Bang should have created equal amounts of matter and antimatter. So why is there far more matter than anti-matter in the universe?



The Higgs Boson – the elusive particle that is considered the source of mass for the elementary particles. Predicted to exist years earlier, it was observed on 4th July 2012 at an experiment at CERN's Large Hadron Collider.



The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's largest particle accelerator, collides protons or lead ions at energies approaching the speed of light to mimic aspects of the big bang. The LHC consists of a 27-kilometre ring of superconducting magnets with a number of accelerating structures to boost the energy of the particles along the way.



Incidentally, it was while working at the CERN, that Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web (WWW) in 1989. The web was originally



conceived and developed to meet the demand for automatic information-sharing between scientists in universities and institutes around the world. On 30 April 1993 CERN, true to its philosophy, made the World Wide Web technology available freely to the world, allowing the web to flourish and become the all-encompassing mode of communication today.



I was there by invitation to gain some perspectives into how CERN works and to explore the possibility of entering into a Memorandum of Association (MOA) with them for the benefit of our faculty and students: exposure, exchange, short-term courses, participation in projects etc.

Prof Tapan K Nayak (ALICE Experiment Deputy Spokesperson CERN and a Scientist at the Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre of the Experimental Physics Department) guided me through the day assisted by Deepa Thekkel (a post-doctoral Research Associate in the same department).

I had fruitful meetings with Prof Federico Antinori (ALICE Experiment Spokesperson CERN & INFN Padova Experimental Physics Department) and with Prof Emmanuel Tsismelis (Principal Physicist and Head of Associate Member and Non-Member State Relations). We are planning to enter into a meaningful MOA very shortly.

It was a memorable experience, to say the least. What struck me most was the warmth, the openness, the eagerness to share their work and discoveries with everyone, the camaraderie that exists between scientists, researchers and students from all over the world – it was delightful to see people from all nationalities and colours and languages working as one with an openness rarely witnessed at any other such facility... Soon, our University too shall be a part of that scenario!

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

Center of Excellence in Nanotechnology Inaugurated

With plans to be the leader in nanotechnology research in North East India, a Center of Excellence in Nanotechnology (CoEN) was inaugurated on 11th January 2017 at the School of Technology, Azara Campus by Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavely, Vice Chancellor, and Prof. Barbara Karn, Executive Director, Sustainable Nanotechnology Organization, USA.

The CoEN will focus on research in Nano-sciences and Nanotechnology leading to industry-ready technology/products, development of human resources for implementing nanotechnology through interdisciplinary research, initiate strong interactions leading to collaborations with leading academic institutions and industry for innovations, setting up of a state of the art nanotechnology characterization lab with facilities like Scanning Electron Microscope, Transmission Electron Microscope, X-ray diffraction spectroscope, Photoluminescence Spectroscope, Raman Spectroscope, Inductively Coupled Mass Spectroscope, Gas chromatograph, etc., design and fabrication of basic instruments for nano fabrication and characterization.

The CoEN will advocate the concept of Poor Man's Nanotechnology and assist other institutions in setting up basic Nanotechnology research labs. The CoEN plans to set up a library (both printed and electronic) of nanotechnology related books and research publications, organize International and National Conferences, Symposiums, Workshops, etc. and support researchers in submitting research projects to funding agencies.

Speaking on this occasion, Prof. Sunandan Baruah, Head of the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, Assam Don Bosco University, informed the efforts put in over 3 years to build up the Center, and that his research team had designed and built a number of instruments for nanomaterial synthesis, characterization and device fabrication which are now a part of the CoEN. Prominent scientists and academicians present during the inauguration included Prof. Klaus Leifer from Uppsala University, Sweden, Prof. Tarashankar Pal and Dr. Anjali Pal from IIT Kharagpur, Dr. Chanchana Thanachayanont and Miss Phetcharaporn Ninwilai from National Science & Technology Development Agency, Thailand, Dr. Somobrata Acharya from Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata, Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Pro-VC, Assam Don Bosco University and Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, Director, School of Technology, Assam Don Bosco University.

Nanotechnology is the technology of the 21st century and is considered by many as an industrial revolution as it has made a horizontal impact traversing across all types of vertical industrial sectors like computers, telecommunication, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, aerospace, defense, construction, energy, to name a few.

Staff Development Programme

Aligned with the preventive system of education prevalent in Don Bosco institutions world-wide, the University organized a two day Staff Development Programme on "Mentoring and Counselling...key to holistic education" on 17-18 February, 2017.

The Programme had the following objectives:

1. Understand the concepts of mentoring and counselling and how to apply these processes, strategies and intervention across the board – with students and stakeholders, and within systems
2. Develop an increased awareness of one's own cultural lens and how it impacts the mentoring and counselling process
3. Present aspects of developmental processes, wellness and prevention tactics that are the foundations of effective mentoring and counselling
4. Facilitate the establishment of constructive, safe and ethical relationships with students and other stakeholders

The two day programme facilitated by Prof (Fr) George Palamattathil saw enthusiastic participation from the Vice Chancellor, Pro- Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Controller of Examinations and the University Faculty and Staff.



The University Opens Center for Developmental Studies and Initiatives

The University, in its effort to carry forward its vision of being a catalytic agent to bring about progress and development to its neighbouring villages, launched its 'Centre for Developmental Studies and Initiatives' at an interactive meeting held with the leaders of local communities on 23 February, 2017 at Crystal Hall, Tapesia Campus.



Addressing the gathering of 78 people, including Panchayat Presidents, Village Headmen, School Teachers, Anganwadi Workers, Self Help Group members, students and staff volunteers, the Vice Chancellor Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavely explained why the University took such a step, "Opening this Centre is to formalize what we have been doing in bits and pieces during the last five years or so. This is a seminal gathering to bring about a participatory approach in our interactions and interventions with our neighbours. The university alone cannot work for the development of the communities but we would like to work together with you to see developments in the community in education, health and standard of living. The 'Centre for Developmental Studies and Initiatives' will become a hub for study, research and developmental activities as a regular feature of our university. My hope is that every graduate in our university will spend some quality time in volunteering for developmental work in the villages of North-East India as a compulsory part of their studies with us. This Centre will start organizing that as we go along."

Mr. Surjya Das, President, Digaru Goan Panchayat expressed his gratitude for the existence of the university and said that he is looking forward to working together with the University's various developmental initiatives.

Discussions were held on issues and challenges being faced by these communities in water supply, electricity, road, alcohol abuse, lack of infrastructure for social institutions, and disintegration of Government Assamese Medium Schools.

Earlier in 2015 and 2016, the University in collaboration with University College Dublin, Ireland had organized a one month Community Development Programme in partnership with local communities in these communities. Some of the project activities included repair of a well, capacity building workshops for livelihood development, English classes, and refurbishment of Anganwadis.

Spring Semester Inauguration

On January 16, Spring Semester began with inauguration functions held at both Tapesia and Azara Campuses. At both campuses, academic excellence awards were given to the toppers of Autumn Semester 2016.

At Azara Campus, tributes were also paid to Assamese cultural icon Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwalla as the same day marked his death anniversary. The Vice Chancellor Fr Stephen Mavely in his address urged the students to take the example of Jyotiprasad, saying, "Culture is the common identity of a community. As a person who gave a new shape and voice to Assamese culture, it is only apt that we honour him today".



International Conference on Advances in Nanotechnology

The International Conference on Advances in Nanotechnology, iCAN 2017 jointly organized by the School of Technology and Sustainable Nanotechnology Organization (SNO), USA was held on 9-13, January 2017.



The main objective of the conference was to motivate young researchers from academic and research institutes in the north eastern part of India to explore the possibilities of using nanotechnology, and to provide a platform to interact and exchange new ideas and also to explore possible collaborations with the researchers from across the globe working in diverse areas of Nano-science and Nanotechnology.

The convener, Prof. Sunandan Baruah gave a brief introduction to iCAN 2017 and mentioned that iCAN 2017 is the 1st International Conference organized by the School of Technology to promote environmental research amongst the researchers of the north eastern region. Prof. Barbara Karn, co-Founder and Executive Director, SNO, USA giving a brief introduction to SNO said, “the main aim of SNO is to promote sustainability in technologies” and added that ‘any research should be performed in sustainable manner’.

The Guest of Honour, Prof. Arun Chattopadhyaya, Department of Chemistry and Centre of Nanotechnology, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati in his address expressed his hope that this conference will help bring a group of dynamic and focussed individuals in the area of nanotechnology together.

“This is the era of nanotechnology,” said Shri C.K Das, IAS (Retd.) and Member of North Eastern Council, Shillong, and advised the researchers and scientists present to pave ways for using nanotechnology in the field of agriculture to increase productivity, in the field of medicine for treatment of cancer, for water purification, skill development, removal of malnutrition, etc.. Shri Himangshu Shekhar Das, IAS (Retd.) and the Chief Information Commissioner, Assam was the chief guest at the inaugural session. The Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shree Narendra Modi, as well as the Hon’ble Governor of Assam, His Excellency Shri Banwarilal Purohit, expressed their keen interest in iCAN2017 and sent messages to be read on their behalf.

The plenary address was delivered by Prof. Arun Chattopadhyaya on the topic “Transition from Nanoscience to Nanotechnology”. He informed the gathering that they are working on the use of nano-scale particles such as quantum dots, metal nanoparticles and atomic nano-clusters for health-care applications and also mentioned about a “thumb imprint” based device for diagnosis of hyperbilirubinemia (jaundice). He discussed about the fabrication of a new device for analyses of genes and proteins on a single platform.



The resource persons for this workshop were Prof. Siddhartha Sankar Mukhopadhyay, Senior Pedologist (Retd), Department of Soil Science, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana and Dr.Barbara Karn, Co-founder and Executive Director, SNO, USA; Prof. Achintya Bezbaruah, Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, NDSU, USA.

Workshop on Managing Personal and Professional Roles

A two-day workshop on Managing Personal and Professional Roles for Women in Higher Education Systems, collaboratively organised by the Gender Amity Committee of the University and the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), UK, was held on 17- 18 March 2017.



self, role and identity, and women and men interface. These sessions were facilitated by renowned educationist Prof. Kranti Jejurkar, former Vice Chancellor of Bombay University, and Ms. Shanthalembi Lisham, Member, GAC, ADBU. These topics were developed with reference to the Workshop Manual— Management Development for Women in Higher Education (4-6), published by the Commonwealth Secretariat and ACU.

The programme was attended by a panel of eminent personalities engaged in the fields of gender justice, education and development work. Mr. John Borgoyary, Regional Head, United Nations Development Programme, Northeast India, attended the programme as the Chief Guest. “Mainstreaming gender in all spheres of development is the key to reach the Fifth Goal of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In order to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls it is necessary to change the stereotypical notions surrounding the personal and professional roles of men and women in our society,” said Mr. Borgoyary in his keynote address.

“Ideological commitment to gender equality by both men and women of our society will foster a more just society for women,” addressed Prof. Meeta Deka, Head, Department of History, Gauhati University, who attended the Workshop as the Guest of Honour.

The facilitators and the participants shared their personal and professional experiences in social as well as organisational settings, covering all the key areas— knowledge, attitudes and skills— required for moving along a journey of successful and dignified personal as well as professional lives in the future. Amazing stories of courage, strength and resilience shared by the participants were skilfully taken up, analysed and presented by Prof. Jejurkar, the resource person, as successful examples of how it is possible to confront, overcome and change demeaning personal and professional situations of women into that of success and justice.

AISHE Workshop

At the request of the Government of Assam, the University organized a one-day workshop of All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) on Maintenance and Updating of Institutional Data for Technical Institutions of Assam, on 27 March 2017 at Azara Campus.

AISHE is a programme initiated by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development and it is important for policy decisions and research for the development of education sector at District, State and All India levels. AISHE covers information of an educational institute on enrolment at various levels, human resources, infrastructure, income and the expenditure.

The nodal officers of various technical institutes of Assam participated in this workshop as directed by the Directorate of Technical Education, Assam. The resource person, Prof. Jamal Hussain, Head of Department of Mathematics and Computer Science of Mizoram University facilitated the workshop.

During the first session which focused on the importance of accuracy of data uploaded by colleges, Dr. Jamal Hussain gave a clear presentation on how to maintain correct data and implications of such data. Technical assistance was provided to some institutions who could not proceed in filling up of some parts of the Data Capture formats that were required by them to be filled.



In the following session, Professor Jamal explained the new format of Teacher Information Form (TIF) which is designed to collect the data on each teacher from survey 2016-17 onwards. It contains details of all the teachers employed with the University/ Institution of Higher Education.

Maintaining correct data will help in building the nation as well as strengthen the image of the University/Institution said Dr. S. Nissi Paul, Assistant Registrar of Assam Don Bosco University in her concluding remarks.

Don Bosco's Feast Day

January 31st, the feast day of Don Bosco, saw the University campuses busy with various activities from traditional food fest to evening cultural shows.

As a part of fund raising for helping students of the local community near Tapesia Campus, students of the Schools of Humanities & Social Sciences and Life Sciences prepared their traditional food and made them available for lunch. Among the many choices were Thai, Naga, Manipuri, Khasi, Nigerian, Assamese food. A Cultural Programme after lunch consisted of a number of beautiful dances, dramas and singing performances.

At a morning gathering held at Azara Campus, Fr. Francis Fernandez, Controller of Examinations and Campus Minister, highlighted the life of St. John Bosco telling his journey from a small boy to a Saint while Assistant Prof. Mrs Subra Mukherjee spoke on the mission and work of Don Bosco Society founded by Saint John Bosco.

Ms. Juhi Baruah, Director of Human Resources, spoke on the educational system followed at Assam Don Bosco University. Ms. Barua said "An education system has 2 parts- Regressive and Progressive. Regressive system follows the system of punishment while the progressive system believes in love and care. Don Bosco Education System is progressive with love, care, reason and religion as its pillars." A song dedicated to St. John Bosco, composed by Senior Assistant Prof Bikramjit Goswami, was performed by members of the management and faculty of the university.



Workshop on Open Source Software for Library Automation

A workshop on Open Source Software for Library Automation was held at the School of Technology, Azara Campus on 23- 25 January 2017. The workshop was jointly organized by the University and DRTC, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Bangalore and was sponsored by ISI, Bangalore.



The inauguration function was graced by Prof. Mahendra Nath Bora as Chief Guest, Dr. Wooma S. Dev Nath as Guest of Honor and Prof. ARD Prasad as the Chairperson of the Programme, along with dignitaries of the University.

The workshop aimed at developing an expertise on Open Source Software known as KOHA by providing a thorough training, tutorial, demonstration and hands-on practice. It also aimed at updating the professionals and academic community about content management.

Out of 86 professionals who registered for the workshop, 25 were selected from Assam, Meghalya, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh. The resource persons included Prof. ARD Prasad, HOD DRTC, ISI Bagalore; Prof. Devika Madali, DRTC, ISI Bangalore; Dr. Sunita Barve, NCL Pune; Dr. Gautam Kr. Sarma, IDOL Gauhati University and Dr. Firstborn Roy Sumer, Deputy Librarian, NEHU, Shillong.

International Women's Day Observed

The University observed this year's International Women's Day organizing group discussions, performances and skits at all its campuses.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences organized a street march in the morning, in an attempt to raise awareness on the importance of gender equality among the local communities. It was followed by a special assembly. A group discussion was held in the afternoon under the Speaking Tree on a topic 'Hegemony and Feminism'.

Short speeches from the faculty and students focussed on this year's International Women's Day theme 'Be Bold for Change' at the School of Commerce and Management. Rev. Fr. Johnson also spoke on the importance of realizing how challenging it is to be born a woman telling a story of a man who asked God to turn him into a woman as he felt that women don't have much responsibilities. Stressing on the presence of gender inequality at various levels, Garry from MBA 2nd Semester quoted Malala Yousafzai, "Women cannot succeed when half of them are held back; this meant that the world isn't free yet for women to be celebrated freely".



The University welcomes...



Fr. Peter Leonard, Dean of Graduate Education/ Associate Professor/Coordinator of Biology, DeSales University, USA and his team visited the University on 24th February 2017



Prof. (Dr.) Daniel Werner from the Business Administration Department of Hof University (University of Applied Science), Germany, visited the University on 7th March, 2017 and interacted with the University Management and also with the MBA students.

EVENTS AT THE SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

Two Week ISTE Workshop

A two week ISTE Short Term Training Programme on CMOS, Mixed Signal and Radio Frequency VLSI Design was held from 30th January – 4th February, 2017 at the School of Technology.

Out of two weeks, one week was equivalent to five physical weeks where video lectures and assignments were uploaded. After completing the assignments spread over 5 weeks the participants assembled at the remote center for one week face to face interaction and lecture sessions through A-View software and completed team assignments, tutorials, quizzes etc.

The course was focused on the following three issues and some case studies:

- Design, analysis and implementation of CMOS Mixed Signal and RFIC are attractive topics both in academia and Industry.
- CMOS RFIC design is a challenging and critical engineering task particularly in the arena of deep sub-micron technology.
- There is a strong demand of manpower having through knowledge and hands on experiences in VLSI design using state of the art EDA tools.



This ISTE-STTP is completely funded by National Mission on Education through ICT (MHRD, Government of India). The course was free for the participants and all the live videos were recorded and the final edited audio-visual contents along with other course materials will be released under open source for free access. There were twelve participants for the STTP from Assam Don Bosco University, Gauhati University and Assam Engineering College.

Observation of National Science Day

Basic Science Club of the School of Technology organized a Quiz Competition in commemoration of the National Science Day on 28th February 2017. Out of 17 group participants, 6 groups were selected for the final round. The competition covered topics on latest scientific developments and basic scientific facts with quizmaster Asst. Prof. Parag Bhattacharya from the Department of Basic Sciences.

Workshop on GST and Student Employability

A one day workshop on GST and Student Employability was held on 8th March 2017 for the students of B.Tech and B.Com in the Conference Hall of the School of Technology.

The first lecture was delivered by Lalita Natarajan, Scientist C, ESSPC, Central Silk Textile, Ministry of Textiles, on the topic 'Cashless India or Cashless Transaction in India'. She highlighted the different mobile applications that have been introduced to promote cashless economy while listing the problems that are being faced by people using cellphones without internet facility and informed that a solution has been designed and was recently launched. She ended her lecture by emphasizing upon the benefits of Cashless Economy.



The second session on 'One Country, One Government, One Tax' was facilitated by Samakhya Das, C.A. who started the session explaining the meaning of tax and the different types of taxes that are levied in India. Then he spoke on GST and the types of GST, the impacts of GST on the prices of Goods and Services. After that he explained the difference between GST and other taxes that are levied in the Goods and Services. This was followed by group discussion.

The last session on 'Students' Employability' was facilitated by Mr. Sayan Roy from ICA who spoke about the techniques and training sessions that are designed to help the students to hone their skills to snare better opportunities according to their capacity.

EDIC Talk

The Entrepreneurship Development and Incubation Cell organized a talk on changes recently introduced on a scheme named 'Support for Entrepreneurial and Managerial Development of SMEs through Incubators' on 28th February 2017.

The scheme, introduced by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India aimed at reviving and strengthening the operations of the manufacturing sector, particularly small and medium enterprises and sharpen their competitiveness. The Scheme envisages selection of a large number of academic and training institutes and provision of financial support to set up at least 100 technology business incubators to host about 1,000 micro, small and medium enterprises.

The Entrepreneurship Development and Incubation Centre (EDIC) of the School of Technology, ADBU has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Govt. of India, New-Delhi under this scheme for setting up of a Technology Business Incubator. The agreement allows the incubator and incubates to apply various projects for getting the seed capital.



A Talk on Smart Grid in Assam

The Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering organized a special industry talk on “Smart Grid in Assam” on 1st April 2017.

Mr. Anuj Goswami, Assistant General Manager, APDCL was the resource person of the symposium where he talked on “Smart Grid Pilot Project by APDCL”. Sharing his wide experience of working very closely with planning and commissioning of Smart Grid project in Assam, he encouraged the participants to get involved and contribute ideas in tackling the constraints of implementation at different levels. In the brainstorming session, the resource person interacted with the participants on various electricity related issues in the north-eastern region. The talk was attended by 6th and 8th Semester students of B.Tech, M.Tech students and faculty of the Department.



Lecture by Dr. Malte Martensen

On the 16th February, the School of Technology organized a talk on “Managerial Complexities” by Dr. Malte Martensen, a Professor of HR and Organizational Behavior from the International University of Applied Sciences, Germany. Dr. Malte Martensen had worked with Accenture and had also been a consultant for companies like Nokia, BMW and Lufthansa.

After giving a short introduction he talked about how managing people has become an extremely challenging and complex task than what it was 30 years ago. Differentiating between complex and complicated systems, he said, ‘a complicated system is like driving an airplane, it requires specialized expertise. However there is a relatively high degree of certainty of outcome repetition. Whereas, a complex system is not predictable and is synonymous to managing people, where every individual has to be dealt with differently’. Prof. Martensen also talked about technological disruption and how it has affected business and life in general. He explained the concept of cognitive bias and selective awareness and how these two affect our perception.

In his concluding note, he said, “Challenges are always accompanied by opportunities. In order to face these challenges and grab the opportunities, one has to be ready for continuous learning.”



EVENTS AT THE SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES

The highlight of current academic semester in the School of Life Sciences is the flurry of activities as the final semester students are attending their dissertation credits. This is the first batch of the School attending dissertation. For the students to be able to develop their own individual research proposals in consultation with their supervisors and thereafter planning and carrying out experiments, analyses and presenting the findings in a scientific manner all by themselves has brought about an atmosphere of thrill, thought and enquiry critical to the academic development of the School.

The diversity of the research themes indicate the dimensions of expertise being pursued. A group of students are using computational and bioinformatics approaches to study the features of intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs), a category of proteins which defy the commonly held view that proteins require a definite 3D structure in order to be functional. IDPs are found to be involved in a range of cellular activities as signalling hubs, owing to the flexible conformations they can assume. These proteins can interact with a range of other proteins and serve as hub proteins in interaction networks. A lot of these IDPs are also implicated in diseases e.g., the tumour suppressor protein p53, α -synuclein etc. Therefore, IDPs that are associated with disease pathologies can serve as potential targets for drug discovery. Projects towards study and utilisation





of local bio-resources have also been accorded priority. Studies to explore potentiality within plants, microbes and their interactions in conferring useful properties like anti-microbial effect, bioremediation, anti-oxidant and other health promoting properties, flavours and fragrances have engaged the students to spend long hours on their lab workbenches. Isolation of endophytic microbes from edible and medicinal plant tissues, extreme environments, their identification by DNA sequencing, phytochemical extraction, separation and identification of medicinal metabolites, fermentation, infection/co-culture and microbial consortia to study essential oils are some specific activities presently underway.

Breakthrough Technology

Agarwood is an important bio-resource of northeast India from which a range of exotic perfumes, allied fragrance and therapeutic products are made. Dr. Supriyo Sen, who joined the School as Assistant Professor last November, has been engaged in research since the last 5 years on fungus-agarwood interaction with reference to Assam agarwood aroma. His research has recently been published in Scientific Reports (14th March issue; Nature Publishing Group) where for the first time, the role of fungal fermentation in defining the famous Assam agarwood aroma has been revealed. Dr. Sen is going to translate the lab generated technology on agarwood fermentation into a commercial venture with funding under the Biotechnology Ignition Grant Scheme (BIG) of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, which he is heading as Project Co-ordinator while incubated at GBPIC, Technology Complex, IIT, Guwahati.



EVENTS AT THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Community Self-Help Week

A Community Self-Help Week was organized by the Department of Social Work to raise funds for Community Intervention Programmes, designed to help the less privileged and the marginalized communities around the University campuses. It also aims at imbibing skills of raising funds locally to the Social Work students.

The programme which began on 28th January saw various fund raising activities including food stalls set up at the local market and at some spots in the University Campus. Also on this day Car Washing was held at the University Campus and also at the nearby resorts and restaurants. A breakfast Bonanza was organized on 29th morning where even the families living in the campus pitched in in preparing various food items.

On 30th January, food stalls as well as games and entertainment counters were set up at a nearby village which attracted a huge crowd who engaged in various games with a lot of enthusiasm. The programme ended with the celebration of Don Bosco's Feast Day on 31st January 2017.



Workshop on Building Effective Student-Teacher Relationships

A workshop on 'Building Effective Student-Teacher Relationships' was conducted by the Department of Psychology and Counseling on 9 September, 2017 for teachers of St. Patrick's School, Kamarkuchi. The workshop was a part of an initiative of the Community Counselling Unit of the University.

The workshop aimed at helping teachers to understand certain ways and strategies to identify and accept students' feelings and the importance and ways to demonstrate and communicate care. It also aimed at making the teachers learn and incorporate the important steps of effective mentoring so as to enable them to develop a constructive way of correcting and guiding the students.

One Day NGO Consultation

A one day NGO Consultation on 'Harnessing the Potentials of Fieldwork in Social Work Education' was organized by the Department of Social Work on 2 February 2017 at Crystal Hall, Tapesia Campus.

Welcoming the representatives from 13 NGOs and student participants, the Vice Chancellor Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavely emphasized the importance of the three dimensions of social work, saying, "In social work, there is evidently, study and research as it is an academic discipline leading to the formation of the mind. Then, there is immersion and involvement – this is where the heart and emotions are touched. And lastly, there is the meeting and the reflection – this is where the spirit and soul are involved. All three dimensions are important if one is to be an informed, involved and effective social worker".



This one day consultation programme aimed at sharing and learning the expectations of students and NGO's from field works so as to develop a better relationship with the partner NGOs.

Speaking on the importance of fieldwork, the Registrar, Dr. Basil Koikara said, "To be effective, the master of social work program should be an optimal blend of theory and practice. While remaining rooted in the principles of sociology, anthropology, political science and economics and the theories of social work, the MSW program should also provide opportunity to students to practice what they learn in the classroom to the fieldwork and this is the essence of Social Work. Fieldwork gives firsthand experience in translating theories and principle into practice while helping students to choose and fine tune the areas that they want to focus on and career that interests them".

Other speakers included Mr. Bibhuti Bhusan Gadanayak, State DRR Coordinator, UNICEF Assam Field Office, who spoke on 'The Present Trends and Challenges for Social Work and the Proposed Response'; Fr. Thadeus Kujur, Snehalaya spoke on 'Expectations from the Social Work Students'; Sister Rose Paite spoke on 'Potentials of Fieldwork in Social Work Education'; and Mr Nibahun Diengdoh spoke on 'Expectations of the Social Work Students'.

A Round Table Conference

A Round-Table Conference on the theme "Communication for Development: Critical Approaches" as part of Imageind 2017 - The Sonapur Edition, organised by the Department of Mass Communication, and sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR-NERC) at Tapesia, Sonapur Campus was held on 30th March 2017.

The conference commenced with a short inauguration and introduction of the members of the conference. These included Mr. H.S. Das, I.A.S. Chief Information Commissioner, Government of Assam as the Keynote Speaker and Chief Guest; Prof. Sanjib Kakoty from IIM, Shillong; Nasreen Habib, the Editor of Eclectic Magazine; Veena Kumari, Communication for Development Officer, UNICEF Field Office Guwahati; Dr. Riju Sharma, Director, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Assam Don Bosco University; Wanphrang Diengdoh, award winning Filmmaker and Musician; Gitali Kakoty, Programme Coordinator, Radio Jnan Taranga as invited members and Rev. Fr. John D. Jayakumar, Founding Member of the Department of Mass Communication, St. Anthony's College, Shillong, as the Moderator of the Conference. The Vice Chancellor and the Registrar of the University also took part as members of the conference.



Mr. H.S. Das in his keynote speech lauded the efforts of the department for the initiative 'Imageind 2017-The Sonapur Edition' and while stressing on the importance of communication tools for development he raised questions of privacy and truth that might be infringed upon and misused in the social media, and said, "we are in the age of the 'post-truth' and the 'alternative truth'".

The discussion that ensued thereafter, had the members discuss on various aspects of communication for development. From referring to what can be considered the three aspects of communication i.e. "to inform, conform and reform" that have perhaps hijacked the marketing requirements of communication to discussing the idea of free flow communication, the members of the panel stated their various perspectives based on the areas of expertise they came from.

Some key ideas discussed were 'techniques of grass root communication', 'the level of participation for communication to take place', 'corporate social responsibility', 'media trials' and 'if information centres in our country are actually having the impact they are meant to have' besides other very engaging points of view presented. The moderator rounded off the discussions by stating a quotation from one of his professors, "Think of your thinking, learn from your learning and question your questions!" That while dealing with 'Communication for development: Critical Approaches', one must be willing to question everything.



EVENTS AT THE SCHOOL OF COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT

Extension Lecture by Mr. Natarajan Ramanathan

On March 11, 2017, the MBA students had an interactive session with the Guwahati Branch head of SBI General Insurance, Mr. Natarajan Ramanathan. During the session, he explained how general insurance policies differ from life insurance policies. He also explained the possible career options in the general insurance sector. Mr. Ramanathan said that the term 'general insurance' includes health insurance, property insurance, insurance on vehicles, insurance against theft etc.

Mr. Ramanathan also talked about the importance of making a right career choice, citing his life experience as an example, and encouraged the students never to give up when one door closes but to stay open as there are multiple career choices.



JourNEI 2017



The School of Commerce and Management has organized its Management Fest "JourNEI 2017" on 24 February 2017 with an aim to discover hidden talents of MBA students.

The fest gave a chance for management students to exhibit their extracurricular activities in terms of both management and cultural activities. Such events help in the overall development of students in various dimensions. This year's theme was 'Unleash the Young Mind' which insisted unleashing the power of imagination and the power of a dream.

The sponsoring partner for the fest was Pepsi (Varun Beverages) and the programme was attended by nearly 150 graduate students from several colleges in Guwahati.

Industrial Visit - SEBI

As part of the student development programme at DBIM, an educational visit to SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) Regional Office, Guwahai for the MBA students was organized on 6th and 8th of March.

The purpose of the visit was to help the students get better understanding and insight into the need and importance of financial planning. The two hour programme started at around 2pm at their conference room where Mr Jagannath Das, Assistant General Manager at SEBI who gave a talk on Securities and Financial Planning. At the start of the programme all the students were given a booklet titled "Lessons on Financial Planning for Young Investors". Mr Das began his lecture with the fundamentals and basics of investment. He discussed how to set SMART goals, how to achieve these goals, the comparisons of risk and returns, savings and investments, SEBI roles, different regulators of finance like IRDA, PFRDA, NHB, etc., different schemes like CIS (Collective Investment Scheme), NPS (National Pension Scheme), etc. He discussed a lot on stock market trading and the various investment avenues in the Indian financial market. The students also learned some savings and investment related products like Equity, Company fixed deposits, Bonds, Mutual Funds, Government Schemes, etc. He talked of the Precautions to be taken before and while making investment decisions by showing some cases of fraudulent companies and Ponzi Schemes. Later, Mr. Das had an interactive session with the students.



RESEARCH PULSE

The first quarter of Spring Semester 2017, the ADBU research wingwitnessed the following activities:

Ph.D. Interview/Written Test: Ph.D. interview/writtentest for the Ph.D.Programme2017 Session in Biotechnology, Civil Engineering, Computer Science Engineering, Education, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Management, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics, Social Work and Zool-ogy were held from27th February – 4th March, 2017.

Admission to Ph.D., Programme: A total of 24 candidates were admitted to the Ph.D. Programme - 2017, i.e., 13 for Science and Technology, and 11 for Humanities and Social Sciences.



Commencement Ph.D., Course-work: The Six Month Research Methodology Course-work for the batch of 2017 commenced on the 3th April, 2017. At the start of the Course-work, the Ph.D., scholars solemnly pledged voluntarily on – Integrity, Pursuit of knowledge and Safety, and to abide by the principles of ethical conduct and research policies set by the ADBU. The pledge was declaredin the presence of fellow researchers and University officials.

Proposal Presentation and Registration for Ph.D.: On the approval/recommendation of the Board of Research Studies, the proposal presentation of the scholars mentioned below have been registered: Charles M. Ezung, Victor Narzary, Bibharani Swargiary, Angelina Lalrintluangi, Lalhmangaihsangi (L-R in pic).



Pre-submission Seminar: Rachel Kabi, Michael Kolb, S. Xavier, Lydia Booney Jyrwa, Shalu and Daino Basumatary presented their Pre-submission Seminars. Their draft theses have been approved for submission with minor corrections/modifications.

Thesis Submission: On successful pre-submission seminars, Shajimon M.L., Husca and Terence Mukhia have submitted their theses and are awaiting their Viva Voce Examinations.

Ph.D. Viva-voce Examination: Ms. Neikehienuo Mephuo of the Department of Language Studies on completion of the requirements of the Ph.D. programme had her Viva-voce Examination on the thesis entitled, "Narrativization of the historical and the autobiographical: The question of tribal identity in the novels of Louise Erdrich and Easterine Kire". The Viva-voce Examination was held on 10th April, 2017.



ADMISSIONS 2017 OPEN

BTECH:

Civil, Mechanical, Electrical,
Computer Science, Electronics

BCA

BCOM Professional

BA Honours:

English, Mass Com
Education, Psychology

MTECH

Civil, Mechanical, Electrical
Computer Science, Electronics

MCA, MBA, MSW

MSC

Physics, Chemistry, Biotechnology
Microbiology, Biochemistry, Zoology
Psychology

MA

Education, Human Rights, Mass Com

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- University offices at Tapesia Campus or Azara Campus
- City Office at Ganeshguri (Office No. 507, 5th Floor, Protech Centre, G.S. Road, Ganeshguri)
- Our institutions: Don Bosco College, Tura; Sacred Heart College, Shillong; Salesian College, Siliguri; St. Joseph's College, Jakhama; Auxillium, Udalguri; Don Bosco Junior College, Bongaigaon; St. Mary's School, Aizawl; Don Bosco Schools at Agartala, Barpeta Road, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Diphu, Doom Dooma, Haflong, Imphal, Jorhat, Jowai, Kohima, Kokrajhar, Maram, Mirik, Silchar, Ziro; Don Bosco Social Institute, Tezpur; Don Bosco Youth Centre, Laitumkrah (Shillong); Don Bosco Youth Centre, Itanagar.
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