

SPARK



A Newsletter for Don Bosco University family, alumni and friends

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FOURTH CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY

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Message from the Vice Chancellor

The other day, browsing through some of the talks of Tony D'Mello, the master of psycho-spiritual movement at his Sadhana Ashram in Pune (India), I came across this delightful insight that is so typically Tony – here it is in his own words:

There's the story of little Johnny who, they say, was mentally retarded. But evidently he wasn't, as you'll learn from this story. Johnny goes to modeling class in his school for special children and he gets his piece of putty and he's modeling it.

He takes a little lump of putty and goes to a corner of the room and he's playing with it. The teacher comes up to him and says, "Hi, Johnny." And Johnny says, "Hi." And the teacher says, "What's that you've got in your hand?" And Johnny says, "This is a lump of cow dung." The teacher asks, "What are you making out of it?" He says, "I'm making a teacher."

The teacher thought, "Little Johnny has regressed." So she calls out to the principal, who was passing by the door at that moment, and says, "Johnny has regressed." So the principal goes up to Johnny and says, "Hi, son." And Johnny says, "Hi." And the principal says, "What do you have in your hand?" And he says, "A lump of cow dung." "What are you making out of it?" And he says, "A principal."

The principal thinks that this is a case for the school psychologist. "Send for the psychologist!" The psychologist is a clever guy. He goes up and says, "Hi." And Johnny says, "Hi." And the psychologist says, "I know what you've got in your hand." "What?" "A lump of cow dung." Johnny says, "Right." "And I know what you're making out of it." "What?" "You're making a psychologist" "Wrong. Not enough cow dung!" And they called him mentally retarded!

In his book "The Parents' Tao Te Ching: Ancient Advice for Modern Parents", William Martin has some memorable verses on teaching children the things that really matter. He advises parents:

*Do not ask your children
to strive for extraordinary lives.
Such striving may seem admirable,
but it is the way of foolishness.*

*Help them instead to find the wonder
and the marvel of an ordinary life.
Show them the joy of tasting
tomatoes, apples and pears.*

*Show them how to cry
when pets and people die.
Show them the infinite pleasure
in the touch of a hand.*

*And make the ordinary come alive for them.
The extraordinary will take care of itself.*



These verses assume tremendous weightage in this day and age when 'excelling' at any cost is projected as the way forward in life: it doesn't matter if someone else gets hurt in the process. Feelings, emotions, empathy are for the losers. It is the brave, the brash, the rude and the bold who get to forge ahead.

Given that scenario, how does one go about the task of inculcating a deeply rooted conviction that a cultured person is compassionate, is socially committed, knows his or her own place in the world and has a modest and realistic image of himself or herself?

It is indeed a difficult task today for parents, and for educators, to get the attention of their children/wards 'to find the wonder and the marvel of an ordinary life' ... 'to make them taste the infinite pleasure in the touch of a hand' ... and 'to make the ordinary come alive for them'.

Dag Hammarskjöld, the former UN Secretary-General, put it so beautifully: "God does not die on the day we cease to believe in a personal deity. But we die on the day when our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance of wonder renewed daily, the source of which is beyond all reason."

The year is ending - the 'mellow fruitfulness of autumn' has metamorphosed into the grey, cold drizzle of wintry evenings. but, "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

On that note of hope, let me wish you an abundance of blessings this Christmas and right through the New Year - much peace in the heart, an abiding sense of joy, and an acute awareness of the unfathomable blessings and plans the Good Lord has in store for you for 2016...

"I have spread my dreams under your feet; Tread softly because you tread on my dreams"

16 Dec 2015

Fr Stephen Mavelly SDB
Rector & Vice Chancellor

Fourth Convocation of the University



On 3 September 2015, the University celebrated its Fourth Convocation at its Azara campus, Guwahati, in a vibrant celebratory atmosphere. It was a momentous occasion that marked another significant milestone as the first 5 Doctoral candidates of the University were awarded doctoral degrees.

The Fourth Convocation was graced by Shri P.B. Acharya, the Honourable Governor of Assam and Visitor to the University, Shri Tarun Gogoi, the Chief Minister of Assam, along with many dignitaries and eminent guests from prestigious academic institutions, the graduates and their parents.

Congratulating the University and the graduating class of 2015, Shri PB Acharya, the Honourable Governor of Assam and Visitor to the University said, “I am convinced that the University and you have been working hard over the past few years, for you to arrive where you are today... You have been groomed by Don Bosco University to be life-long learners. Keep in mind that it is very easy to think that you have already succeeded when you are still on your way to success. The willingness to learn the things that you do not know, the courage to accept and learn from your mistakes and the ability to listen to others will put you on the right track. So learn to listen to and respect others knowing that other people, with their differences, can also be right”.



The Valedictorian, representing the Post Graduate students, Cassandra Caszo, an MSc Psychology graduate said, “...this is the lesson I would like to share with all of you. No matter what our future holds, there will be times in our lives where self-doubt stands in the way of an open door. When this happens, let us all remember one thing that Don Bosco University taught us - never let anyone tell you that you can't... Let us seize the moment and make the best of it.”

Expressing his gratitude for having chosen Don Bosco University and reassuring the present students, the Valedictorian representing the Doctoral students, Niranjana Agarwala, said, “I can assure you that you have chosen the best place to invest in your future where research has become a priority. Hard work and honesty are the only two criteria which you will need to get success here”.

The Vice Chancellor Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavely presenting the annual report gave a picture of the infrastructure development at the permanent campus of the University at Tapesia – the development of the first cluster of buildings and allied facilities in the form of an academic complex to house the five Social Science Departments together with 2 student hostels, a food court, 55 staff quarters and a Bioscience Complex with ample space for a ‘Sophisticated Instrumentation Lab’ to house the School of Life Sciences.

The Chancellor's medal for standing first across the degrees went to Miss Nasrin Ara Rahman and the two Vice Chancellor's medals for outstanding contribution to campus life were awarded to Miss Hazel Berret Wahlang and Miss Swapna Bhuyan for post graduate and graduate programmes respectively.

A total of 538 students graduated this year in different areas of studies including Engineering & Technology, Computer Applications, Social Work, Business Administration, Human Rights, Educational Leadership and Psychological Counselling. This Convocation also witnessed the graduation of 191 DBU Global Online and Distance Learning students, hailing from 28 countries.

Vice Chancellor at the 'World Congress on Education' at Rome

The Vice Chancellor, Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavely addressed the World Congress organized by the Congregation for Catholic Education from 18 to 21 November 2015 in Rome on theme "Educating Today and Tomorrow - a renewing passion".

Fr. Stephen presented a paper on 'Goals of Formation and the Educating Community – reflections on the digital generation' on 19th November, 2015 at a session held for the University educators.



Comparing yesterday's generation with the digital generation he said, "For us, the virtual world was an imaginary, but an ideal world, one that we could escape into...for today's youngsters, that virtual world is everywhere – a pair of earphones and a smartphone can transport them into another world anytime, with the sights and sounds of the real world literally and figuratively shut out...getting lost in the virtual world is a cause for alarm – some of them are hooked onto that, often with tragic consequences... One important skill area that is underdeveloped in a digital culture is face to face interpersonal interaction."

Touching upon the subject of 'liberal education', the Vice Chancellor said, "...the educational scenario in most of the developing and underdeveloped world is in stark contrast to the liberal education model in the West – an approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change...providing students with broad knowledge of a wider world as well as in depth study in a specific area of interest". Raising his concerns about the current trend of the educational scenario in the developing and underdeveloped world, he added, "a world filled with Scientists, Doctors, Engineers and Managers, to the exclusion of historians, philosophers and scholars of literature is simply not only lopsided, it will also be a society that will be misinformed about its future and past, and quite unable to imagine what a good society should be like".

The Congress, attended by 1400 specialists from across the world, celebrated two anniversaries: the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration *Gravissimum Educationis* and the 25th Anniversary of the Apostolic Constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*.



MoA with AIT: Unified Bachelor-Master Degree Programme

The University entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok to offer a five year 'Unified Bachelor - Master Degree Programme (UBMDP)', paving a new dimension of collaboration between the University and AIT.



The UBMDP will be offered in 5 branches of Engineering – Civil, Mechanical, Computer Science and IT, Electrical & Electronics, and Electronics & Communication Engineering.

Some key features of the Unified Programme are:

- The duration of the programme will be 5 years.
- Students who are admitted to this programme will spend the first 3.5 years at Assam Don Bosco University and the remaining 1.5 year at Asian Institute of Technology.
- Students will be awarded their Bachelor's Degree by Assam Don Bosco University and a Master's Degree by Asian Institute of Technology, both only at the end of 5 years, upon fulfillment of the requirements of each.
- Students admitted to the Unified Programme will be advanced to the second phase at AIT on completion of 6 semesters at Don Bosco University as well as passing the English Language Test to be conducted by AIT.
- Students will be eligible to compete for AIT tuition fellowship in the 5th year, based on their performance at AIT till 8th Semester.

National Conference on 'Quality in Media Education in India'

National Conference on 'Quality Configuration for Media Education in India' was held on 2-3 November 2015 at the Azara Campus of the University. The conference was organized by the the Departments of Education (established in 2013) and Mass Communication (established in 2014) in collaboration with Mizoram University's Department of Mass Communication (established in 2011).

The Governor of Mizoram, Lt. General (Retd.) Shri Nirbhaya Sharma, inaugurated the Conference in the presence of Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Vice-Chancellor of Don Bosco University and Prof. Dhruba Jyoti Saikia, the Vice Chancellor of Cotton College University and Dr. Ajit Pathak, Chairman, Public Relations Society of India and General Manager of Indian Oil Corporation.



"The prime point of the day is to refine the media education in India to meet the ever-changing demands of the profession by making it relevant and industry-oriented," said Chairman of the conference Prof. K. V. Nagaraj from Mizoram University and (Former) Pro Vice-Chancellor of Assam University, Silchar.

Dr. Paul Pudussery, the Convener of the conference and Head of the Department of Education, Don Bosco University, explained, "Given the status and standard of media education in the country, despite an enormous increase in institutions of media education, time has come for media professionals and academia to redesign, revamp and refurbish the portfolio, by altering the system protocol, for a meaningful future."

Among some 180 participants at the conference were delegations from Mizoram University (33), University of Madras (39), Rajiv Gandhi University from Itanagar (6) and scholars from around the country. Apart from inaugural session, the conference had 3 plenary sessions and 7 technical sessions during which some 50 papers out of 100 plus abstracts received were presented.

A Pre-Conference Colloquium for students and research scholars was held on 31st October on the theme 'Media, Culture and Society'. The colloquium was inaugurated by Prof K V Nagaraj and saw the presentation of 12 papers from Don Bosco University and 11 from the University of Madras.



World Philosophy Day 2015



The University celebrated World Philosophy Day on 4th November with focused presentations and discussions on the national scenario on human rights and on the need for probity in public life.

"As a university community we are committed to providing a forum for healthy and open debate on matters of social relevance – in provoking thought and discussion having their impact on policy making," said Vice-Chancellor Dr Stephen Mavelly, inaugurating the World Philosophy Day commemoration.

The two hour event sponsored by Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi, witnessed two renowned academicians speaking on pertinent issues plaguing India today.- Dr. Prasanjit Biswas of North Eastern Hill

University, Shillong who spoke on 'Human Rights and Child Rights and their Violation with Reference to North East India,' and Dr. Sanjeeb Kakoty of Indian Institute of Management, Shillong, who dwelt on 'Probity in Public Life and Corruption.'

Dr. (Fr.) Francis Fernandez, Controller of Examinations, chaired the session attended by some 150 Masters level students of Social Work, Human Rights, Education, Psychology, and Mass Communication.

Speaking on the basic assumptions of human rights Dr. Biswas said, "Self-determination is a moral and ethical concept which gives a person complete ownership upon oneself based on human freedom." He insisted, "The very notion of being human and democratic hold together."

Commenting on the current intolerant political scenario Dr. Biswas warned, "No regime based on a narrow sectarian view has survived, nor can survive". Dr. Biswas implied that India is among the worst offenders in the area of upholding Child Rights - "Our position in child rights is a little above Myanmar and Uganda." To the utter surprise of the audience Dr. Biwas said, "India is not a signatory to the Palermo protocol – on prevention of child trafficking."

Speaking on probity in public life Dr. Sanjeev Kakoty insisted on “honesty and integrity that people holding public offices must have.” Highlighting what one individual and concerned young person could do to rectify the degenerating situation Dr. Kakoty called on the social media generation “to make use of social media, on which young people spend a conservative estimate of four hours a day, as an effective tool to fight corruption” by naming and shaming corrupt officials. “We need to demand probity and to get probity,” said Dr Kakoty, a Bosconian and an alumnus of St. Anthony’s College Shillong.

Swabalamban.. a commitment to impart practical skills to local youth

Three Departments of the University joined hands again in organizing a job-oriented training programme for educated unemployed youth of the neighbourhood. Into its second year, the Swabalamban Programme this year, once considered boys only domain, had 40 per cent women registering for skills training in electrical house wiring and in assembling, installing and maintaining inverters.



“Last year when we started the program we had over 100 applicants for ten seats, all boys. But this year we have four girls enlisting in the program,” said the Convener of the project Swabalamban (Self-reliance) and Head, Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) Department, Prof Sunandan Baruah.

While the Social Work department of the university mobilized the youth by disseminating information to the villagers, selecting the trainees, and following up on the post training activities; the Electronics and Communication Engineering department trained students in assembling simple inverters, as well as in their installation and maintenance; and the Electrical and Electronics Engineering department trained participants in electrical house wiring.

The free training program, conducted in collaboration with Azara Gaon Panchayat in one of University’s 39 labs at Azara campus from 23 November - 3 December, was sponsored by a US based Non Resident Indian NGO called OAKOKHO (<http://www.oakokho.com>.)

OAKOKHO is an initiative started in 2013 by few Assamese settled in USA to make Assamese language, art and culture available and popular over the internet. The group also encourages and inspires talents from Assam and North East region in different fields of creative works ranging from literature to photography, web development to science and technology.

Swastyayan... a commitment

The on-going evening class cum coaching for the children of the neighbourhood reopened on 7th September 2015. The programme was launched in 2013 with 12 children who are all now enrolled in Colleges. Manned by volunteers from the University (staff and students), it is gratifying to note that every one of the beneficiaries of these classes cleared their high school examinations, year after year.

While in the area of academics the classes focus on English, Maths, Science, and Social Sciences, orientations and counselling on career, workshops on health and hygiene, inputs on social etiquette and personality development form integral parts of this extension venture of the University.

The University has also opened a Community Counselling Centre at the School of Technology, Azara Campus for the Azara locality.

Appreciation Day

As 2015 draws to a close, the entire University family (the larger family of staff, faculty and their families) got together at the Tapesia Campus of the University, on 29th November, to celebrate its family spirit and to recognize the achievements of every member of the University team.

Love, laughter, joy, appreciation were some of the recurring themes as the day unfolded with friendly competitions for the elders (in fishing and tug-of-war), with entertainment for the kids (magic and muppet shows), with song and dance and parodies, and with fun and food and diverse forms of entertainment. A picture perfect day!



EVENTS AT THE SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

Indrajeet Bhuyan goes places... detects flaws in banking software

A first year student of Computer Science and Engineering & IT, the School of Technology found a flaw in commonly used banking software.

Indrajeet Bhuyan while making a payment through 'challan' in the bank noticed a machine through which people can update their bank pass books just by inserting it in the machine, and that got his attention.

"Last year while I was filling up the forms for various entrance examinations, I had to go to the bank to pay the entrance fees through challan. There I noticed people going near a particular machine where they could update their passbook without inserting any card or entering any security codes, which made me curious. After a little observation, I got to know that the machine uses barcodes to authenticate the users. Later, I did an in depth study on the machine and how it operates; after working on it for a few months I found a flaw in the system by which the authentication can be bypassed and anyone can see the bank balance and the entire transaction history of any user".

After finding the security risks in this commonly used machine in the banks, Indrajeet published his findings on his blog (www.hackatrick.com). Media did pick up the story and carried it online as well as in print. However, even after he informed about the security risks to various banks and requested them to take steps to patch the flaw, Indrajeet said, "I did not get any response from any bank and thus decided to present my findings to two of the renowned security conferences of the world namely – ToorCon , which is held at San Diego, California and Ground Zero Summit-Asia's foremost information security summit, New Delhi".

Both the Conferences accepted his paper and invited him to present it in their conferences. Indrajeet presented his paper at the Ground Zero Summit, New Delhi, and could not



attend ToorCon, due to delay in obtaining a Visa.

Speaking about his experience at the Ground Zero Summit, Indrajeet said, “It was a great learning experience for me to present my paper before eminent personalities and people that I have only heard and read about. After my talk many people approached me and gave me their cards for future contacts. I was also offered jobs by two of the companies. Few also asked me to submit my CV to their esteemed organizations.”

Don Bosco University is proud of his achievement and waits to hear of his path-breaking progress in the years to come.

Workshop on ARDUINO & RASPBERRY PI

The Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering organized a two day workshop on ARDUINO and RASPBERRY PI (WAR-2015) on 19-20 September 2015.

Prof. Durlav Hazarika, Department of Electrical Engineering, Assam Engineering College, Guwahati, and Prof. Shakuntala Lashkar, Head of the Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering, Assam Don Bosco University, animated the workshops.



The first session was conducted by Mr. Gitu Das, Asst. Professor, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Assam Don Bosco University. Explaining the basic procedures for working with ARDUINO, he also gave a demonstration on interfacing of LED, LCD, motors and other peripheral devices with ARDUINO. Participants were exposed to a practical hands-on experience, aimed at fostering practical skills in this domain.

The Second Session was conducted by Mr. Jyoti Kumar Barman, Asst. Professor, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. Mr. Barman illustrated the setting up of Raspberry Pi with laptops and other peripherals. The training also included a series of practical sessions on controlling different appliances using Raspberry Pi.

A total of 30 B Tech and M Tech students from the departments of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Electronics and Communications Engineering and Computer Science Engineering and IT benefitted from the workshop.

Workshop on Image Processing using MATLAB

The Department of Computer Science & Engineering and IT conducted a hands-on online training on ‘Digital Image Processing using MATLAB’ on 7th and 8th of October, 2015. Two eminent resource persons, Dr. Ramesh Manza and Dr. Pravin Yannawar, from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Maharashtra, conducted the workshop.

In this training, emphasis was placed on hands-on practices using MATLAB for various digital image processing techniques. The practical training was coordinated by Ms. Gypsy Nandi and Ms. Usha Mary Sharma under the guidance and support of Dr. Y. Jayanta Singh, Head of the Department of Computer Science Engineering and Information Technology.



The two-day workshop was attended by the final year students of MCA and B Tech.

Dataquest T-School Award for the University's School of Technology

The University's School of Technology has been honoured with 'Student Excellence among Private Institutes in the East Award' by Dataquest at T-School Conference and Award Function held at Jacaranda Hall, India Habitat Center, New Delhi, on 23 September, 2015.



Dataquest T-School Awards are given on the basis of Dataquest-CMR T-School Survey 2015 in which all the leading engineering institutions from all over India participated.

The awards ceremony recognizes excellence amongst technology schools on various parameters including placements, infrastructure, alumni, industry interface, HR scores, academic environment and more. Receiving the award on behalf of the School of Technology was Ms Mumtaz Begum from DBU Global – Online and Distance Learning wing of the University

Workshop on FOSS for Colleges in Assam

The University organized a training workshop for representatives from colleges in all 27 districts of the State of Assam on 2 December 2015. The initiative was supported by the Directorate of Higher Education, Assam by sending representatives from 43 government approved Colleges in the state.

"After promoting FOSS right from the start of the university since 2008, it is a dream come true for us to host faculty from colleges representing all 27 districts of the state," said Pro Vice-Chancellor of Don Bosco University, Fr Joseph Nellanatt, a FLOSS apostle.



"This is the first of its kind programme in the state and we can be a role model for other States," said Deputy Director of Higher Education, Government of Assam Mrs. Chinmoyee Talukdar addressing the gathering of some 70 academicians.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Stephen Mavely, had words of praise for the Department of Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) and Information Technology, for organizing the one-day Training in FOSS, at its Azara campus and thanked IIT Bombay Spoken Tutorial Team for their active collaboration over the past five years in promoting FOSS.

Among resources persons were the National Coordinator-Training, IIT Bombay, Ms. Shyama Iyer, and Executive Officer & Training Coordinator, IIT Bombay, Ms. Akanksha Saini.

Sessions included lectures on Spoken Tutorial project, Linux Operating System basics and installation, and hands on sessions in Libre Office. At the end of the workshop, besides certificates of participation for all participants, all 27 knowledge centers received ample materials on FOSS as well as DVDs with Spoken Tutorials on a variety of topics.

The Spoken Tutorial Project is about teaching and learning a particular FLOSS like Linux, Scilab, LaTeX, PHP & MySQL, Java, C/C++, Libre Office etc. via an easy video tool – Spoken Tutorials.

Survey Camp - Civil Engineering

The Department of Civil Engineering organized a one week survey camp for the 5th Semester students of Civil Engineering, 7-12 December 2015.

The camp was held at an open area of 20 acres belonging to STD Brick Industries, near the Azara Campus of the University. Over 60 students took part in learning different surveying techniques through various activities under the guidance of Mr Anup Koushik Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, and the Laboratory Assistants of the Department.



The participants went through hands-on experience in using theodolite, cross staff, levelling staff, tapes, plane table and total station which they had learned in theory. The survey camp aimed at equipping the participants with the necessary set of skills to enable them to follow effectively the field procedures required for mapping/alignment of a survey project.

During the camp, the participants were also required to compile data captured throughout the camp for further interpretation and analysis, and to later prepare drawings and reports based on the same.



EVENTS AT THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

World Mental Health Week

With an aim to create awareness about mental health issues, both within and outside the University campus, the Department of Psychology (Psychological Counselling) organized various activities to mark the World Mental Health Week. This year's theme was 'Dignity in Mental Health'.

The students displayed creative posters at the atrium, with each poster having a touch of humour to convey the importance of mental health highlighting possible risks and precautions to be taken. Two organizations working for people with mental disabilities, namely Sishu Sarothi and the Missionaries of Charity, were invited to display and sell various handicrafts made by their inmates as part of their rehabilitation.



Commending on the success of the event, Asst. Professor Sabiha from the Department of Psychology said, "We are glad that every single item displayed for sale was sold and that the University students have become more aware of issues related to

Mental Health. I hope that our students will become the ambassadors of change to ensure that people with mental health problems can live with dignity in our society”.

The week long programme concluded with the students of Psychological Counselling animating the Morning Assembly on 10th October, and the screening of a documentary film and an awareness drive among the high school students of the neighborhood.

Counsellors' Meet cum Workshop

The Department of Psychology and Counselling completed 3 years on 12th of September, 2015. Celebrating its Foundation Day, the Department organized a two day Counsellors' Meet cum Workshop on 19 - 20 September, 2015 at the Azara Campus. It was attended by eminent psychological counsellors of Assam.

In his welcome speech, Fr. (Dr.) Stephen Mavelly, Vice- Chancellor emphasized on 'training more students in the discipline of psychology to promote respect for those suffering from mental problems and to foster a society which is mentally sound'.



Dr. Sangeeta Goswami, President, MIND INDIA delivered a lecture titled 'Scenario of Counselling in North-Eastern States of India' followed by a vibrant discussion on the developments and future of Counselling in this part of the country.

Dr. Riju Sharma, Director, School of Humanities and Social Sciences & Head of the Department of Psychology, proposed the formation of a North-East Counsellors' Association (NECA) to serve as a platform to develop the profession of counselling in the North-East.

The Foundation Day's celebration was followed by a two day workshop entitled "Skill Based Workshop for Counsellors on Psychological Assessment of Child and Adolescent ". The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Ranjan Kumar, Clinical Psychologist currently working in Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur; and was attended by 34 participants from Don Bosco University, Gauhati University and few School Counsellors working in Guwahati, Jorhat and Jagiroad.

'Bosco Emporia' takes off...

Pioneered by the Department of Social Work, the University launched its Cooperative Store named 'Bosco Emporia' on 19 September 2015 in the presence of about 1000 students and faculty of the university. 'It has been in the discussion of the University and finally it has been actualized. It shall provide various quality services to the community of the university and the neighbourhood at an affordable rate' said the Vice Chancellor Dr. (Fr.) Stephen Mavelly while launching the store.

The store is a unit of the Assam Don Bosco University Cooperative Society launched earlier this year. The cooperative has members from faculty and students who have invested in shares. While it is an entrepreneurial venture of the university it also focuses on inculcating among the students and faculty of the university the values of self-help, self-reliance, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

Workshop on Project Cycle Management

The Social Work Department held a 5-day Project Cycle Management (PCM) workshop at its Azara campus from 5 - 9 October. The programme attracted 19 participants including field officers from northeast India as well as neighbouring States of West Bengal and Bihar.

“The PCM is the process of planning, organizing, coordinating, and controlling of a project effectively and efficiently throughout its various phases, from planning through execution, then completion and review to achieve pre-defined objectives or satisfying the project stakeholder by producing the right delivery at the right time, cost and quality,” said resource person and coordinator of the workshop, Dr. Lukose Jacob.



The Second Volume of Journal of Development Practice

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences brought out Volume II of ‘The Journal of Development Practice’ on 11 November 2015. This issue features five articles on socio-economic issues:

1. Radical Social Work in North-East Regions of India by Kamei Samson
2. Volunteering by Students in Higher Education: An Inter-cultural and Participatory Development Experience from Northeast India by Jacob Islary and Yurthingla Phungshok
3. An Empirical Analysis on Urban-Rural Linkage in Mumbai Metropolitan Area by Sohee Minsun Kim
4. City Size Distributions and Hierarchy among Cities in India by Anchal Kumari
5. Children and Armed Conflict: Exploring the Approaches of Study by Shagun Saklani Pande

Heart-warming Stories from the Field

After working with different organizations over a month, Social Work students of First Semester came back with heart-warming stories and life changing experiences from different fields. Students were divided into various groups and were sent to work with 19 organizations including Snehalaya, sSTEP (Society for Social Transformation and Environment Protection), Grameen Sahara, Indian Council for Child Welfare, Amar Ghar, UTSAH (Universal Team for Social Action & Help), Ashadeep, Operation Smile etc.

During this Field Work, students got to work with and learn from slum children, under-privileged women and children, child laborers, domestic workers, children at Juvenile Observation Home etc. To read these inspiring reports from the field, kindly log on to <https://adbusw.wordpress.com>.



Workshop on Personality Development - Communication Skills

The department of Psychology and Counselling organized a two-day workshop on Personality Development with a special focus on ‘Communication Skills’, 8-9 December, 2015 at the School of Technology’s Auditorium.

The resource person for the workshop, Ms Loya Agarwala, Counsellor and Total Personality Development Consultant, is a well-known professional trainer in this field, and also working at the University as a Visiting Counsellor.

Addressing the participants at the inaugural function of the Workshop, Ms Loya said, “Effective Communication skills play a crucial role in honing one’s personality. People with great communication skills tend to have a better and impressive personality than those who have problems in communicating as interacting with others is not a challenge for them. Individuals with effective communication skills can easily converse with other people around be it their fellow workers, peers, family and

so on. Effective communication skills strengthen the bond among individuals”.

During the workshop, participants were taken through a series of communication practices, games, role plays etc. According to Madonna, one of the participants from Tinsukia, “The workshop was a great learning experience. It made me more confident and also made me realize that I have a lot to do in improving my communication skills”. For another participant from Golaghat, Ishani Hazarika, the workshop was, “an eye opener; that taught me crucial public speaking skills and the importance of listening to others”.



EVENTS AT THE SCHOOL OF COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT

DBIM Excellence Award 2015

The School of Commerce and Management solemnized the annual DBIM Excellence Award on September 3, 2015 at the picturesque Kharguli Campus of the University.

The awards were given to Hans Darius Nongsiej, Jose Ayyankanal and Tanmoy Ray, for their excellence in academics, social commitment, leadership skills and overall conduct.



Prof. Dr. O.K. Medhi, Retired Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University was the Chief Guest for the function along with Fr. V. M. Thomas, Provincial, Guwahati Province, and Ms. Aitrayee Baruah as Guests of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, Fr. V. M. Thomas, invited the students to have a strategy in their lives to have a rewarding career. He asserted that career progression is not a right but a reward for ability, hard work and dedication. He also advised the students to choose the right yardstick to measure their achievements and shared the story of ‘The professor and the cups of coffee’ which he dramatized artistically with a few student volunteers.

The Excellence Award was constituted in 2011 to honour those students who demonstrate excellence not only in the field of academics but also in social commitment, extra-curricular activities and overall conduct, to the extent that they set examples for others to emulate.

Industrial Visit – PepsiCo

As part of the continuous quality improvement initiative at the School of Commerce and Management, students of second year MBA visited North East Pure Drinks Private Limited situated at Rani, Patgaon, near Guwahati on 29 August 2015.

An alumni of the University, Mr. Hrishikesh Rajbongshi, who is working at PepsiCo, showed the students around the plant, providing them with valuable insights into the working of the plant and the production process.



Workshop on 'Effective Communication'

A workshop on 'Effective Communication' was organized by the School of Commerce and Management with Mr. Joe Rodrigues and Mrs. Brenda Rodrigues as the resource persons.

The workshop, through different activities, taught the participants, that to be the type of people who make things happen, one has to step out of his/her comfort zones and put in efforts regardless of one's perception about the working environment. To make things happen, one has to influence events, and to influence events one has to influence people. This can only be achieved through effective communication that helps one to create and improve relationships.



Visit of Student Delegates from ASEAN Countries

96 student delegates from Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore visited the School of Commerce and Management on 26 October 2015, during their 10 day visit of India.

The delegates were given a campus tour which was followed by high tea. Later, they gathered at the Amphitheatre for a cultural programme which showcased a traditional Bodo dance and a mimic depicting the impact of mobile communication. Later, the delegates had an insightful and highly interactive session with the management students.



The trip was arranged and sponsored by CII's 'Young India' initiative.



RESEARCH PULSE....a report from the desk of the Research Director

The Ph.D., research wing of Assam Don Bosco University, in this last quarter of Autumn Semester witnessed lots of activity and satisfying results from all its events. Some of the happenings/activities which has passed-by, and along with an up-coming event to keep a lookout for in the coming year, 2016, are given below.

Doctoral Degree Awarded: Dr. Sandip Bordoloi of the department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering has being awarded the Ph.D., Degree having successfully completed the requirements of the programme. He has worked on, Design, Development and Application of an improved Optical-fibre Refractometer, under the supervision of Prof. Shakuntala Laskar.

Ph.D., Scholars Registered: Six Ph.D., research scholars after completing the proposal seminar and duly approved by the Board of Research Studies of the University are registered with their following research titles respectively.

S/N	Name	Department	Title
1	Natasha D' Souza Jacques	Mathematics	Study of pre-functions through differential equations, fractional calculus and mathematical analysis
2	Vaishali R. Parakhi	Mathematics	The study of pre-functions, circular functions through Kronecker product, matrix differential equations, fractional calculus and applications of integral transforms
3	Vidya D.S.	Electronics and Communication Engineering	Efficient realization and verification of mixed signal logic with differentially fed neutral network
4	Vanlalhraia	Computer Science Engineering	A new approach to face recognition based on binary image
5	Dominic P.T.	Social Work	Farmer's suicide: A Case Study of Wayanad district of Kerala
6	Krishna Sarma	Electronics and Communication Engineering	Design and study of surface plasmon resonance based environmental sensors for detection of heavy metals in water

Ph.D., Proposals Approved: In the Ph.D., proposal seminar held on 9th November, 2015, the Board of Research Studies have approved four Ph.D., research scholars for registration. They are:

S/N	Name	Department
1	Barisha Mary Kurbah	Biotechnology
2	Eniro Murry	North East India Studies
3	Dipjyoti Sarma	Electronics and Communication Engineering
4	Deba Kumar Mahanta	Electrical and Electronics Engineering

Completion of Ph.D., Research Methodology Course Work: The Ph.D., research methodology course work for the batch of 2015 has come to a completion after six months of activities – classes, assignments, literature review & presentations and examination. The result of the six months research methodology course work is to be announced soon.

Upcoming Ph.D., Admissions 2016: Applications are invited from those desirous of pursuing research leading to a Ph.D., degree in the areas of study given below. The number of seats available is given in brackets.

Biochemistry (2)
Biotechnology (1)
Chemical Sciences (4)
Civil Engineering (3)
Comparative Religion (4)
Computer Science and Engineering (3)
Education (1)
Electrical and Electronics Engineering (1)

Management (1)
Mass Communication (2)
Mathematics (1)
Microbiology (1)
North East India Studies (1)
Philosophy (2)
Physics (3)
Social Work (2)

CHRISTMAS 2015 ... *May peace and joy accompany you as you travel on in hope*
NEW YEAR 2016 ... *May a basketful of dreams unfold along the way for you!*



- Don Bosco University Family
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