

# SPARK



A Newsletter for Don Bosco University family, alumni and friends

## *Eleventh Convocation of the University*



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## Message from the Vice Chancellor

“God made man because He loves stories.” This quotation from Elie Wiesel has always been a favourite one of mine. Every Christmas I remind myself of it because the Christmas story, the story about God coming down to earth to share His story with us and to listen to and share our stories, is one of loveliest stories that have ever been imagined and acted out.

The Scriptures tell this story in their own inimitable style. There is the Creation Story that ends with the creation of man and woman, the acme of creation. A significant detail in that narration is ‘... in His own image He created them’. There are umpteen stories in the Scriptures about this God who fell in love with His creation and longed (speaking in human terms) for that love to be reciprocated.

Ultimately, we have the Christmas Story where this unrequited love of the Creator finds an ingenious way to become a part of the unique stories of every man and woman – He/she becomes one of us, sharing our nature and so also our stories. The Scriptures have a wonderful image to capture the essence of this Great Story: ‘He pitched His tent among us’... Tents were the loci where our ancestors from long-forgotten ages gathered together in the intimacy of their families to share their stories...

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Man has been called ‘the storytelling animal’. Stories are how we make sense of our lives and of the world. Stories are how we communicate with others. The stories we construct, the stories we tell ourselves, reconcile who we imagine we are and who we really are. You are your story.

We start telling stories as young kids and as we grow, and change, form relationships, and win, and lose, and love, we collect more and more material and embellish our personal stories. This material is ordered in a narrative fashion in our minds. We fictionalize and rationalize the past in order to face the future. Every event, every relationship, every incident, is framed in our heads by this personal narrative (story) of ours.

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One of best examples of how sharing stories enriches the teller and the listener is found in ‘The Canterbury Tales’ that is a tapestry of stories by a group of 31 pilgrims who meet while travelling from the Tabard Inn in Southwark to the shrine of St Thomas Becket in Canterbury. To pass the time on the journey, they decide that each member of the group would tell two tales to the group on the journey there and the journey home. In between the pilgrims bicker and chatter in a way that brings the characters to life. In doing so, Chaucer presents us with medieval society in all its glory, from the pompous Knight to the revolting Pardoner, the chatty Wife of Bath and the weird, nerdy Clerk...



Stories are not told in isolation. A shared story is a richer story! Such stories bring about integration, bringing together disparate ideas, characters, happenings and other elements of life that were previously seen as disparate. They are how we tell what happened to us and therefore our stories change over time, as we do. In this way, the stories we tell are a snapshot of our personalities in time. We try to find meaning in everything from a minor event to major life experiences.

Psychologists call this “autobiographical reasoning”. Events in our lives become a narrative with beginnings, endings, characters and themes, just like in ‘The Canterbury Tales’.

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Many professionals have come to view psychotherapy as a process of story reformulation and repair. When we are unable to see patterns, or themes, passions, in our lives, we can lose our way. We can become trapped in a bad story, a story that needs to be rewritten so that the plot can continue. People often turn to religion to help resolve negative aspects of their stories and turn them into positives. In this way, great pain and misfortune can lead to rare flashes of insight into meaningful and soulful living. Everything has a reason. Life is a quest to improve our stories. The better our story, the better we feel about ourselves.

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Christmas is round the corner – The Greatest Story of all time! May this Christmas find you relishing your own story, sharing it with passion and meaning with others, and gaining warmth and strength in the stories of your friends and family, and finding ten thousand new reasons to love your story, live your story and to advance your story!

May the New Year 2023 find you at peace with your own unique story – always a story in the making!

**Fr Stephen Mavelly**  
Rector & Vice Chancellor  
22 December 2022

## Eleventh Convocation of the University

The 11th Convocation of Assam Don Bosco University was held on 10th September, 2022 at Tapesia Campus. The Hon'ble Governor of Assam Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, the Visitor of the university graced the occasion along with the Vice Chancellor, Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavely, Pro Vice Chancellors Fr. (Dr) Jose Palely and Fr Joseph Nellanatt, Directors of Schools, Heads of Departments, faculty members, students and dignitaries from all over the country.



In his Convocation Address, Prof Jagdish Mukhi, Visitor and Hon'ble Governor of Assam said that, 'as the new, young workforce of our beloved country, you are joining millions of youth with dreams, visions and hopes for a better India. Try to be a part of that workforce which makes meaningful changes in the lives of our countrymen, our country, and the world at large'. He urged the graduates to take the best culture and training which they learnt in the university beyond the campus and spread in the society and be a reason of change, responsible citizens and make the university proud. Prof Mukhi expressed his delight saying that even covid-19 pandemic could not disrupt ADBU from its vision in imparting education as the university quickly adapted to online mode of teaching, learning and evaluation and successfully continued its journey towards achieving further milestones. He congratulated the University for receiving NAAC "A" accreditation and also for other prestigious statutory approvals recently.

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavely while delivering his welcome address congratulated the graduates and said that, "I am certain that you will play significant roles in shaping the future of our country and the world. It is with that aim in mind that we established Don Bosco University – 'to be there where the leaders of society are formed! I can say that with confidence because you are not only professionals in your own areas of expertise, you are also endowed with the right attitudes, values and determination that you have imbibed here and will bring to bear on your work".

Degrees were conferred on 984 students of which 472 students received bachelor's degree in Engineering & Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Basic Sciences, 494 students received Master degree in various branches of Engineering, Science and Management. Doctoral degrees were conferred to 18 scholars.

122 students received their degrees through DBU Global Online and Distance Education courses and 14 students received diploma certificates under various programmes. Gold Medals under various categories were awarded to 36 outstanding graduates with the highest Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) in each program.

The Chancellor's medal for outstanding graduate in Post Graduate (PG) courses was conferred to Ms Reshmin Sultana, MSc Zoology and the Vice Chancellor's medal for outstanding graduate in Under Graduate (UG) courses was conferred to Ms. Chingangbam Snehapriya for notable and exceptional contributions to campus life were awarded at the convocation.

## Appreciation Day 2022

The University's faculty and staff Appreciation Day was held on 12 December 2022 at Azara Campus of the University.

This year's Appreciation Day included various performances from the faculty and staff including poetry reading, solo, group singing, dances, tug of war, tambola etc. Appreciation Certificates and awards were given to those who excel in their performance under various categories including e-Content Development, Research Grants, organization of major events, publication in journals/book chapters etc. The programme was attended by faculty and staff including their families.

## International Summer School 2022

On 11th of October 2022 the International Summer School on “Minority Stories and Media: Theory to Practice” began with a group of students and two professors from Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and seven students from Don Bosco University participating in it. The event was held at Don Bosco University’s Tapesia Campus. This summer School consisted of various activities and lectures.

The first session was a lecture by Mr. Rituraj Phukan who is the founder of the Indigenous People’s Climate Justice Forum and also a National Coordinator for Biodiversity, Climate Reality India who spoke about the circumstances faced by the minorities which is not only the result of the tribe differences but also the by-product of the ongoing massive change in the climate.



On 11th October evening, a movie called “Gangubai” was shown. The purpose of screening the movie was to give insight about the minorities in Indian context and their representation. The story is about the life of a sex-worker and the challenges faced by every woman in the work of prostitution. The depiction of the lives faced by each of them in a brothel is the key aspect and how the trauma of being sold at a brothel became the protagonists’ strength to undermine not just hers but every woman in the very area named “Kathiawadi”.

The Second Lecture was by Fr (Dr) Walter Fernandez, Founder Director of North Eastern Social Research Center who spoke on the ‘Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees’. He dwelt on Displacements in North East India, Deforestation in North East, poverty among the tribals in Assam. The lecture was followed by a presentation on Society’s Perception on the Blind People by Melissa and Stephanie from Frankfurt University. The third lecture was by Ms. Ketaki Bardalai, Executive Director of Sishu Sarothi, an organization in Guwahati, Assam that works for the children with disabilities. She spoke on Disability and Media. Ms. Ketaki shared the role of media as the main source of information in response to the stereotypical unconcerned approach of the society in terms of Disability.

On the third day, Luca Diblik presented a topic ‘Racism’ and concluded that racism is not rooted in one specific area but it exists in every part of the world and it is the duty of every humanity respect and co-exist regardless of one’s race, ethnicity or cultures.

This was followed by a Presentation on LGBTQ as Minority by Pamir and Miriam from University Frankfurt who opined that religious sentiment is connected when it comes to embracing the community in regards to their sexual orientation and preferences. This was followed by a presentation on Minorities in Russia by Alexander Rolheuser.

The fourth day was a day of workshop on Grassroot Comics and Puppetry by Mr. Kaushik Bhuyan, Asst Professor from the Department of Mass Communication at Don Bosco University.

The Summer School concluded with a visit to Shillong and feedback session from the participants. Miriam Ulfik from Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences wrote, “I’ve had a great experience in India. It has been a once in a life time opportunity and I loved every second of it. I have met so many new friends that have been very welcoming, kind and funny. Hopefully we will keep our friendship for the future. Experiencing such a different culture was also very special to me. There were some differences in how we acted or thought, but to me the similarities were the more interesting ones. We could still connect so easily and sing the same songs we know from our childhoods. I am now just 3 days in my home in Germany again and already miss the good food we had in India and also the warm weather. So, in all, I had a great experience in this country and would love to visit it again”.

## ICNAA-2022

A two-day International Conference on Nonlinear Analysis and Applications-2022 (ICNAA-2022) was organised by the Department of Mathematics, Assam Don Bosco University in collaboration with Technological University of the Mixteca, Oaxaca, Mexico and Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College (Autonomous), Ghatkopar, Mumbai, India on 22-23 November, 2022 at Tapezia Campus, Assam Don Bosco University, Sonapur, Assam.



The Conference's goal was to create a platform for the intellectual exchange of ideas and information regarding the developments and advancements in many domains of both pure and applied nonlinear analysis.

A total of 11 Sessions were conducted which included Chief Guest Address, Two Key Note address and 18 Invited Talks, 2 special sessions, and 20 parallel paper reading sessions at the event. In this conference, experts from nine different countries delivered lectures, and more than 200 research works were presented in different branches of Mathematical Sciences. The conference was held in both offline and online mode separately. Offline sessions were held at Assam Don Bosco University on both days from 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.(IST) in four parallel sessions. The online sessions were held through four zoom meeting links in four parallel sessions.

The conference was inaugurated with an auspicious prayer moment, lamp lighting, state anthem 'O mor Aapunar desh', welcome address by Dr. Hemen Bharali, HoD, Department of Mathematics, Assam Don Bosco University and a speech by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Fr.(Dr) Stephen Mavelly, Assam Don Bosco University who highlighted the academic objectives and international collaboration of teaching and research of Don Bosco University and wished a grand success of the conference. The objective and purpose of the conference was presented by Dr. Hemanta Kalita, Convenor, ICNAA-2022 while a short message was delivered by Dr. Sanket Tikare, Joint Convenor and Asst. Professor, Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College (Autonomous), Ghatkopar, Mumbai, India. Prof. Avishek Adhikari, Presidency University, Kolkata was the Chief Guest of the conference and he spoke on the importance of Pure mathematics and their application in a very effective way.

The inaugural session was followed by a keynote address by Prof. Erik Trelle from University of Linköping, Linköping, Sweden who spoke on "Knot-linear wave packing of real atomic and molecular composition along with examples of DNA and the amino acids". In this session, Prof. Ravi P. Agarwal, Texas A & M University, USA, also delivered a talk on "Unbounded solutions of third – order three-point value problems on a half-line." Another mathematician Prof. Mangatiana A. Robdera from University of Botswana, Botswana joined the conference as an Invited Speaker at the campus and delivered a talk on "More unified approach to Integration". The other invited speakers who joined in offline mode as invited speakers were Prof. Pratulnanda Das from Jadavpur University, India; Prof. Anita Tomar from SriDev Suman Uttarakhand University, India; Prof. Surajit Borkotoky from Dibrugarh University, Assam, Prof. B. C. Tripathy from Tripura University, India; Dr. Surindar Pal Singh Kainth, Punjab University, India; and Dr. Rajeev from IIT- BHU, India.

The speakers who joined in online mode as invited speakers were Prof. L. D. R. Kocinac of University of Nis, Serbia; Prof. Valentin Skvortsov, Honored Professor of Moscow State University, Russia; Prof. Martin Bohner of Missouri S & T, Rolla, Missouri, USA; Dr. Syed Abbas of Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, India; Prof. M. Murseleen of Aligarh Muslim University, India; Prof. Eberhard Malkowsky of State University of Novi Pazar, Serbia; Prof. Praveen Agarwal of Anand International College of Engineering, Jaipur, India; Prof. Kurunathan Ratnavelu, University of Malaya, Malaysia; Prof. Talat Nazir of University of South Africa, South Africa; Prof. H. K. Nashine of VIT, Bhopal, India; Prof. Ekrem Savas of Usak University, Usak-Turkey; Dr. Bapan Ghosh, Indian Institute of Technology Indore, India.

The conference closed with a valedictory function presided by Pro Vice-Chancellor Fr(Dr) Jose Paley, Assam Don Bosco University and Dr. Tomas Perez Becerra, Department of Mathematics Technological University of Mixteca, Mexico and Dr. Monmoyuri Baruah, Director of School of Fundamental and Applied Sciences, Assam Don Bosco University. The report of the two days conference was presented by the Prof. T.K. Dutta, Department of Mathematics, Assam Don Bosco University.

## Initiation into Mathematics (initmath), Assam-2022

The Department of Mathematics organised “InitMath, Assam-2022,” a residential training programme in mathematics for undergraduate Mathematics students, in collaboration with MTTs TRUST from September 24-29, 2022, at Assam Don Bosco University. It was a one-week training course for mathematics students who will finish their undergraduate (B.Sc./Integrated M.Sc.) degree in 2022 after two years and four semesters. The programme was funded by National Board of Higher Mathematics, Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India and is organised under the aegis of Mathematics Training and Talent Search (MTTS) TRUST.



A total of 125 applicants from the North Eastern states submitted applications for the programme, and 45 motivated candidates were chosen on the basis of merit from the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

At the inaugural session, all of the dignitaries and participants were welcomed by Dr. Hemen Bharali, HOD, Department of Mathematics. The Vice Chancellor, Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavelly expressed the university’s great joy at having hosted such a prestigious programme and extending his congratulations to all the participants. Prof. Bhaba Kumar Sarma, a trustee member of MTTs, addressed the MTTs program’s framework and stressed the role that MTTs events play in fostering the development of fundamental ideas and inspiring participants to think critically and come up with their own conclusions regarding mathematics.

Dr. Hemen Bharali, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics served as the programme’s local coordinator, along with Prof. Bhaba Kumar Sarma, Department of Mathematics, IIT Guwahati as an Academic coordinator. The experts were Dr. Uday Shankar Chakraborty, Department of Mathematics, Assam University Silchar, Prof. Dhiren Kumar Basnet, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Tezpur University and Prof. Bhaba Kumar Sarma. The programme ended on 29 September with a closing ceremony where certificates were given to all participants.

## Invited Talk by Dept. of Mathematics

An Invited Talk was organized by Department of Mathematics on 27th October 2022 with Dr. Santanu Acharjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Gauhati University as the Speaker. Dr. Ridip Sarma, Assistant Professor of Department of Mathematics, ADBU was the Convenor of the event.

The title of the talk was “Bitopological dynamical systems and child birth from zygote”. Dr. Acharjee started the talk with conjunctures related to child birth process, brain anomaly and medical treatment for cognitive anomaly of a new born baby. He gave insight on several new results related to entropy of bitopological dynamical systems and new advancements in this field. The invited talk was followed by active interaction and questioning by students and faculty members of the department. The entire event went smoothly and was largely appreciated and well received with good responses from the participants. The faculty members along with the UG and PG students, research scholars of the department attended the talk.



## World Animal Day

The Department of Zoology in collaboration with Eco-Club of Assam Don Bosco University celebrated World Animal Day on 11th October 2021. The programme began with an introduction on World Animal Day celebration Dr. Lima Hazarika enlightened the audience on the mission, objectives, and significance of the day, followed by a short message by Dr. Prasanta Kr Choudhury, Director, School of Life Sciences.



To celebrate this day, two competitions were organized: Face Painting and Extempore Speech. In the extempore speech competition, Linthoi Ngairangbam, class representative of BSc 5th Semester, was the host for the event. There were a total of 12 participants who spoke on the topics revolving around the central theme of 'Biodiversity'. The winners were Yeshi Yangchen (First), Chandan Das (Second), and Naphisabet Ladong (Third). In the face painting competition, the theme was 'Animals and Message on World Animal Day'. Among the 7 participants, the winners were Puotounguno Basumatary and Monaliza Khyriem Diengdoh (First), Duyu Rohan and Jeet Kumar Nath (Second), and Saikhom Angela Devi (artist) and Chanmari Debbarma (Third).

The judges for the competitions were Dr. Maitryee Swargiary and Ms. Priyanka Kalita (extempore competition) and Dr. Jyotirmoy Sharma and Professor Saibal Sengupta (face painting competition).

The programme concluded with a note of appreciation by Arpit Gameti, student coordinator, EcoClub. There were a total of 107 attendees.

## Lecture by Prof. Jogen Chandra Kalita

On 6 September 2022, the Department of Zoology organized an interactive session on 'Career Prospects in Zoology'. The speaker was Prof. Jogen Chandra Kalita, Head, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University. The gathering was welcomed by Ankita Das followed by the felicitation of Professor Kalita with a phulam Gamusa by Dr. Prasanta Kr Choudhury, Director, School of Life Sciences. Professor Kalita began with a quote "We can make space for ourselves in the world only by the virtue of knowledge".



The Professor captured undivided attention from the audience with his vast knowledge and experience in the field of Zoology and particularly his role in encouraging his students to explore opportunities in the country and abroad. Professor Kalita mentioned the advantages of the recent National Education Policy (NEP 2020) saying that the policy gives utmost importance to quality education, and also recalled the UNSDG 4 on Quality Education. Education, according to him, is to know, to do, and to be. He emphasized on the power of "one" and how it can bring a great change in society. He cited examples of notable personalities - Jadev Payeng (The Forest Man of India), Dame Sarah Catherine Gilbert (co-developer of the Covid-19 vaccine, Oxford-AstraZeneca), to name a few. He also introduced the audience to some of his students who, through their constant hard work and commitment to reach the pinnacle of success. He also encouraged the students to have a road-map that will direct them to their career goals. Professor Kalita concluded by encouraging the audience to chase their dreams, and to "be like the stem cell, differentiate yourself from others".

The lecture was attended by 110 participants.

## Industrial Visit: Cell Culture Lab, College of Veterinary Science, Assam

To encourage the final year students to develop observation, technical and conceptual skills and expertise in animal cell culture, the Department of Zoology organized a day-long visit to Cell Culture Lab, College of Veterinary Science, Assam on 3 November 2022. A total of 38 students accompanied by Dr. Madhurima Das, Dr. Yungkham Rajeevkumar Singh, Dr. Lima Hazarika and Mr. Dadul Kalita went for the visit.



The programme began with a brief introduction on the Department and its on-going activities by Dr. Probodh Borah. This was followed by an introductory session on cell culture terms, equipment and techniques given by Dr. Dipak Deka. Dr. Deka also assisted the students to the Cell Culture Lab where he and his team demonstrated the preparation and observation of the culture of Chinese Hamster Ovary Cells. The team also shared the correct techniques and equipment used to successfully observe the cells.

The students also visited the Molecular Biotechnology Lab where they observed instruments which included the PCR Thermocycler, Spectrophotometer, Centrifuge, 2D-Gel Electrophoresis, Real Time-PCR, Gel Doc System, Shaking Incubator, Lyophilizer, and Fast Protein Liquid Chromatography (FPLC).

## The Art of Making Handmade Paper from Water Hyacinth

To encourage the production and use of sustainable papers, the Department of Zoology in collaboration with EcoClub of the University organized a workshop on 'The Art of Making Handmade Paper from Water Hyacinth' on 24 September, 2022.

Arpit Gameti, student coordinator, EcoClub welcomed the gathering, followed by the felicitation of the Resource Persons, Mr. Rupankar Bhattacharjee and Mr. Aniket Dhar, by Dr. Prasanta Kr Choudhury, Director, School of Life Sciences. Mr. Bhattacharjee began with a brief introduction about the Water Hyacinth, an invasive species of weed that has a negative impact on wetlands throughout the world, including Assam's famous Deepor Beel. He mentioned how his team has been working on this so-called 'biological waste' and turning it into 'Value' by converting it into products like calendars, notebooks, cards, to name a few. Mr. Dhar introduced the audience to their company's website <https://www.kumbhikagaz.com/>, and guided them through the website and its features. The speakers encouraged the students to fabricate their own chemical-free, eco-friendly products using simple traditional methods. The session was followed by hands-on training on paper-making using water hyacinth. Volunteers from among the faculty, staff, and students were involved in creating sheets of handmade paper.



The event concluded with a note of gratitude by Mrinmoyee Das, student representative of the Department. The programme was attended by 114 participants.

## Outreach Programme – Dharapur Higher Secondary School

The Department of Mechanical Engineering conducted a Career Awareness Workshop on 3rd September, 2022 at Dharapur Higher Secondary School, Dharapur.

The programme began with a welcome speech by Utpal Sarma, Principal of Dharapur Higher Secondary School. The resource persons for the workshop were Dr. Buljit Buragohain, Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering and Pranjal Sarma, Assistant Professor of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Apart from clearing the doubts of the students while choosing the right career path, Dr. Buragohain also gave detailed explanation on how with hard work and dedication, all the students can mould a successful career for themselves. He talked about the importance of reading newspaper. Pranjal Sarma discussed in details how hobbies can help in their career. The number of participants of the workshop was 29.



## Interactive Session on Open Access Journals

To celebrate International Open Access Week 2022, the Department of Zoology in collaboration with the Central Library, Don Bosco University organized an Interactive Session on Open Access Journals on 29 October 2022. The speaker was Mr. Gautam Gogoi, Librarian, Central Library of the University.



The event began with a note of welcome by the host, Muktar Ahmed, a first year student, followed by a short message from Dr. Prasanta Kr Choudhury, Director, School of Life Sciences. The host then handed over the session to Mr. Gautam Gogoi. Mr. Gogoi, an enthusiastic speaker, ensured the session was highly interactive. He began his session with a brief task for the audience which aimed at making them realize that 'information is freely available and is just a click away'. Mr. Gogoi stated, 'research papers are no longer considered the only first-class research output'. He cited the example of the Netherlands where 17 Dutch organisations of higher education and research are working on Open Science (NPOS). This platform brings together parties that have initiated, formulated or supported the NPOS, and was presented to the Dutch government in the year 2017. Mr. Gogoi also talked about the initiatives taken up by India in support of Open Access where he mentioned the UGC's thesis repository, ShodhGanga (2018). Mr. Gogoi concluded the session quoting Wiley and Green (2012), "Education is, first and foremost, an enterprise of sharing. In fact, sharing is the sole means by which education is affected." The students of the Department showed active participation in the session. The session was attended by 124 participants.

## Alumni Address - Mr Aparajit Talukdar

From the class of 2020 of BTech undergraduate program, Mr. Aparajit Talukdar who is currently pursuing his Master of Science degree in the University of California visited the campus to address the student gathering at Azara Campus.

He spoke on the steps and requirements of getting admission into foreign Universities and enlightened the students with the value of such a degree from well known foreign Universities. He focussed mainly on two countries - United States of America and Germany. Apart from his elaborative explanation of every step involved in getting into Universities abroad, Mr. Talukdar also spent time on answering questions from the audience. The extended assembly arranged by Dr. Bobby Sharma, Head, Dept. of CSE was highly appreciated by the gathering.



## CSE Invited Talk

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering organised an invited talk by Dr. Konda Reddy Mopuri, Assistant Professor at the Mehta Family School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati on 4th November, 2022. The talk was divided into two sessions, with the morning session on Convolutional Neural Networks and the afternoon session on Recurrent Neural Networks.

In the first session, the Speaker covered the Neural Network history and basics. He aptly demystified the training of neural networks uncovering several topics such as gradient descent, backpropagation, and the role of kernels in convolution operation. The afternoon session covered the various constituent layers, working of recurrent neural networks and also touched on advanced concepts such as normalization. Each session was followed by a lively interaction between the Speaker and the audience. A total of approximately 90 participants consisting of B.Tech (CSE), M.Tech (CSE) students and Faculty from the Dept. of CSE joined the talk. Few M.Tech students from EEE also attended the event.



The Programme was coordinated by Mr. Alexy Bhowmick, Dr. Syed Sazzad Ahmed and Dr. Rup Kumar Deka, Assistant Professors from Department of Computer Science and Engineering as part of research promotion activity by the Research Cell.

### Lecture by Dr. Pamir Gogoi

The Department of English in collaboration with the Central Library, Assam Don Bosco University organized a career related interactive programme with Dr. Pamir Gogoi on 4 November, 2022. The programme aimed to open alternative possibilities for graduates in English subject beside being a teacher.

Dr. Pamir, an English graduate, Linguistics post-graduate and doctorate from United States, who had successfully made a career in Microsoft deliberated on means and possibilities for higher education in the US and spoke on options to get into Microsoft like companies which are also open to any graduate. The deliberation was flavoured by interactive sessions in between which further ignited the inquisitiveness in the students. It was attended by 172 students.



### Spelling Bee Competition

A Spelling Bee Competition was organized by the Literary Club, a co-curricular club of the Department of English on 11 November, 2022.

Ms. Mebari Vanessa R. Dorphang, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology and Mr. Gautam Gogoi, Librarian of Assam Don Bosco University, Telesia were invited to judge the competition. The competition had four rounds: Preliminary, Puzzle, Group activity and Rapid. In the Preliminary round, 20 words were dictated and participants were asked to write them within 8 minutes. In the Puzzle round, 5 words were given and the participants had to write as many words from the given word within 15 minutes. The third round was Group activity, wherein the participants were divided in pairs and asked to fill in the blanks to the 7 words provided to them in a sheet; 5 minutes were allotted for the completion of the same. In the final Rapid round, five top scorers were introduced to a range of words and asked to spell those words within a minute. A total of 30 students participated in the competition.



### Mental Health Week Celebration 2022

The Department of Psychology observed World Mental Health week from 10 – 17 October 2022 by organizing a series of mental health related activities. The theme for this year was “Making mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority”. A series of activities were organized for a week aimed at raising awareness mental health and to facilitate open discussions among the students.

On World Mental Health Day (10th October), a fund-raising event was conducted where beautiful handcrafted flowers, flower pots, pen stands, greeting cards and wall hangings, particularly using ropes, wool and waste materials made by students of Society for Health and Education Development (SHED) were sold. Faculty from SHED had been invited for this purpose and a decent amount of fund was raised as the event witnessed a good participation from students and faculty of the University.



The Departmental Wall Magazine was also decorated in commemoration of the week and the theme was ‘beehive’ with keeping in mind its relevance in human relations. The contents included PERMA Model, 4-7-8 Breathing, 30 Day Self Care Challenge, Grounding Technique, Happy Hormones, and 3 Ps of Optimism.

The weeklong observation of Mental Health also included creation of Mood Board, Mind Jar and Fortune Cookies, Postal Letter and Flash Mob Dance.

## International Chef Day

The Department of Hospitality & Hotel Administration conducted a celebration of International Chef Day on 20th October 2022 with an aim to create awareness among the students of hospitality department, faculty members of the University and University Staffs in general the important roles played by Chefs around the world.



The session started with an introductory speech by the Head, Department of Hospitality & Hotel Administration Mr. Viveka Nand Sharma. During the celebration the attendees were greeted with a stimulating hot beverage prepared at Basic training kitchen of Hospitality & Hotel Administration department. After the speech and awareness session the participants enjoyed and observed a knowledge session of “Hi – Tea” buffet where the preparations were made through sustainable and healthy food technique.

## Workshop on Bar-O-Scope

The Department of Hospitality & Hotel Administration organized a workshop on Bar-O-Scope on 10th November 2020 with a hope to create awareness among the students of Hospitality Department about the new trends, classic specialties and technique of preparation of cocktail & mocktail. The workshop was based on live demonstrations of cocktail & mocktail preparations where various ingredients were paired with liquors and fruit juices.

The session began with a short speech by Mr. Viveka Nand Sharma, Head of the Department. During the workshop, Mr. Souvik Sarkar gave a lecture where he elaborately described the definition, classic & modern trends, preparation techniques about cocktail & mocktail followed by live demonstrations.



## Industrial Visit to Novotel

An Industrial visit to Hotel Novotel at Guwahati city was held on 9th November 2022 by the Department of Hospitality and Hotel Administration.

This Industrial visit was organized to create awareness among the students of hospitality department about the working culture of a high-end hotel and grooming standards for the employees. The Industrial visit was based on live lecture sessions of learning & training department of Novotel followed by the property tour.



The visit began with a welcome speech by the associate of Talent & Culture Manager Department Ms. Mampi Biswas. During the visit the students toured around the whole property and gained knowledges about various departments and set ups. During this visit they gained knowledge about various liquors and wines from Mr. Arun Kumar Shukla who is working in Novotel as Asst. Restaurant Manager. After the property tour the students were treated with a short tea break. The tour ended with a motivational speech from the head of talent & culture Manager Mr. Arnab Nath.

### Workshop on Pour and Plate

A workshop titled 'Pour and Plate' was organized by the Department of Hospitality and Hotel Administration with an aim to create awareness among the students along with other students of various disciplines of the University about the new trends and techniques of the hospitality world.

The workshop was based on a live demonstration of gastro-nomic & cocktail preparations where Activated charcoal was paired with the foods and drinks. The participants were greeted with welcome drinks and snacks freshly prepared at the Basic training kitchen of the Hospitality & Hotel Administration department.



### Workshop on Reflective Diary Writing

The Department of Chemistry organized a workshop on Reflective Diary Writing on 29 October 2022 with Dr. Tania Sur Roy, Head, Department of Education, Assam Don Bosco University as the resource person. She spoke about the art of journaling and ways of writing a journal. It was an activity-based workshop. Eighty seven students from the Department of Chemistry studying UG and PG courses attended the workshop.

### Mole Day 2022

The Analytical Club of the Department of Chemistry organized a celebration of Mole Day on 22 October 2022 as Mole Day this year falls on 23 October which is a Sunday.

The celebration began with an introductory speech by M.Mhajano Okhyopvui . The speech consisted of the history, the relevance, the need and the purpose of Mole Day. Extempore speech competition and Quiz competition were organized where students from different Departments like Physics, Mathematics, Biosciences actively participated. Topics of Extempore Speech included 'Green Chemistry', 'Green Evolution', 'Waste management', 'Women Empowerment' etc. This was followed by a Quiz Competition where 6 teams participated.

### Workshop on National Eligibility Test

A two-day workshop on National Eligibility Test was conducted by the Department of Chemistry on 3rd and 4th November 2022 for the present M.Sc. 1st Semester and M.Sc. 3rd Semester students.

The first session was conducted on 3rd November by Dr. Nilamoni Nath, Assistant Professor in Chemistry, Gauhati University who discussed about the topic on NMR Spectroscopy. He also explains the basic terms such as chemical shift, coupling constant, shift re-agents used in NMR spectroscopy. Further he also cited some examples to explain the NMR spectrum of some molecules. The second session was conducted by Dr. Rupam Sarma, Assistant Professor in Chemistry, Nalbari College, Nalbari on 4th November during the 1st Half (10.00 am-12.00 pm). In his lecture he provided some important techniques for the preparation and as well as cracking NET examination. The last lecture was given by Dr. Lopamudra Homchaudhuri, Assistant Professor in Chemistry, Assam Don Bosco University who discussed and solved some previous years CSIR-NET exam question papers with the students. The students pursuing current M.Sc. courses from Assam Don Bosco University (both M.Sc. 1st Semester and M.Sc. 3rd Semester) highly benefitted from attending these classes.

### National Pharmacy Week 2022

The Institution of Pharmacy celebrated National Pharmacy Week 2022 as per a guide by Indian Pharmaceutical Association where a drawing competition was organized on 26th November 2022.

Drawing Competition was organized with an aim to motivate and develop young student artists' creative skills by exposing them to modern brilliance in the pharmacy field. Students got an opportunity to analyse and assess their ideas and drawings in comparison with their classmates by examining their peers' work. The competition was coordinated by Mr. Innocent Sutnga, Asst. Professor in the Institution of Pharmacy.



## Recent Trends in Gaming Industry

A one day event on Recent Trends in Gaming Industry was jointly organized by the Department of Computer Applications and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Azara Campus on 9th November 2022.

Students of both departments participated in the Gaming competitions as well as Counselling sessions for various different job roles available in the Gaming Industry. Representatives of Industries such as Facebook Gaming, Trinity Gaming, and Next Level Gaming provided different supporting technical platforms for the same. Different gaming devices as well as virtual reality platforms were introduced to the registered applicants so that they can experience the technology specific features that are emerging in the Gaming Industry.



## Youth Parliament

On 15th October, 2022 the Commerce and Management Club, School of Commerce & Management, conducted an inter-institutional Youth Parliament on the topic, "India should henceforth be called as Bharat or Hindustan". The event saw participation of institutions across different colleges of Guwahati & Shillong.

The Youth Parliament setup constituted of the Speaker (Dibyashree Pathak, BBA 5), the Secretaries, Prime Minister's Team, Government teams, Opposition teams and the Press. The session began at 9:30 AM with oath taking ceremony by one representative from each team followed by 'Introduction to the Bill' by the Prime Minister. After introducing the bill, the opposition teams asked questions to the government teams which continued till 10:50 a.m. followed by the Question hour where teams from both sides counter questioned their points and arguments. The question hour went on for another hour and came to an end at 12:00 PM. The last round was the counting of votes for the Bill from both teams. Since the votes for passing the Bill were equal on both sides, the bill was not passed and requires further discussion on the matter. The session ended by singing the National Anthem. A total of 9 teams from Don Bosco University, Gauhati University, St. Anthony's College Shillong and Royal Global University participated in the event.



## MERCEMOC 2022: Fuse Brain 3.0

On the 22nd of September, the Commerce and Management Club under the School of Commerce and Management of the University conducted its annual fest 'MERCEMOC 2022'. The event was coordinated by Ms. Chayanika Das and Ms. Neha Khaitan. The club successfully conducted FUSE BRAIN 3.0, an inter-Institutional Business Quiz. The competition was open to both undergraduate and postgraduate students, and witnessed the participation of 17 teams from colleges in Guwahati. The Quizmasters were Mr. Derajuddin Ahmed and Ms. Pratha Sharma.

The event started with a preliminary round. Six teams qualified into the second and final round. The winners were Cotton University (First), Guwahati Medical College (Second), and Assam Don Bosco University (Third). The event concluded at 4:00PM with a group photograph session. The winners were awarded on the 24th September with a certificate and cash prizes worth Rupees Seven Thousand sponsored by Darjeeling Momos, Genesis Max, and Summer 88.

## Orientation Programme on Civil Services and Chartered Accountancy

An Orientation Programme on 'Civil services and Chartered Accountancy' was organized by the Department of Commerce, Assam Don Bosco University, Azara in collaboration with Tarun IAS on 7th November, 2022. The session was conducted from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

The focus of the seminar was to introduce the students to the coveted Civil Services and Chartered Accountancy. The Session began with the inaugural speech by Dr. Biju Mani Das, Head of the Department. Following this was the interactive session with the resource persons, Mr. Tonmay Dutta and Mr. Praveen (ACS Rank-23) on reasons to opt for the Civil Services and the desirable qualities of a civil servant. The speakers also shared their personal experiences on how to balance and overcome the various obstacles that come in the way of student life. The speakers were also actively engaged in the Q&A session towards the end of the programme. The programme was attended by the students of B. Com 5th Semester and BBA 5th Semester.

## International Day for Disaster Reduction

On the occasion of International Day for Disaster Reduction celebrated annually on the 13th October 2022, the Department of Civil Engineering organized a Seminar for the students. This year, the International Day will focus on Target G of the Sendai Framework - Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

The speaker was Mr. Githartha Kalitha, Assistant Professor of the Department. Mr. Kalita covered topics including World Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction, Early Warning Systems, Vulnerability, Disaster Management Cycle, Rehabilitation and Repair, Classes of Damage, Natural Disasters, Earthquake Resistant Design of Structures and gave an insight on National Disaster Management Authority, National Institute of Disaster Management and National Disaster Response Force.

## GIS Day: Hands-on Workshop on Practical Application of GIS

The Department of Civil Engineering in collaboration with Centre for Geoinformatics of the University, celebrated GIS Day on 16 November 2022 under the auspices of Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). To celebrate this day, a 'Hands-on Workshop on Practical Application of GIS' was conducted. The resource persons were Mr. Arup Kumar Das, Senior Manager; and Ms. Madhumita Borthakur, GIS Analyst from Geospatial Technology and Application Division, AARANYAK, a premier NGO working in the area of Geoinformatics particularly on projects related to environmental conservation across India and Southeast Asia. During the training program, the resource person Mr. Arup Kr. Das demonstrated the applications of GIS.

In accordance with the tradition of ESRI to award Higher Education Institutes involved in celebrating the International GIS Day, a 5-User License of ARCGIS, proprietary software of ESRI, was awarded to Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, Director, SOT, to promote on-campus application of GIS technology for teaching and research.

The workshop was coordinated by Ms. Pori Das, Assistant Professor of the Department of Civil Engineering under the mentorship of Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, Director, SOT. The programme was attended by a total of 65 participants from the Department of Civil Engineering and Department of Computer Science.



## CVE Invited Talk

The Department of Civil Engineering organized an invited talk on 'Hydrometeorological Instruments and Radar-based Early Warning System' on 19th September, 2022. The talk was delivered by Dr. Sanjay O' Neill Shaw, Scientist-F, and Shri Sunit Das, Scientist-E, of Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC). Dr. Sanjay O' Neill Shaw elaborated on digital and analogue hydrometeorological instruments such as rain gauge, dry/wet bulb thermometer, pan evaporimeter, wind vane, dry/wet bulb hygrometer, and automatic weather station. Dr. Shaw also provided a brief overview on the technicalities of short, medium and long rainfall forecasts, cloud monitoring by the application of Radar technology.

Shri Sunit Das educated the participants regarding the various websites launched by RMC for accessing accurate forecasts on weather parameters in addition to real-time radar-based weather predictions. Mr. Das also encouraged the students to contribute information on unusual localized extreme weather phenomena via the Public Participation mobile application of RMC so that local weather events from remote mountainous areas of Northeast India which fail to be captured by the sparsely distributed automatic weather stations installed by RMC, Guwahati can also be included for a highly representative comprehensive forecast.

The event was coordinated by Ms. Pori Das, Assistant Professor and Dr. Girija T.R., Head of the Department. The event was attended by the 5th and 7th Semester students of the Department as well as faculty members.

## One-day Training on QGIS and Remote Sensing

The Department of Civil Engineering organized a One-day Training on 'QGIS and Remote Sensing' on 22nd October, 2022. The resource person was Mr. Arup Kumar Das, Manager, Geo Spatial Technology & Application, Aaranyak (Assam) which is a premier NGO of North East India primarily working on Biodiversity/ Wildlife Conservation.

Mr. Das presented an interactive lecture wherein he illustrated the open-source software, Google Earth and QGIS. Participants had an introductory hands-on training of Google Earth and QGIS that can be effectively used by the academe as alternatives to expensive conventional software like ArcGIS and Erdas Imagine. The training was attended by the faculty, BTech and MTech students of the Department.

## National Photography Competition

The Department of Mass Communication, Assam Don Bosco University has organised a National Photography Competition to mark the Teachers Day on September, 5th 2022 in online mode. The theme of the competition was, 'Spectrum of Knowledge'. More than 150 students from all over the country have participated in the competition. A cash prize of Rs 7500 was awarded to the winners of the event.

The winners of the competition were:

1st Prize: Mr Chintu Thakuria, Asian Institute of Management & Technology, Guwahati(AIMT)

2nd Prize: Ms Wandapbiang Jahrin, Deptt. English, Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU)

3rd Prize: Mr Abhiram Krishna Prasad, Jayanti College Autonomous, Bangalore, Karnataka.



In continuation to this, the Department also organised a photography Exhibition "Oasis of Visuals" on September 16 at Academic Block 2. The purpose of the event was to showcase the photography skills of the students of the Department and the importance of a good photograph. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Pro Vice Chancellor of the university Dr (Fr.) Jose Paley in the presence of the Head of the Department, the faculty members and the students of the university.

Later the day Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Fr. Stephen Mavelly also visited the exhibition along with the Directors of Schools and appreciated the hard work and efforts of the students. He asked the students to organise similar activities frequently and to give basic ideas of photography to the students of other departments to enhance the imagination and creativity among the youth.

## Screen Writing Workshop

On 29th October 2022, a one day workshop on 'Screen Writing for Film' was organised by the Department of Mass Communication. The workshop's main objective was to make both the undergraduate and postgraduate final year students of the Department to be well versed with the important elements of writing a script and the steps to formulate one. Mr. Jayanti Bordoloi, a distinguished director and screenwriter from the Marathi Film Industry was the resource person for the workshop.



Students were divided into smaller groups and asked to develop their own plot lines along with the detailed characterisation of their protagonist and other important characters. Mr. Bordoloi gave a comprehensive understanding on the significance of a 3 Act Structure in a story which ultimately helps in developing an interesting script.

Being an expert in the field of film making and script writing, Mr. Bordoloi gave some practical insights on the concept of plagiarism, copyright and how to save one's work from getting plagiarized. He also suggested some mobile applications which would help students to develop scripts for their own films.

## Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities for Working Journalist in NE

On 22nd October 2022, a lecture session on “Challenges & Opportunities of the Working Journalists in Northeast” was organised by the Department of Mass Communication with an objective to make both the undergraduate and postgraduate final year students of the Department Mass Communication to be well informed about the challenges that are being faced in the field of Journalism. Mr. Trideep Lahkar, the chief correspondent at Press Trust of India was the resource person for the day.

Being an expert in the field of Journalism, Mr. Lahkar gave some practical insights on the challenges faced by Journalists on the field like financial issues, political, societal, ethical, and risks journalists face during reporting. He also spoke on how fake news threatens the society. He also discussed about Journalists who have been physically attacked in Northeast region and also gave an insight into human rights and how it is related to Journalism.

## International Women's Day 2022

The Department of Mass Communication celebrated International Women's Day 2022 on 8th March 2022 at the department focussing on the theme 'Break the Bias'.

The students organised an open mike session to mark the day. Persis Jayakumar, 2nd Semester, has recited a poem on a hope of a gender equal world. Vis Jajo, 4th Semester delivered a speech on the importance of a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination, a society that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.



## International Literacy Day 2022

On the occasion of International Literacy Day, the Department of Education & Mass Communication, in collaboration with Sonapur College organized a National Webinar on the topic “Inclusive Distance with Digital Literacy Learning: Issues and Challenges of Higher Education Institution in the time of COVID-19 and Beyond” on September 8, 2022. Dr.Mridul Hazarika, the former Vice Chancellor of Gauhati University was present as a Chief speaker of the webinar. Addressing the participants, Dr. Hazarika spoke about the challenges educational institutions are facing to make virtual learning system an interesting medium of education during the time of COVID-19 pandemic and how institutions are moving towards a new teaching-learning methods.

Mr. Vijay Prasad, Assistant Professor (Sr), Department of Computer Application, ADBU, spoke about the techniques of online learning and the usage of different search engines and their importance to make online teaching-learning more effective and easier.

## Breast Cancer Awareness cum Screening Programme

The month of October is dedicated to Breast Cancer Awareness. To spread awareness on Breast Cancer, the Department of Social Work in collaboration with Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati organized a Cancer Awareness cum Screening Programme in three villages namely Nongthymmai, Jugdol, and Hatimura on October 14, 21, and 28 respectively. A total of 62 villagers were screened.

A team of three doctors, three nurses, and staff members from the Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute carried out the screening test for the volunteers from the three villages. The students of the Department of Social Work played a pivotal role in preparing the venue, mobilizing local resources, and ensuring the participation of the people from the host and nearby villages.

