

SPARK



Don Bosco University Newsletter

Volume 4 | Issue 3 | 2012



... a time to celebrate!

First **CONVOCATION**

Assam Don Bosco University

Message from the Chancellor

*"I'm on the top of the world
looking down on creation
And the only explanation
I can find
Is the love that I've found ever
since you've been around"..*



These words from the all time favourite song of 'The Carpenters' come to my mind and are my feelings on the occasion of the First Convocation of Don Bosco University. 19 September 2012 will not be forgotten in the annals of Assam Don Bosco University. We are witnessing the realization of a dream to fulfill the ever expanding and changing educational demands and needs of North East India.

Don Bosco University is not just another educational institution for higher learning within the educational horizon of North East India. It has been conceived to be functioning as a beacon of hope that will see the fulfillment of the dreams of the youth of our region. DBU is here to fill this educational gap in North East India, to offer quality educa-

tion at the higher level that would be within the reach of the youth of our region, who otherwise would drift into avenues of life that are undesirable. There is no explosive as dangerous as a young man or woman who has had his or her dreams of success in life shattered through circumstances that are not in his or her control, despite his or her willingness to work hard for the realization of those dreams.

It is the avowed objective of Don Bosco Society to offer opportunities to every young boy or girl passing out of the many high schools and junior colleges of our region, to be able to achieve their legitimate goals in life through university education that does not compromise on quality or competence. May this First Convocation therefore be the first step of a journey of a thousand miles, a journey that can end only when the youth of North East India and elsewhere, see the envisaged modern world class infrastructure and facilities as the home that has nurtured, developed and helped to actualise their legitimate ambitions and goals for a personally fulfilled and dignified life.

May God bless Don Bosco University, grant our heart's desires and fulfil our plans!

**Fr. V.M Thomas SDB
Chancellor**

Message from the Vice Chancellor

Dear Graduates

When we set out planning and conceptualising this university, we wanted the raison d'être of the university to be the formation of generations of leaders who would impact and transform their societies.

On this First Graduation Day, it is with a sense of pride and satisfaction that all of us here at the University say: You are the answer to this first focus of Don Bosco University - the first batch of leaders we are sending out to the world with the message that here comes a group of graduates who not only will be thorough-going professionals in their areas of expertise but who will also be persons who value self-reliance and social commitment as equally binding concomitants of their professionalism and leadership.

Again, as a University, we wanted to make a mark in precisely that area where research after research has pointed out that the higher education system in our country is deeply flawed in one fundamental aspect. The flaw is this: its inability to provide a minimum signalling effect to the world and the job market about the dependability of its graduates, to signal to the world that these graduates possess that unique combination of skills, knowledge (not just information) and attitude that will make them productive and useful.

As a University, we can confidently tell any potential em-



ployer about you that, yes, here you have a batch of graduates who are not just employable, but who, more importantly, are dependable human beings armed with a new mindset; and who, apart from the quality of their learning, have it in them to retool themselves with new skills, and a vibrancy to make lifelong learning the constant companion of their lives.

It is my firm belief that you will signal to the world a very distinctive type of person – cultured, competent, knowledgeable, broad-minded, never done with education the whole life-long, a leader who, while immersed in the task of making a life for himself / herself, is also intimately involved in the life of his / her community!

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In the name of Don Bosco University and its staff, it is my privilege to warmly congratulate you and wish you the best in life. You are now a part and parcel of the great Don Bosco Family that is looked up to and held in high esteem all over the world. You have a noble heritage you can take pride in and a name to live up to... Be proud to be a Bosconian!

With pride in your achievements, with confidence in your abilities, and with our prayers to accompany you, we wish you every success in the years ahead. As you graduate today, let me wish you God's blessings as you begin to navigate your unique, individual careers – definitely a much harder task today than in our time.

We pray that God's blessings will accompany each one of you down the long journey of life wherever that journey takes you.

**Fr Stephen Mavelly SDB
Vice Chancellor**

Glimpses into the past ... the journey of a thousand miles ...

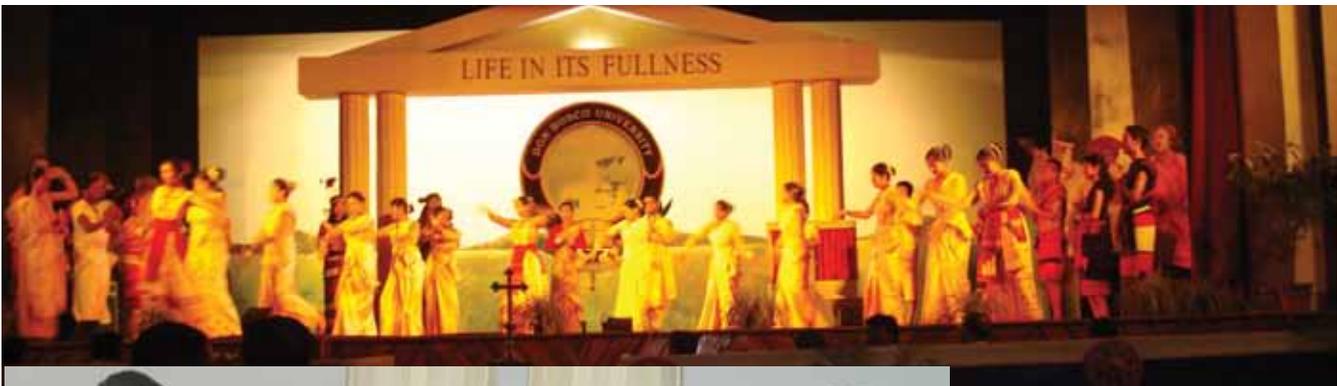
Assam Don Bosco University – a dream that evolved into a reality four years ago!

As we step expectantly into our fifth year, and as we rejoice with the first batch of our graduates on this First Convocation Day, here are glimpses of this eventful journey: from the 'Letter of Intent' issued by the Government of Assam on 29 March 2008 to the First Convocation Day on 19 September 2012.

The Beginnings



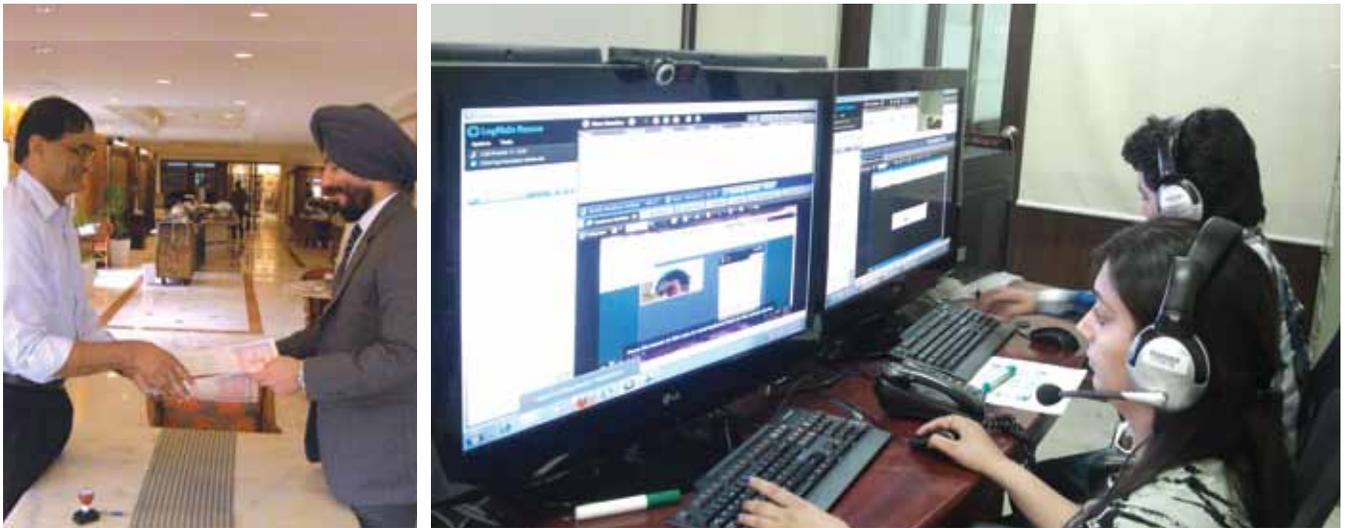
The first graduate courses in Technology and Engineering (B Tech) at Azara began on 11 August 2008



The formal inauguration of the university by the Chief Minister, Shri Tarun Gogoi was held on 6 December 2008.



The first post-graduate course in Computer Science (MCA) at Azara started on 20 August 2009, and Management in Business Administration (MBA) at Don Bosco Institute of Management, Kharghuli on 27 August 2009.



The university ventured into On-Line and Distance Education (DBU Global) on 8 December 2010 to reach out to the nooks and corners of our vast country and the world where Don Bosco institutions operate in 132 countries



The first batch of 33 graduates in Business Administration (MBA) were awarded their Degrees on 9 June 2011.



The Civil Engineering (B Tech) was inaugurated on 26 July 2011.



23 August 2011 saw the launch of two new post-graduate programmes: Masters in Social Work (MSW) and Masters in Technology (M Tech). More significantly, 22 doctoral students (Ph D) started research in 8 disciplines on the same day.



1 Sept 2011 saw the launching of a PG Diploma in Child Rights and Development. Ms. Jeroo Master, the Chief Field Officer, UNICEF inaugurating the Centre for Child Rights and Development.



The University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 07 October 2011 with DBTech, which has 123 technical institutions in India, with a view to standardization of training programmes, certification of the Courses of Study, and digitalization of the course contents for on-line delivery.



The University's Training and placement Office at Azara, sponsored by NEEPCO was inaugurated by Shri I P Barooah, CMD, NEEPCO, on 14 March 2011.



Blessing and Dedication of Azara Campus of the University held on 2 May 2012 marked the conclusion of the construction and infrastructure development activities at the Azara Campus of the University. The facilities include Don Bosco College of Engineering & Technology to cater to 1500 students with hostels to accommodate 500 men and women and 12 family quarters and 12 bachelor accommodations. A total of 3,10,000 square feet of built up area.



A joint Inspection Team of Distance Education Council of India (DEC), University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) visited the college on 9 December 2010 to verify the preparedness of the University to start Distance Education.



DBU Global North East Outreach Program: A new initiative of the University to cover 5000 students from North-East India with a 100% fee waiver scholarship in the next 3 years. Student support centres are being set up in each of the seven states to provide computer facilities, library and online classroom access to these students.



The UGC Inspection Team arrived at the University campus on 2 November 2011 to conduct the inspection as a pre-requisite for granting recognition under Section 12B - right to get grants of various types except for salaries - of the UGC Act in addition to the recognition under Section 2(f) - right to award degrees - of the same Act that the University already enjoys.



Ground-Breaking and Blessing Ceremony at University's Main Campus at Tapesia Gardens in Guwahati was held on 15 June 2012.



The University has inaugurated yet another Master's Programme in Psychological Counselling (MA / MSc) on 12 Sept 2012 to train counsellors who are theoretically sound, culturally sensitive and skilled enough to offer psychological assistance and support to individuals and groups



Four students of Assam Don Bosco University left for a year of study at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, USA, on 14 August as part of the 'Student Exchange Programme' between the two universities.

Networking and Collaborations

The University has sought to establish a web of collaborative arrangements with some of the outstanding universities and institutions in India and around the world through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs).

Apart from the International Network of fifteen Don Bosco Universities worldwide (IUS), following are some of the important partners of the University:



The University signs MOU with 'Classle Knowledge', 'I Create India' and 'PanIIT India' on 25 January 2012



The University signs MOU with DeSales University (Pennsylvania, USA) on 7 March 2012 for student and staff exchange programmes, for collaboration in on-line courses, for joint research on and development of educational leadership projects.

The University signs MOU with University of Arkansas – Little Rock (Arkansas, USA) on 13 March 2012 for semester abroad programmes for the engineering students, for exchange of staff and students on a routine basis, for joint certification and/or dual certification of degree programmes, for facilitating visits by professors and research students.



The University signed MOU with University of Chester (Chester, UK) – for student and staff exchanges, for dual delivery of academic programmes.

MOUs in final stages of being signed:

- With the Asian Institute of Technology (Bangkok, Thailand) – for staff and student exchange, for joint programmes in management and engineering.
- With Barry University (Florida, USA) – management, research, staff and student exchange.
- With the University of Fribourg (Fribourg, Switzerland) – research, staff and student exchange
- With the International University of Rioja (Rioja, Spain) – on line courses and virtual university

Some of the Eminent Visitors to the University



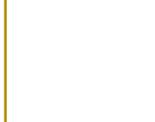
Mr. S.C. Das, Principal Secretary Home, Govt. of Assam addresses the students of Azara campus on 28 July 2009.



Fr. Pier Luigi Zuffetti, the Procurator of Don Bosco Society from Turin (Italy), visited the University 29 January 2011.



Fr. Pascual V Chavez, Rector Major of the Don Bosco Society on his arrival blessed the foundation stone of the permanent campus of the Don Bosco University and dedicated the Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology to the people of North East India on 10 November 2009.



Prof. M. Dale Griffin from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawee, USA and Dr. Steven Rubado, Area Representative, Northeast India, Asian Life Development Foundation (ARLDF), Philippines visited Don Bosco University on 10 January 2011.



His Excellency, Shri Janaki Ballav Patnaik, Governor of Assam and Visitor to the University inaugurated the academic year on 27 July 2010.



Dr. S P Gon Chaudhuri, adviser to the Government of West Bengal and to the Government of India on renewable energy, holds a discussion with the developmental team of the University on setting up a Solar Plant on 17 February 2011.



A team from DeSales University, Pennsylvania (USA), headed by their President Fr. Bernard O'Connor, visited the University to explore possibilities of collaboration in various courses of study on 2 March 2011.



Prof Sivaji Chakravorti, Chairman of IEEE Calcutta Section, addressing the students on 19 April 2011 and speaks about "IEEE for students".



Vice Chancellor of Gauhati University, Prof Okhil Kumar Medhi inaugurates the new academic year on 26 July 2011.



Prof Rajneesh Arora, Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Technical University, the Chair Person of the UGC Team addressing the staff and students of Don Bosco University on 2 November 2011.



Shri T K A Nair IAS, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister in June 2012 visited the University on 7 May 2012.



Consul General of Bhutan in West Bengal and Assam, His Excellency, Dasho Tsering Wangda, inaugurating the fifth academic year of Assam Don Bosco University on 31 July 2012.



Bro Jean-Paul Muller, Ecomer General, Salesians of Don Bosco, Rome



Dr Richard Brosse, Catholic University of Louvain (Louvain, Belgium)

Significant Programmes

Student Development Programmes

A series of programmes are being carried out at various intervals to make its graduates dependable human beings: cultured, competent, knowledgeable, broad-minded, committed to society - 'educated' in every sense of the term. With an emphasis on 'finishing-school-skills,' it aims at providing the students with the tools and the knowledge to cope with the demands of a complex world.



Faculty Enrichment Programmes

Social Commitment Programmes

The students take part in different types of social commitment activities during the year such as organizing weekly remedial classes for children from the university neighbourhood, visiting the old age home and orphanage etc.



Student Clubs

There are a number of co-curricular and extracurricular clubs that create a platform for the students to sharpen their skills and widen the knowledge in varied areas of interest.

DBIM promotes the clubs "Pranjwal", "Reflectivz" and "Ascenders" which encourage a variety of activities such as promotion of corporate social responsibility, enhancement of knowledge skills and creativity.



Activities at Training and Placement Centre

Employability of our graduates and their insertion into the world of work are twin principles that undergird the vision of the University. A variety of industry-academia interactions, training in soft skills, liaising with corporate houses for recruitment, showcasing the quality of our graduates etc are being organized to ensure the preparedness of our graduates and their placement. Guest lectures and interaction programs are organized regularly to give exposure to our students and to provide opportunity for them to listen to the professionals from industry.



Workshops Seminars Conferences

The University has organized a number of national conferences, seminars and workshops to cater to the interest of the students as well as the faculty members.

Research Activities

The Assam Don Bosco University has a vibrant research programme leading to the Ph D degree in the following thrust areas :

- Chemical Sciences
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Social Work
- North East India Studies
- Comparative Religion
- Computer Science and Engineering
- Business Administration
- Mass Communication



ACCREDITATIONS

The Assam Don Bosco University was setup by the Assam Don Bosco University Act 2009 under the State Private Universities Act of the Government of Assam, and was duly notified vide Government Notification No.LGL 149/2008/30 dated 12th February 2009.

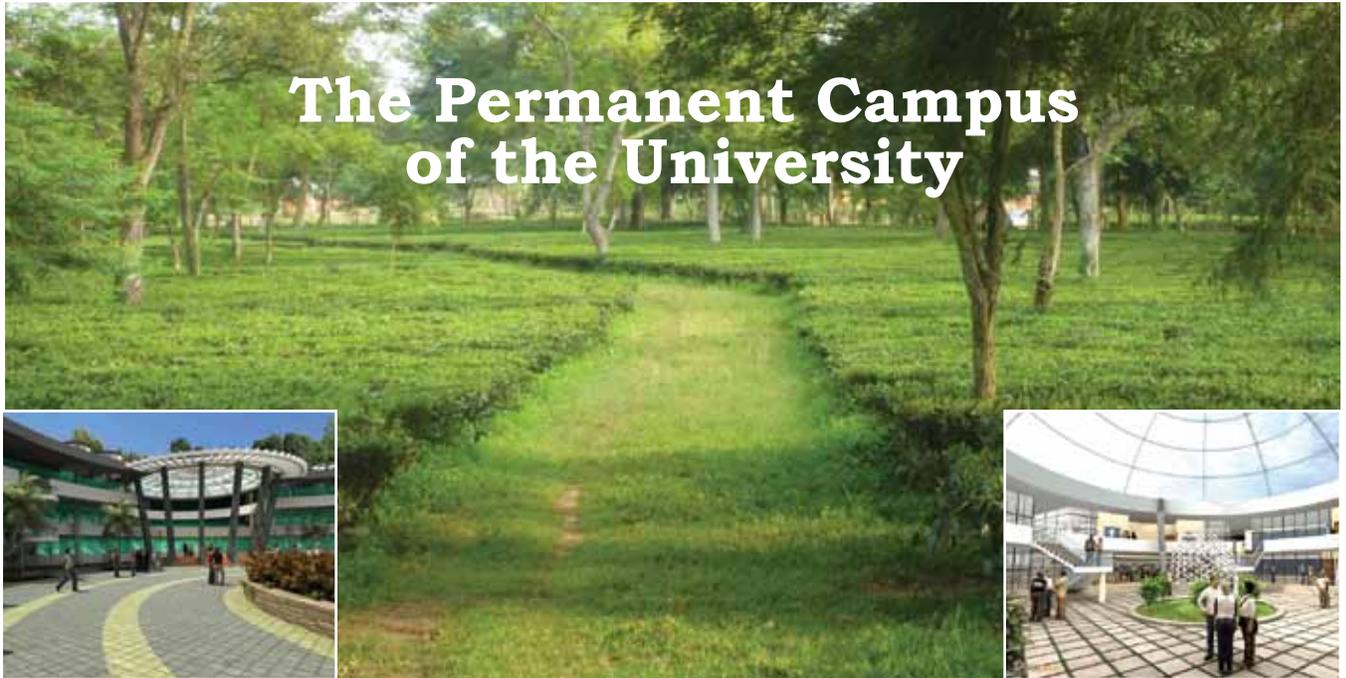
The University is authorized to award and grant degrees under Section 22 of the UGC Act of 1956, and enjoys the approval of the University Grants Commission under section 2(f) of the said Act, vide Notification No.8-13/2009(CPP1) dated 13th November 2009.

The University has received due approval from the Distance Education Council after an inspection by a Joint Committee of UGC-AICTE-DEC vide Letter No. DEC/Assam Don Bosco/Assam/2011/6773 dated 24th August 2011.

The University is also approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) vide its letter F.No:06/02/ASSAM/ENGG./2008/01 dated 30th June 2008.

The University is also a member of the Commonwealth Association of Universities based at London since 18th October 2011, and of the International Association of Universities (IAU) based at Paris since 29th November 2011, and of the International Association of Don Bosco Institutions of Higher Education (IUS) based at Rome since 2008.





The Permanent Campus of the University



Nestled in the serene Tapesia Gardens, spread over 500 acres of undulating hills, off National Highway 37, a state-of-the-art campus is being planned and developed. This permanent campus will be an uplifting confluence of natural beauty and architectural excellence.



The detailed Master Plan for the phased development of the campus has provisions for academic and administrative blocks, staff and student residences, recreational and sports facilities, utilities and services, plantations and orchards, parks and quiet corners, cycle paths and jogging trails, a bio-diversity park, an amphitheatre, a convention centre, a school and a health centre.



Our assurance on this momentous occasion...

Don Bosco University Project has been the shared dream of a cross section of individuals, organizations and agencies. While acknowledging the constant and enthusiastic support we have received and keep on receiving from a wide circle of friends and well-wishers, we want to assure them that...

- a) This university will continue to strive to make professional and higher education accessible to the weaker sections of society... THAT is our solemn commitment.
- b) This university will continue to spare no effort to ensure that our graduates become dependable and truly human leaders with a strong sense of commitment to the poor, the disadvantaged and the needy... THAT is the goal embedded in our vision.
- c) This university will continue to strive for excellence in every process and undertaking... THAT is our approach.

When we keep repeating at every forum that Don Bosco University is a university with a difference, this is exactly what we have in mind.