



Spark

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Don Bosco University Newsletter

September - December, 2009

Rector Major at DBCET, Guwahati

Excerpts from the message to young people on the occasion

"My dear young people, ... I see the marvelous kaleidoscope of rich cultures and tribes, languages and religions. You are a beautiful people with great human and religious qualities. You, young people of the North East India, are particularly talented and intelligent. This part of the country should have been a leader in the Indian sub-continent. And yet all of us know that this is not yet the case. The area is still beset with numerous problems such as illiteracy, corruption, unemployment, drug abuse, violence, terrorism, social unrest, low status of women and ethnic conflicts..."

"... The hopes of the land are in the hands of its new generation. That is you, my dear young people. You have a great responsibility in front of this nation. Be tough young men and women, intent on the higher goals of life. Do not pass your days in the university in search of ephemeral pleasures of life and a mediocre intellectual performance. Make this University a university with a difference, a beacon from rest of the universities in the country, by your seriousness in study, eagerness to do research and commitment to social outreach. The country depends on you. You are the main resource of this country. This is your time."

"... The University's emblem contains the word, 'Carpe Diem'. It reminds you each time to take your Chance. This is an invitation to make the best of each day. Grab the opportunity to grow and to serve..."



Rector Major Blesses the Foundation Stone for the First Don Bosco University in India

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

In his keynote address, emphasizing the vitality of the University Fr. Chavez said, "Don Bosco University is planned with a holistic vision, trying to make a contribution to all levels of education and nation building. This University is undoubtedly the most significant sign that we are serious about giving the best for the young, whom we love so much." He further said, "Don Bosco University

did not materialize by chance, all of a sudden. It is the culmination of a process of maturation in our educational involvement which is by now a century old in India. The whole project is ahead of us, still to be realized. But we have well founded optimism that this endeavor will develop and flourish with the blessings of God and Don Bosco."

Placing on record the contribution of the Salesians in the region he said, "In the first place I would like to congratulate the province of Guwahati, which is on the vanguard of Higher Education in the Salesian world."

Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil of Guwahati expressed his joy on the occasion and spoke of the importance of Don Bosco University. He hoped that the University will place great emphasis on planting values in the hearts of people and help to form convictions that build society.

In his welcome address, Fr. Joe Almeida, Provincial Superior of Guwahati Province, remembered with gratitude the pioneering ventures of the missionaries who bequeathed the region of North-East India with



numerous educational institutions, building up an educational pyramid that has formed the leaders of society in these North-Eastern States for over a century. He further stated, "The establishment of the University is a fitting tribute to the genius that Don Bosco truly is."

Fr. Stephen Mavely, Vice Chancellor of Don Bosco University in his speech said, "Don Bosco University is born out of an imperative in the psyche of Don Bosco Society that we should be emphatically present there where the professionals and leaders of society are being formed." Making a special note of thanks to the Rector Major he said, "The decision of our Superior General to personally come and bless

the Foundation Stone of the permanent campus this morning is the clearest signal to us and to the people of North-East India that Don Bosco Society is deeply committed to this project."

Fr. Sebastian Karotemprel, Joint-Coordinator of DBU Project proposed vote thanks on behalf of the entire University team. Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga, Regional Superior, Mr. Prateek Hajela, IAS, Deputy Commissioner and Mr. K.N. Hazarika, MD, NEDFI were among the guests of honour.

The function began at 10.30 am with a colorful welcome to the Chief Guest and the dignitaries. Welcoming them with a standing

ovation, the students of DBCET sang enthusiastically with one voice, "Smiling faces round you gather..." An assembly of about 1,500 gathered to witness the visit of the Rector Major to DBCET, Azara, Guwahati. A number of eminent guests, both church and government officials, academicians, students from various city schools joined DBCET and DBIM students.

The students of DBCET and DBIM kept the momentum of the day entertaining the gathering with a Bodo dance, Bihu dance and songs. The function drew to a close as the whole assembly with all singing with one voice the song of Don Bosco, "Father of many youngsters...."

Rector Major Meets the Core Committee of Don Bosco University

The Rector Major had a brief meeting with the members of the Core Committee of Don Bosco University at its temporary Head Quarters in Azara, Guwahati on 10 November 2009 to discuss matters concerning the University. Fr. Stephen Mavely made a brief presentation on the aims and objectives, plans and vision of the University. He also presented the master plan made for the permanent campus and explained the locations of various blocks and departments. In appreciation for all that is being done for the project, the Rector Major said that the very fact that this is the first Don Bosco University in India should motivate everyone to take this work forward with all the dedication it calls for. Quoting from the presentation made by Fr. Stephen he said, "We need to move on... we need to walk the talk."



From Events' Diary



17 September, 2009: Shri Surender Kumar, Director, DoNER, New Delhi and Mr. Ramheu E. Zeliang, Asstt. General Manager of NEDFI (North East Development Finance Corporation) visits the institution in view of extending loan for the developmental works of the centre.



2 October, 2009: Prof. Ashok Dutta, Director of IIM, Shillong, one of the Governing Body Members of the Don Bosco University, meets Fr. Stephen Mavely and his team at DBCET and discusses on developmental works of the University. Prof. Ashok is one of the past pupils of Don Bosco, Liluah, Kolkata and has rich pioneering experience in prestigious institutions.



3 October, 2009: Dr. Martin Kasper, Director, Child Aid Network, Frankfurt and Dr. Roland Strux, Frankfurt arrive at the College along with Fr. Lukose Cheruvalel. They hold discussions with Fr. Stephen Mavely on the possibility of finding sponsors for the Special School to be set up by the University for the poor and tribal children of the region.

Teaching and Assessment Strategies for Development of Competencies



A seminar on "Teaching and Assessment Strategies for Development of Competencies", by Dr. George Kallingal ABMP, ABPS, Professor, University of Guam, USA was held for the staff of Don Bosco College of Engineering & Technology (DBCET) on 30 September 2009 at DBCET, Guwahati. The workshop dealt with the adoption of innovative teaching and assessment strategies to ensure fairness in dealing with students projects and performance.

Dr. Kallingal expressed deep concern over the present generation of graduates who are ignorant of moral values. He asked the participants to use science as a tool for searching for truth, not for perpetuating dogmatism. He said that the current education system is not addressing the issues of society and reminded the group that education is to help students to become what they can become.

Calling on the teachers to be both scientists and artists, Dr. Kallingal described teaching as what teachers do to prepare students for their life and to create conducive environments in communities for all members to live a productive life. He encouraged them to employ different evaluation strategies for different categories of students based on their individual abilities.

The workshop focused on workmanship, ethics, the need for faith and hope in the students and dealt with the issues of formative and summative assessments. The need for linking goals to the mission and vision of education was also discussed in detail.

The faculty members were trained to select most appropriate methods to evaluate the students, thus ensuring fair and just assessments.

Mr. Siddhartha Roy

Admissions 2010

Details at www.dbuniversity.ac.in

Happenings in DBIM

**Class Room Interactions with
personnel from the industry,
administration and academics**



25 September 2009: Mr. Nabajyoti Acharya, Business Development Manager - Capsugel, Pfizer India Ltd delivered the first "DBIM Special Lecture" on the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry. Students were provided information about the business scenario in pharmaceutical industry and students were encouraged to join the pharmaceutical industry that has a huge potential.

5 October 2009: Ms. Jennifer Murphy,

Project Manager, NAIRTL, University College Cork, Ireland was at DBIM and delivered a lecture on Leadership Traits to the MBA students.

23 October 2009: The Dean of Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar (XIMB) Prof. William delivered a lecture on the prerequisite for a manager to sustain in the corporate world and cited the importance of sharing knowledge through teaching.

24 November 2009: Mr. Sumeet Jerath, Commissioner of Rural development and Panchayat, Govt. of Assam and an IAS Officer, took a session on the Topic "Organizational Culture". Real life examples of McDonalds' who follows quality service, cleanliness and values as their culture and other companies like Maruti Suzuki, Tata motors who have significant work culture which is looked up by others were shared with us.

Phibahunlang Swer, DBIM

DBCET Students at Tezpur University

31 students of DBCET, Azara took part in 'TECH XETRA' a Technical Fest organized by the students of Tezpur University on 18-19 September 2009.

The various competitions selected for the two-day event aimed to showcase the array of talents of the students of the region. The students of DBCET took part in 'Robotics', categorized into brands like Propero Arena, Deep Flight etc. In the arena of literature, the students participated in competitions such as 'Wordsmith' - essay writing on "Technology in Advertising", 'Nirman' structure design, 'D Hot Seat' a mock interview, 'Nail D Byte' test on coding efficiency and 'Advantage' making ad on the given topic. Abhinav Aich and Minerva Das bagged prizes in 'Wordsmith' and 'D Hot Seat' respectively.

The students were accompanied by three teachers, Mrs. Sumita Dhar Chaudhury, Mr. Siddhartha Roy and Mr. Jyoti Parakash Medhi. The College contingent came home enriched by the experience and determined to scale greater heights at similar meets.



Zeelmeel Bora & Rashmi Bhuya, III Semester



DBCET, Guwahati, Initiates 'Free and Open Source Software'

A workshop on 'Free and Open Source Software' (FOSS) was held at Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology, Azara, Guwahati on 16-17 November 2009 with the aim of popularizing the relevance of FOSS in North East. About 100 participants comprising of officials from public and private sectors, faculties and students from various Colleges of Guwahati joined the two-day programme.

Shri M.K. Yadav, MD, AMTRON, Chief Guest of the inaugural function, captured the attention of the audience on FOSS with his talk on its relevance today. He introduced FOSS as software that can be used for system development and named it a 'powerful tool' which makes applications easy and accessible.

Shri Probir K. Das, Development Commissioner, Special Economic Zone (IT&ITES), Director STPI, Eastern India

in his keynote address spoke about the benefits of FOSS today. He said that the approach to FOSS has gained wide acceptance and its potential benefits are being increasingly recognized by both individuals and corporate players.

Dr. P.K. Goswami, Director of Higher and Technical Education, Assam and Mr. Varad Gupta, Resource Team Leader were the other speakers at the inaugural function.

Mr. Varad Gupta (Founder Director of Keen and Able Computers Pvt. Ltd., Delhi), Mr. KB Shiv Kumar (Project Leader, Spectranet), Mr. Atul Jha (Research Programmer, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy), Mr. Ashutosh Taiwal (Programmer, Fostering Linux) were the resource persons of the workshop.

The workshop aimed to increase the awareness about the availability and benefits of FOSS both at the academic and governmental level, to set up a Linux User Group at Guwahati that can assist Linux users in troubleshooting problems, and to build up resource centres in the region for providing expertise in the deployment of FOSS and developing more products under open source.

The sessions adopted a hands-on approach, focusing more on the practical aspects without neglecting the fundamental theoretical concepts such as Linux File System, Kernel and Shell.

The programme was organized by the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology of Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology, Azara, Guwahati.

Ms. Sirra Nissy Paul

Kalanirjharni 09

Kalanirjharni 09, a talent exhibition, an event much awaited by everyone in DBCET was held in the afternoon of 24 November, 2009. The three-hour long programme of songs, dances, skits and instrumentals was enjoyed by all present.



An Appreciation Night

The evening of 24 October 2009 in DBCET was exceptionally beautiful as the entire building was once again brightened up with the illumination done on Diwali night to receive the special guests of the evening celebration. The joyful music that flooded the surrounding sounded like a welcome note to all those who came in that evening. This occasion was to have an 'Appreciation Night', an informal get together of all members of the staff of DBCET with their family, which was one of the long cherished thoughts of Fr. Stephen Mavely.

Little games filled with fun and amusement organized for children and adults broke all little fences around the individuals and everyone was delighted to be present on the occasion. Fr. Stephen welcomed all and introduced to everyone some of the close collaborators of the Institution present on the occasion. This was followed by prayer moments organized by Sr. Celine D'Cunha along with some of the staff members. The gathering was led to note the importance of Don Bosco University, its inception, plans and developments through a PowerPoint presentation by Sr. Shiji James and they were given a glimpse of the future University Campus at Tapesia by Fr. Joseph Nellnatt.

The uplifting moment of the gathering drew in with a surprise note by Fr. Stephen, wherein he called each one to present a cheque each. Each of the cheque he presented had great value beyond measure as it had the inscription addressing each one saying 'YOU matter!' He appreciated the members before the entire gathering and thanked them for their commitment and dedication to the Institution.

The end of the programme was the 'Pot Luck' Dinner shared by all at the auditorium. The special dinner with the varieties of dishes prepared and brought by the members was sumptuous and delicious, and sure enough to have a few basketsful left over. The unforgettable event lasted till 9.30 pm and the gathering dispersed with great satisfaction and joy.



Mr. P. Joseph



Student Speaks

Being Socially Committed

*"For whole centuries of folly,
noise and sin!
Shut them in,
With their triumphs and
their glories and rest!
Love is the best."
- Robert Browning*

Human beings are social animals and to be in this wonderful world, we have to be a part of it. Sharing the joys and the sorrows of others, helping our neighborhood, being selfless and following the golden rules of brotherhood and fraternity is what bring meanings to one's life. In our modern world life is fast, but finding out time to reach out to those in need amidst our busy schedule is truly

commitment. And this comes from love. Indeed, love is bestowed upon the humans by the Almighty, who is beyond the reach of death and time, and who remains perpetually forever. If one lacks love, then his life is an ephemeral existence of earthly things.

We, the Bosconians here at DBCET are indeed fortunate as we are given the opportunity to taste the joy of serving our fellow human beings. Though we do it in small ways, the happiness it renders to us is beyond the reach of what money can buy.

As per our social commitment programmes organized by the Campus Ministry Department of the College we are initiated into a series of programmes. Each of the programme was carefully selected and had a focus on the marginalized section of the society.

The students of IT Branch visited Shanti Dan, an old age home at Khanamukh on 1 November 2009. Though it is well known as an 'Old Age Home', it shelters people of all age groups. There were old parents who spent their entire life in bringing up their children who later abandoned them or got rid of them from their homes. Some were poor who had no means of livelihood and there were also helpless children and T B patients whom no one took care. The students were greatly impressed by the joy that flooded in each of the faces there. That afternoon as they were leaving, their emotions were trapped between two feelings; joy, peace and satisfaction at being able to share the joys and sorrows of the inmates of Shanti Dan and sorry for many who have not realized the joy of serving others which we had just realized.



Priety Pegu
DBCET





The students from CSE and EEE Branches took their turn to surprise the kids at the Orphanage of the Missionaries of Charity in Bharalumukh on 8 November. Though the little angels whom they encountered couldn't speak to them, their faces beamed with joy taught them great lessons of life.

Children's Day, 14 November was specially chosen by students of ECE Branch to be with the poor children of the construction workers of the place. A short entertainment programme

staged by the students in the evening offered them the occasion to greet the children with the gifts for their special day.

On 22 November the orphan children of five Shnehalayas in the city were invited to be the guests in our College. The students of ECE, ECE and ITE Branches welcomed them and entertained them the whole day. The day was memorable for both the guests and the hosts, as it offered them wonderful opportunity to

understand each other.

To sum up my brief sharing on our social commitment activities I like to recall the words of Fr. Stephen Mavelly who once commented on our activities with much appreciation saying "At first we might think that we are doing a favour to those underprivileged ones, but if we reflect and pounder back to those hours we spent with them, we realize that it is they who did a favour to us. They kindle a spirit of satisfaction and joy in our souls."

Master Plan for the Permanent Campus of Don Bosco University



My Experience at DBIM



Rupankar Das,
DBIM

My journey at Don Bosco Institute of Management (DBIM), began in August 2009 has already gifted me with many great moments to be ever cherished in life. Though the beginnings were filled with lethargy, I have come to realize the radiant spark of DBIM that keeps nurturing my dreams and shaping my life.

Situated on the riverbank of the mighty Brahmaputra, not very far from the heart of Guwahati city, the very location of the Institute is unique in every way. It is a very delightful experience to study in the midst of nature's majesty with the river Brahmaputra inundating Mother Nature with scenic beauty and with a mild breeze blowing all the time.

This residential MBA program let me have an experience of hostel life. I still remember my maiden night in the hostel. My room-mates and I signed a MoU relating to some deals which may sound funny but very relevant for every boy's hostel. From day one onwards the "Hostel happenings" are very interesting enough to make a good write up for each day. With a deep appreciation I can say that the hostel is the best place of social interaction. I see that it is a home away from home.

I greatly admire all our faculty members and administrative staff who keep emphasizing on creating a friendly environment for work at DBIM. Significance of working in group was never felt hitherto. The continuous involvement in group activities entrusted with set responsibilities exploits our talents in diverse fields providing ample opportunity to emulate, improve and innovate. The daily schedule, right from morning jogging at 6 am, in spite of it being a cumbersome part of our schedule, till the last class at 5 pm is designed in such a manner that we are compelled to organize our schedules and manage our time in the best

possible way to finish the works within a stipulated time frame.

Studying in groups after class hours at Rhino Square and in the Terrace overlooking the magnificence of the river Brahmaputra has become an inevitable part of our lives, especially on the days when we are working on assignments and projects. The recent market survey projects that we did as part of our course curriculum taught us a lot in terms of interacting with the customers at the shopping malls in Guwahati city and also with their management team. I was delighted as we got so much of information on the actual working environment of those companies, their customer satisfaction level, spending trends of people, etc within a very short span of time. The life and experiences here make me convinced of the right choice I have made in life to be a good manager.

The Institute conducts seminars and events very often and gives us ample opportunity to interact with the eminent dignitaries. One of such seminar was recently held on 21 November wherein we were entrusted with responsibilities that sounded challenging. Practical and field activities have taught us responsibilities involved in the course of event management.

DBIM is a pioneer in its efforts towards bridging the gap between the people of North East and rest of India by imparting quality higher education. Due to lack of infrastructure in higher education, including management education, there has been an exodus of talented youths from North East to other parts of India. It is a great effort of DBIM to bring in the zeal of youth of North East together and expose it to the whole world. I have deep conviction that DBIM would help me emerge as a responsible citizen of the land in due course of time.

Archbishop of Guwahati Blesses the Foundations of the DBCET Hostels



Archbishop Thomas Menampampil blesses the foundations of the hostels for men and women at Azara, Guawahati. The hostels will be ready for accommodating 100 students each by the start of next academic year in July 2010. When the construction will be completed by December 2010, the hostels will provide accommodation for 500 students.

Breaking News...

Notification on Don Bosco University under section 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956

The UGC has notified {Vide F No. 8-13/2009(CPP-1) dated 13th November 2009} that "Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati, has been established by Act (No. 09 of 2009) of State Legislature of Assam as a State Private University and is empowered to award degrees as specified by the UGC under section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956..."



From the Desk of the Vice-Chancellor

... on giving and sharing



There is a silent revolution taking place on our campus here at Azara a development that is very much in tune with our vision statement which, among other things, speaks of formation for social awareness and moulding of 'socially committed' Bosconians.

For the past several weeks we have had batches of students spending their weekends with the terminally ill patients and the inmates of the Old Age Home at Shanti Dan (Khanamukh) and with the kids at the Orphanage of the Missionaries of Charity (Bharalumukh). They have always come back with a sense of satisfaction very visible on their faces as they narrate their experiences.

Another group of students played host to the kids from Snehalaya a fortnight ago, giving them a day out here in our campus with a variety of activities that left them wanting to come back again and again. The lunch that was organized for the children of the construction workers and their families was yet another indication of the level of concern and awareness about people in need that is catching on - something that we can be proud of. Congratulations! ...and keep up the

good work.

In the context of these developments, let me share a thought with you...

The year is coming to an end ... Christmas is round the corner; and the New Year beckons with a promise of new beginnings, fresh horizons.

Christmas is a time of giving in imitation of the God who generously shared his own Son with us. We give and we receive, we share and we celebrate. But our giving and our sharing will become just inane gestures unless something of ourselves is involved in the sharing and the giving.

Let me say it with a little story...

A boy and a girl were playing together. The boy had a collection of marbles. The girl had some sweets with her. The boy told the girl that he would give her all his marbles in exchange for her sweets. The girl agreed.

Quietly and unknown to the girl, the boy set aside the biggest and the most beautiful marble, and gave

the rest to the girl. The girl gave him all her sweets as she had promised.

That night, the girl slept peacefully. But the boy couldn't sleep as he kept wondering if the girl had hidden some sweets from him the way he had hidden his best marble.

*** **

Even in a good thing like giving and sharing there are choices to be made how much to give? What to give? What if it hurts to give? Choices! ...so many to be made ...so bewildering in their variety ...so very difficult most of the time! And, yet, that's what life is made up of. The implications of the choices that we make, immediate and for the future, are mind-boggling. The turns and the twists along our life's journey, most of the time, are the direct results of the choices that we make and prime among these choices is the choice between selfishness and selflessness even in the very act of giving and sharing...

Let me take this opportunity to wish you and your dear ones peace and joy at Christmas and the choicest blessings of God in the year ahead.

Fr Stephen Mavelly SDB
Vice-Chancellor

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