

SPARK

Don Bosco University Newsletter



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Cover Story

New Programmes New Initiatives

The University seeks to make itself a centre for culture, knowledge, research, intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and analysis of whatever shapes and impacts human life

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The 1st Graduation Ceremony was held at Don Bosco Institute of Management, the first constituent unit of Assam Don Bosco University, on 11 June 2011



Assam Don Bosco University, in collaboration with Snehalaya, Guwahati, launched a Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Child Rights and Development



DBCET, Azara, joined IIT Bombay to conduct workshops to enhance teaching skills of faculty in Engineering and Science Subjects

From the Vice-Chancellor

One of the most readable books of the Bible, and at the same time one that raises a lot of questions about the quest for happiness and the meaning of life, is the Book of Ecclesiastes. Reading through it, one is amazed at how 'contemporary' the thoughts and reflections of the author are – he/she voices the perennial questions about meaning and purpose that are still raised in today's society.

One such passage, stark in its simplicity and yet haunting in its resonance with our thought patterns, is the following on how there is an 'appropriate time' for everything:

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.

... He has made everything appropriate to its time.

The last few months have seen a flurry of activities and ventures in the University. We have signed a number of MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding) with several institutions and universities, widening our reach, benefitting by the associations, enriching and being enriched by the cross-fertilization of ideas, experiences and processes from across the world.

We have also had a number of new courses started during this academic year – a Graduate Programme in Social Work (MSW), another in Technology (M Tech), Doctoral Programmes in a variety of subjects, and a highly significant Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Child Rights and Development.

As this University grows and develops, it is with a sense of gratefulness that we acknowledge the many individuals and institutions that have made this growth and expansion possible – at its 'appointed time!'

Coming now to a related thought... something that keeps amazing those of us who have been involved in Don Bosco University Project is the on-going miracle of a number of agencies and foundations and individuals who have gone out of their way to look at this project, stopped by to watch us at work, were fascinated by our vision and planning... and decided to 'lend their own dreams, their own hands, their own hearts to our building!'



Charles Peguy, the French poet, must have been talking of this project when he wrote:

And the Lord God said:
I myself will dream a dream within you!
Good dreams come from Me you know!
My dreams seem impossible,
Not too practical, not for the cautious man or woman—
A little risky, sometimes, a trifle brash perhaps ...

Some of my friends prefer
To rest more comfortably, in sounder sleep,
With visionless eyes –

But, from those who share my dreams
I ask a little patience, a little humour,
Some small courage, and a listening heart –
I will do the rest ...
Then, they will risk, and wonder at their daring ...
Run – and marvel at their speed ...
Build – and stand in awe at the beauty of their building.

You will meet Me often as you work –
In your brothers (and sisters), who share your risk ...
In your friends, who believe in you enough
To lend their own dreams, their own hands,
Their own hearts, to your building ...
In the children who will find your doorway,
Stay a while, and walk away, knowing they too can find a dream.

There will be sun-filled days,
And sometimes it will rain –
A little variety!
Both come from Me ...

'Sun-filled days' – yes, we have had many of them, thank God!
'Rainy days' – we keep stumbling through them too! Both have a role in this eventful journey. But, at the end of the day, what matters and what remains are 'the children who find our doorway, stay a while, and walk away, knowing they too can find a dream!'

Fr Stephen Mavelly SDB
Vice Chancellor

Bachmann Foundation Committed to Deeper Involvement



Leopold Bachmann Stiftung has evinced keen interest in the Don Bosco University Project with a combination of grants and soft loans with an eye to the eventual self-sustainability of the project. In recent discussions held at Adliswil (Switzerland) areas of involvement in ecological concerns, productive use of the university land and entrepreneurial projects were discussed. In the picture are: Dr Regina Bachmann, Fr Stephen Mavelly, Mr Leopold Bachmann and Dr Albert Kesseli.

Meeting of the Executive Board of the Salesian (Don Bosco) Institutions of Higher Education



The Executive Board of the Salesian (Don Bosco) Institutions of Higher Education (known as 'IUS') was held at Rome, 13-16 July 2011. Representing the Asian region as a member of the Board, Fr Stephen Mavelly, the Vice Chancellor, participated in the Board Meeting that dwelt on the theme of the 'Salesian Identity' of the Don Bosco Institutions of Higher Education centred around the twin principles of ensuring access to the under-privileged and creation of an ambience within the institutions that provides close and direct interaction between the staff and the students.

Scouting for Support from Princess Nora de Liechtenstein



On 18th August, the Vice Chancellor, Fr Stephen Mavelly, had an opportunity to share the vision and project design of the University with H.R.H. Princess Nora de Liechtenstein who saw great possibilities in the project and assured to help the university establish beneficial relationships with a number of foundations in Liechtenstein.

Collaboration with University of Fribourg



The Vice Chancellor held a series of meetings with Prof Mariano Delgado (Dean of the Faculty of Theology) and Dr Marielle de Dardel (Director for International Relations) of the Catholic University of Fribourg (Switzerland) in July this year. The process of signing a protocol for establishing a mutually beneficial relationship between the two universities in various areas (staff and student exchange, joint research projects, scholarship schemes, etc.) has been initiated. In the picture are: Mr Dieter Pfaff (a friend and well wisher of the university project who acts as a liaison between the universities), Dr Marielle de Dardel (Director for International Relations), Fr Stephen Mavelly (Vice Chancellor, Don Bosco University), and Prof Mariano Delgado (Dean, Faculty of Theology, University of Fribourg).

Scherrer Georges on Don Bosco University



Mr Scherrer Georges, reporter and syndicated columnist for a number of newspapers and journals in Switzerland and Germany, met with the Vice Chancellor at Zurich (Switzerland) to have an in-depth understanding of the university project, especially its developmental plans. He followed up the discussions with a series of publications in leading European journals and papers to drum up support for the university.

Support from Beromunster (Switzerland)



Fr Toni Rogger SDB, Director of the Salesian Procure at Beromunster (Switzerland), and Mr Patrick Muller, its Chief Operating Officer, continue to find support for the University Project in a variety of ways.

Board of Management Deliberates on MOUs



The Board of Management Meeting, held on 6 August 2011 discussed, among other routine matters, a series of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) that the university intends to sign in the coming months with other universities and institutions to provide increased visibility to Don Bosco University and support for its academic and research activities. Among these are the following: University of Chester (Chester, UK), DeSales University (Center Valley, USA), Catholic University of Fribourg (Fribourg, Switzerland), University of Paris (Paris, France), University of Avila (Avila, Spain), Institute for Human Rights (New Delhi, India), Institute of Rural Studies and Administration - IRSA (Guntur, India), DBTech (New Delhi, India), Don Bosco Institute of Technology (Mumbai, India), Don Bosco Renewal Centre (Bangalore, India), Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures (Shillong, India), Sacred Heart Theological College (Shillong, India).

Welcome to the UGC Inspection Team

Assam Don Bosco University extends a warm welcome to the Chairman and members of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Inspection Team that will visit the University in the first week of November. Welcome to:

- Prof Rajneesh Arora, Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Technical University (Chair Person)
- Prof V. Shekhar, Osmania University, Hyderabad
- Prof K.K. Bhardwaj, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- Prof Chandan Sarkar, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- Prof R. K. Bedi, Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjab
- Prof Deba K. Tripathy, Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology, Sambalpur
- Dr. Ratnabali Banerjee, Joint Secretary, UGC, Kolkata



University Launches Doctoral and Additional Post Graduate Programmes



Assam Don Bosco University launched Doctoral (Ph.D), Masters and Post Graduate Diploma Courses on 23 August 2011. Inauguration of these new academic courses is expected to create much needed impetus to higher education and cutting edge technology to meet the emerging needs of new markets.



The new academic programmes were inaugurated by his Grace, Most Rev. Thomas Menamparampil, Archbishop of Guwahati, in a glittering function in the conference hall of the University. They include twenty four thrust areas of Ph. D. research in eight disciplines, Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Technology (M. Tech. in Computer Science - Artificial Engineering; M. Tech. in Electronics and Communication and M. Tech. in Optoelectronics and Communication) as well as



a Post Graduate Diploma in Child Rights and Development (PGDCRD).

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sebastian Karotemprel, former president of Sacred Heart College, Shillong, stressed the urgency of quality research in any university setup. "Higher education and research constitute the backbone of University systems as they focus on the promotion of the human mind, the search for truth, the development of knowledge experts, the evolution of culture and the betterment of life in all its myriad manifestations," Dr. Karotemprel said.

Fr. (Dr.) Stephen Mavely, Vice-Chancellor of Don Bosco University, in his address elaborated on the efforts being made to collaborate and link up with other prominent institutions, both national and international. Following the time-hallowed traditions of the great universities of the world, "Don Bosco University seeks to make itself a centre for culture, knowledge, research, Intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and analysis of whatever shapes and impacts human life; a centre that influences thinking, planning and policy making on vital aspects of social life such as religion, culture, society, politics, governance, education, health care, and more," he said. He underlined Don Bosco University's mission of becoming a premier institution in research and scholarship. He assured the students of a topnotch education to provide



them with the tools and skills to be effective in the globalized world. Dr. Mavely called upon the students to be agents of transformation and active contributors to society.

Ph. D PROGRAMMES

The Assam Don Bosco University has the vision of moulding intellectually competent, morally upright, socially committed and spiritually inspired persons at the service of India and the world of today and tomorrow by imparting holistic and personalized education. The objective of the Ph. D. programme is to enable a scholar to undertake research which leads to a contribution to the body of existing knowledge, characterized by the discovery of new facts, solution of unresolved problems, development of new techniques, or re-interpretation of known facts. In the process the scholar himself becomes competent to guide others in further research.

The current thrust areas for research in ADBU are Computer Science and Engineering, Chemical Sciences, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Physics, Social Work and Northeast India Studies.

POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

M. TECH. PROGRAMMES

The University has introduced M. Tech. Programmes in two disciplines - Electronics and Communications Engineering, and Computer Science Engineering. The specific areas of specialization – Optoelectronics and Communication and Ar-

tificial Intelligence are areas where cutting edge technology meets the demands of Industry.

MSW

The four-semester postgraduate program in Social Work leading to the degree of Master of Social Work (MSW) has an innovative blend of theory, fieldwork and research. It provides students with a variety of skills to enable them to be active social workers in the field. Such training will help them to set up and manage social work organizations of their own or to find employment with various national and international agencies.

This programme seeks to address the acute shortage of qualified professionals in North-East India by providing an opportunity to aspiring candidates to ground themselves in their disciplines of choice with specialized knowledge, hands-on projects and an introduction to research methodology.

PGDCRD

Post Graduate Diploma in Child Rights and Development (PGDCRD) is another specialization to meet the need of Northeast India for persons specialized in Human Rights studies, Psychology and Counseling. It aims to enhance the capacity of individuals, organizations and governments to effectively use the existing legal provisions, insights from developmental psychology and the findings of contemporary research to transform systems and create peace and dignity for children and our world – moving child rights from rhetoric to reality.



Porticus Foundation Finds Quality in CODE (Centre for On-Line and Distance Education)

Stichting Porticus (Porticus Foundation) operating out of Amsterdam and Hong Kong sent a high power delegation to Guwahati to make an in-depth study of the project in loco. Prof Richard Brosse (Director for Higher Education, Porticus Foundation) and Mr Benny Baccani (Director, Asia Division of Porticus Foundation) held a series of discussions with the university team on 23-24 August: Fr. Stephen Mavely (Vice Chancellor), Fr. Joseph Nellannatt (Pro Vice Chancellor), Fr. Cyriac Vettickathadam (Controller of Examinations), Dr Basil Koikara (Registrar), Fr. Joseph Anikuzhikkattil (Director, CODE), Mr KN Hazarika (Member of the Board of Management), Dr Peter Paul Hauhmar (Development Officer) and Mr Raunak Singh Ahluwalia (Executive Director, CODE).



Talks are on with the Foundation to establish a staunch relationship with long-term support especially in the areas of on-line and distance education.

Inauguration of the PG Diploma in Child Rights and Development



Assam Don Bosco University in collaboration with Snehalaya, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati, launched a Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Child Rights and Development on 1 September, 2011 at Snehalaya.

Inaugurating the PG Diploma in 'Child Rights and Development' Ms. Jeroo Master, the Chief Field Officer, UNICEF, stated that the programme is intended to promote children's rights to life as outlined in the UN Convention on the "Rights of the Child" in the context of development using innovative research, education and capacity building that draws on the strengths of children, their families, communities and culture. "It aims to enhance the capacity of individuals, organizations and governments to effectively use the existing legal provisions, insights from developmental psychology and the findings of contemporary research to transform systems and create peace and dignity for children and our world – moving child rights from rhetoric to reality," she said.

Commenting on this special study programme Fr. Stephen Mavely, the Vice Chancellor of Don Bosco University, said, "We want to draw attention to our work for children from

the streets for which we have 73 centers around the bigger cities of India including five of them here at Guwahati, and hundreds more spread around the world. This course is directly targeted at this area of our work as Don Bosco Society – we want to help form a pool of professionals who will make a difference in the lives of these most vulnerable members of our society."

While congratulating Fr. Lukose Cheruvalel, Director of the Centre and Dr. Riju Sharma, the coordinator of the programme, Fr. Mavely expressed the hope that PGDCRD will prepare professionals in the area of Child welfare, Child protection, Child legislation and NGO Management.

This is a unique course, the first of its kind in the North-east, designed to provide theoretical input as well as hands-on experience in the field of child rights. Apart from child rights, components like child counseling and child psychology have been included which will make the course holistic as well as very relevant for the capacity building of anyone working with children in any context.



First Phase of Course Work for Doctoral Students

Assam Don Bosco University had its first phase of contact classes for its first batch of Doctoral Students from 23 to 27 August, 2011.

The resource persons, Prof. Basil Koikara (Mathematics and Computational Methods), Prof. JN Viswakarma (Green Chemistry), and Dr. Paul Pudussery CSC (Research Methodology), gave the orientation classes to the students.

The classes enhanced knowledge on research methodology and helped the students to widen their outlook on their areas of interest.

There are 24 students who have signed up for the research programmes.

Among the many experts spearheading research in the University are: Prof Sebastian Karotemprel SDB (Expert in North-East India Studies), Prof RN Khound (Expert in Forensic Sciences), Prof Shakuntala Laskar (Expert in Opto Electronics), Dr Monmayuri Baruah (Expert in Astro Physics), Prof Inam Ahmed Shastri (Expert in Social Work), Prof Durlav Hazarika (Expert in Embedded Systems), and Prof Jayanta Singh (Expert in Artificial Intelligence).





Inauguration of the New Academic Year at DBCET



The inauguration of the academic session 2011-2012 on 26 July marked the entry of Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology (DBCET) into the fourth year. It remains significant as its first batch of students (B. Tech. and MCA) entered the final year.



"Don Bosco University is modeled after the well-known Universities in the world as it follows the pattern of education they offer", said Vice Chancellor of Gauhati University, Prof Okhil Kumar Medhi, Chief Guest of the day's function.

Fr. Stephen Mavelly, the Vice Chancellor of Don Bosco University, felicitated Prof Okhil with a special medallion containing the inscription of the great educator of youth, St. John Bosco.



Reminiscing the experience of his school days, Prof. Okhil said, "I am proud to say that I am a former student of Don Bosco School and I have imbibed the missionary spirit and zeal with which the Don Bosco Family serves the poor and the deprived of society."



Speaking about the contribution of Don Bosco Society he expressed the hope that the starting of Don Bosco University with multiple courses and

study programmes would help the students in the region to have access to higher education in the vicinity. He stressed on the importance of imparting holistic education that aims to form persons into complete human beings.

Welcoming the august assembly, Fr. Stephen Mavelly, the Vice Chancellor of Assam Don Bosco University said, "It is a wonderful feeling to be back, starting all over again, looking forward with hope to the year ahead, nursing big dreams while, at the same time, taking determined steps day by day to achieve them." Commenting on the theme chosen of the academic year, "Get on board – new horizons beckon!", he said, "It's a phrase rich with meaning, for all of us staff and students alike. But it has a special significance for our first batch of engineering and MCA students getting ready to flap their wings and fly, dreaming of the world of work where they want to make a mark as thorough-going professionals and good human beings." "This motto is challenging you to look beyond at the larger horizons that beckon you." he added.

The gathering was formally welcomed by Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, the Principal, Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology. Glimpses of the past academic year, presentation of the important events and programmes of the semester, introducing the new faculty members, prize distribution to the academic achievers, a choreography that brought out the meaning of a true Bosconian, songs and dances formed part of the function.

DBCET Joins Hands with IIT (Mumbai) on National Mission on Education



DBCET, Azara joined IIT, Mumbai to conduct workshops to enhance teaching skills of faculty in Engineering and Science Subjects. The two week programme in its first phase was part of the National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT) supported by MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development).

The workshop commenced on June 28, 2011 and had around 1,300 participants from various Colleges and Universities across the country. DBCET, the only College selected from the entire Eastern Zone as a remote centre, one of the 38 institutes joining as remote centres through the internet across India had 30 participants.

Live lectures were given by IIT faculty from Mumbai and, just like the other selected remote centres, DBCET facilitated tutorial and lab sessions supervised by Faculty Programme Coordinator, Prof. Bikash Agarwal, along with his team.

The course focused on Semiconductor Physics, Transistor, Feedback Topologies, Operational Amplifiers, Circuits, HDL and Digital Electronics. These reflect the syllabus adopted by most universities for the subject "Basic Electronics". The teachers who participated were also introduced to the IIT style of teaching.

11th North East Workshop on Computational Information Processing

11th North East Workshop on Computational Intelligence Processing organized jointly by the Electronics and Communication Sciences Unit, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata and Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology (DBCET) was held on 14-16 July 2011.

The workshop included presentations in the areas of pattern recognition and image analysis emphasizing applications involving signal processing, image compression, image and video processing, content-based image and video retrieval, remote sensing etc. It also included presentations from the participants.

About 25 participants from various Colleges and Institutions of Northeast India participated in the three-day workshop.



Welcome to the Board

With his assuming of charge as the Financial Administrator of the Salesians of Don Bosco, North East India, Fr (Dr) Thomas Kunnapallil SDB joins the Governing Body of the university as an ex officio member in place of Fr Davis Ari-catt. Fr Thomas's areas of expertise include teaching (Philosophy) and administration (schools and colleges).

Prajyukttam 2011

Annual Inter-College Technical Fest



Prajyukttam, the first annual inter-college technical fest organized by Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology, held on 9-10 September 2011, was an opportunity for students to enter a new horizon of excellence through the medium of technology.

'Prajyukttam' is a combination of two words: that is *Prajyukti* (in Assamese means 'technology') and *Uttam* (in Sanskrit means 'ignites best of excellence'). Prajyukttam ignited the minds of the students in technical extravaganza, showcasing brilliance and technology.



Robotics event was called 'Collision Grid'; Circuitronic event – 'Laybrynth'; Coding event – 'Algo-Rhythm'; technical paper presentation – 'Prototype'; web page designing – 'Frontpage'; gaming event – 'Arson' and quiz competition – 'Interrobang'.

A good number of students from various Colleges of Assam and IIT Guwahati participated in the event.

Workshop on Ethical Hacking at DBCET



A workshop on Ethical Hacking was held at DBCET on 13-14 August, 2011 in association with Sunny Vaghela, Director and CTO of TechDefence across India. Around a hundred students from DBCET and neighbouring Colleges participated in the workshop.

TechDefence is India's fastest growing Ethical Hacking and

Information Security Training Company, started by India's renowned Ethical Hacker & Cyber Crime Consultant Mr. Sunny Vaghela. TechDefence has successfully conducted more than 200 workshops for students from IITs, NITs and Universities. TechDefence Training Portfolio includes Professionals from 16 MNCs as well as officials from 7 Investigating agencies across India.

Curtain Call

Inter College Drama Competition

An inter college drama competition, "CURTAIN CALL" was held on 3 September 2011 at DBCET, Azara. The event was organized by Rangayan, the dramatics club of the College.

While Surajit Dev Kumar of DBCET was adjudged the best actor, the Assam Engineering College team bagged the best team award and Rangia College team the second best team award. The best actress award was jointly bagged by Dilwara Begum of Cotton College and Beauty Ray of Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko.

The noted Assamese film actress and producer Nikumani Baruah and reputed Director Kalyan Dey were the judges.

The nine teams that participated in the event were from Nalbari College, Jawaharlal Nehru College, Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya, DBCET, Cotton College, Assam Engineering College, Girijananda Choudhury Institute of Management



and Technology, B. Barooah College and Rangia College. The plays highlighted different social problems affecting society.

Pinky Deka, DBCET



Freshers' Social

Freshers' Social in DBCET was held on 19 August 2011 at the College Atrium, organized by the III Semester students of B.Tech. The entire afternoon resounded to feet tapping music and hilarious surprised items.

The varieties of items performed by the students had a special tinge of spontaneity and everything seemed to add meaning to the day, offering a warm welcome note to each fresher of the College.

The event culminated in the selection of Saurabh Sarma as Mr. Fresher and Shaheen Aktar Wahab as Miss Fresher.

Welcome to the Board

Don Bosco University warmly welcomes Fr (Dr) Joseph Anikuzhikkattil SDB (popularly known as 'Fr AL Jose') as he joins the university team as the Director for the Centre for On-Line and Distance Education of the University. Concurrently, he also takes charge as the Rector of the first constituent college of the university, Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology. Fr Joseph brings with him a wealth of experience in teaching and administration with expertise in theology and distance education.



Prof Kallingal (University of Guam, USA) with the Students and Staff at DBCET



It's the age of neck-to-neck competition where one is better than the other. In such a scenario, studies and good grades alone do not serve the purpose. DBCET, ever since its establishment, has believed in overall grooming and developing of all those under its care. The new academic year had a striking start with motivating sessions by the enterprising personality, Prof George Kallingal, from the University of Guam, USA.

Prof. Kallingal conducted three full days of programme on 28-30 July 2011 for the students and faculty of DBCET. He animated the final year students of B. Tech and MCA on 28 July and spent half day each with the fifth and third semester students of B. Tech on 29 July. He spoke to them on various topics of interest such as the working of the human

brain, managing stress and youth problems. His sessions were loaded with information and new insights; and examples drawn from his own life experience made the sessions alive and interesting.

The sessions on the third day for the Faculty of DBCET, concentrated on learning and teaching criteria. He stated that education is the preparation for living a productive life. He stressed the importance of knowledge, skill and disposition and explained how information can be transformed into knowledge and then to skill. He forcefully led the faculty to take a new look at education today.

Jyotirupa Pathak, DBCET



Seminar on RTI

The Department of MSW organized a seminar on 23 September, 2011 on Right to Information (RTI) with Fr. George Pekatt, MSFS as an expert. It dealt with the various aspects of the Act and its practical applications in the day to day life. Commenting on the functions of RTI, Fr. George said that it is a powerful instrument in the hands of a responsible Social Worker to enable him/her to work for the welfare of society.

Adalyne Kharthanmaw, MSW

Orientation for MSW

The first batch of MSW students had a day of orientation programme on 27 August, 2011. This meticulously planned programme organized by Sr. Celine D'Cunha, the Campus Minister, along with Ms. Nabanita Das, Asst Prof, DBCET, dealt with the vision of the University, the power of focus, discovering oneself, team work and Don Bosco, the great educator and friend of youth. The programme focused on motivating the students to be good professionals and to help develop a sense of commitment to society.

Kareila S., MSW



“CAMPUS TO THE CORPORATE” – A Training Programme



A special residential Student Development Program christened 'Campus to Corporate' was organized by the campus ministry department of DBCET from 12 to 23 June, 2011 at Don Bosco Institute, Kharghuli, for the second year B. Tech and the MCA students of DBCET.

The main focus of the programme was on training the students in soft skills, in order to prepare them to enter the corporate world confidently.

Each day was packed with sessions and activities beginning from morning exercise in the form of aerobics or jogging along the river bank, breathing fresh morning air. The various sessions included introduction to the meaning and purpose of Campus to Corporate Programme, presentation skills, career guidance, group efficiency projects, meaning of group work, presentation of group efficiency projects and sharing and summing up of learning experiences. Some interesting and meaningful games were interspersed with the different sessions.

Fr. V. M. Thomas, amidst his busy schedule, found time to take a session each for two groups. Some of the valuable, lively sessions such as presentation on skills and career guidance were conducted by the faculty of DBIM.

A team from IMS had been invited to give practical training in group discussions and personal interviews. The members themselves being former Bosconians, the sessions were bril-

liant and a greatly beneficial experience for the students.

Sr. Celine D' Cunha, the Campus Minister, organized and coordinated the entire programme. The introductory sessions taken by her set the tone of the campus to corporate programme and each day's prayer moments led by her before breakfast prepared the minds for the day's activities. The resource kit prepared by her presented an exhaustive coverage of materials related to soft skills and other related information.

The DBCET faculty members who accompanied each batch assisted in organizing icebreaking games, gave instructions to the students in group efficiency projects, and evaluated their performance besides staying with them and guiding them.

A cruise on the river Brahmaputra crowned the programme of each group. During the one hour boat-ride the students enjoyed the sheer thrill of buoyancy on water and the cool breeze soothed the sweat in the unusually hot summer.

The students attended the programme in three batches. The first batch, the ECE Branches, attended from June 12 to 15, the second batch, CSE & EEE, from June 16 to 19 and the third batch, the MCA II and VI semester students from June 20 to 23.

P. Joseph, Asst. Prof., DBCET



The Joy of Giving...



Re-living the moments of joyful experiences that surround us or just glancing through those moments is heartwarming, and it is a means to make our life serene and composed. We see that the little joys that we experience in our short span of life bring in the poise we need to have in life. Here are a few experiences shared by the students of DBCET that speak about this secret of untold joy.



Sylvester Makamei

It is the sense of pride and excitement that brings out the passion for doing something good for the society. I am happy to acknowledge that DBCET has introduced me to the programmes that make me socially conscious and committed.

We had organized a visit to a Cancer Institute in the city as part of the social commitment programme of our college. We interacted with the patients hoping that we would encourage them and bring some change in them. Spending a few moments with them and seeing the smile on their faces were the most blissful moments of that day! I imagined myself to be in their place and thought how happy I would feel to have someone new to talk to. This thought made me truly satisfied, just knowing that I was making a difference in someone's life.

Our decision to donate blood to the Institute, some of us for the first time, was another chance to experience what it felt to give something. While my blood was flowing into the bags, my eyes fell on sign boards which read, "Blood Donors are Life Donors", "Donate Blood, Save Lives". At first, a sense of pride and accomplishment came to my mind. And, as we returned, I felt an inner joy and satisfaction at my own contribution to save someone in this world. And this was true! I remember the words of a great person who said "Those who help the unfortunate are really helping themselves." Even though the first time, through that visit I learned the importance of giving, but more importantly, I learned the value of human contact. I felt a sense of belonging to this world. This feeling is something that I will always cherish.

When I am not sure of what lies ahead, I think of Mother Teresa and many others who by their life inspired millions. Mother Teresa's life and work suffuses all the activities of the Missionaries of Charity around the world. When asked to describe about herself she replied, "By blood I'm Albanian, by citizenship an Indian, by faith a Catholic nun; as to my calling I belong to the world". This is something which I feel everyone should give a thought to.



Anamika Debbarma

In the hustle and bustle of this life, often we tend to ignore some of the small events of life which actually form a good portion of our contented life.

It was during one of our visits to the Home for the destitute, run by the Missionaries of Charity, that I discovered the importance of giving my time for others. There were people from various places and age groups. They were people who experienced difficulties in life; most of them had no one to care for them and were left abandoned as they were in ill health or with unstable mental health. I am sure that the time that I spend with them, listening to their stories and problems of life, has had an effect on their life. But when I sit back and think of those moments, I see that the little joy that I saw in the faces of those I met has made a lasting impression on my life. They have taught me the great lesson of finding joy in the small events of life.

Yes, giving often does not cost us much and the measure we give is not something to be counted to know the impact it can bring. It is so true to say that there is much more joy in giving than in receiving.

Independence Day Celebration at DBCET

DBCET celebrated the 65th Independence Day at the College, together with the rest of the nation, at a modest celebration in honour of 'Mother India'. As Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Pro Vice-Chancellor, hoisted the National Flag, the students paid tribute to the nation and sang the chorus "Vande Mataram."

An introductory speech by Shaheen Aktar Wahab dwelt on the philosophical and existential underpinnings of independence in its true sense evoking sentiments of patriotic fervour and recalling the idealism of the early pioneers of India's independence struggle.

Manash Jyoti Chetri shared with the gathering his findings on



the evolution of the tri-colour and its role in mobilising national sentiments in the pre-independence era. Angshuman Chowdhury spoke on the relevance of Independence Day. He forcefully called for the personal involvement of everyone in the gathering in the task of wiping out the modern scourges of terrorism and corruption. He called on them to play their part in promoting peace and harmony.

Tuja Khaund, DBCET



DBIM Commences Third Academic Year

The new academic year 2011-2012 was inaugurated by Mr. Yogesh Agarwal, Vice President and General Manager, Symantec Corporation, USA, at a function held at Saraighat Hall, DBIM, on 2 July 2011.

Mr. Agrawal in his inaugural address spoke about the amount of commitment and passion it takes to follow one's goal. He urged the students to think about having a 'balanced education' and not to restrict themselves to one aspect of MBA.

Keeping its objectives clear, the Institute spared no efforts to make the freshers feel at home. The introductory session was planned in such way as to bring in cordiality and friendship.

Fr. V. M. Thomas, Director, delivered the welcome address,

after which the parents and new students were made aware of DBIM, its vision and the role it plays in building a future for the Northeast.

A three-day orientation programme was organized to make the students get prepared for the academic session. Mr. Chandan Dutta conducted a few sessions to help them discover the secrets of success. How to keep one's thoughts positive to achieve what one deserves was the main interaction point of his classes.

The Students also got an opportunity to interact with Mr. Jacob from IIM, Kolkata. He spoke to them at length about life in IIM, its students, their viewpoints regarding various issues and about the way they conduct their studies.

Sweety & Rahul, DBIM



1st Graduation Ceremony - Class of 2011 Don Bosco Institute of Management (DBIM)

The 1st Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2011 was held at Saraighat Hall, Don Bosco Institute of Management on 11 June 2011. In all, 33 students were awarded the MBA Degree Certificate and Transcript by the Vice Chancellor of Assam Don Bosco University, Fr. (Dr.) Stephen Mavelly SDB.

The event was graced by a good number of dignitaries from the academia and industry. Among those present were the Chief Guest of the function Shri Soumitra Kumar Ghatak, Knowledge Mentor, Milagrow Business & Knowledge Solutions, Dr. Pradip Kr. Sarmah, Executive Director, Centre for Rural Development, Dr. Basil Koikara, Registrar, ADBU, Mr. Nirjhar Chakravarty, AGM, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Ltd, Kolkata, Fr. V.M. Thomas SDB, Director, DBIM and Fr. Francis Fernandez SDB, Associate Director, DBI.

Shri Soumitra Kr. Ghatak in his address to the students said, "Time Management and Compass are the two important qualities one should acquire to be successful in life." He spoke on the importance of envisioning in one's life and urged the students to foresee things which is so essential for good managers.

Feeling a sense of fulfillment at having achieved one of the important goals of the University that is to be present emphatically in the field of higher education, Dr. Mavelly, the Vice-Chancellor, said, "The first batch of leaders we are sending out with a message to the world that here comes a group of professionals 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." He placed on record his personal gratitude and indebtedness to each and everyone, and in a special way to Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof Basil Koikara, the Registrar and Fr. VM Thomas and his team for their dedicated and untiring work to make the dream a reality.

Dr. Pradip Kr. Sarmah, in his message, shared some wonderful thoughts and experiences he had while dealing with the poor and homeless people in the society and explained how he came up with the idea of building cost effective home colonies for the poor pavement dwellers.

Fr. V.M. Thomas welcomed all the guests, staff and students of DBI and DBIM. He motivated the students to become the path breaking leaders of the society in their own spheres of work. Quoting, 'Give to the world the best and the best will come back to you', he reminded them of the importance of paying heed to their call to become socially committed leaders.

The occasion had another remarkable moment with the awarding of the newly instituted 'Julhash Ali Scholar Award' to Ms. Prakriti Sharma. 'Prajjwal' Certificates were presented to 7 students, who were deeply associated with the various social activities of the forum.

Bikash Gogoi, Asst. Prof, DBIM

