

SPARK



Don Bosco University Newsletter

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Cover Story

Forging New Bonds Reinforcing Collaborations

Assam Don Bosco University signs MOUs with 'Classle Knowledge', 'I Create India' and 'PanIIT India' at Azara campus.

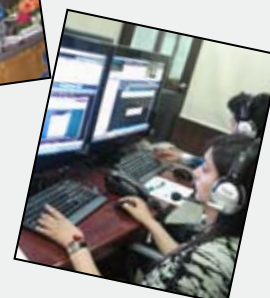
IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the VC	2
Updates from DBU	3
Cover Story - ADBU signs MoUs	4
News from Campus 1	6
News from Campus 2	11

National Conference - CISP 2012 at DBCET, technically sponsored by IEEE and supported by AICTE



JourNEI 2012 that facilitated peer-to-peer interactions and healthy competitions received overwhelming responses.



DBU Global ensures exam integrity, while maintaining flexibility and convenience for its students

From the Desk of the Vice-Chancellor

Networking and Collaborations...

Networking – that seems to be the new mantra that is blowing across the world of higher education. Here at the University proposals for networking and collaboration have been coming in thick and fast, almost one a day. It is difficult at times to distinguish between genuine offers and fly by night operators looking to trap the gullible. The day is not far off for some enterprising investigative agency to offer to vet (for a price, of course) such applicants and do the ‘due intelligence’ for you.

The strength of Don Bosco Society as a force in the arena of education lies in its own vast network of schools, colleges, universities and other institutions across the world, and the brand visibility it enjoys as a non-denominational and non-profit organization committed to excellence in service.

Piggy-backing on this strength, 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). A few are listed below.

DeSales University (Pennsylvania, USA) – for student and staff exchange programmes, for collaboration in on-line courses, for joint research on and development of educational leadership projects.

Asian Institute of Technology (Bangkok, Thailand) – for staff and student exchange, for joint programmes in management and engineering.

University of Arkansas – Little Rock (Arkansas, USA) – 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.

University of Chester (Chester, UK) – for student and staff exchanges, for dual delivery of academic programmes, progression agreements for the students of one university to enter the graduate and postgraduate programmes of the other and vice versa, for research collaboration.

In various stages of discussion are collaborations with: University of Fribourg (Fribourg, Switzerland), École Polytechnique Fédérale De Lausanne (Lausanne, Switzerland), University of Paris (Paris, France), Global Schoolroom and University College of Dublin (Dublin, Ireland), Marquette University (Milwaukee, USA), and others.



Networking in India started almost from day one after the establishment of the University: with DB Tech India (New Delhi) – for standardisation and certification of employment-oriented technical courses; with Indian Institute of Management (Shillong) – for innovative initiatives in management studies; with Indian Institute of Technology (Mumbai) – as a Remote Centre to participate in the project, ‘Empowerment of Students/Teachers through Synchronous & Asynchronous Instruction’; with Indian Institute of Technology (Guwahati) – for access to library and laboratory facilities; with Otto Hopfenmuller Library (Shillong) and Gauhati University (Guwahati) – for access to library facilities.

To ensure access to the maximum number of students, the University is also working on establishing centres right round the country under the University Grants Commission’s ‘University Extension Programme’ with centres at Pune, Lonavla, Maram Centre, Panjim, Dimapur, Mumbai, Agartala, Guntur among others.

Going on-line with attractive and affordable courses was a bold decision that the University took in early 2011. Today it is attracting students from all around the world with 60% of the enrollment from outside the country! Plans are afoot to target 100,000 students in three years through further diversification of courses within a modular structure that should give working professionals the freedom to proceed according to their own pace and time (Visit www.dbuglobal.com for more information).

It was just four years ago, on 29th March 2008, that we received the ‘Letter of Intent’ from the Government of Assam to establish Don Bosco University. As we step into our fifth year, there is much to be grateful for, and the whole world to look forward to! Networking is the way forward – collaborations hold the key to growth, development and reach.

Fr Stephen Mavelly SDB
Vice Chancellor



Assam Don Bosco University Signs MOUs with ‘Classle Knowledge’, ‘I Create India’ and ‘PanIIT India’

Assam Don Bosco University signed MOUs with ‘Classle Knowledge’, ‘I Create India’ and ‘PanIIT India’ on 25 January 2012 in a formal gathering held at Azara campus.

As part of its policy to promote state-of-the-art educational practices, the University signed an MOU with Classle Knowledge Pvt. Ltd. The MOU aims at increasing the quality and relevance of education among the faculty and students of higher education through an innovative online platform which allows them to enjoy learning innovatively without incurring any cost.

In a related development, the University also signed a tripartite MOU with ‘I Create India’ and ‘PIAI (PanIIT Alumni India)’. I Create is an award winning non-profit entrepreneurship and employability skills training organization. It has a technical partnership with New York based Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), a highly reputed international entrepreneurship training organization.

PanIIT is a not-for-profit organisation representing alumni from Indian Institutes of Technology. With its vast reach across the world with top class working professionals and entrepreneurs, the organization is focused on nation building activities.

The MoUs were signed by Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Vice Chan-



cellor, ADBU, Mr. Vaidya Nathan, Founder and Director of Classle Knowledge, Mr. Ulhas Kamat, Director of I Create India and Mr. Satish Kini, COO, PanIIT Alumni India.

Dr. Basil Koikara, Registrar, ADBU

MOU with the University of Arkansas, USA



In order to promote educational and cultural cooperation in the areas of education, research and exchange, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) and Assam Don Bosco University signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 13 March 2012. The universities were represented by Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Vice

Chancellor, ADBU and Dr Jerry G. Stevenson, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Extended Programmes. The MOU would explore possibilities for the exchange of Faculty and Students, delivery of lectures via e-learning and

conduct of joint research activities. It would also encourage participation in seminars and academic meetings, exchange of published academic materials and other information and facilitate special short-term academic programmes.



ADBU Signs MoU with DeSales University, USA

Adding to its leverage of networking with educational institutions across the world, Assam Don Bosco University achieved another milestone with the signing of a memorandum of understanding with De Sales University, USA, on 7 March 2012. Fr. Stephen Maveley SDB, Vice Chancellor, Don Bosco University and Fr. Bernard O'Connor OSFS, President of De Sales University, represented the institutions.

The MoU helps to maintain contacts that would co-ordinate academic and research activities between the parties on the basis of friendship, equality and mutual assistance. It also envisages the establishment and strengthening of cooperation in specified areas.



Ph.D. Admission for 2012 Batch

Assam Don Bosco University completed the Ph.D. admission process for 2012 batch in the second week of March. The process comprised written tests and interview.

The thrust areas of research in social sciences this year include Social Work, North-East India Studies, Comparative Religion, Business Administration and Mass Communication. The areas of scientific research comprise Chemical Sciences, Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Forensic Physics and Computer Science.



2nd National Conference on Computational Intelligence and Signal Processing

The 2nd National Conference on Computational Intelligence and Signal Processing (CISP) was held on 2-3 March 2012 at Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology, organized by Assam Don Bosco University and technically sponsored by IEEE and supported by AICTE.

The inaugural function was graced by the Vice Chancellor of Gauhati University, Prof. Akhil Kumar Medhi, as the Chief Guest. He appreciated the initiatives of Don Bosco University to contribute to nation building through quality education and shared some of his motivating experiences while studying in Don Bosco School, Guwahati.

Fr. Stephen Mavelly, the Vice Chancellor, welcomed the participants and briefed them about the plans and programmes of Don Bosco University in the coming years. He also made a presentation on the permanent campus of the University which is scheduled to be constructed within two years.

The keynote address of the conference was delivered by Prof. Nikhil Ranjan Pal from ISI, Calcutta, on "Dimensionality reduction in a connectionist framework".

Prof. D. P Kothari, Ex Director in charge IIT Delhi, talked on optimization in power system and Prof. Probin Bora, IIT Guwahati, Prof. C. A. Murthy, ISI Calcutta, Dr. Joydeep Sen TCS, Prof. Shyamanta Moni Hazarika, Tezpur University, and Dr. Aditya Bihar Kandali, JEC, enlightened the audience through their speeches related to computational intelligence and signal processing.

The valedictory function was presided over by Prof. Krishnamachar Sreenivasan, IIT Guwahati, who delivered the Plenary Speech on "A framework for Analyzing Cloud System Performance". The conference came to an end with the vote of thanks proposed by Prof Basil Koikara, Registrar, ADBU.



A large number of researchers working at reputed research organizations and premier institutions across the country responded to the call for submission of papers given by the organizers of the conference. There was indeed a great improvement in the scale of participation in comparison to that of the 1st National Conference on the same theme. This is a matter of great satisfaction as well as an encouragement to the organizers to embark upon more such ventures.

Prof. Shakuntala Laskar, DBCET





Inauguration of Spring Semester 2012

18 January 2012 marked a new beginning in Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology, Azara, with the inauguration of the Spring Semester. Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Vice Chancellor of ADBU, addressed the gathering and encouraged the faculty and students to get on board for an enriching time of learning and experience. Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, Principal, welcomed the gathering and gave a brief explanation of the programmes that are scheduled for the semester. Fr. A.L. Jose, Rector, delivered an inspirational message, Mr. P. Joseph spoke on behalf of the faculty members and the Student Coordinator, Nazmul Hussain, spoke on behalf of the students.

The toppers of each class and the students who had hundred percent attendance in the last semester were felicitated during the programme. It was also a moment of prayer and good wishes to one and all.

Nazmul Hussain DBCET

Classle Knowledge Upholds State-of-the-art Educational Practices

Classle Knowledge Pvt. Ltd. gave a demo of its online learning system to the management, key faculty members and the administrative team of the university on 15 February, 2012. The aim was to train teams for in-house maintenance, creation of content, web links, display of banners, etc.

The College had another series of training programmes conducted by Mr. Jumbo Ganesh, Senior Manager, and Mr. Vikash Goyal, Vice President of Classle on March 5-6, 2012. It helped the students and faculty members to have a hands-on experience of Classle cloud campus technology, powered by online platform, which enhances learning and teaching outside the normal classroom.

Ms. Nissi Joseph, DBCET

D'ERVE 2012 College Festival

D'erve 2012 - the weeklong college festival that began on 13 February offered a wonderful opportunity for showcasing the multifarious talents of the students of DBCET and DBISS. The competitions planned by each of the extra extra-curricular clubs of the college, such as art and craft, dramatics, literary, music, dance and sports, attracted the interest of all.

At the official opening of D'erve 2012 on the first day of the festival Fr. Stephen Mavelly, VC, hoisted the flag and delivered a message exhorting the students to make the best of the opportunities offered by the festival. Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, Principal, wished the students an enriching time together, and the student coordinator Nazmul Hussain sought the participation and cooperation of everyone for the success of the D'erve 2012. There was also an oath taking ceremony by all the class representatives followed by words of encouragement from the club presidents. Sarbarni Das lighted the festival torch and Fr. A. L. Jose, Rector, declared the D'erve 2012 open.

The festival started off with the preliminary rounds of the sports events. The participants were enthusiastic in giving their best and to gain accolades for their groups. The students were equally enthusiastic in the events held indoors.

The concluding day had as its prime attraction a fashion show on the theme "Five Elements" held in the college atri-



um with a specially prepared stage backdrop that portrayed the five elements – air, water, earth, fire and sky.

The weeklong festival came to a close with the prize distribution and with the student leaders handing over of the College Flag to Fr. Stephen Mavelly, who officially declared D'erve 2012 closed. Of course, the open invitation to the dance floor ensured that the fun and merriment carried on for long more hours.

Barasha Hiloidhari, DBCET

Faculty Enrichment Programme

One of the important initiatives taken by the Assam Don Bosco University since inception has been the Faculty Development Programmes (FDP). The first FDP of the year was held on 17 January, 2012 at the college campus. It focused on enhancing functional area expertise and developing a conducive learning environment.

The programme began with a session by Fr. Stephen Mavelly, VC, ADBU. Giving a brief introduction to Don Bosco institutions and their involvement in various educational and humanitarian services on the global level, he highlighted their belief in the innate goodness in everyone, importance of religious values, fatherly/motherly approach to students and the overall development of personality in an atmosphere of trust with the teachers.

Speaking of today's young generation he suggested a three point strategy of "learn-teach-lead" approach for teaching the youth effectively. One has to understand that the modern youth is more visually oriented, online cultured and utilitarian minded. Referring to the insistence of the UN on

the care of the deprived class, respect for human dignity and respect for planet earth, he urged the faculty to teach the students the dignity of labour and help them get rid of class-ridden and caste-ridden mentality to evolve into fine human beings.

The second session by Prof. Basil Koikara, Registrar, ADBU, demonstrated the effective method of teaching by explaining how to calculate the area of a curve. Talking of the qualities a teacher should possess, he mentioned experience, integrity and knowledge and pointed out integrity as the most essential quality of all.

The afternoon session was devoted to group activity led by Sr. Celine D'Cunha, the Campus Minister. She asked the group to discuss the strategies they would adopt in their interaction with the students, discipline and non-formal evaluation. The day ended with the presentation of ideas by all the groups.

Mr. P. Joseph, DBCET



ASSAM
DON BOSCO UNIVERSITY

ADMISSIONS 2012-13



B TECH

Courses: Civil Engineering, Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Electronics & Communications Engineering, Computer Science Engineering.

Eligibility: (a) Minimum 50% aggregate in Cl. XII, with 50% aggregate in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics; (b) Should appear in AIEEE or any State Entrance Test or Don Bosco University Graduate Entrance Test (DBU GET).

Entrance Test: 12 May 2012 (for those not appearing in AIEEE or State Entrance Tests) at the institutions mentioned below.

Prospectus: Available from 10 April 2012 at select Axis Bank Branches and at Assam Don Bosco University, Azara - Guwahati, Don Bosco College: Tura & Maram, Don Bosco School: Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tezpur, Barpeta, Kokrajhar, Silchar, Agartala, Dimapur, Kohima and Imphal, Don Bosco Technical School Shillong, Don Bosco Youth Centre Itanagar and St. Paul's HS School - Aizawl.

Admissions: From 1 June 2012 on a first-come-first served basis

Lateral Entry: Some seats are available for Lateral Entry into the 3rd semester of B Tech for candidates having 3-yr Diploma or B. Sc (PCM)

MCA, MSW

Prospectus: Available from 10 April 2012 at the places mentioned above.

Entrance Test: 12 May 2012 at Assam Don Bosco University, Azara

M TECH, MBA, PGDCRD, PHD

For admission details of these programmes visit www.dbu.edu.in

Campus Initiatives for Placements

The placement cell of the College has worked out a number of schemes to effect right the placement for the final year students. Following are some of the initiatives taken in respect of placement assistance.

- Hauwei Technologies** conducted its online test in collaboration with cocubes in NIT, Silchar on 1 February, 2012. Out of eighteen students eligible for the test nine students applied for the same. The online test was cleared by 4 students who had the subsequent rounds of interview at Guwahati. As per the latest updates, two students from CSE branch have been short-listed.



- Wipro BPO** organized its recruitment drive at the College campus on the 20 February, 2012. The entire event was presided over by Mr. Suraj Saha, HR Manager, Wipro BPO and a team of assessors sitting at Kolkata. 32 students appeared for the interview and among them 5 students were able to secure offer letters.



Robotics Workshop by MITBOTS

The Robotics Club of the College organized a Robotics workshop on “Basic Robotics and Introduction of Autonomous Robotics” on 11-12 February, 2012. It was conducted by MITBOTS – a renowned robotics organization. Around 150 students from DBCET and neighboring colleges participated in the event.

The workshop helped the participants to explore the ever expanding world of robotics with a view to creating interest and aptitude.

Manas Pratim Mahanta, DBCET



- Kayako InfoTech** organized a recruitment event at DBCET on 23 - 24 February, 2012, for DBCET and the neighbouring Girijananda Chowdhury Institute of Management & Technology (GIMT). The company was represented by Ms. Manpreet Kaur, Sr. HR Manager and Ms. Rahat Joshi, HR Executive, Kayako InfoTech. Out of 139 students that participated, 77 were from DBCET. After several rounds of selection and elimination, the final round saw the selection of three students from DBCET.
- Microsoft India** conducted an online test under the banner of NEPIF (Northeast Professional Institutes Forum). The event was coordinated by Mr. Pratul Kalita from NEPIF and Mr. Ranjeev Lashkar from Microsoft India. The event took place on 4 March, 2012 at Jorhat Engineering College (JEC). 35 students are awaiting the result of their online performance.

Congratulations

Hearty Congratulations are in order to two members of ADBU for their achievement in being awarded the Ph.D. degree.

Mr. Prasanta Kr. Choudhury, OSD, ADBU, has been awarded Ph.D. in Zoology by Gauhati University on 1 March 2012 for his Thesis: “Systematic Study and Distribution of Amolops Species (Anura:Ranidae) of Northeast India with Reference to Amolops of Brahmaputra Valley, Assam”.



Mr. Samrat Dey, Asst. Professor, DBCET, has been awarded Ph.D. in Physics by North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, on 6 March 2012 for his Thesis: “A Study of Microscopic Super Fluidity by Quantum Dynamics of Dopants in 4He Nanodroplets and Related Aspects”.



Reminiscing the SSB experience

Arpit Das of DBCET, one of the ten students who got selected from across the country by Indian Armed Forces, shares his experience.

The Services Selection Board (SSB) is the intelligence and personality assessment interview that the Indian Armed Forces conduct to analyze a candidate's compatibility and aptitude for commission into the forces. It is an extensive and rigorous selection procedure extending over a period of five days. The candidates who have cleared SSB are immediately required to clear an even more rigorous and thorough Medical Board in a Military Command or Base hospital that requires about five to six days to complete, in order to be finally inducted to the services.

The SSB that I attended was conducted by the Naval Selection Board, Coimbatore. The SSB is basically a psychology and personality assessment, with emphasis being laid on the candidate's adaptability to difficult situations, performance under stress, knowledge of current affairs, logical and reasoning abilities, communication skills and a positive outlook. To be precise, as enumerated to us at the end of the SSB, the tests are aimed at selecting individuals with OIQs (Officer Like Qualities), which are: Effective Intelligence, Sense of Responsibility, Compassion, Decision Making, Self Confidence, Courage and determination, Communication Skills, Initiative Judgment under Stress, and a sense of Loyalty towards the nation. It is highly unlikely that all such qualities exist together in a person, hence selection is made if at least a majority, if not all, of these qualities are present in a candidate. The selection board consists of psychologists and top ranking officers of the Armed Forces.

The assessment of these qualities is carried out by scientifically designed tests, with each test focusing on specific traits - a multi-pronged process. The various tests conducted are Intelligence Tests, Thematic Appreciation Tests, Word Association Tests, Picture Perception and Description Tests, Situation Reaction Test, Self-Description Tests, a series of Group Tasks with increasing levels of difficulty, a series of Group Discussions, Lectures, Command Tasks, Individual Obstacle race, Group Obstacle Tests and a Personal Interview.

The board expects complete transparency and honesty in all tests, pretending to be someone or something else puts the candidate at a serious disadvantage. A conference is conducted at the end, in which each candidate appears for a final interaction with the members of the board, and then the results are declared.

Apart from preparing for the physical tasks or tests like intelligence tests or group discussions, no specific preparation is required as the entire procedure basically requires just presence of mind and common sense, a fact that the selectors kept reminding us throughout our stay. The selection board is not concerned with the number of vacancies; only those candidates fulfilling the required criteria will be selected, or as in the SSB's nomenclature, 'recommended' for the armed forces. From among the 217 who attended the SSB in my batch, I was fortunate enough to be among the ten who got recommended. After the results, the ten of us were immediately sent to the naval Headquarters in Kochi, where we underwent an extensive medical check-up in the naval hospital INHS Sanjivani.

I received the opportunity of staying with people coming from all over the country and building lasting friendships. Accompanied by friends from the college, the entire experience has been worthy enough to be cherished for a lifetime.



Five Students from the Department of Social Work, ADBU participated in the National Conference held on 5-6 March, 2012 at Loyola College, Chennai. The theme of the conference was, '**75 Years of Professional Social Work in India: Contributions and way forward**'

www.bmyfrnd.com

www.bmyfrnd.com is an initiative taken up by the students of DBCET - Sazzadul Hussain(ITE- 7), Mostak Ahmed(CSE- 7) and Rahul Singh(CSE- 7). It is a social networking site focusing on the Northeastern part of India. The site has got a comparative advantage for the students, in case they like to limit the membership within the college itself. The entire College is appreciative of their initiative and their efforts are closely followed and supported by the Incubation Centre of the College.

An Expedition to Rural India - Karbi Anglong

“The Indian way of life provides the vision of the natural, real way of life. We veil ourselves with unnatural masks. On the face of India are the tender expressions which carry the mark of the Creator’s hand”. - George Bernard Shaw

On 19 January, 2012 The students and staff of the Social Work Department of ADBU embarked on a ‘fact finding’ travel through the thick forests and lovely jungles of Hamren Sub Division of the Karbi Anglong district of Assam. There they discovered real rural India and availed of opportunities to taste the life, lifestyle and life struggles of the rural people. They lived there amidst the people, from 19 to 25 January, sharing their life and viewing life through their prism.

The camp was inaugurated by Mr. Ikramul Hussain, the SDO of Hamren and it was attended by a good number of dignitaries along with Fr. Biju Kanicheril msfs, the Principal of Don Bosco School Hamren, where the group was accommodated.

The rural camp provided the MSW students with opportunities to share time with the people, spread some good messages about RTI, RTE, village life, responsible parenthood and childhood, importance of civic sense and quality education, value of manual labour and the dignity of labour. Right through the days they were occupied with physical labour, visit to the people and educational gatherings. They learned and experienced the importance of having the mastery of local language in order to be effective social workers in especially in rural areas.

The hardships of the people, the underdevelopment of the place, limitations within which the students study, etc., were all eye openers and these prompted the MSW students to be focused on their commitment to society.

Ms. Chaya Kalita, Dept. of Social Work, ADBU



PGDCRD Students Organized Debate Competition



The students of Post Graduate Diploma on Child Rights and Development (PGDCRD) organized “CROSSFIRE”, an inter college debate competition on 23 December 2011 at the Snehalya Center for Child Rights. The topic was “The Relevance of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986” in today’s perspective. This is an issue that calls beckons all stakeholders in the social sector to set the ball rolling for initiating the process of incorporating changes in the Act in order ensure eradication of child labour.

The Labour Commissioner Mr. G. K. Kalita IAS graced the occasion as the chief guest. The recommendations that came up were put across to the Labour Department to prompt them to initiate changes at their level to curb the menace of Child Labour.

Dr. Riju Sharma, PGDCRD, ADBU



JourNEI 2012

An opportunity to create a healthy environment for collaboration and competition, to nurture and enhance latent potential among individuals, specifically among students, was sought after ever since Don Bosco Institute of Management (DBIM) came into existence. JourNEI, a Graduate Schools' Meet providing platform to students from various institutes of higher education across the region and beyond to interact with the academia, the corporate, up-coming entrepreneurs and their peers from other institutes, was one of the initiatives taken by the institution. The main focus of Journei is to nurture and promote talent, facilitate peer-to-peer interaction and promote healthy competition. Hence, the event plays a vital role in DBIM's commitment to building dreams and shaping lives.

At the inauguration of JourNEI 2012 held on 25 February, Prof. Ashoke Kr. Dutta, Director IIM Shillong, the Chief Guest of the event, along with Mr. Parnab Mukherjee, Consultant – Performing Arts, emphasized the need for getting rid of stereotypes and adhering to the value systems of the region. Special guest, Mr. Rajeev Bhattacharyya, Executive Editor, Seven Sisters Post, and the keynote speaker of the event, Mr. Abhijit Barooah, Chairman, AFC, spoke about en-

trepreneurial dreams and positive thinking.

All the events hosted during JourNEI 2012 received overwhelming response. Its attractions were the Luit B-Plan (Business Plan), the QuiZONE (Quiz), and the ShowCase (Advertising one's Institute) contests. In addition, a host of other events like Case-o-logy (Case Study), Colors (Collage), Splash (T-shirt painting), Crossfire (Debate) and Talent contest allowed the participants to rediscover their talents, explore their creativity and put in their best.

DBIM students won the first prize in Business Plan, first prize in ShowCase and second prize in the Quiz. They outperformed students from all participating institutes in the meet by earning accolades in seven out of the total nine events. This is commendable considering the fact that each contest saw around twenty team registrations on the average, from about twelve participating institutes.

An extravagant "Musical Nite" marked the culmination of the day long program. The extravaganza was created by the students of DBIM, who came up with a number of professional performances on popular hits like Bon Jovi's "It's my life".

Mr. Chandan Dutta, Asst. Professor, DBIM

Leading to Change Annual Meeting cum Training for DBIM Faculty



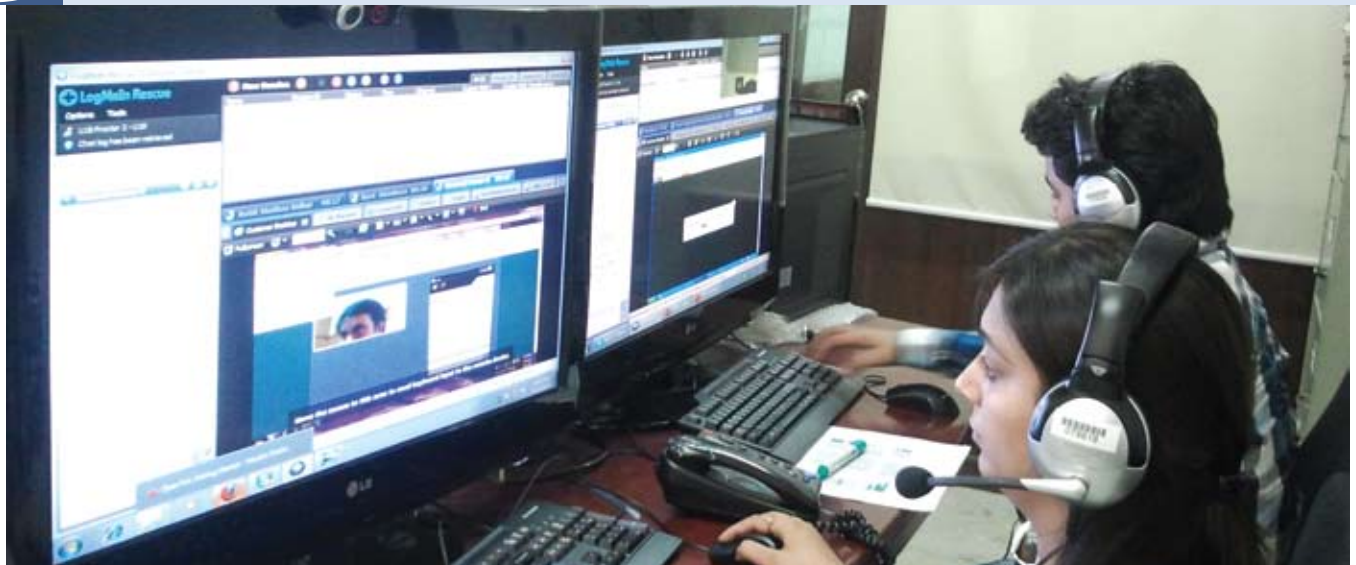
Faculty advancement remains one of the thrust areas in Don Bosco institutions all over. DBIM had its annual meeting cum training programme on 27 January 2012, conducted single-handedly by its Director, Fr. V.M. Thomas. What brought surprise to the day was the venue - Al Fresco, one of the luxury

cruise liners on the Brahmaputra. The unique setting, the scenic beauty and the fellowship of everyone delighted the staff no end.

Fr. V.M. Thomas stressed the importance of taking initiatives and gave a description of the wheel of core values, comprising of 10 'E's, i.e. Excellence, Expansion, Expression, Experience, Equity, Empowerment, Empathy, Enthusiasm, Effectiveness and Expertise. He drew lessons from the life of Steve Jobs, CEO, Apple and Pfizer Applications, who loved doing what he chose to do.

The group was guided by a presentation made by Mr. Bikash Kalita, Faculty, DBIM, on Harvard Business Review – the story of the terrorist attack at Taj Hotel in Mumbai on 27 November 2008. The presentation helped staff understand the various facets of the story, and how the common workers/employees of the hotel helped and worked together to safeguard the lives and properties of all the hoteliers.

Bikash Gogoi, Asst. Professor, DBIM



Following the American Army's lead – DBU Global

When it came to facing the challenge of conducting examinations for its hundreds of students spread out across the world, the Don Bosco University Global Center for Online & Distance Education took a leaf out of the American Department of Defense's books!

The American Department of Defense (the equivalent of the Defense Ministry in India) uses an online web based proctoring tool to administer examinations and tests to members of the armed forces based at Army and Naval Bases across the World – right from Japan to Africa, and everywhere in between.

The strategy team at DBU Global decided to take inspiration from this system and developed, in partnership with its technology partner University18, bit by bit, the exact same system, using standard web based technology on a php platform.

While so far students of the Online Programs at DBU (most of whom are working executives and professionals) were required to schedule an exam at a time of their convenience between a predetermined test window and attend that exam at a nearby test center, with the introduction of the OWPES (Online Web Proctored Examination System), students today no longer have to attend their exams from exam centers. They can appear sitting right at home or at their offices, while being monitored directly from the proctoring cell at DBU Global, Gurgaon.

A student would schedule his/her exam as before, at a time of his/her choice, and at the chosen time login to his/her system, to attempt the exam. The login process would require the student to first establish live video/audio/control contact with the proctoring center. Once that is done, the

proctors at the center can see and talk to the students, as well as monitor and control their system screens. Once logged in, the students are allowed to proceed with the exams, online.

The proctors monitor the students, their environment (the room, the table/desk, etc.) and their examination screen for the entire duration of the test, and can at any given time stop, pause or cancel the test, if they suspect foul play. This gives these tests a more strict invigilation than what would be experienced in an exam hall with a 100 candidates being monitored by a single invigilator.

The entire experience is documented, with student video, audio and screen shares being recorded, and stored for 4 years (!) on the cloud.

Ensuring exam integrity, while maintaining flexibility and convenience in student experience and at the same time minimizing the student's costs in travel and time, is of key importance to the entire process.

With the introduction of the OWPES just 3 months ago, the University has already conducted over 1800 exams using this system, with less than a 0.8% downtime rate! This revolutionary innovation has liberated the University from the limitations of geography, allowing it to enroll students in far away Libya, parts of the outback in Australia, as well as the remotest corners of our own North East.

Another example of how the University continues to break new ground in technology based education, sometimes with a little inspiration and help from the most unexpected of quarters!

Raunak Singh Ahluwalia, DBU Global CODE