

SPARK



A Newsletter for Don Bosco University family, alumni and friends

Volume 7 | Issue 1 | 2015



NABSET 2015

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National Conference on New Approaches of Basic Sciences towards the Development of Engineering and Technology (NABSET) 2015

MoU with NEEPCO
...establishing a Solar Farm



International Conference
...Reimagining Education

Message from the Vice Chancellor

Re-imagining education in the world of today is becoming a task that gets harder by the day – the milieu, the tools, the objectives keep changing faster than one has the time to come to terms with them, to try to understand their inner dynamics, and attempt to enunciate policies and guidelines for the way forward.

The ‘SMS’ generation of today has no time or fascination for the world of essays and précises...

The ‘visual’ generation of today, saturated as they are with the moving image on every conceivable platform, has no eyes for the treasures stored in classical literature and poetry...

The ‘overload’ generation of today, bombarded as they are with the never-ending streaming of information from every nook and corner, has no time to ‘stand and stare’ and grapple with the world of concepts, abstract ideas and philosophies...

In such a scenario, where does one look for the enduring variables that define educational theory and praxis in the world of today?

In a recent article in ‘The Carnegie Reporter (Winter 2014)’, Henry Rosovsky (dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Emeritus, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA), examined six characteristics of top universities in America that “are able to produce a very high proportion of the most important fundamental knowledge and practical research discoveries in the world... that makes them the envy of the world.”

Among these six characteristics is ‘significant human contact’... “real as opposed to virtual encounters between students and teachers to encourage participation and critical thinking.”

Philip Altbach, quoting William Bowen, calls this “minds rubbing against minds” ... an irreplaceable part of liberal education for undergraduates who need guidance and contact in making choices... Few would deny the great value of digitization, virtual course materials, or occasionally flipped classrooms, but they remain complementary rather than primary.”

A second characteristic is ‘transmission of culture’... All these universities consider preservation and transmission of culture to be one of their missions, with an insistence on representation of the humanities in curriculum.

Here, at the University, we are acutely aware of the importance of both these distinguishing components of great universities. Hence the insistence on nurturing a mentoring system whereby a relationship is created between a mentor and a mentee that evolves into an all-encompassing rapport that transcends mere academic guidance. Hence the mandatory Course for all undergraduates on ‘Thoughts that Shaped the World’ – a compendium of the finest from the world of arts, science, literature, poetry, music, philosophy, theology... an introduction to the finer things in life that collective human wisdom down the ages have passed on as our accumulated heritage that have



shaped our thinking and our lives...

Recent debates have been continuously reminding us that all our cultures are under pressure from modern and postmodern trends, shaking today the very foundations of ancient Asian civilizations.

Great social movements that have freed the human spirit and lifted people out of dead-ends have required heroic effort by those who have imagined a better world and done something about it. This sort of imagination is once again central to fashioning and securing the moorings of our civilizational and cultural riches. A profound reflection on Asian values that have stood the test of time could be instrumental in fashioning such a world.

It is such thinking that has led the University to organize an International Conference of ‘Asian values and Human Future’ to be held on 7-9 July this year in collaboration with Hubei University from the Peoples’ Republic of China and twenty other universities worldwide. This Conference aims at making a fresh synthesis of ideals, values, ethical norms, and philosophical principles drawn from different Asian cultures to address this emerging situation.

This debate is necessitated by a globalized economic agenda that has been pulling younger people from their homes, their families, their religious beliefs, their cultural roots, their community identities, their familiar terrain, and throwing them into the rough seas of uncertainties. They are adrift with but little sense of security and even less of belongingness.

Asian thinkers down the centuries have been the promoters of the unifying vision of reality behind every civilization. This conference is an attempt to take a long, hard look at present day realities in the light of Asian values that have stood the test of time, possibly offering a fresh vision for the future of humanity.

In our quest for excellence in every field, it will be our endeavour as a University to cultivate these two very Asian characteristics of a great university: ensuring ‘significant human contact’ in the process of teaching and learning, and promoting the celebrations and transmission of the great cultural traditions of our great Asian civilizations.

Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavelly SDB
Rector & Vice Chancellor

General Councillor at the University



The University welcomed Fr. (Dr) Fabio Attard SDB, General Councillor for Youth Ministry, Salesians of Don Bosco International Headquarters, Rome on Wednesday 4th March 2015.

Addressing the students, Fr. Fabio said, "Education is the key to open today the door of tomorrow, the future is yours, if you allow it, it will flourish".

Stressing the need of reaching out and working towards the betterment of not only ourselves but of the people around us, he said "Education should help us to reach out to others with empathy and stand in solidarity; open our hearts and reach out to the poor."

He also added, "Education should not be treated only as a means of intellectual growth and finding jobs, but as an effective tool for character formation."

He invited the students to work not only for their future but also for the future of others and the community they live in.

Fr. Fabio also addressed the Board of Management and Governing Body members of the University where he said, "I am impressed by the highly qualified assembly of so many people helping in this march; this is highly encouraging."

Presenting the worldwide Salesian experience in the university sector Fr. Attard reminded the members of the importance of catering "higher education to lower middle class as it brings with it a certain type of requests and financial demands."

"Those who are working for lower income groups today are having a bumpy road," stated Fr Attard, sharing the challenges of over 10 Salesian Universities in South America. He encouraged the board members to come up with novel ways "to open up windows for the poor and low income families," with scholarships and patrons as "with a little help our students are breaking the cycle of poverty... we have success stories of many people ... because we have helped." "We need to be inventive and creative, tap former students, forge partnerships with industry institutions," he asserted.



An MoU with NEEPCO to establish a Solar Farm



The University and NEEPCO signed an agreement on 9th February 2015 to generate a 2MW solar power to contribute to the national power grid.

The Chairman and Managing Director of NEEPCO (North Eastern Electric Power Corporation) from Shillong, Mr PC Pankaj, accompanied by Director (Technical) Mr Utpal Moral, and Executive Director Mr Rajat Sarma signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) between Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU) and NEEPCO for setting up a 2 MW Solar Power Plant at ADBU's 500 acre Tapesia Campus.

The university officials who signed the memorandum included Vice Chancellor Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavelly, Pro-Vice Chancellor Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, and the Registrar Dr Basil Koikara.

The initial capacity of the solar power station covering some nine acres of land will be increased as needed to 4 MW and more. "This is a prestigious project as it is the first time that a government agency is dealing with a private University in setting up a power plant," says Mr Pankaj.

"For us too, it is a prestige to have NEEPCO as our partner in developing our university campus," added the Fr Mavelly, reiterating the same sentiments. Fr Mavelly also added that 'this is a big step forward to ensure power supply for our campus and a bigger step in heeding to environmental concerns in creating an eco-friendly campus'.

In-Service Training...Staff Development Programme



The University's Staff Enrichment Programme was held on 24 January 2015 with two resource persons from Bangalore offering academia-industry input and practical skills for purposive living.

Mr. Lawrence Mohanraj, IBM Academic Initiative, conducted the morning session on Professional Growth: Understanding and Augmenting Industry-Academia link. Speaking on the changing scenario in higher education he stated, "Work requirements are directing the type of education". He noted that Gen D (digital generation) students need to move from technology to innovation to excel in today's world.

In the afternoon session, Swami Purnachaitanyaji of the Art of Living Foundation (Sri Sri Ravi Shankar), Bangalore, spoke on Personal Growth: Getting Attuned to Purposive Living. Besides giving a very informative session with practical exercises for relieving tension and focusing the mind, Swamiji from Harlem, The Netherlands insisted on 'Service' as a way of living. Service, he says, is responding to another person's need on our own and it does not matter how big or small it is.

Vice Chancellor Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavelly awarded 'Education Evangelist 2014'



The founding Vice Chancellor of the University, Fr. (Dr.) Stephen Mavelly has been awarded 'Education Evangelist 2014' by SkillTree among few others at a gathering of eminent personalities in education, business and media in India. The ceremony was held at JW Marriot, Bengaluru on 28th March 2015.

SkillTree is India's first for profit social enterprise in the education sector with multiple platforms and engagements and is steered by professionals with core expertise in educational leadership. 'Education evangelists are the visionaries and change makers who have contributed and have been contributing towards the growth of Indian education system both quantitatively and qualitatively', says SkillTree Global Knowledge Consortium Representative Gurjashan Singh.

A television series going by the same name as the award is the first ever television series, started in 2013 in media partnership with ET NOW, to document and showcase the journey of the awardees, culminating in an annual coffee table book and a convocation ceremony.

Education Evangelist of India today stands to be one of the most respected private recognitions given to the thought leaders in the education sector.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at the University



The Vice Chancellor Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavelly launched the nationwide Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign (Clean India Mission) on Wednesday 18th February at the morning assembly.

"Let this not be a mere tokenism," said Fr. Mavelly encouraging all to make it an attitude of keeping common areas and work place clean.

The program coordinated by Dr. Biju Mani Das and ADBU Administrator Dr. Peter Paul will be a monthly event.

The Clean India Mission is a national campaign by the Govt. of India covering 4,041 statutory towns, to clean the streets, roads and infrastructure of the country.

The campaign aims to accomplish the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2nd October 2019, the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

Events at the School of Technology...

NABSET 2015

The School of Technology organised a national conference “New Approaches of Basic Sciences towards the Development of Engineering and Technology-2015” (NABSET 2015) on 27-28 February 2015.



The conference drew enormous interest from many central and state universities, IIT and research institutes of Northeast India, as well as, from other parts of the country and also from the Middle East, Africa, Europe and USA. 50 papers were finally selected by the technical committee of the conference. More than 150 participants from different parts of the country attended the conference.

The inaugural session was held at an august presence of invited dignitaries – Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Vice Chancellor, Assam Don Bosco University; Prof. Gautam Biswas, FNA, Director, IIT Guwahati; Sr. Prof. Soumitra Sengupta, IACS; Dr. R. K. Bajpai,

Scientist G, BARC; Shri K. M. Kumar, Regional Director, North Eastern Region, AMD, DAE; Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, Director of School of Technology, Assam Don Bosco University; Dr. Monmoyuri Baruah, HOD of Basic Sciences, Assam Don Bosco University; Dr. Samrat Dey, Convener, NABSET 2015; and Dr. Nibedita Kapil, Joint-Convener, NABSET 2015.

Speaking at the inaugural session, the Chief Guest Prof. Gautam Biswas, Director IIT-Gauhati, expressed his appreciation of the theme of the conference. Emphasizing how Science supports Engineering, he said, “There cannot be engineering without Science”. The Keynote Lecture on GOD PARTICLE was delivered Sr. Prof. S. Sengupta, IACS, who gave a presentation on the story of Higgs Boson – the origin of life. He beautifully explained the relation between energy and mass, and how finally Higgs Boson was responsible for life on earth.



The conference was divided into 5 sessions – 4 oral presentations and 1 Poster Presentation. The first session was chaired by Sr. Prof. S. Sengupta, IACS. Four invited talks by Prof. A. Khare, Dept. of Physics, IIT Guwahati, Dr. R. K. Bajpai, Scientist G, BARC, Shri K. M. Kumar, Regional Director, North Eastern Region, AMD, DAE, Prof. B. M. Jyrwa, Dean, School of Physical Sciences, NEHU and four oral paper presentations were delivered in this session. The Second Session was chaired by Prof. Shakuntala Laskar, HOD of Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering of Don Bosco University and Invited Talks were delivered by Prof. D. Hazarika, Electrical Engineering Department, AEC and Prof. P. Alagarsamy, Dept. of Physics, IIT Guwahati. Three oral presentations were also held in this session.



The third session, chaired by Prof. J.N. Vishwakarma, Director of Research at Don Bosco University, began with two invited talks delivered by Prof. K. G. Bhattacharyya, Dept of Chemistry, Gauhati University, and Prof. K. Ismail, Dept. of Chemistry, NEHU. Four oral presentations were held in this session.

The fourth session was chaired by Prof. K. Ismail, Dept. of Chemistry, NEHU. Invited Talks were delivered by Prof. A. K. Saikia, Dept. of Chemistry, IIT Guwahati and Prof. D. K. Das, Dept. of Chemistry, Gauhati University. In this session four papers were presented. The last session was the poster presentation and in this session, posters from different branches of basic sciences as well as engineering were displayed.

Out of 50 papers selected, a total of 15 Oral Presentations were held and 31 presenters took part in the Poster Presentation. The valedictory sessions of the conference was held in the evening of the second day with Prof. K. D. Krori, UGC Emeritus Professor as the Chief Guest.

The University ventures into Scientific Instrument Fabrication

Vice Chancellor Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavelly inaugurated the second in-house built instrument called 'Superhydrophobicity Tester' on 20th March. He also witnessed a live lab test using a small piece of yam leaf on which a tiny drop of water was poured. The experiment consisted of demonstrating how it could be weighed and measured with the help of an instrument with computer interface.



"It is a matter of great pride that we are able to produce scientific instruments needed for research and industry testing of nano products," said Fr. Mavelly, informing the faculty that arrangements will be made for some faculty members to conduct advanced experiments at Lucerne University (Hochschule, Luzern) in Switzerland.

Explaining what the newly constructed instrument will do, Nano Project Co-ordinator, Dr. Sunandan Baruah said, "In a layman's terms, what the machine does is to test the water resistant capacity of any material."

The first instrument to be completed was a 'Dip Coating Machine' for growing thin films through a layer by layer process. Another two instruments are at the final stage of completion, a "Nanotemplate Making Machine' and a "Controlled Reactor' for hydrothermal growth of ZnO Nano-Structures."

The University's Electronics and Communication Engineering Department of the School of Technology has been designing and fabricating instruments for its two Nanotechnology Labs since last year.

"As commercially available instruments for scientific experimentation need to be imported and are extremely expensive (Rs. 7-8 lakhs, i.e. USD 15,000 – 16,000) the Nano Technology Team decided to build these in-house," said Dr. Baruah.

Nanoscience and nanotechnology are the study and application of extremely small things and can be used across all the other science fields, such as chemistry, biology, physics, material science, and engineering.

Today's scientists and engineers are finding a wide variety of ways to deliberately make materials at the nanoscale to take advantage of their enhanced properties such as higher strength, lighter weight, increased control of light spectrum, and greater chemical reactivity than their larger-scale counterparts.

Two University Students at R-Day Parade



Ankita Patowary, a third-year civil engineering student of the School of Technology, Azara campus, and Hans Darius Nongsiej, a final semester MBA student of the School of Management, Kharguli campus, were among the 100 meritorious candidates witnessing the prestigious parade at Rajpath, New Delhi from the Prime Minister's box, on January 26.

The Union HRD ministry nominated the two from North-East India based on their academic performance in October last year. Ankita 21, is a resident of Chandmari, Guwahati, Assam while Hans 24, hails from Lummawbah in Upper Shillong, Meghalaya.

Sharing her experience of the event, Ankita says, "I returned from New Delhi with a determination to engage myself in the service of my country. I am also thankful to Assam Don Bosco University for nominating me and to the Ministry of Human Resource and Development for selecting me to be one of the 100 students all over the country to witness the Republic Day 2015 from Prime Minister's box".

Students Corner Major Awards at National Water Conference



The three student teams that participated at the Water Conference held at Guwahati, 5-8 February 2015, under the guidance of Assistant Professor Mrs. Pori Das (Department of Civil Engineering) won both first and second prizes.

Lauding the students for winning first and second prizes, the Central Minister for Water Resources Sushri Uma Bharti and the Chief Minister of Assam congratulated them.

Assistant Professor Mrs. Pori Das and the award-winning students were called for discussion by Sushri Uma Bharti at Brahma-putra Guest House on 10th February 2015, where they had a discussion on the implementation of the Self Building Mudflow Fence Dams at Chattisgarh and the hilly regions of North East Himalayan regions. The team was encouraged to submit a project proposal for the same to the Union Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of India.

The Minister promised that Don Bosco students will be invited for the India Water Week to be held in New Delhi and that they will be invited for 2-3 months internship with stipend under Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India. Ms. Pori Das, the Co-ordinator will also be called for technical suggestions on matters related to such low-cost water resources management technology for North-eastern region.

Debating Club Launched

The School of Technology launched its Debating and Quiz Club on 21st February at a half-day workshop on “Debating Skills Development.”

Over 50 engineering students participated in the programme inaugurated by Director of the School of Technology, Prof. Manoranjan Kalita along with resource persons Sabah al-Ahmed, Rashmita Baruah and Hemashree Bordoloi in the presence of University Officials and Department Heads.

Popular Assam Tribune columnist and author Mr. Sabah al-Ahmed kept the enthusiastic and aspiring debaters alert with an interactive session where he engaged students on the need to have “the gift of the gab, and fight the fear factor” to excel in the art of debating.



University Team Bags Volleyball Champion's Trophy

The University’s School of Technology Volleyball Team won the Championship trophy on 26th February 2015 at the 3rd NEFTI Inter-College Volleyball Tournament held at RIST Volleyball Court, Khanapara, Guwahati.

The team beat RIST with 2-1 to reach the final where they won the championship trophy by defeating NIITS-Mirza team in a five-set battle. The School of Technology team took 3 games in a row thus claimed the championship.



Workshop on Virtual Lab

A half day workshop on “Virtual Lab” was conducted by IIT Guwahati on 18th March 2015. Seven experts from IIT came as resource persons and conducted the workshop from 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM.

The experts who came to the University expressed their desire to set up Don Bosco University as a remote center for this virtual lab project.

Virtual Labs will provide to the students the result of an experiment by one of the following methods (or possibly a combination). (a) Modeling the physical phenomenon by a set of equations and carrying out simulations to yield the result of the particular experiment. This can, at-the-best, provide an approximate version of the ‘real-world’ experiment.



(b) Providing measured data for virtual lab experiments corresponding to the data previously obtained by measurements on an actual system. (c) Remotely triggering an experiment in an actual lab and providing the student the result of the experiment through the computer interface. This would entail carrying out the actual lab experiment remotely.

In addition, Virtual Labs will be made more effective and realistic by providing additional inputs to the students like accompanying audio and video streaming of an actual lab

experiment and equipment. For the ‘touch and feel’ part, the students will also get opportunity to visit an actual laboratory for a short duration. This virtual lab project is an IIT Delhi initiative funded by MHRD, Govt. of India.

Workshop on ESDM

A half-day Workshop on ‘Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM)’ was held on 15th March 2015.

Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, Director, School of Technology, delivered the introductory lecture on ESDM, giving a fair idea of the importance of the workshop to the participants. This was followed by an interactive session, conducted by Dr. Gaurav Trivedi, Assistant Professor, EEE department, IIT Guwahati .

Dr. Vijay Nath, Assistant Professor VLSI Design Group, Department of ECE, BIT, Mesra, Ranchi, spoke on the theme ‘Custom IC Design of ESDM’.

The workshop, approved by the Ministry of Communication & IT, Government of India, has been organized at 50 selected UGC approved institutions across India and it is funded by the Department of Electronics and IT (DEIT).



D'Verve 2015 – Go! Glow! Grow!



The sixth edition of D'Verve – the School of Technology's annual event came to a close on 21st March with a day-long concluding ceremony consisting of 30 events. The program lasted over 8 hours with a pre-noon start.

The highlight of the day was "Creating Future – Fashion Show" with six groups participating in the event. Each team of eight participants had its designer and coordinator. After the first round showcasing 48 individual talents in their respective groups, 10 male and female each were shortlisted for the 2nd and 3rd rounds which tested their attitude and intelligence.

Commenting on participation of students, Director of the School of Technology, Prof. Manoranjan Kalita said, "This year the participation of students was remarkable. Over 800 students participated in the events claiming their stakes of 25,000 points. Besides certificates, the winners carried away exquisitely crafted medals or cups."

A new event introduced this year included a SmartFilm Competition by Mass Communication Department on livelihood theme "Roti, kapda aur makkhan." It had six submissions of short films shot entirely on smart-phones and edited with Free Open Source-Software.

Besides a dance segment by young lady faculty members, there was also a special joint dance performance by the final year students and faculty.

The Extracurricular Clubs – Sports, Music & Singing, Drama, Debate & Quiz, Arts & Craft, Literary, and Dance – coordinated the competition events.

The opening ceremony of the week-long D'Verve events with the theme : Go! Glow! Grow! was held on 16th March with the hoisting of the D'Verve flag and the lighting of 'The Torch of the Spirit' and the taking of the pledge.

The sports events, both indoor and outdoor, under the leadership of Sports Club started on Saturday 14 February. It was spread out over one month with separate events for men and women in Football, Cricket, Basketball and Volleyball.

The University congratulates the student volunteers who organized the event, designed and decorated stages at different venues, and prepared the necessary arrangements for all the events.



Events at the School of Humanities & Social Sciences

Fund Raising in support of Local Youth



A group of the university students got together to raise funds for neighbourhood outreach programme. Spread over a week, the students prepared and sold ethnic food preparations and roses, organized karaoke and a number of chance games, and also washed cars and motor bikes of both faculty and students.

It was the first ever Community Self-Help Week at the University in support of the social commitment project Swastyayan, free evening tuition classes held for high school students.

Flagging off the weeklong event on 27th January, Vice-Chancellor Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavelly made and sold the first batch of pakora. Fr Mavelly said, "This fund raising drive organised to support the educational aspirations of the poor and marginalised children of Azara, Garal and Dharapur gaon panchayats is unique and significant in the context of development in developing countries like India."

To give a befitting conclusion to the week-long programme, a grand Food Festival and cultural evening was held on 31st January to mark the feast of Don Bosco.



Social Issues through Puppet Show

Over 50 second semester students of Master of Social Work presented ten social issues through puppet show, at Parijat Academy Pamohi near Garchuk, Guwahati on 7th February 2015.

The students wrote the scripts and made their own puppet characters in a two day workshop conducted by Mass Communication faculty Mr. Kaushik Bhuyan.

The puppet show which lasted about 90 minutes included themes like hygiene, caste system, road safety, child marriage, importance of education of the girl child, peer pressure, domestic violence, substance abuse, and sexual harassment at work place.



International Conference on Education



An international conference on 'Reimagining Education Connecting Vision, Context and Curriculum: A reference to South East Asia' was held on 12-14 March 2015.

The conference was inaugurated at the University's Conference Hall, with Prof. Dipak Kumar Sharma, Vice Chancellor of Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit & Ancient Studies University. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Hari Prasad Sarma, Rector, Gauhati University.

The conference, organized by the University's Department of Education, unfolded in six technical sessions covering two and a half days. There were 30 research papers presented during the conference. The first session was chaired by Prof. Gayatree Goswamee. The central theme of the session was on Reimagining Education Reform. 4 scholars presented their papers, which was followed by elaborate discussions and deliberations on each paper.

The second session, chaired by Prof. Nissar A Baruah, had a theme 'Reimagining and rethinking education'. During this session 5 papers were presented and sufficient time was given to each paper for discussion and clarification. The third session dealt on the theme Educational Technology: Present and Future Prospect. The session was chaired by Prof. Jagat Swargiary. During this session 4 papers were presented and elaborately discussed upon.

The fourth session was on the theme 'Student teacher Interaction in the classroom' chaired by Prof. L.R. Saikia. During the session 6 papers were presented and was followed by discussion and clarification on each paper.

The fifth session was on the theme 'Educational Dynamics of the 21st Century'. The session was facilitated by Dr. Riju Sharma. During the session 6 scholars presented their papers. Each paper presentation was followed by discussion and clarification on the topics presented.

The sixth session was on the theme 'Psychological and Moral Development in Today's World', with Dr. Gautam Sarma chairing the session. This session had 5 scholars presenting their papers. Each paper was accompanied by a discussion and clarification.

The Conference was concluded on 14th March with a short valedictory function where Prof. Dilip Baruah, the Chief Guest, delivered a speech on the theme of the conference from the Economics perspective.

Counselling Workshop for Colleges in Guwahati

In an attempt to promote the importance of Psychological Counselling, the Department of Psychology on 13th March 2015 organized a two hour workshop on relevant topics at Handique Girls' College. The workshop covered topics on the relevance and applicability of Counselling and the tremendous scope and avenues open to the students pursuing the course. Students at Handique showed a great interest in the workshop and raised lots of questions and participated in the workshop with a lot of enthusiasm.

The department had conducted such a workshop at Pub Kamrup College and is in the process of conducting more workshops at other colleges in Guwahati city.



Workshop on Journaling

A two day workshop was conducted on Journaling: A technique for personal and academic growth, on 6 -8 January 2015 for the students of Education and Mass Communication.

Journaling is a strategy for making sense of an individual's experiences; each student is required to maintain a reflective journal, using the Visible Thinking Routine as a critical structure for guiding their journal writing. The students are to submit their journal every Friday. Journaling have to be done six days of the week. At the end of the semester student will be awarded a grade/marks after assessing the learning.



The objective of journaling is to develop in the students a reflection that can be described as an inner dialogue with oneself whereby a person calls forth his or her own experiences, beliefs, and perceptions about an idea; informing and transforming functions of knowledge; and a conscious and systematic mode of thought. This is to nurture in future educational leaders a sense of reflective practice.

Dr. Kyoko Mary Toyama – Baruah of LaGuardia Community College of City University of New York, discussed with the students the psychological aspects of counseling. Dr. Dominic Meyieho dealt in detail about how to engage in critical thinking and reading. Dr. Paul Pudussery walked the students through visible thinking. C. M Paul, Machun Kamei and Kaushik Bhuyan taught the students how to maintain the journal.

One Day Seminar on Child Health in India

The Department of Social Work held a one day seminar on “Child Health in India and Strategies for Improvement,” on 13th February 2015. Dr. Gayatri Bezboruah, the Professor of Paediatrics, Guwahati Medical College, was the resource person for the seminar.

Events at the School of Commerce and Management

Symposium on Life Skills

In keeping with its vision and mission of “Building Dreams and Shaping Lives” and the intent of its Rector, Rev. Fr. Johnson Parackal SDB, to provide a platform and promote the importance of “Life Skills” among the educational and industrial elite across the globe, the University's School of Commerce and Management hosted the 6th international conference on life skills education in association with Indian Association of Life Skills Education (IALSE) from 12-14 February, 2015.



Addressing the gathering, Dr. A. Radhakrishnan Nair, President, IALSE, talked about the challenges involved in arranging a symposium of such magnitude and reiterated the goals and objectives of the symposium. Dr. Anoop Swarup, Vice Chancellor, Jagran Lake City University, Bhopal, in his keynote address, presented the various facets of life skills that needed focus.

One important thrust area of the three day conference was on the skills necessary for promoting youth entrepreneurship specifically in the north east of India which has no dearth of resources

The conference which consisted of one national seminar, one panel discussion, six symposiums and twelve technical sessions over the three days saw more than 50 papers being presented and over 150 academicians, industrialists and students from India and abroad participating in the various events.

Industrial visit to Bengaluru and Cochin

School of Commerce and Management Educational Tour was organized from 6th to 13th January 2015, covering Bengaluru, Mysore, Cochin, Kottayam and Alleppey. The purpose was to learn from the experiences of great industrialists through visits and interactions. There were a number of good reasons for selecting Bengaluru and Cochin: both cities have recorded notable development in the fields of industries and IT. These cities also became centers of attraction for the investors in both IT and business world.



Student Extension Lecture – Mr. Vikash Khandelwal, Owner, Doorstep Books

Mr. Vikash Khandelwal, owner of DoorstepBooks.com, an online book rental service headquartered in Kolkata, interacted with both the batches of MBA students on January 24, 2015. This interaction was part of the monthly extension lecture, an initiative of the School of Commerce and Management.



Mr. Vikash talked at length on how to go about conceptualizing a business idea, how to go about raising the necessary capital for investment and a host of other things associated with starting an enterprise. He also talked about how to deal with existing competition. The lecture session saw very active participation by the students sharing a lot of ideas with Mr. Vikash and getting inputs from him on how to go about implementing their ideas.

JourNEI 2015

JourNEI, a Graduate Schools' Meet, provides a 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. The main focus of JourNEI is to nurture and promote talent, facilitate peer-to-peer interactions and build healthy competition. Hence, the event plays a vital role in DBIM's commitment to building dreams and shaping lives.

This year the JourNEI began at 9:30 a.m. on the 28th of February, 2015 with the inauguration program. Powerful speeches by our most valued invited guests laid the foundations of what was going to be a very successful event. Prof. Dr. Indranee Phookan Baruah, Head of the Department of Psychology, Gauhati University, and the Chief Guest of the event talked at length about the need for creative thinking in keeping with the entrepreneurial theme of this year's JourNEI. Mr. Kaushiq Bezbaruah, CEO, News Live, and the Guest of Honor, went down memory lane and delivered an inspiring speech about some of his friends who have made immense contributions to the region through their entrepreneurial ventures.



This year's JourNEI saw participants from institutes like the Assam Down Town University, School of Technology (ADBU), KC Das Commerce College, Gauhati Commerce College, Gauhati University, Cotton College, Handique Girls College, NEF College of Management and Technology, Royal Group of Institutions, and Asian Institute of Management and Technology.

Cultural Day Celebration

The annual DBIM cultural day was organized on 7th of February, 2015. The first year MBA students took the lead in organizing the cultural day this year. The theme was "Our Culture Our Pride". The program started with a wonderful video presentation depicting the various cultural backgrounds of the students studying at DBIM. This was followed by a duet and a message by Fr. Johnson Parackal, Rector, DBIM. The students had prepared cultural dishes and the faculty and students enjoyed the special preparations. This was followed by a number of events like treasure hunt, arm wrestling by girls and three legged balloon bursting competition. The highlight of the program was the ramp walk followed by Mr. and Miss DBIM competition.

RESEARCH

Research at Assam Don Bosco University is gaining momentum with scholars presenting their pre-submission seminar and submitting their thesis for consideration. The University with its aim of imparting academic excellence maintains research integrity within its research community following the UGC guidelines. So far, six scholars have successfully defended their work and are awaiting the Viva Voce Examination.

PhD interview/entrance test for the Batch of 2015: For the new batch of the year 2015, the University experienced large number of applicants (262) for enrolment in PhD. The entrance/interview for PhD was spread over a period from 21-27 February, 2015. A total of 188 candidates appeared for interview/entrance test in seventeen (17) departments, out of which 57 candidates were short-listed for admission. The course work for the batch has been scheduled to start on 20 April 2015. A brief list of the figures for PhD interview/entrance test selection is mentioned:

S/L	Subject	Applicants	Short-Listed (A)	Wait-Listed (B)	Total (A+B)
1	Electrical and Electronics Engineering	4	2	0	2
2	Business Administration	41	7	2	9
3	Computer Science and Engineering	24	7	0	7
4	Social Work	35	6	0	6
5	North East India Studies	38	7	2	9
6	Psychology & Counselling	21	4	1	5
7	Education	26	7	1	8
8	Mass Communication	17	4	2	6
9	Language Studies	20	4	2	6
10	Biotechnology	8	3	0	3
11	Chemical Sciences	5	1	0	1
12	Physics	6	2	0	2
13	Comparative Religion	4	2	0	2
14	Child Rights	1	0	0	0
15	Electronics and Communication Engineering	3	1	1	2
16	Mathematics	3	0	0	0
17	Philosophy	6	0	0	0
18	Total	262	57	11	68

Pre-Submission Seminar: George C. J, Department of Social Work and Rashmita Baruah, Department of Management presented their pre-submission seminar on 1st December 2014

Ph.D Synopsis Presentation and Registration: The following research scholars have submitted their Research Proposals and their registration is in progress:

Entry	Scholar/Department	Synopsis Title
1	Bornali Borah/Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Simulation, modelling and development of copper phthalocyanine based organic field-effect transistor (OFET) for NO ₂ gas sensing
2	Medari Janai/Computer Science and Engineering	Shallow parsing for Khasi
3	Kaustubh Bhattacharyya/Electronics and Communication Engineering	Automatic radar target recognition system at THz frequency band
4	Suman Kumar Chakrabarti/Chemical Science	Synthetic investigations on triazolopyrimidines under environment friendly conditions and study of their biological activities
5	Ruth I. Kharbamon/ North East India Studies	An interface between religion of indigenous cultural practices: A critical analysis of the influence of Christianity among some aspects of the Khasi culture in Meghalaya
6	Bijit Debbarama/Management	Marketing of handloom products by weavers: A case study of Tripura
7	Rosily T.E/Education	A comparative study of the strategies followed by Salesian and Model schools in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in developing life skills in students

International Conference on
ASIAN VALUES AND HUMAN FUTURE
 World Culture Development Forum 2015
 (7-9 July 2015)

Venue: **ASSAM DON BOSCO UNIVERSITY**

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 Hegemony of Cultures and Cultural Fusion
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 Editor & Layout Designer: James Famkima

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