



Spark

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Don Bosco University Newsletter

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Festival Time at DBCET

boscotarang 09

The long-awaited and much-desired aspiration of one and all, "BOSCOTARANG", the College festival, took off on 1 April, 2009 at the solemn opening ceremony.

Fr. Stephen Maveley, Vice-Chancellor of Don Bosco University (DBU) officially declared BOSCOTARANG open, which marked the unfolding of the events of sports and cultural bonanza with a fitting theme, "Shine and illumine".

He hoisted the College Flag and in his speech exhorted the students to play the games for games' sake no matter who emerges victorious.

The gathering responded with a thunderous applause to the assurance of entertainment unlimited and enjoyment unrestrained. One of the student representatives lighted the festival flame and the Student Leaders took pledge administered by Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of DBU.

Fr. Joseph Nellanatt welcomed the gathering by inviting their active participation in all the events.

Mr. Vivek Kumar Shukla,
Student Coordinator
of

the College Association in his speech shared his expectations and spoke of the importance of cooperation and participation. Dr. Anurudha Devi, Senior Lecturer, exhorted the students to [aspire to] the heights of true sportsmanship. Dr. P. C. Mahanta, Principal of DBCET wished the students a joyful, action-packed and eventful week. He officially announced the various events, the time and venue of the same and elucidated the rules and regulations of the BOSCOTARANG. A group of students along with Sr. Celine D'Unha sang the theme song of the festival.

The competitions kicked off in full swing beginning with the football match for the boys and kabbadi for the girls. The first two days were solely dedicated for varied games, while the ensuing days were dedicated to the cultural competitions. The various sports and games events held were: Cricket, Football, Volleyball, Kabbadi, Tug o' war and Chess while the





cultural competitions included Dance, Singing, Mono-acting, quiz and speech.

The four-day-long College cultural event, "BOSCOTARANG", was concluded on 4 March afternoon with great joy and jubilation. Distribution of trophies, medals and certificates were done during the special cultural show in the afternoon. Addressing the gathering during the function, Fr. Stephen Mavelly appreciated the staff and students for their dedication and participation. He expressed his impression in just one phrase, "I am delighted". He also mentioned that he had seen and felt the enthusiasm, friendliness, cooperation and camaraderie, the very atmosphere that he dreamt of when he thought of starting this college. Emphasizing on the unique experience of this College Festival he said, "You have lived through just one unique experience and felt its unique blessings. When we learn to get deep into such experience and its bitter-sweet offerings with a sense of gratitude to God, to one another and to life itself, we claim and live

our lives in a uniquely rich way. That's what our motto 'Carpe Diem' is about... because lives lived in that spirit leads us inevitably to 'the fullness of life' that our emblem challenges us to find." Dr. P.C. Mahanta, Principal, thanked each and every person who contributed towards the success of BOSCOTARANG. On this occasion, a special item, 'A musical tour of Assam' by the faculty earned a standing ovation and prolonged applause.

The final moment of the year's festive days arrived as the student leaders solemnly carried the College Flag and handed over to Fr. Stephen Mavelly who officially declared the College Festival, 'BOSCOTARANG 2009' closed. Though the much hyped days of the college festival rolled off rather swiftly, its memories will remain etched in the minds of one and all for ages to come. It, in fact, has created a ripple effect as it has imbued the students with renewed vigour, cordiality and mutual friendship.

Kolhandai Yesu

Feast of Don Bosco Celebrated

The afternoon of 30 January was one of the expectantly looked forward to days by the entire College of DBCET. The very fact that they belonged to the family of Don Bosco made them proud to celebrate the feast of Don Bosco. The colourful performances by students and staff spoke in volumes of the day's joy. Moved by the spirit and enthusiasm generated in the auditorium, Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Chief Guest of the programme exclaimed, "Don Bosco would have been glad to be here this afternoon." He spoke to them about Don Bosco's commitment to a life of dedication for the cause of young people and narrated the way he went about in his mission. He called on the students to rekindle in life one core principle of Don Bosco and his system of education - an obligation to society,

a commitment to contribute to the upbringing of other struggling persons.

A presentation made by Sr. Celine D'Cunha on the early life of Don Bosco highlighted his self sacrifice and constancy while seeking to do all the good he could to brighten up the poor youth of his time. Dr. PC

Mahanta, Principal of DBCET congratulated everyone and thanked all those who worked behind the scene to make the day's celebration successful. The cultural items presented by the students from each branch were rightly tuned to befit the occasion. The celebration enhanced enthusiasm, friendship and joy, and it was vividly shown in the faces of all as they sang together the joyful hymn that reverberated and re-echoed in the hall, "Don Bosco, a friend of youth..... shows the right path to everyone as a guide till his last breath."

Avishek Barooah ECE



PATHWAYS TO FUTURE

An Industry - Academia Interaction



The Don Bosco University organized a seminar, "Pathways to Future", the first of the series of programmes on 'Industry-academia Interaction', on 17 February 2009 at Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology, Azara. Dr. Ganesh Natarajan, Chairman, NASSCOM and Dr. Uma Ganesh, CEO, GTT (Global Talent Track) were the main speakers of the day. Shri H. S. Das, Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam for Finance Department was the Chief Guest of the programme. Fr. Stephen Mavely, Vice Chancellor of Don Bosco University welcomed the gathering and Dr. P.K. Mishra, Consultant, M/S. Kalingasoft introduced

the speakers of the day.

Fr. Stephen Mavely in his welcome speech briefed the esteemed guests and the entire gathering about the nascent Don Bosco University which is confident of carving out a unique trajectory in the field of higher education concentrating on courses that have good employment potential, ensuring to prepare the graduates for their insertion into the world of work, thus becoming catalysts in the formation of a pool of professionals with a sense of values and commitment to society. Stating the lived example of St. John Bosco, Founder of the society who had a far-reaching vision, he said that there is a striking parallel between what he did and what is being done here at Don Bosco University, and what NASSCOM and GTT are trying to accomplish for the young people of today and expressed his eagerness in sharing the vision.

The Chief Guest, Shri H.S. Das in his speech emphasized the need of gaining recognition in the field of higher education. He said that in the list of 100 best universities of the world, nowhere Indian universities are found, whereas Chinese universities are found in the list. He appreciated the initiatives of Don Bosco University in the field of Engineering and Technology and expressed his confidence in its ability to provide the best of opportunities for its students.

Dr. Ganesh Das spoke on opportunities and challenges in business industries. He said that 22 lakh young people are working in IT and spoke of the success story of outsourcing from the year 1988 to 2000 which provided chances

for Indians to bring out their hidden capabilities. He called on the students to focus on communication skills as they aspire to be technically sound.

Dr. Uma Ganesh made a presentation on "Global Currency" and explained the strategy followed at the global markets in reference to the skill development. She spoke of the '2020 outlook: Global markets' and the profound shift in the global centres of economic activity. She cited China and Indonesia who are becoming knowledge service base and have become potential competitors. She commented on the 2020 imperative as skill development and insisted on to deliver the right skills at the pace of change, to have right people with right age at the right time and to stress more on peculiar skills like IT. Calling the interest of the gathering she said, "Global career is happening here, you have the complete opportunity to shape the world." She concluded saying, "What we need is a thought shift from employment to employability."

A good number of persons from various institutions and colleges of Guwahati and students and teachers from St. Anthony's College, Shillong were also among those who attended the seminar.

Ms. Sirra Nissi Paul



SPRING SEMESTER 09

Inauguration of the Spring Semester, second semester of Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology was held at the College Auditorium on 19 January 2009. Addressing the students on the occasion, Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Vice-Chancellor of Don Bosco University summoned their attention to the new possibilities that await them in the New Year and briefed them on the important events designed for the new semester. Emphasizing on the magnitude of the theme chosen for the semester, "Let your light shine", he said that one of the ways to emulate is 'cooperative learning' which enhances achievements with a sense of well-being and contentment. He also commented on the result of the first semester and exhorted the students to compete against their own self, saying "A daily competition against yourselves, pushing yourselves to the limit, discovering new abilities within yourselves, is the biggest of all challenges. Once you set yourself on that road, the sky is the limit!"

Prof. Basil Koikara, Registrar of the University explained, with PowerPoint presentation, the rules and regulations of the College for the four-year graduate programme, leading to the award of the degree of B.Tech. He also spoke on the course structure for the second semester and elucidated the grading system of our university.

The gathering was welcomed by Prof. P.C. Mahanta, Principal and Sr. Celine D'Cunha and her team led the assembly to seek God's blessings and guidance through a beautifully conducted prayer service. Mrs. Darshana Goswami, from the faculty recited a poem by Rabindra Nath Tagore and Mallika Gogoi and Jolly Bala Barman did the choreography which led the entire gathering to raise their

minds to God in prayer. Special prayers and selected passages from the Geeta, the Quran and the Bible were part of the prayer service.

The well organized inaugural function came to a close, opening up a wider horizon and challenges for the students of DBCET in the new semester. With clear goals set for the new semester, they marched to their own respected class rooms with chit chats and friendly greetings.

Antara Chowdhury, CSE

Orientation Programmes

Taking into heart the mind of our Mahatma, Father of our nation who defined education as bringing out the best in a person, the DBCET planned



and organized a series of orientation programmes which aimed at enriching the lives of students, helping them form rounded personalities that stand them in good stead throughout their lives. The first of the four programmes was held on 24 January for the Computer Science Engineering (CSE) students. Likewise the other students of Information Technology Engineering (ITE), Electrical & Electronics Engineering (EEE) and Electronics & Communications Engineering (ECE) had the programmes on 28 February, 7 February and 7 March respectively. The series of programme organized by Sr. Celine D'Cunha, Campus Minister had a common theme, "Learning to live and work together".

Each of the day's programme focused on the importance of "Team Work" and the sessions oriented towards building up a team spirit among the students. Besides the input sessions, the programme included practical lessons that created a wonderful time for the students to experience the joy of working together. The students enthusiastically participated in all the activity sessions and they were convinced of the

synergy that could be brought about in a team. Various games, special claps and catchphrases kept the programme lively and participatory.

The group work offered a wonderful opportunity for the students to think creatively and to bring out the best in each one, aiming the good of the

group to which each one belonged to. The students were further encouraged during the concluding sessions where they exhibited the group activities and were graced by the presence of Fr. Stephen Mavely, Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Prof Basil Koikara and Mr. Peter Paul. Fr.

Stephen Mavely in his address to each of the groups expressed his joy and appreciation for their enthusiastic participation. Sr. Celine was specially thanked along with the teachers who assisted the students in all the activities.

Minerva Das, CSE

Staff Development Programme at SILOAM



A staff development programme for the faculty and staff of DBCET was held at SILOAM, Barapani, Meghalaya from 13 - 15 February 2009. Besides the sessions that enhanced knowledge and professional development on various aspects, the participants were very happy having spent the days at SILOAM that offered them memories that would linger on in life.

It is said, "To finish the moment, to find the journey's end in every step of the road, to live the greatest number of good hours, is wisdom." The participants were delighted to say that every moment they spent from the wake of 13 till the dusk of 15 was inspiring and enriching. Even the journey to and fro was a heart-warming experience. On reaching the venue they were taken aback by its beauty and peaceful serenity. The scenic beauty that surrounded the campus of SILOAM allured and

motivated them to seize every moment of each day that renewed them with new insights. Added to this they were touched by the hospitality.

The first session of the programme began at 11.30 a.m. with a brief welcome address by Fr. George, Director, SILOAM. The sessions comprised of various activities and games which were enlightening and enjoyable. Some of the participants were led to a new realization of their abilities and strength. One of such occasion was the hiking to a peak nearby on the evening of the second day. A few of them in the group had considered hiking impossible and had even thought of absconding

from it. But this time they decided to try it out and all the huffs and puffs were forgotten on reaching the peak as they were wonderstruck by beauty of the landscape and the breath-taking scene of the setting sun. The cheerful company had made the journey short and easier too.

This programme not only rejuvenated their spirit and upgraded skills and knowledge, but also developed their interpersonal relationship. The three days at SILOAM passed by like three minutes but it has left an everlasting mark on all of them.

Ms. Jhimli Kumari Das



Student Speaks

Education in its Truest Sense

It is said, "Education maketh a person." I had not been able to grasp the full implication of these words till I joined Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology, Azara.

Situated in the outskirts of Guwahati, on the banks of the famous Dipor Beel, DBCET is a first of its kind in North East, a constituent college of the first private university in Assam, the Don Bosco University. Its lush green surroundings, and serene

atmosphere along with excellent infrastructure makes it an ideal destination for students and educationalists alike.

It was 11 August, 2008, the inauguration day, and also my first day in DBCET. I was quite apprehensive, at

the same time curious as to what I was going to face. But as I entered the college, I had a pleasant surprise. That very first day revealed that something was different about the situation - the teachers, the staff and the environment itself instilled an aura of freshness in me. Since that day, every single day spent in DBCET helps me change my life for the better. Here we are taught to seize the day - to make most use of the opportunities that we might come across in a day - opportunities to gain knowledge, to enhance our personalities, to help others, as well as to have fun. This leads to acquisition of not just

academic knowledge but also to gather noble ideas, charitable attitudes and complete emotional stability - the very things that education in its true sense aims at. It is a common knowledge that the basic strength of an educational institution lies in its teaching staff and its management, and DBCET has a quality share of both. The talented and experienced faculty of DBCET is unique. Every student can relate personally to a teacher, and unlike in the other institutions where a teacher takes classes for name's sake, at DBCET there is great enthusiasm and involvement among

both the students and faculty. This creates the optimum learning atmosphere in each class.

The experienced and highly qualified management backed up by an equally efficient staff, has catapulted the college into heights of excellence in its very first year.

Being a student of such an institution instills a pride in me. As the days go by, I learn new things from the college. No wonder, as the vision of the institution states, DBCET does not just create mere engineers, but it creates citizens with all round academic, moral and spiritual values; creates winners in the race of life.

Arpit Das



AN INSTITUTION WITH A DIFFERENCE

At the very outset may I acknowledge that it was with hesitation and reluctance that I applied for my admission at DBCET; hesitation because the college is new and this is going to be the maiden batch; reluctance because Don Bosco institutions have name and fame unique to their style and establishment and so would I really make it through the selection process. I would be wrong if I do not also confess that these feelings were rather short-lived and even proved to be erroneous.

As I pen these few lines of my experience of the first days at DBCET I very vividly see right before me those cherished moments and relive that experience which is indescribable. And my mind turns to the sentiments rhymed by William Wordsworth in his

well-famed poem The Daffodils:

*'For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.'*

Of course, for me the daffodils are the persons all around me.

The very first day I entered the campus I just could feel that the two wings of the building extended their arms in wide embrace unto me. The quiet and serene breeze honeyed in my ears the phrase this is it. Raising my eyes and having a quick glance at the vicinage I muttered enthusiastically: Wow! It's so sweet. When I, in fact, came in for the interview, more commonly known as counseling, I was simply amazed and stunned by the gentle smile of Rev. Fr. Joseph Nellanatt who

interviewed me and taken aback with pleasant surprise by the marked simplicity of Prof. Basil.

Tracing my way back home I realized that I couldn't but reckon myself exceptionally lucky and privileged to have come here. Further, when I got to know that I have been admitted, I was beside myself bubbling with joy and fizzing about ecstatically.

The 11 August 2008 would remain ever engraved in my memories as it was the first day I spent in DBCET as a Bosconian. The day began with the inaugural ceremony attended by the students and the parents. I, for one, believe that the function spoke volumes about the adeptness of the college. The whole show was in style. The speeches delivered in fact did inspire me to give my best in academics. The words of Rev. Fr.

Stephen Mavelly, "DBCET is an institute with a difference" echo in my ears even now when I in my mind's eye savor the memories of the first day.

And how could I ever forget the emphasis laid on living as persons of profound spirituality (witnessed to by the fathers and sisters of the college) and deep convictions.

The following days, I found myself strangely at ease with everyone and everything as if I have been around the corner for ages. Truly that is the difference in DBCET. I realized soon that cordiality and friendliness ruled

and marked the relationship between the faculty and the students. Contrary to the usual view on education, here the lecturers were very willing to get to know us more intimately and on a very personal level. I just couldn't believe that this could ever occur in an educational institute. Oh! Know what? DBCET is an institute of difference and this is the difference it makes in the lives of the students. I treasure in the cave of my heart their generous smiles and tender affection which made me feel very

much at ease and at home the very first days of my life here at DBCET.

I am also convinced that I do really cherish and go through the same experiences each and every day here. And so in conclusion all what I could reiterate is that it is blessed to be at DBCET, and what is more, its green meadows, gentle breeze, sweet fragrance, welcoming corridors, confluence of cultures and above all the close-to-my-heart faculty and ever loving friends would linger on in my memories as I journey along in life.

Rupanjali



As the ethos of today's learning takes a higher ground with the mushrooming of academics and academicians for various studies, responsibility of preparing the young adults to build a just society is indeed greater. The present need of the society is not to multiply educational institutions but to provide quality education with a special reference on higher education which would mould

and shape the individuals who are capable of climbing the pedestal of influence in the society. The culture of the present day world speaks how extremely important education is in the life of people and how its influence ever grows in the social progress of this age. In this regard the Don Bosco Educational Society, after over a century of quality service at the college and school

levels, decided to enter the field of higher education in an emphatic manner, particularly in the University system, by setting up Don Bosco University at Guwahati - the first such project of the Society in India. The Assam Private Universities Act, 2007, passed by the Assam government in May 2007, offered the perfect opportunity for such a venture.

MILESTONES

- ◆ 24 Jan to 03 Dec 2006 - Gestation period
- ◆ 10 Jan 2007 - Approval by the Don Bosco Headquarter, Rome
- ◆ 07 May 2007 - Assam State Private Universities Act, 2007
- ◆ 23 Oct 2007 - Concept presentation to the Chief Minister and top Government officials
- ◆ 08 Nov 2007 - Application to the Government to establish 'Don Bosco University'
- ◆ 30 Dec 2007 - Application to AICTE for establishing DBCET at Azara
- ◆ 30 Jan 2008 - 'Letter of Intent' for the engineering college issued by AICTE
- ◆ 29 Mar 2008 - 'Letter of Intent' for the university issued by the Government of Assam
- ◆ 30 Jun 2008 - 'Letter of Approval' for the Engineering College by AICTE
- ◆ 11 Aug 2008 - Inauguration of 'DBCET' at Azara.
- ◆ 06 Dec 2008 - Inauguration of Don Bosco University



From the Desk of the Vice-Chancellor



It is several months now since a 'spark' has been lit in the North-East with the inauguration of Don Bosco College of Engineering & Technology on 11th August 2008. It is wonderful to see how that 'spark' is being nurtured and fanned into a flame by the activities that have been started in the college - this newsletter being one of them. Very aptly it has been given the name 'Spark'.

Speaking on the occasion of the inauguration, I said,

We started our function this morning with the lighting of the lamp as we sang "Go, light your world!" Taking a thought from that symbolic gesture, let me say that, this morning, a spark is being lit - literally and figuratively.

That flame over there is the physical spark... Where is the real spark?

I think the real spark is what made you leave the comfort of your homes this morning to begin this venture, this new day in your life. You are anxious perhaps about this new place and new surroundings. But I am sure there is a sense of tingling excitement about the journey you have just begun... That's the real spark, that bracing feeling that you can and you want to make

something of your life.

That spark is in your minds, it is in your hearts, it is on your faces. We can see it in your eyes today... don't let that spark go out!

I would repeat the same today in this message, "keep that spark alive!"

When you feel overwhelmed by the tasks at hand - the classes, the assignments, the presentations, the celebrations, the tests, the examinations etc. - how to keep this 'spark' alive?

Here is a thought that might help you...

There's an old saying that says, "If the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning is eat a live frog, then nothing worse can happen for the rest of the day!"

Brian Tracy, a well-known motivational writer and speaker, says that your "frog" should be the most difficult item on your things-to-do list for the day (or the week, or the month, or the semester, for that matter), the one you're most likely to procrastinate; because, if you 'eat' that first (meaning that you deal with it right away with determination, verve and enthusiasm), it'll give you sufficient energy and momentum for the rest of the day. But, if you don't...and let him sit there on the plate and stare at you while you do a hundred other unimportant things on the list, it can drain your energy and you won't even know it.

And so, as this semester is drawing to a close, rekindle the 'spark' every morning by 'eating that live frog' and wait for the miracles to unfold...

Fr. Stephen Mavelly SDB
Vice-Chancellor



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