

SPARK



A Newsletter for Don Bosco University family, alumni and friends

Heeding the call of the hour ...the DON BOSCO WAY !

INTERNATIONALLY...

VIRTUAL ACADEMIC COLLABORATION



FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
NEW TAIPEI, TAIWAN



FRANKFURT
UNIVERSITY
OF APPLIED SCIENCES
FRANKFURT, GERMANY



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
CHICAGO, USA

Metropolitan 
State University
MINNESOTA, USA



ASSAM
DON BOSCO
UNIVERSITY
GUWAHATI, INDIA



Royal University of Bhutan
THIMPHU, BHUTAN



HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

IN NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHOOLS...



BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

... Transitioning to the digital classroom

- Training Teachers
- Providing ICT Tools
- Digital teaching repertoire

Message from the Vice Chancellor

All too suddenly, the year is ending. The wintry chill has set in... and Christmas is round the corner...

The year is ending... and what an year this has been! The world over, we have been held captives by a virus, the like of which we have not seen. It has been, and continues to be, a challenging time in every way, a chaotic intrusion into our lives that has spared no one.

We, human beings, who take pride as the acme of creation, masters of the universe, suddenly find ourselves helpless in the face of this unseen microbe, a tiny but rapacious predator that breaks through all our defenses. Not a respecter of persons this virus!

Its relentless march goes right round the world, in wave after wave, mowing us down by the thousands. It reminds us of the folklore of yesteryears about the Grim Reaper, a macabre image wearing a dark hooded cloak and wielding a scythe...

It came over the news last night that 'this virus is rapidly evolving into ever more lethal mutations'...
Fear rules the day – winter has set in...

Just last night again, browsing through the 'New York Times', I was bemused by a short video in the 'Opinion' section, titled 'An Ode to the Before Times', the time before the lockdowns and the pandemic. It has a very candid but revealing sub-title, 'Also, I think I am losing my mind'... Tara Schlossberg is the producer and animator of this Opinion Video. It is available at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/14/opinion/coronavirus-life-nostalgia.html?referringSource=articleShare>

'We all miss things that used to be normal – hugging friends, dancing in crowded places, not being terrified of standing near someone with a dry cough. But what about everything else that we took for granted? After nearly a year of social distancing, a new normal is starting to settle into place, and memories of how things used to be are only growing hazier. When we finally emerge on the other side of all this – hopefully with our sanity loosely intact – will we come to miss this strange year, too?'



A strange question – *'will we come to miss this strange year, too?'*

But, yes, in times to come, we shall certainly miss this year too... but, again, there is this too in our armoury: 'Hope springs eternal in the human breast' (Alexander Pope - 1688-1744)... and, 'If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?' (Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1792–1822).

After a time of death, comes a time for rebirth and renewal, with young ones being born and fresh buds on every twig. We are pre-eminently creatures of hope!

Right from my office window, right now in fact, this cycle of life and death is on full display: the leaves fell off the trees a few weeks ago. But those bare branches are alive now with scores of birds building their nests – they are playing yet again this eternal dance of life and death.

We all can do with some comforting message as we grapple with these fractured times, and seek to rebuild our fragmented lives... and that is precisely where the warmth and reassurance of the Christmas message is so very topical – especially its message of hope and peace. So, let me end this message on that note, with a few verses from the song 'The Greatest Gift of All' by Kenny Rogers & Dolly Parton (available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMhWbAtimuE>):

*Just before I go to sleep, I hear a church bell ring;
Merry Christmas, everyone, is the song it sings.
So I say a silent prayer, for creatures great and small,
Peace on Earth, good will to men, is the greatest gift of all*

With the rebirth of the Christ Child this Christmas, may there be peace on earth, peace in our hearts, peace in our homes... and let blessings abound in the New Year!

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

- Fr Stephen Mavelly
Rector & Vice Chancellor

IVAC - International Virtual Academic Collaboration

The University in collaboration with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences started a project titled 'International Virtual Academic Collaboration (IVAC) as a response to the need of the hour. This project aims at providing platforms for various Higher Education Institutions around the world for - virtual academic collaborations, intercultural exchanges without having to move to another country physically, applying digital skills acquired through virtual cooperation, contributing to the interoperable student data ecosystems etc.

Workshop on: Zoom and LMSs – Moodle and Panopto

Under the project an online Workshop on Zoom and LMSs – Moodle and Panopto was organised on 5th of November, 2020 with an aim to provide information about Learning management systems and to show some useful tools/functions that can be used for online teaching.

Ms Verena Ruhsert, Project Coordinator of IVAC, gave a welcome address and also introduced the resource person, Ms Esther Zeschky, Faculty Advisor for Digital Media in Teaching at the Frankfurt University, Faculty of Health and Social Work. Ms Esther Zeschky effectively provided appropriate information about various tools/programmes for online teaching such as Moodle, Zoom and Panopto. Regarding Zoom, she explained how to divide participants in breakout rooms as well as how to use the whiteboard. After that, she introduced the learning management system (Moodle) and gave some general information.



Ms Esther Zeschky

To show the various functions of Moodle, Ms Esther Zeschky shared her screen whilst explaining, so all the participants could follow. She also explained how to integrate videos created with the tool Panopto on Moodle. The workshop also addressed that there are various learning management systems which can be used for online teaching. After the session there was a Q&A session. About 20 participants registered for the programme.

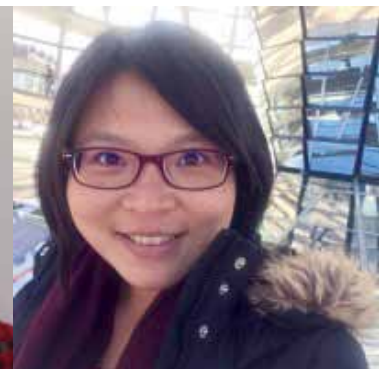
Panel Discussion on Child Rights

A Panel Discussion was organised by ADBU and Frankfurt UAS on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and World's Children Day. The discussion aims to learn how the rights of the children are implemented in the different cultural context. It also intends to identify opportunities and points of entry for greater collaboration with the key stakeholders in fulfilling the rights of the child in the cultural decisions and actions.

The Moderator of the discussion was Mr. Victor Narzary, an Asst. Professor in the Department of Social Work, ADBU and the Panellists were Prof. Dr Ursula Fasselt, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and Ms Tan Chi Yang, Child Welfare League Foundation (Taiwan). There were 114 participants from Germany, Taiwan, Solomon Islands and India.



Dr Ursula Fasselt



Ms Tan Chi Yang

Webinar on International Cultural Exchange

International Cultural Exchange on the theme: "Cultural Diversity and Imaginations for Cultural Pluralism" was organized on 9th December 2020 with an aim to provide an opportunity for the students to share their culture and get to learn about foreign cultures from other international students. This venture aims to promote empathy and unity, cross-cultural friendship, critical outlook towards one's own culture and that of the others, and to imbibe the spirit of cultural pluralism. 60 students from Germany, India, Taiwan, and Brazil participated in this event. Dr. Samhita Barooah Consultant & Trainer in Social Development and Transformation, Guwahati, India was the resource person and observer of this programme.

Online Lecture Series

Under this project, Online Lecture Series was also started where two lectures have been conducted on the theme ‘Emerging Trends and Perspectives in Social Work’. The first lecture titled “Critical Revisit of Social Work Education and Practices in India’ was delivered by Dr. Bodhi S.R., TISS, Mumbai on 2nd December 2020, and it was attended by 127 participants. The Second Lecture in this series titled, ‘Tele-health and Social Work Practice’ was delivered by Prof. Nandita Bezbaruah, Minnesota State University Moorhead, USA on 16th December 2020. The lecture was attended by 158 participants. The participants of both the lectures were students, faculty and professionals in Social Work.



Dr. Bodhi S.R.

Prof. Nandita Bezbaruah

IIC Rating 2020

The Institution’s Innovation Council (IIC), Ministry of Education announced the new ratings of various Institutions in India on 15th October 2020 where the University’s School of Technology (also known as Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology) was given a rating of 3.5 stars out of 5. The rating of institutions is based on the participation and organization of events related to innovations and entrepreneurship. These events are clubbed under three categories – Institutions Innovation Council Driven Activities, MHRD’s Innovation Cell (MIC)’s – AICTE Driven Activities and Self-Driven Activities. Self-Driven Activities are those activities related to innovation and entrepreneurship conducted at the Institution level.



A total of 77.5 out of 100 was scored by the Institution and also was rewarded with an additional 20.8333 points for conducting additional activities under the category of IIC Driven Activities

Ninth Convocation

The Ninth Convocation of the University was held on Monday, 5th October, 2020 and it was live streamed on Youtube and Facebook to a global audience including the students, their friends and families of the Don Bosco Society fraternity across 132 countries serving 9 million students. In spite of the virtual mode, the ceremony was evocative of the experiences shared, values imbibed, knowledge gained and bonds of friendship formed for a lifetime on campus creating a truly momentous event for the graduating students.



In his ‘Message of Hope’ to the graduates, the Chief Minister of Assam, Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal said, “It is a great day for all the graduates to cherish their success” and conveyed his wishes for a “bright future”. In his appreciation of the quality education, teaching and administration rendered by Assam Don Bosco University, he mentioned the legacy of the University will inspire other Universities to maintain discipline, punctuality and dedication. He further added that the three main stakeholders of Educational Institution - teachers, parents and students are equally important in making a better society.

The Chancellor of the University, Fr. Januarius Sangma said, “Through the investment of efforts and application of knowledge, you have become someone in life and in society. Contribute to your family, the society, especially the poor and the marginalized and make the world a better place. Let people around you see the difference in quality, behaviour, profession and everything that you do. Strive to be a man or a woman of high intelligence coupled with noble values and character and you will certainly contribute much to the world”.

Delivering the welcome address, the Vice Chancellor Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavelly congratulated the students for their success by overcoming the hardships of this pandemic situation. Encouraging the students to celebrate the insights gained from the challenges of the current situation to discover their inner depth, he added, “As you traverse that road ahead, uniquely your own, be passionate about what you do, focus on reaching your destination, treat everyone and everything with respect and compassion, undergird your decisions with the values you have learnt here”.



This year, degrees were conferred to 908 students of which 468 students received the bachelor’s degrees in engineering and technology, basic sciences, commerce, management and humanities; 440 students received master’s degrees in various branches of engineering, science, commerce and management. Doctoral Degrees were conferred to 15 scholars. In the DBU Global Online and Distance Education courses, 173 students received bachelor’s degree, master’s degree and diploma under various programmes.

Gold Medals under various categories were awarded to 28 outstanding graduates with the highest Cumulative Grade Point Average in each program. The Chancellor’s medal for outstanding graduate in PG courses and the Vice Chancellor’s medal for outstanding graduate in UG courses for notable and exceptional contribution to campus life were also awarded on the occasion.

Dr. Bikramjit Goswami, a PhD Graduate took the Graduate’s Pledge on behalf of all graduating students of being intellectually competent, morally upright, socially committed, spiritually inspired and civically responsible in their quest for professionalism and service to humanity as truly dependable nation builders and global citizens.

The occasion ended with the closure of Convocation 2020 announced by the Chancellor of the University followed by the National Anthem.

University Professor Ranked Among Top Scientists of the World

Professor Krishna Gopal Bhattacharyya, a Professor of Chemistry in Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati has been listed among the 2% Top Scientists in the World by Stanford University’s team of scientists, who meticulously analysed the works and contributions of over 100,000 scientists in the world and ranked them subject-wise. The database, created under the leadership of Dr. John PA Ioannidis was published in a highly respected journal – PLOS Biology. According to this ranking, Prof. Bhattacharyya has been placed as:

- 3rd in ranking among Indian Scientists in the field of ‘Environmental Science’
- 235th in ranking among World Scientists in the field of ‘Environmental Science’

Professor Krishna Gopal Bhattacharyya obtained his M.Sc. in Chemistry from Gauhati University, Ph.D. and DIC from Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London. He joined the Department of Chemistry, Gauhati University in 1975 and retired as Professor in April 2016. He served as the Head of the Department of Chemistry and the Dean, Faculty of Science, Gauhati University. He also served the UGC-Academic Staff College, Gauhati University as its Director from 1997 to 2012. Apart from this, Professor Bhattacharyya had also served as the Chairman of the State level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Assam under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India from March 2017 to February 2020. Presently, he is working as Professor of Chemistry, Assam Don Bosco University, Tapesia, Sonapur.



World Animal Day 2020

As we embrace the new normal, the Department of Zoology in collaboration with the EcoClub, Assam Don Bosco University, put together a Virtual Meet of animal lovers on 10 October 2020, to celebrate two events: World Animal Day and World Wildlife Week. The event witnessed the participation of around 80 animal enthusiasts who together raised concerns over animal welfare through Poetry, Painting, and Photographs. The themes for these events were Speak Up For The Animals/Be Their Voice; Man And Dog; and Wildlife through Your Lens.



To acquaint students with their seniors and build a strong network among them, an interactive session was held where students shared their experiences as a student of the University and as budding researchers who are maneuvering their way into the scientific community. The speakers - Dibyajyoti Kalita (Batch 2019), Sagarika Das (Batch of 2020), Emidakachwa Khonglah (Batch of 2020), and Anastasia Ting (Batch of 2020) - spoke of their Dissertation Journey. They expressed a unanimous claim of how this journey was “quite the experience”! Dibyajyoti, who is currently working on a conservation project with 7Weaves, motivated and inspired the students through his session on his journey from Assam Don Bosco University to 7Weaves.

The programme concluded with the announcement of the result of the Competitions: Photomania 3.0, Splash 1.0, and Poetry writing competition.

Tribute to Sri Tarun Gogoi, former Chief Minister of Assam

The University held a solemn gathering at 10:30 a.m on 24th November 2020 in remembrance and celebration of the life of Sri Tarun Gogoi, former Chief Minister of Assam, who passed away on 23rd November evening due to post-Covid complications. He was 86 years old.

The Vice Chancellor, Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavelly and the Directors paid tributes to Sri Tarun Gogoi in this meeting held online through Google Meet, hosted from the Vice Chancellor’s Office. The short gathering began with a delicate and melodious prayer song - Ave Maria, followed by tributes from the Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor and the Directors.



Reminiscing the multiple interactions he had with Shri Tarun Gogoi regarding the establishment of Don Bosco University in Assam, Fr. Stephen Mavelly acknowledged that Sri Tarun Gogoi played a key role in the establishment of Don Bosco University.

He said, "I remember my first meeting with him in February 2007 and told him that Don Bosco wants to start a University in Assam. He looked at me, smiled and said that he has never heard such a request and that Govt. of Assam does not even have legal provisions for starting of a new University. But then, he rang up the then Education Minister immediately and said that 'I have Fr. Stephen here, and the Don Bosco Society wants to start a University, what can we do about it?'. They spoke on the phone for a while, and assured me as I left that he would see to it that the request is not forgotten. By May 2007, the Government of Assam passed 'Assam Private Universities Act' and by March 2008 we got a 'Letter of Intent' from the Govt. of Assam. A very fast process. Here at Don Bosco University, we considered him as a part of our family, always available, always deeply interested in how we were doing, always proud of his vital role in bringing this University into existence".

Paying his tributes to the late Shri Tarun Gogoi, the Director of the School of Technology, Prof. Manoranjan Kalita said, "I fondly remember how he inaugurated our University and in one of our Convocations he said 'We gave birth to a baby and I have come to see the health of our baby'".

The programme ended with another prayer song 'Abide with me', a prayer song to comfort each and every one of us on the demise of a person whose life testified that public service is a noble and joyous calling.

International Webinar on Demo JAMS Modelling System

An international webinar titled 'Introduction and Demo JAMS Modelling System: an open-source software for developing and applying eco-hydrological simulation models' was coordinated by Mrs Pori Das, Assistant Professor from the Department of Civil Engineering, Assam Don Bosco University and hosted by Mr Miga M. Julian, Assistant Professor, Hydrography Research Group, Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), Indonesia in collaboration with the Department of Geographic Information Science, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Germany on Aug 25, 2020. The webinar was organized as part of the 70th-anniversary celebration of geodetic and geomatics higher education in Indonesia.

The resource person for the webinar was Dr. Sven Kralisch, Senior Researcher of the Department of Geographic Information Science, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Germany and German Aerospace Center (DLR), Institute of Data Science Jena, Germany. Dr. Sven Kralisch provided an elaborate introduction of the JAMS Modelling System and an interactive demonstration of its basic functionalities to the participants. The webinar witnessed an active participation from the faculty members and students of the Department of Civil Engineering, Assam Don Bosco University.



Dr. Sven Kralisch

International Webinar on Coupled Surface and Groundwater Modeling in Arid Regions

A One-day International webinar entitled 'Coupled Surface and Groundwater Modeling in Arid Regions' was organized by Mrs Pori Das, Assistant Professor from the Department of Civil Engineering, Assam Don Bosco University on September 8, 2020. The resource person for the webinar was Dr. Andrew Watson, Postdoctoral fellow, Department of Earth Sciences, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Dr Watson underscored the fact that climate change is likely to impact both the surface as well as the subsurface water resources in the already water stressed areas such as South Africa in the near as well as the far future. The talk clearly outlined the importance of proper assessment of the water availability by application of coupled Surface and Groundwater models to understand the dynamics of river flow regime under both present and predicted climate change scenarios in water scarce, arid areas. Participants were mainly the faculty members and students of the Department of Civil Engineering, Assam Don Bosco University.



Dr. Andrew Watson

International Webinar on Climate Change

A One-day International webinar entitled 'Climate Change impacts on the Hindukush Himalayan region' was organized by Mrs Pori Das, Assistant Professor from the Department of Civil Engineering, Assam Don Bosco University on 23 October 2020. The resource person for the webinar was Dr. Santosh Nepal, Water and Climate Specialist at International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and also heads the Climate and Hydrology group within the Water and Air Theme. Dr Nepal elaborated on the vulnerability of the Hindukush Himalayan region to global climate change impacts across different sectors. The talk highlighted the significance of elaborate assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Himalayan water resources and the need to design better adaptation strategies towards integrated water resources management.



Dr. Santosh Nepal

International Webinar on Meteorological Perspectives and Regional Wind Energy

A One-day International webinar entitled 'Meteorological Perspectives on Regional Wind Energy Resource Estimation' was organized by Mrs Pori Das, Assistant Professor from the Department of Civil Engineering, Assam Don Bosco University on 4 November 2020. The resource person for the webinar was Mr. Jonathan Minz, PhD researcher at the Biospheric Theory and Modelling group at the Max Planck Institute of Biogeochemistry, Jena, Germany and the Institute of Physics and Meteorology at the University of Hohenheim. Mr. Minz demonstrated the importance of understanding and modelling the feedback between the atmosphere and large wind turbine deployments. His talk illustrated the possibility of regional weather prediction models (WRF) to determine and identify variables that could be useful for characterizing the feedback between the atmosphere and wind turbines leading to better estimates of regional wind energy potentials.

International Webinar on Modern Trends in Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry organized a one day international webinar titled "Modern Trends in Chemistry" on 31st October, 2020. The webinar, held on a Google Meet platform, started with the welcoming address by Dr. Monmoyuri Boruah, Director of School of Fundamental and Applied Sciences, Assam Don Bosco University.



Dr. Dipankar Srimani



Dr. Goutam Mukherjee



Dr. Rajib Lochan Goswamee

The webinar comprised three lectures by renowned scientists and their talk touched upon important and relevant topics in chemistry. The first talk on "Intellectual Property Rights and its importance and functioning" was delivered by Dr. Rajib Lochan Goswamee, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat Assam; the second talk on "Applicability of Acceptorless Dehydrogenation and Borrowing Hydrogen Catalysis in Chemical Synthesis" was delivered by Dr. Dipankar Srimani, Asst. Professor, IIT Guwahati and the last and third talk was delivered by Dr. Goutam Mukherjee, Senior Scientist at PharmaCADD, South Korea and also a Post Doctoral Fellow at Heidelberg University, Germany on "RASPD+: Machine Learning for Fast Protein-Ligand Binding Free Energy Prediction and its Applications to SARS-CoV-2 Targets"

The webinar was attended by 60 participants from various parts of the world and their feedback showed that they were highly satisfied and appreciated the webinar. Participants were given E-certificates at the end.

Mandarin Classes at the University

The University in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Taiwan and Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India started offering Mandarin Classes to interested students of the University since February 2020. The first batch of students have finished 180 hours of Mandarin Classes, the second batch of students completed 90 hours and the third batches comprising two shifts started classes in the month of November. On completion of the course, students have the choice of appearing for Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL) and receive a Proficiency Certificate from the Ministry of Education, Taiwan.



Ms Kuei-mi Li, who is teaching Mandarin to DBU students has a vast experience in teaching Mandarin and French as a Second Language. She has worked as a translator and language teacher in Solomon's Island, Burkina Faso and Taiwan for over 20 years. The University is also planning to offer French to interested students from the next semester.

International Webinar by the Dept. of Mathematics

The Department of Mathematics conducted an International Webinar on 'Mathematical Applications in Human Cognition and Neuroscience' on 16th September 2020. This webinar had two renowned speakers Professor Robin I M Dunbar, PhD, DSc(Hons), FRAI, FBA; Professor of Evolutionary Psychology, Department of Evolutionary Psychology, University of Oxford., UK and Dr Santanu Acharjee, Assistant Professor, Dept of Mathematics, Gauhati Univ, India.

Addressing the participants from various countries, Professor Dunbar said, "Despite the fact that, these days, we humans often live in vast conurbations like Mumbai and London, the human social world is actually very small indeed. I originally predicted its size from a regression equation relating social group size in different species of monkeys and apes to the size of their brains. When I plugged human brain size into this equation, it predicted a group size of 150. This is the number now known as Dunbar's Number, or the Dunbar Number. A large sample of both personal social network size and community size in both the real face-to-face world and the online social world confirms that this number is the typical size of natural human groups: a sample of 22 such estimates yielded an average group size of 154. Essentially, this is the number of friends and family that you can have meaningful relationships with. Of course, this is only the average: individuals vary between about 100 and 250 depending on their age, gender and how sociable they are."



Prof. Robin IM Dunbar

Continuing in the same line Dr. Santanu Acharjee said, "Topological indices describe mathematical invariants of molecules in mathematical chemistry. M-polynomials of chemical graph theory have freedom about the nature of molecular graphs and they play a role as another topological invariant. Social networks can be both cyclic and acyclic in nature. We develop a novel application of M-polynomials, the (m,n,r) -agent recruitment graph where $n>1$, to study the relationship between the Dunbar graphs of social networks and the small-world phenomenon. We show that the small-world effects are only possible if everyone uses the full range of their network when selecting steps in the small-world chain. Topological indices may provide valuable insights into the structure and dynamics of social network graphs because they incorporate an important element of the dynamical transitivity of such graphs."

The Webinar, coordinated by Prof. Tarini Kumar Dutta was attended by researchers and students from 27 countries.

Workshop on Python Programming And Mathematics



Dr. Sujata Ghatak

The workshop “Python Programming And Mathematics ” was organized by the Department of Mathematics on 7th December 2020. The workshop started with the inaugural session at 9:30 with an introduction from the head of the department Dr. Hemen Bharali and a welcome addresses by Fr. (Dr.) Stephen Marvely and Director of SFAS Dr. Monmayuri Baruah.

These were followed by a talk on ‘Python Magic in Mathematics’ by Sujata Ghatak from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Institute of Engineering and Management, Kolkata. She introduced the python programming to the students with basic installation, discussing the mathematics packages and modules in python programming. She further discussed the mathematical constant and how to compute them with other mathematical functions. After that there were three talks of one hour each were given by Dr. Saugata Purkayastha, Dr. Fokrul Mazarbhuiya and Dr. Sanjay Dutta of the Department of Mathematics.

Dr. Saugata Purkayastha explained the basic concept of Linear Algebra and Statistics and how it is applied in data science. Dr. Fokrul Mazarbhuiya shed more light on the topic of data science, data mining and the mathematical background needed to explore more on these area and the students can see the alternate option as a career after their graduation and post graduation.

Finally, Dr. Sanjay Dutta tried to combine the outcome of both the above sessions and how these concepts can be put into practice with the help of Python programming.

Webinar on Future Engineering with Data Science

The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering in collaboration with National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology, (Under Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY, Govt. of India)), Guwahati - 781008, ASSAM organized a webinar on Future Engineering with Data Science.

The webinar introduced participants to the Data science, Machine Learning in Data Science, Different Application area of Data Science and Future Engineering Scope in Data Science. The goal is to present profound teaching techniques and advice for transferring the knowledge from academia to Industry. The webinar included four invited talks from academia as well as Industry.



Dr. Ferdous Admed Barbhuiya



Dr. Y. Jayanta Singh



Mr. Vicky Raj



Ms Simran Gibson

‘Role of Machine Learning in Data Science’ by Dr. Ferdous Ahmed Barbhuiya, Associate Professor (CSE) and Associate Dean (R&D), IIIT, Guwahati; ‘Cyber Security and Data Science’ by Mr. Vicky Ray, Principal Researcher, Asia Pacific, UNIT 42, Palo Alto Networks, Singapore; ‘The Power of Data Science in Fighting Cyber Threats’ by Ms. Simran Gibson, Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK; ‘Future Engineering with Data Science’ by Dr. Y. Jayanta Singh, Director (NIELIT-Guwahati)

There were a total of 180 participants who registered for this webinar. The participants included UG/PG students, research scholars and faculty members from various institute/Universities across India.

One Week Workshop on Signal Processing and Machine Learning

One week workshop on Signal Processing and Machine Learning was held during 10-14th August 2020 was conducted by the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Kaustubh Bhattacharyya along with Co-coordinator Mr. Mriganka Gogoi. The workshop begun with a short inauguration on 10th August 2020 where Dr. Kaustubh Bhattacharyya, Coordinator of the workshop inaugurated the workshop with a short speech and introduced Signal Processing and Machine Learning and its importance in modern technology.

The workshop had 10 technical sessions conducted by various resource persons. All the technical sessions were carried out with hands on practices. On completion of each technical session, feedback was taken from the participants and finally on 14-08-2020, a combined feedback was taken from all the participants. A short valedictory session was organized, where some participants shared their feedback verbally on the workshop. All the technical session along with the inauguration and valedictory session was conducted on Google Meet and certificates were distributed to all the participants electronically. The workshop ended with an informal discussion on the perspective of Machine Learning in recent days. The workshop was attended by 106 students from various Engineering Institutions in India.

Nurture the Nature for the Future

Assam Don Bosco University organized a webinar on 26th September 2020 on Google Meet with a topic 'Nurture the Nature for the Future'. The webinar was organized to motivate the youth to be a part of the global campaign towards achieving environmental sustainability and address the need for "Conversion in caring for Creation and Ecological Spirituality".

Bremley W.B. Lyngdoh, the resource person shared the vast experience that he has in nurturing the nature and explained the need for urgent action in saving the planet. He is the Founder and CEO of Worldview Impact, the Co-Founder of the Global Youth Action Network and Co-Chairs the United Nations CSD Education Caucus. He left home at 17 on a mission: To see Sustainable Development pushed and practiced across the planet. His experience at the 1995 UN 50th Anniversary Assembly in New York left him convinced that helping people build a better life through social, environmental, and economic development was what he wanted to do. He returned to India to join the Consortium of Indian Scientists for Sustainable Development and worked on a project to combat desertification and to regenerate the desert ecosystem in Rajasthan. Soon followed the prestigious WWF Prince Bernhard Scholarship for Environmental Leadership. Bremley then joined UNDP and worked on the Gulf of Mannar biodiversity protection project in Tamil Nadu. This led to a move to New York to join the UN Commission on Sustainable Development Secretariat where he worked with the different major groups of Agenda 21.



Dr. Bremley WB Lyngdoh

As a member of the Don Bosco Green Alliance, the University is committed towards accompanying the young towards a sustainable future and fostering the participation of the young in global campaigns on behalf of the sustainability of environmental and ecological causes for the care of creation and human life.

Distinguished Lecture by Prof. Bill Ashcroft

On 11th October 2020, the Department of English, organized the first Distinguished Lecture Series – 2020, with Professor Bill Ashcroft as the resource person. Prof. Ashcroft is a founding figure of postcolonial theory and an Emeritus Professor in the School of English, Media and Performing Arts, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.



Prof. Bill Ashcroft

The programme commenced at 11:00 am with the welcome address by Fr.(Dr) Stephen Mavelly. In his welcome address Fr. Mavelly extensively spoke about the literary achievement and contribution of Prof. Bill Ashcroft in the field of Postcolonialism and also presented before him the panoramic view of the university and also highlighted the theme of 2020-21 session i.e. of searching for meaning in the bits and pieces of life.

In an insightful and gripping presentation on 'Postcolonialism Today', Prof. Ashcroft shared his in-depth knowledge and ideas on postcolonial theory, postcolonialism and globalization, postcolonial futures, postcolonial utopianism, literature's anticipatory function, borders and bordering, nation, transnation and so on. The insightful lecture was followed by critical and interesting questions on ideas like postcolonialism being physical or mental, the role of creative discourse in postcolonialism, borders and so on. The programme came to an end at 12:15pm with a vote of thanks by Dr. Saikat Banerjee, Head, Department of English, Assam Don Bosco University.

There were more than 1900 registrations with participants from countries such as Bangladesh, Morocco, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, Algeria, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Philippines, Nepal, Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, Malaysia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Scotland, Spain, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Bolivia, United States of America, Myanmar, Germany, Mauritania, Palestine, Yemen, China and Pan India thus making this event a truly global one.



Dr. Bivash Pandav

Lecture on Saving Tigers

The 8th Lecture Series on “Saving tigers in a Human-Dominated Landscape - Lessons Learnt from the Terai” was conducted on 18 September 2020. Dr. Bivash Pandav, Department of Endangered Species Management, WII, was the resource person. Dr. Pandav shared an enriching discussion on his first-hand field experiences and encouraged the participants to work together towards protection and conservation of wildlife, particularly the Majestic Tiger. The webinar was attended by 50 participants from various parts of the country.

Workshop on NET

The Department of Chemistry organized a workshop on National Eligibility Test from 3-6 November 2020.

The workshop included 6 lectures by reputed professors and their talk touched upon important as well as relevant topics in chemistry. Dr. Kusum Kumar Bania (Tezpur University) and Dr. Sagar Sharma delivered their talk on Inorganic Chemistry. Dr. Basanta Kumar Rajbongshi (Cotton State University) and Dr. Pallabi Borah delivered their talk on Organic Chemistry. Dr. Debajyoti Mahanta (Gauhati University) and Dr. Lopamudra Homchaudhuri delivered their talk on Physical Chemistry.

After the workshop, personalized e-certificates were emailed to all the participants. Many participants voluntarily sent their feedback to the organizers informing about their satisfaction and gratitude.

Lecture on Eri Silk

As fashionistas and retailers are realising the importance of shifting from fast fashion to the “sustainable” Slow Fashion, the 7th Lecture Series of the Department of Zoology was conducted on 12 September 2020 on the theme “Can a Piece of Eri Silk Conserve Biodiversity, Empower Indigenous Communities and Bring Economic Freedom?”. The Speaker was Mr. Rituraj Dewan, Co-founder, 7 weaves. Mr. Dewan emphasized on the importance of realising the damage that fast and unsustainable fashion choices have on the environment and further drew our attention towards the advantages of switching to a more sustainable choice ‘Eri’. The webinar was attended by 110 participants from several educational institutes all across India including Assam University, Central Silk Board, Miranda House, Gauhati University, Cotton University, Rangia College, Morigaon College, Sorbhog College, and Bodoland University.



Mr. Rituraj Dewan



Dr. Ashoktaru Barat

Lecture on Fish Genomics

The 5th Lecture Series on Fish Genomics was conducted on 29th August, 2020 by the Department of Zoology. The Lecture was delivered by Dr. Ashoktaru Barat, FAEB, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA, Fish Genetics & Biotechnology Division. In his lecture, Dr. Barat introduced the students to the field of Genomics and further explained its application in Fish studies. He also encouraged students to explore this field which is perceived to take huge strides in the years to follow. The webinar was attended by 122 participants from several educational institutes, Assam Downtown University, Cotton University, ICAR-CIFRI Guwahati, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya, West Goalpara College, Gauhati University, University of Science and Technology, Bodoland University, Dibrugarh University, Happy Convent School, Birla Institute of Technology, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, Handique Girls College, and Presidency College.

Webinar on Demystifying Lizard Taxonomy

On 5 September 2020, the Department of Zoology in collaboration with EcoClub, Assam Don Bosco University, organized a Webinar on “Demystifying Lizard Taxonomy” as a part of the Lecture Series #6 Science Behind Nature. Varad Giri, Ph.D. was the guest speaker. He is the Founder Director of Nidus and Director of Foundation for Biodiversity Conservation. In his lecture, Dr. Giri spoke about the importance of taxonomy and the methods for studying taxonomy. He stressed the importance of having a curious mind as one delves deeper into the field. The session had a few ‘myth-busting moments’ which clarified myths related to Lizards.



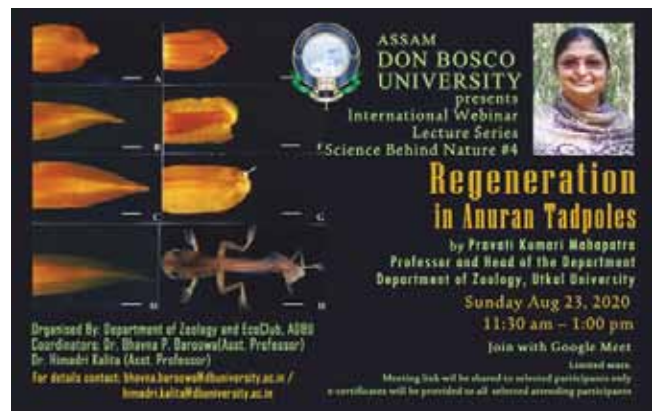
Dr. Varad Giri

Dr. Giri concluded his lecture with a word of encouragement and motivation to the participants, “Taxonomy is not difficult. It is the only branch of science which gives you immortality”.

With about 30-40% of fauna remaining unknown, this indeed sparked interest in the participants to explore the unexplored and step into the fascinating Immortal World of Taxonomy! The session was attended by about 120 participants from India, Bhutan, Nepal, and Kuwait. The Department is grateful to Dr. Varad Giri for his time and willingness to serve as Speaker for the Lecture Series Science behind Nature #6.

Lecture by Prof. Pravati Kumari Mahapatra

The 4th lecture series on Regeneration in Anuran Tadpoles was conducted on 23rd August, 2020 by the Dept. of Zoology. Professor Pravati Kumari Mahapatra, HOD, Department of Zoology, Utkal University was the resource person. Dr. Mahapatra inspired the 65 participants with a lucid description of her research on anuran regeneration. The participants represented educational institutions across India including Morigan College, B.N.College, Tihu college, Assam University, Arya Vidyapeeth College, Pandu College, Gauhati University, Tezpur University, Manipur University, Tripura Central University, College of Fisheries, Assam Agricultural University, St. Joseph’s College (Autonomous), Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education & Research, North-Eastern Hill University, Dakshin Kamrup College, Thambal Marik College, Ahmednagar College and Visva-bharati University.



Activity Report of Literature Club

On the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week, the club organized two events, viz, Essay Competition and Poster Making Competition on 29th and 30th of October 2020 respectively. There were 20 participants for the Essay Competition and 27 participants for the Poster Making Competition across all departments of Tapesia Campus. The first prize for the Essay Competition was begged by Mr. Kapil Kumar Kemprai of Msc 3rd Sem, Botany Department, and the first position for Poster Making Competition was claimed by Ms. Syeda Farhin Sultana of BA 3rd Sem, English Department.

Furthermore, during the Student Induction Program, the club also organized an event to acquaint the students of the first semester with the paradigms of the Literary Club. The students of the first semester were briefed about the functions of the club by the senior students of the club. In order to engage them the club had organized a Poetry Writing Competition on 12th November 2020. The themes assigned for the Poetry Writing Competition were “Rusted Elegance”, “Solitude”, “Your Mother’s Perfume”. The winners of the event were George Kresilius Hanse (1st prize), BA 1st Sem, English Department, Romero D’Souza (2nd prize), MA 1st Sem, Department of Education, and Puotounguno Basumatary (third), BA 1st Sem, Psychology Department.

A webinar on 'A Foundation for Life: The Importance of Volunteering'

To cater the potential of the youths in the right way, a webinar on “A Foundation for Life: The Importance of Volunteering” was organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit, Assam Don Bosco University in collaboration with the Rotaract Club of Pine City, RID 3240 on 1st August 2020, and 96 participants registered for the webinar from different field of studies and work settings.

The resource person for the webinar was Mr. Robbie Townsend, Coordinator, Community and Volunteer Services, Ireland, who had worked and lived in Ireland, Uganda, South Africa, and Australia. He highlighted on his volunteering experiences and how it develop his career and employability skills. He also stated that, sometimes we don't need a reason to volunteer; we just have to do it because it is the right thing to do.



The webinar created a sense of responsibility, and humanity among the youth by lending their services to a noble cause. It also provided the scopes that volunteering opens in the volunteer's professional and personal growth. Participants learned that volunteering provides a sense of purpose, and a base in their future career and that one can learn better through involvement and volunteering is one platform where they can bring about positive transformation.

Webinar on Entrepreneurship Opportunity through Agriculture

The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Unit, Assam Don Bosco University in collaboration with the Rotaract Club of Pine City organized a Webinar on “Entrepreneurship Opportunity through Agriculture” on 31 October 2020 with an aim to bring awareness to the youth about the entrepreneurship opportunities in the agricultural sector, and to give the participants an opportunity to interact with experts from this field.

Dr Monika Soni, Asst. Professor, Department of Biosciences, Assam Don Bosco University gave a welcome address and also introduced the resource person, Dr Hammylliende Talang, ARS, Scientist, Division of Horticulture-ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region. Dr. Talang effectively provided information about various agricultural activities that one can take up to promote their economic status. He showed a wide range of categories in agriculture which could be opted, ranging from 1.Nursery development which again have two choices a) Fruits b) Vegetables, 2.Floriculture 3.Home Science which also teaches various methods of food storage for excessive and leftovers during the seasons 4. Mushroom cultivation 4. Vermicomposting and 5. Fish production. He also touched on farming and integrated farming and how the participants can take it up as an income generating activity. The webinar also addressed various schemes, funding opportunities and trainings available under these categories to the public. After the session there was a Q&A session where participants had an interactive session with the resource person. About 115 participants registered for the programme.



Awareness Programme on NEP for Villagers

On 20th September 2020, the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Unit of Assam Don Bosco University in collaboration with a local NGO Avighna had a meeting with the School Management Committee of the Arabari Lower Primary School to make them aware about the new National Education Policy, 2020. Points that were highlighted were the introduction of vocational training like carpentry, gardening, pottery etc. which will be incorporated in the syllabus to give students a first-hand experience, adult education and also about bagless day where students will be given exposure to the different programmes. An Assamese version of the salient features of the NEP, 2020 was also distributed to the members of the SMC.



The concept of BALA (Building as Learning Aid) was also introduced to the SMC members. The adoption of BALA in the school was appreciated and encouraged by the members as it will promote the quality of education and the academic performance of the children. The colourful and educative painting will make the children motivated to go to school and learn. The concept can be adopted as TLM (Teachers Learning Material) which allows teachers to adapt it according to the educational needs of their students. BALA can be done in floor, wall, window, door, ceiling, platform, furniture etc. The architecture of school can be a resource for the teaching processes. The SMC members also assured the team to encourage participation of the youth to help in implementing BALA in the school.

Webinar: Entrepreneurship and Fishery

The Covid-19 Pandemic has wiped out millions of jobs in 2020. As fresh graduates and others continue their quest for employment opportunities, the Department of Zoology, Assam Don Bosco University in collaboration with Fishfed, Department of Fisheries, Government of Assam organised the 9th Lecture on “Entrepreneurship and Fishery” as part of the Lecture Series ‘Science Behind Nature’ on 22 December 2020.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Dhruva Jyoti Sharma, Managing Director, Fishfed, Government of Assam. Dr. Sharma shared a comprehensible and lucid presentation on the multitudinous opportunities for the youth in the field of fishery. There were a total of 25 participants representing institutions from across the State of Assam as well as the neighbouring North-eastern States of the country. As Dr. Sharma concluded his session saying, “Age should not be a barrier”, the participants were encouraged to explore the fisheries sector and be innovative “entrepreneurs” and contribute to the economy of the State and the country as a whole.



The Department is grateful to Dr. Dhruva Jyoti Sharma for his time and willingness to serve as Speaker for the event.



*Wishing you and your Dear Ones
An abundance of the peace and joy that the Christ Child brings...
May Your New Year be replete with blessings all around!*

-Don Bosco University Family