

SPARK



A Newsletter for Don Bosco University family, alumni and friends

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INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE, IMPACT AND RESILIENCE



International Conference on Emerging Trends in Chemistry



Interaction with German Consul General



Master Class: International Spicy Food Day



MoU with National Quemoy University Taiwan

Message from the Vice Chancellor

“Life is flux,” said the Greek Philosopher Heraclitus. He pointed out in 500 BC that everything is constantly shifting, and becoming something else than what it was before. The imagery he used to visualise that aphorism was that of a river, flowing ceaselessly onwards. Further, he said that ‘while we may step from the riverbank into the river, the waters flowing over our feet will never be the same waters that flowed even one moment before’.

Heraclitus concluded that the very nature of life is change, and that change is the very essence of our existence. “There is nothing permanent except change,” he said.

Looking at the pace of change in modern life, especially in the last two or three decades, we might say Heraclitus was, in a way, speaking of our times when change is ubiquitous in every sphere of life. In our currently uncertain and fast-changing times, his insights feel resoundingly relevant.

Many great artists, writers and philosophers have grappled with the notion of change, and about our impulse to resist it. Echoing Heraclitus, the 20th-Century psychologist and author Carl Jung wrote in *The Stages of Life*: “Something in us wishes to remain a child... to reject everything strange”.

For these thinkers, a refusal to embrace change as a necessary and normal part of life will lead to problems, pain and disappointment. If we accept that everything is constantly changing and fleeting, they say, things run altogether more smoothly. If we can learn to handle this constant flux, we can handle life itself. If one can learn to handle the shifting patterns of one’s world, one can handle the world itself.

Great thinkers and philosophers, down the centuries, keep pointing to one way of dealing with a life that is in constant flux, ever changing: keep a journal, write down your innermost thoughts aiming to work through the challenges to tackling change. Many of them, in fact, took to keeping a journal, in order to steel themselves for whatever the day ahead may throw at them, and later in the day, to review their actions. The idea is to train oneself to be as prepared as possible, given the changeability of life – something so very relevant to our world today.

A few years ago, we introduced, for our students of Education and Mass Communications, a Course on “Journaling – a technique for personal and academic growth”. Started almost simultaneously in some of the best universities in America and Europe – initially as a form of therapy in psychotherapy and spirituality in schools of divinity, and later adopted as a tool for personal and academic growth as full-blown courses of study - Journaling as a technique and practice has gained acceptance the world over.

What is it? It is an inner dialogue with oneself whereby a person calls forth his or her own experiences, beliefs, and perceptions about an idea/experience/emotion. It is a conscious and systematic mode of



thought. It results in informing and transforming knowledge and experience.

How does one do it – what is the methodology? It can be thought of as a visible thinking routine: seeing, thinking, and wondering. What do you see? What do you think? What does it make you wonder about?

What does it do? It helps to connect to reality/realities/realities behind reality. It creates a sense of wonder at how multifaceted is reality. It forces you to take time out for yourself. It results in creating an ability to express your unique voice, to gain clarity. It prods you to celebrate your experience. It challenges you to get outside of your usual thinking/feeling/writing patterns and to explore new possibilities – it inspires creativity!

How does it do that? Primarily by challenging you, nudging you and inspiring you to explore who you are and to express your unique point of view on experiences, beliefs, and perceptions about an idea / an experience / an emotion / a person.

‘Living mindfully’ was the theme for our Academic Year 2019-2020. Living mindfully naturally leads to ‘mindfulness’ as a way of life. ‘Mindfulness’ is a proven technique to increase our ability to regulate emotions, decrease stress, anxiety and depression, enabling us to make better decisions and to be more fully engaged in life – open to greater realities, open to challenging questions, open to creative solutions.

‘Mindfulness’ comes as a result of deliberately cultivating a habit of ‘awareness’ of others, of one’s surroundings, of nature, of possibilities and dreams, of a life without addictions, of the joys of empathy, love and friendship, of the loving providence of a Power greater than our own (God) on whom we can pin our dreams, our joys and sorrows, our aspirations and our frustrations.

‘Journaling’ is perhaps the best tool for tackling the daily uncertainties of a life in flux and for ‘living mindfully’. Why not give it a try?

**- Fr Stephen Mavelly
Vice Chancellor**

International Seminar on Climate Change

The Department of Zoology in collaboration with Zoological Society of Assam (ZSA) organized a two-day International Seminar on Climate Change: Impact and Resilience on the 27-28 February, 2023 as part of the Five-year celebration of the Department. The Seminar aimed at assessing current environmental conditions and encouraging discussions, research, exchange of experiences and good practices among the academia and enthusiasts, and promoting effective integration of Climate Change education into academic curricula.

The Seminar was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Assam Don Bosco University, Rev. Fr. (Dr.) Stephen Mavelly. The Guest Speakers at the inaugural session were Professor Probodh Borah, Professor and Head, Animal Biotechnology, College of Veterinary Science Assam Agricultural University and Coordinator Assam State Biotech Hub, Professor Jogen Chandra Kalita, Dean, Faculty of Life Science and Head Department of Zoology, Gauhati University; and Dr. Jaideep Baruah, Director, Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC).



There was a total of ten Keynote Addresses delivered by experts from India and abroad. These include Prof. Indraneil Das, Prof. Ulmar Grafe, Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Prof. Dandadhar Sarmah, Prof. Hilloljyoti Singha, Dr. Abhijit Das, Prof. Prasanta Kumar Saikia, Dr. Moushumi Dutta Pathak, Dr. Aniruddha Dutta Roy and Mr. Rituraj Phukan. There was also a series of three Special Talks delivered by Dr. Pranay Phukan, Mr. Rituraj Dewan, and Dr. Jayaditya Purkayastha.

There were six technical sessions for offline presentations presided over by 11 chairpersons – Prof. Jogen Chandra Kalita, Prof. Dandadhar Sarma, Dr. Bulbuli Khanikar, Dr. Mridul Borthakur, Dr. Moushumi Dutta Pathak, Prof. Parag Phukan, Dr. Mayuri Chakrabdhara, Dr. Arup Hazarika, Dr. Sunayan Bordoloi, Prof. Prasanta Kumar Saikia, Dr. Rezina Ahmed; and two technical sessions for online presentations presided over by Dr. Supriyo Sen and Dr. Probin Phanjom.

The Prof. Maitreyee Das Memorial Award was presented to six Best Oral Presenters under the six sub-themes. Six participants also bagged the award of Best Presenters under the Poster Presentation category and two participants were awarded for the Best Online Presentation.

Professor Saibal Sengupta, Convener of the Seminar, highlighted in his summary the recommendations developed in the discussions, which included, 1. The need to explore solutions to climate change at local and regional levels; 2. Lack of documentation on population status and distributional range of vulnerable species and data deficient species; 3. Promote documentation of traditional and environment-friendly practices; 4. The need to identify Climate Refugees; 5. The need to further support any studies on climate change impact on ecophysiology and human environment. There was a total of 187 registered participants out of which 127 presented their research work.

The Seminar was sponsored by ASTEC, SBI, Oil India Limited, ICSSR-NER, NRL, DS Enterprise, Mergen Biologics, Assam Pollution Control Board, Assam Climate Change Management Society, Himedia, Purbanchal Scientific Company, Teksol Corporation., IKEA, ZSA, and North East Chemicals.



International Conference on Emerging Trends in Chemistry

An international conference was organized jointly by the Department of Chemistry, Assam Don Bosco University and the Department of Chemistry, Pandu College, entitled, “Emerging Trends in Chemistry” on 16-17 March 2023 in collaboration with the Association of Chemistry Teachers.



The title “Emerging Trends” brought renowned chemists from across the country and from abroad, many of whom are involved in projects aimed at bringing about a shift towards a renewable-energy-driven future. The conference also provided a common platform to not just research scholars and academicians but to post-graduate and under-graduate students, to share their research ideas and results.

Some of the speakers included Prof. Ashok Kumar Ganguli, Professor of Chemistry, IIT Delhi; Prof. E. D. Jemmis, a Padma Shri and Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar award recipient, a Professor of Theoretical Chemistry at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and the Founding Director of IISER-Thiruvananthapuram; Prof. Sourav Pal, who is a theoretical chemist, Professor and Head of Chemistry at Ashoka University and a Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar award recipient; Prof. G. N. Shastri, another Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar awardee, who is the Director of the CSIR- North-East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat, Assam; Prof. Samaresh Bhattacharya, also a Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar awardee and Professor of Chemistry, Jadavpur University; Prof. Prodeep Phukon who is a Professor at the Department of Chemistry, Gauhati University among many other notable chemists who were present at the conference. The talks were divided into plenary sessions and invited talks that were spread over the two days of the conference. There were oral presentation and poster presentation sessions on both days. There were 150 participants in all, counting online and offline participants. The American Chemical Society sponsored 10 prizes for best oral and poster presenters.

The keynote speaker at the talk was Prof. Ashok Kumar Ganguli, who highlighted the importance of renewable energy sources and talked about green hydrogen being a strategic fuel for our generation. In his lab he designs semiconductor nanostructures that have tunable electronic and optical properties, which can then be used for water-splitting (to produce green hydrogen), photocatalysis and dye degradation. The electrolytic splitting of water to produce hydrogen gas and oxygen gas is the basis for the production of green hydrogen. He talked about the challenges in water-splitting and hydrogen storage alongside reducing CO₂ emissions.

Prof. Jemmis, who is renowned for his work in boron chemistry talked about his work on boron clusters using C₃H₃⁺ as the starting point for developing 2D and 3D boron clusters that he calls borophenes and borophites, which have a lot of potential for use just as graphene does. Prof. Sourav Pal talked about conceptual reactivity in the design of catalysts, Prof. Shastri talked about Industry 5 driven approach to drug discovery which depends on a cross-talk between healthcare, industrial collaboration and academic research.

Quite a few of the talks revolved around developing nanocomposites for various catalytic applications such as the degradation of dyes in industrial waste waters, photocatalytic applications for producing hydrogen through water splitting and CO₂ reduction. There was a very interesting and entertaining talk on click Chemistry and the role of carbohydrates in a number of important biological events by Prof. V.K. Tiwari from BHU. Overall, the talks spanned the entire breadth of chemistry - physical, inorganic, organic and biochemistry.

Our students had a great experience witnessing the presentations made by the many speakers. Many of our own research scholars, students and colleagues from not just Chemistry but other departments, participated in the oral and poster sessions. Overall, it brought to focus the role of chemistry, as a “central science” as Prof. Ganguli mentioned in his inaugural speech.

The conference was generously financed and catalyzed by SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH BOARD (SERB)- DST, Assam Science Technology & Environmental Council and Climate Change Department, Govt. of Assam. This conference was also supported by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Assam Chemicals, SB Supplier, Apichem, North-East Chemicals Corporation (NECC), Zenith India, Canara Bank, Thermo Fischer, D. S. Enterprises and R. A. Sci Tech.

Interaction with German Consul General

The Department of Public Administration organised an Interactive Session on Current Affairs with Mr. Manfred Auster, German Consul-General, Kolkata on 2nd February 2023 at Academic Block I Auditorium. The session lasted for two hours.

Mr Auster spoke on ‘Climate Crisis’ as a priority issue where the whole world needs to focus. He linked other events like Military Operation in Ukraine, Economic Activities and Carbon Emission levels and activities taken by various governments regarding carbon footprint. He outlined how we can address the climate issues through sustainable developmental activities. He presented how European Countries are adapting several methods to reduce carbon emission and address climate crisis like reduction of private transport by providing incentives to those using public transports, usage of Green Hydrogen etc. He also appreciated the efforts India is making to address the climate crisis.



In the discussion hour, the students interacted with Mr. Auster clearing their doubts and motivating the students to take individual responsibilities on addressing the issues of climate change. Around 100 students and faculty members from the department of Public Administration participated in the seminar.

Lecture by Founder of Peace CYCLE

On 2nd February 2023, the Department of Social Work organised a lecture on the topic “Locating the Self in the Journey of Social Work Practice: Experiences of Haiti,” by Ms Amber Rose Heimann, a social worker by profession and passion, and, the founder of Peace CYCLE, an organisation based in Haiti.

Ms Rose Heimann shared her journey as a social worker in Haiti- the challenges she faced, the people she met, the perceptions she encountered and the mechanisms she adopted for the common good of the people of Haiti. As a founder of Peace CYCLE, she started a workshop and taught women a method of making bags from waste plastics and provided an avenue for livelihood for the disaster-hit people of Haiti.

Her presentation triggered curiosity in the minds of budding Social Workers, which was reflected through their involvements during the discussion session. The session was a fruitful and meaningful one.



Republic Day 2023

The University celebrated Republic Day 2023 with hoisting of Indian National Flag at the Rotunda of Tapesia Campus, followed by group songs, dance performance and speeches.

The programme began with hoisting of the National Flag by Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mavelly, the founding Vice Chancellor of the University, followed by a pledge of allegiance to Indian National Flag administered by Deepa Leima, a final semester student of MA in English.



A beautiful rendition of ‘Vande Mataram’ was presented by the Department of Mathematics; a dance performance titled ‘Bharat Ki Beti’ and a speech by Arpit Gameti, final semester student of MSc Zoology followed.

Addressing the gathering, Arpit Gameti urged them to ‘Respect one another, respect other’s beliefs...respect other’s way of life’, saying ‘That is the key to mutual understanding and unity. To have an open mind and knowing that just as I think I am right, the person next to me can also be right’. A speech, pleading for unity.

Two more group songs followed this and a message from the Vice Chancellor, Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavelly, who reminded the gathering that, ‘India has always been known for its tolerance and we have many well-known figures who lived up to that tradition. Are we losing that trait? All over the world, we are known to have this trait of tolerance, tolerance of all types, whether you belong to different tribes, cultures or religions. We want our minds to be unfettered by thinking that is of the nature that is not tolerating the person next to me, left or right, wanting them to think alike. This is a danger that we are facing very seriously today. We need young people who will come up in a society for their right, their right to think independently, their right to practice their religion, their way of life as long as it does not harm others. To blossom by yourself to blossom into the best you can be. So, let us pray today that this country will offer a space for each one of us to be what we want to be, to have freedom of thoughts, worships and a way of life. The function ended with a prayer for our country by Ms Mebari V Dorphang, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology.

Invited Lecture: Professor Nico Tille

On 8 February, 2023, the School of Fundamental and Applied Sciences and the School of Life Sciences Assam Don Bosco University organized an invited lecture on the topic The Urban Ecosystem as a basis for City Development. The speaker was Professor Nico Tille, Head of the Chair of Urban Ecology and Ecocities Lab at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands.



After he was introduced to the gathering by Dr. Jane Shangpiang, Professor Tille began his talk by stating how urban ecology can have a positive influence in many areas in addition to biodiversity, such as climate adaptation, health, water and energy consumption and circularity. Professor Tille during his talk emphasized on two important aspects. The first one was Networks, biotope and Habitat Creation where he spoke about the Patch Corridor matrix model and creating biotope maps as a link between people and nature and also as a link between Horticulture, Planting and Resilient of cities to improve the quality of life from both social and ecological aspects. The second aspect was Species design Intervention where he spoke about the green building envelope on how to link building to green

structure followed by some extra notions and strategies.

After his talk there was an interactive session with the audience. Professor Tille also showed the audience a video on how the TU Delft University Campus serves as a living lab where synergetic design can be used to make cities as natural as possible from system level down to plants and butterflies.

The session was attended by 169 participants.

Alumni Talk – Abhijit Boruah

The Department of Mechanical Engineering organized an interaction session with one of the alumni of the Department Mr. Abhijit Boruah, Regional Maintenance Executive, ITC Limited on 7th February 2023. Mr. Boruah graduated from the University in 2017.

Introducing Mr. Boruah to the students of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Buljit Buragohain, Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering felicitated him and thanked him for making himself available for the interaction session.

Mr. Boruah, in his talk, gave information on various segments of ITC products, processes and units, job opportunities presently available at ITC and also discussed how one can become a job creator. He further gave detailed information about the various stages of the interview he faced during his interview and eventual selection at ITC Limited. The session lasted for an hour and with Mr. Boruah answering questions from the audience as he went along. The event was jointly coordinated by Mr. Harajit Das and Mrs. Leena Nemade.



Symposium on Recent Trends in Cyber Security



The Department of Computer Applications conducted a Symposium on Recent Trends in Cyber Security on 6th February 2023. The objective of the symposium was to highlight the importance of Cyber Security in the Digital World and in the day to day lives of the public and necessary technical measures needed to be taken while developing as well as using the software and web applications. The session started with a welcome address by Dr. Uzzal Sharma, Head, Department of Computer Applications who said that it is the responsibility of young people to spread awareness about the importance of cyber security in the society. He proposed to discuss and find different possibilities and techniques of Cyber security from the perspective of users as well as programmers.

Dr. Sarat Kumar Chettry, Assistant Professor, ADBU delivered a talk on Data Privacy and Security in the Digital Age. He discussed the importance of data privacy, protection laws in India, and different industry perspectives and real case studies on data breaches and also briefed the participants on things that one can do for improving the data security. A special guest Mr. Ivan Das, consultant, IT Security and Training Industry, who has over 12 years of experience in the cyber Security industries and multinational companies delivered a talk on the importance of industry perspective cyber security as well as key aspects of cyber threats. He carried out a hands-on demonstration on the technique of Phishing, SQL injection, session hijack, data vulnerability etc. The open discussion was coordinated by Dr. Gypsi Nandi and Dr. Abhijit Bora. The symposium was attended by the faculty members, students of School of Technology ADBU as well as different online users over Google meet.

Symposium on IT Solutions in Agriculture Sectors

The Department of Computer Applications conducted a Symposium on Challenges & Applications for Beneficiary Centric IT Solutions in Agriculture Sectors on 30th January 2023. The objective of the symposium was to highlight the challenges and applications of Information Technology in the domain of agriculture and possibly find solutions to various challenges in farming process. In this symposium, the importance of observing the farming process to get a first-hand knowledge of their problem and how inclusion of IT in such processes may provide solutions to their problems were deliberated. The session started with a welcome address by Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, Director, School of Technology, Assam Don Bosco University who emphasized the key importance of farmers for societal progress and the way to overcome the real challenges through technology inclusion. The special guest Ms. Sharmistha Deka, Digital Financial Inclusion Expert Consultant at Financial Education and Counseling Assignment of Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation delivered a talk on Digital Transformation in Agriculture Sector of North East India & Future Aspects of Beneficiary Centric IT Solutions. Dr. Uzzal Sharma, Head, Department of Computer Application also spoke on the role of machine learning and artificial intelligence in agriculture sector. The session ended with open discussion and vote of thanks from the chair.

MoU with National Quemoy University, Taiwan

The University signed an MoU with National Quemoy University (NQU), Taiwan on 13 January 2023.

The MoU was signed by Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavelly, Vice Chancellor, Assam Don Bosco University and Dr. Chien-Min Chen, President, National Quemoy University with an aim to strengthen the relationship and to expand the bilateral co-operation and assistance and agree to conduct Student and Staff Exchange Programmes, Cultural Exchange Programmes, Course Development Programmes, Research, Internships and various academic programmes and to offer Joint Degree – as and when permitted by the Statutory Authorities of both countries. The MoU was signed for a period of 5 years.



Industrial Visit to GTAC

The Department of Commerce organized an Industrial Visit to Guwahati Tea Auction Center (GTAC) on 8th February 2023 for the students of B.Com (Honours) final semester students.

On arrival, students were taken to the tea auction room and the guide explained how the auction of the tea leaves takes place. The buyers bid on different tea leaves like CTC, dust and Orthodox Tea (highest graded tea in India). The auction is run by brokers who take bids from the buyers. Before everything was digitalised, the room would be full of buyers from different companies and it used to be really loud and chaotic. But nowadays bidding is done through digital platforms.



Students were then taken to the Conference Room where they were shown the technical part of how the bidding of tea leaves work through their platform. Generally, buyers and sellers have to register themselves with the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre. The auctions are usually conducted 52 times in a year. The auction is done in lots and 1 lot contains about 20-30 packets having a weight of about 30-35kg per pack. The technical part of the auction was interesting as we got to see how tea auction is actually carried out.

The Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) is one of the busiest tea trading facilities in the world. In fact, it has seen the largest volume of CTC tea auction in the world. Established on 25th September 1970 as a result of the commitments of a few pioneers, the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) has been nurtured and sustained through the joint efforts of the State Government and the four segments of tea trade – sellers, brokers, buyers and warehousemen.

Coalescence '23: EEE Alumni Meet

On 21 January 2023 at the Azara Campus, the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department hosted the second edition of the departmental Alumni meet, christened COALESCENCE'23.

The graduates from 2012 to 2022 were invited to attend the event, of which a total of 16 distinguished alumni marked their presence at the meet and were filled with nostalgia as they cherished their experiences and memories of their time spent on the campus. It has been ten years since the first batch of the department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering graduated in 2012.

The event began at 2:00 pm with lunch, followed by a comprehensive lineup of sessions and activities planned to rejuvenate their union. The alumni were welcomed by Dr. Bikramjit Goswami, Head of the Department, who expressed his appreciation for their support of their alma mater and the contributions they have made to their society. The Director of the School of Technology, Prof. Manoranjan Kalita addressed the Alumni members, congratulating them on their professional success and asking them to keep in touch with the University for the benefit of the present students. A proposal for the formation of the EEE Alumni Association was made with an annual corpus fund from Alumni for planning and organizing various future events. The meet concluded with a congratulatory note from the department praising the alumni for setting a high bar for themselves as well as for the juniors.

World Radio Day

The Department of Mass Communication organized a celebration of World Radio Day on February 13, 2023 at Tapesia Campus with a theme "Radio & Peace". Mr. Kuldeep Soren, RJ, Red FM 93.5 was present as a Chief Guest to grace the event.

RJ Kuldeep Soren, while addressing the students emphasized the importance of radio as a means of communication and how it has the power to reach out to people from all walks of life. He also shared his experiences and the challenges faced by radio broadcasters in today's world and how technology has changed the way radio is perceived and consumed. RJ Kuldeep congratulated the students for conducting such a significant event and insisted to take the profession of a media person sincerely as each one of them can be the ambassadors of spreading peace and brotherhood among their countrymen.



Keeping in mind the theme of World Radio Day 2023 students gave a presentation which focused on the significance of radio as one of the most powerful medium of communication and how it can be used as a tool to convey messages of peace among the people of the world. A podcast made by the students in commemoration of this day was very much appreciated by the Chief Guest.

Workshop on Taxidermy

A workshop on Taxidermy was conducted by the Department of Zoology on 14th February 2023 with Prof. Saibal Sengupta, Professor, Dept. of Zoology, Assam Don Bosco University and Dr Jayanta Gogoi, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Arya Vidyapeeth College, Guwahati as the resource persons.

The first session commenced with an insightful talk by Prof. Saibal Sengupta on the "Concept of Taxonomy" that familiarised the participants with some of the common terminologies such as classification, systematics and nomenclature, its uses and importance and the usage of the term – Taxonomy and Systematics with regard to biological classification.

The talk was followed by a presentation on "Importance and Procedure of Taxidermy" by Dr Jayanta Gogoi who explained the journey of specimen preservation and the art of preserving an animal's body through mounting or stuffing. After an hour lunch break, the second session started at 1pm which was mainly practical and training by Dr. Jayanta Gogoi. In the training, Dr. Gogoi demonstrated the preservation process and the scientific practice of mounting and stuffing a specimen. The hands-on Taxidermy of Fish was carried out on a Carp species at Block 4 Lab. The workshop was attended by students from master of science with active participation and interaction. The skill required in this preservation process was rather an artistry than a mere preservation process. The students actively engaged in both the first and the second session and it was a great learning experience.



A Talk on 'Geoinformatics and its Applications'

The Department of Civil Engineering organized an invited talk on 'Geoinformatics and Applications' on 18th February 2023 by Dr. Archana Nair, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Guwahati.

Dr. Nair highlighted various aspects of geoinformatics and its applications and opined that 'geodesy', the science of measuring the size, shape, and gravitational field of the Earth, plays a vital role in the study of four surfaces, namely the geoid, ellipsoid, topographic surface, and mean sea level surface. The speaker gave a glimpse on the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84), and also mentioned that remote sensing is a technology used to collect information about the Earth's surface using satellites or aircraft. Different types of remote sensing, such as aerial and satellite remote sensing, and highlighted critical parameters such as spatial resolution, spectral signature, and atmospheric windows was discussed. Dr. Nair also talked about hyperspectral remote sensing and radiometric resolution, which measures the ability of a sensor to distinguish between two objects of different brightness levels. She also explained that satellite navigation is a technology that uses satellite signals to determine the location and time accurately.

Campus Bird Count 6.0

On the occasion of the 'Great Backyard Bird Count', eBird's International Event, 'Campus Bird Count', India's Sub-event, the Department of Zoology in collaboration with EcoClub organized a Campus Bird Count 6.0 on 17th February, 2023 at Tapesia Campus.

The event started at 6:30 am and was conducted under the expertise of Dr. Nilutpal Mahanta, State Associate, Trees outside Forest of India Program, CIFOR-ICRAF who has been closely associated with the University's bird count event and updating checklists at the eBird portal for the University since 2018. Dr. Mahanta was accompanied by two other bird researchers Ms. Taniya Talwar and Ms. Sakshi Pathak from Seven Waves Organization.



A total of 60 students and three faculty members participated in the event. 35 species of birds including Slender-billed Oriole, Ashy Woodswallow, Hair-crested Drongo, Yellow-bellied Warbler, Greater Cuckoo, Oriental Turtle Dove, Asian Fairy-bluebird were observed during the event adding to its already documented count of 89 checklists available at the eBird portal for the University.

Arushi Mudgal on Campus - SPICMACAY



On 19th February evening, the University hosted an Odissi dance recital by Arushi Mudgal, one of the finest Indian Classical Dancers, at the Auditorium of Academic Block V, Tapesia Campus as a part of an initiative by SPICMACAY.

Prior to each dance performance, she would speak about various dance postures and what they represent, making it easier for an audience who are not well versed in Indian classical dances to understand and follow the dance steps. Her ability to capture the attention of the audience was remarkable and confirmed by a rapturous applause now and then from the audience. The Vice Chancellor, Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavelly expressed his admiration saying, "I did not

take my eyes off her throughout her performance!". The same was the experience for the whole audience last evening.

Arushi was selected as one of the Top Ten Dancers of 2018 by the New York Times. After watching her performance in New York, Alastair Macaulay, Chief Dance Critic of the New York Times, wrote: "I was amazed by how fully she seemed one of India's most remarkable dancers." She has performed at prestigious festivals in France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, UK, USA, Belgium, Spain, Brazil, and others.

Workshop on Drama

The Drama and Theatre Club of the University organized a workshop on the Art of Drama on 20th February 2023 in the Auditorium of Academic Block-V.

The invited resource person for the workshop was Dr. Naren Patgiri, a renowned drama and theatre artist of Assam. He is a retired faculty member of the Department of History, Guwahati College, Assam. Dr. Patgiri has many distinguished recognitions in the field of Drama and Theatre Art. He has directed many plays and theatres with children as well as adults.

Dr. Patgiri, while addressing the participants, emphasised on the depth of acting and theatre as a profession. He shared many detailed intricacies of stage play, stage management, division of the stage, punctuality and time-bound performances, honesty of the actors and dialogue delivery. He also discussed the importance of set design, costume design, characters, plot, and symbols. Dr. Patgiri also explained about the layers hidden in dialogues of the characters. The workshop ended with different activities with the participants that included trust-building activity, memory-enhancement activity, prompt reaction and team work activities.

Street Play on Importance of Cleanliness

The students of MSW Second Semester performed a street play with a theme 'Importance on Cleanliness' at Topatoli market on 22 February 2023.

The street play was performed as a part of an ongoing rural camp organized by the Department of Social Work in collaboration with SRF Foundation. Based on the findings from the Participatory Rural Appraisal, the students selected the said theme so as to create awareness on cleanliness and hygienic living among the local people. The play attracted a good number of people who enjoyed the play and appreciated the initiative of the students.



Orientation on Volunteerism

The Department of Education in collaboration with the Department of Public Administration, organised a session on 'Orientation on Volunteerism' in association with University College Dublin Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO), Dublin, Ireland on 23rd February 2023 at Tapesia Campus.

The key speakers were Dr. Hilary Minch, Manager, UCDVO and Rachel Cosgrove, Team Leader and Secretary, UCDVO Board of Trustees. The objective of the orientation was to acquaint the students to UCDVO volunteerism, its prospects, and opportunities for an engaged global citizenship education, addressing issues related to sustainable development goals through responsible and participatory community engagement thereby promoting global consciousness.

Dr. Minch outlined the program's schedule and asked a few questions to ascertain the students' fundamental understanding of volunteering and also shared the vision and mission of UCDVO. The vision is to transform learning and turn learners/volunteers into responsible citizens through training. The mission is to work towards a fair and sustainable world. A video which was done in 4 weeks across villages in India along with an introduction video of UCDVO was projected. A quiz was held during the session using Mentimeter and students participated actively. She discussed about their work in the past which includes – refurbishing 27 Anganwadis, training of 50 Anganwadi workers and helpers with students from UCDVO and ADBU.



Ms Cosgrove highlighted her experience of volunteering, meeting people from different cultures. Ms Hazel Wahlang, Field Coordinator, St. Edmund's College conducted an interactive session and shared her experiences of working in the community as a student as well as a Team Leader in the past while being a student at ADBU. She showcased Community Engagement initiatives carried out in 22 villages including renovation of 27 anganwadi centres, preparation of grassroots comics, repairing water sources, establishing an e-Learning centre for the students of the villages, setting up 15 computers in 2018 in the ADBU campus. So far, 56 students accessed the facility.

A total of 51 students with the faculty members from both the Departments attended the programme. The programme was coordinated by Ms Alinisha Boro, Service Learning Coordinator, ADBU and Dr. Ranjita Chanda, Assistant Professor, Department of Education.

Job Openings in IT Industries & Roadmap Towards Success

The Department of Computer Applications organized a seminar was on Openings in IT Industry & its Roadmap Towards Success on 20th February 2023. The objective of the seminar was to highlight job openings in IT industry, identifying job market trends, evaluating one's skills and competencies, gaining knowledge about various IT industries and exploring different career paths in IT. The seminar helped the participant to get an idea for making a roadmap while getting a job in IT industries of regional or international based. The session began with a welcome address by Dr. Uzzal Sharma, Head, Department of Computer Applications who emphasized the importance of such a seminar and pointed out some strategies that one must take while selecting the right career in IT job market.

The special guest, Mr. Hitesh Kalita, Regional Project Manager, FUJITSU, Japan Based Multi National Company delivered a talk on the Importance of Attitude, Skilling, Upskilling and Reskilling for a fresher in IT industry. He also highlighted a roadmap for working abroad and an action plan that can be made by each participant.

The open discussion as well as questions from different chairs was coordinated by Dr. Gypsi Nandi and Dr. Abhijit Bora. The entire programme was hosted by Dr. Jonti Deuri and carried out the session smoothly. The seminar was also attended by the faculty members, students of School of Technology as well as different online users over Google meet. The session ended with vote of thanks from the chair.

World Bartender Day

A master class on 'Unique Modern Trends in Cocktails and Mocktails' was conducted at Basic Training Restaurant, Assam Don Bosco University by the Department of Hospitality and Hotel Administration on the occasion of World Bartender Day on 24th February 2023.

Mr. Souvik Sarkar, Head of the Department, started the session with a brief presentation about the significance of "World Bartender Day" and he introduced ingredients used in preparing different mocktails and cocktails.

Demonstrations on various modern techniques used in the preparations and garnishes that are trending in the industry currently were conducted by BSc HHA Second Semester students.

The session ended with vote of thanks by members of University College Dublin Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO) Ms. Hilary Minch and Ms. Richel Cosgrove along with Prof. Ursula Fasselt, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Germany. Dr. Riju Sharma, Director, School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Ms. Kueimi Li, Mandarin Teacher of Assam Don Bosco University along with other faculty members of the Department attended the session.



NABSET 2023

A two-day National Conference on "New Approaches of Basic Sciences towards Engineering and Technology – 2023" was organized by the School of Technology on 24-25 February 2023 at Azara campus.

Welcoming the august gathering at the inaugural function, Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University emphasized the need and importance of basic research for the development of the nation as well as the human race. Prof. Yumnam Jayanta Singh, Executive Director, NIELIT (Guwahati and Shillong) and Er. Diganta Barman, Deputy Director General (Retd.) National Informatics Centre, Meity, Govt. of India were the Guests of Honour at the inaugural function. Prof. Narendra S. Choudhari, Vice Chancellor, Assam Science and Technology University, Jalukbari, Guwahati was the Chief Guest for the programme. Dr. Kaustubh Bhattacharyya, conference convener, presented an overview of the national conference, and Dr. Bamdeb Dey, co-convener of the conference, proposed a vote of thanks at the inaugural session.



The conference provided an ideal platform for researchers, academicians, engineers as well as industry professionals to share views, present their findings, and have intellectual discussions and meaningful deliberations on emerging trends in the area of Basic Sciences towards the development of Engineering and Technology. A total of 98 research papers were presented and there were also two plenary talks and eight invited talks.

The conference brought about a resurgence of interest in basic sciences by focusing on the recent developments in the field of science and technology. The Valedictory function, held on the second day, marked the end of the two-day National Conference. Dr. Bamdeb Dey from the organizing committee summarized the conference and thanked everyone who contributed towards the success of the conference.

Lecture on 'Child Rights and Child Protection'

On 13 March 2023, the Department of Social Work organized a lecture on 'Child Rights and Child Protection: International Perspective' with an aim to highlight the relevance of international framework on child rights in the context of India and Germany. Prof. Ursula Fasselt from Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences was the resource person.

Prof. Fasselt shared current status of Child Protection and Violation of Child Rights in Germany and Child Protection Module which was designed by Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. This was followed by a discussion on Child Protection and various ways in which Child Rights can be violated in the Indian context.



International Day of Mathematics 2023 and Pi Day

On 14th March 2023, the Department of Mathematics celebrated Pi Day and International Day of Mathematics with 'Mathematics for Everyone' as a theme at Tapesia Campus.

To mark the occasion, an 'Invited Talk' by Dr. Gautam Kalita, Associate Professor, Department of Science and Mathematics, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Guwahati, was invited. He delivered a talk on "Irrationality and Infinite Series". He discussed advancements in the study of Pi and how they relate to various branches of Mathematics, and spoke about scopes of research in the study of Pi.



In addition to an Invited Talk, a Poster Presentation Competition with a theme "Recent Trends in Science and Technology" and a Quiz Competition on "General Mathematics, History of Mathematics and Contribution of Indian Mathematicians" were also organized. Several students from different departments of Assam Don Bosco University participated in the competitions. The celebration ended with certificates and prize distribution to the winners.

Vulture Safe Zone Programme

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) in association with the Department of Zoology Assam Don Bosco University organized an awareness program on vulture conservation and its importance on the 18th March 2023.



The Resource person for the event was Dr. Sachin Ranade. After being introduced by Dr. Lima Hazarika and felicitated by Dr. Prasanta Kumar Choudhury, Director, School of Life Sciences, Dr. Ranade began his talk where he first introduced his work on conservation of Gyps Vultures through establishing vulture safe zones in different parts of India, where vulture populations are closely monitored and programmes are undertaken to ensure that domestic livestock carcasses are not contaminated with drugs toxic to vultures. He apprised the audience that Assam is a domicile of 7 out of 9 species of vultures found in India. Later, the students were introduced to work – "Colony Aviary"; how they have been vigorously working to retrieve the vulture population

back to the normal. He cited the example of Slender billed vulture – the first captive bred vulture of Assam. Dr. Ranade also made the audience inculcate the importance of vultures in the environment, and how in its absence India has turned into the kingdom of rabies (due to increasing number of dogs).

At the end of the talk, there was an active interaction session with the students, through discussions and quiz. The students were encouraged with the stimulating session and the winners of the open quiz were presented with a token of appreciation. After the successful presentation, Dr. Bakhtiar Hussain delivered a few words of appreciation and consummated the event by a vote of thanks.

World Frog Day 2023

On 'World Frog Day 2023, the Department of Zoology in collaboration with EcoClub, Don Bosco University organized a lecture on 20th March 2023 at the Auditorium of Academic Block I. The speakers for the event were Mr. Saranga Pani Saikia and Mr. Hijam Malem Ngamba Singha, Research Scholars, Department of Zoology, Assam Don Bosco University. Mr. Saranga Pani Saikia who is also an alumnus of the Department spoke about the diversity of Anuran from the campus. He mentioned that Amphibians are good environmental indicators. Out of 11 species he enlisted, *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* was found to be the most dominant species among them. The second speaker was Mr. Hijam Malem Ngamba Singha who emphasized his talk on amphibians of agricultural fields of Karbi Anglong (East) District of Assam. He decoded how certain species of frogs help the farmers by reducing the dependence on pesticides and an ecological balance between 'rice-frog-pests' can be achieved without the usage of pesticides. Mr. Singha concluded his talk by mentioning that even after these beneficial factors, there is lack of awareness among the farmers.



After this awakening documentation, a faculty member and one of the renowned herpetologists of Assam, Professor Saibal Sengupta addressed the audience and aroused their curiosity with new prospects. He spoke on the sufferings of frogs because of rising anthropological activities. He heralded that a small aquatic system is suffice for the frogs to breed, and forewarned the participants about the importance of keeping aquatic systems clean and healthy. After this didactic demonstration, Dr. Prasanta Kr. Choudhury, Director School of Life Sciences spoke about the glory of India in being the biggest exporter of frogs till 1985 until a ban was imposed on the export in 1987 and expressed his gratitude to the speakers and participants. The entire session was an eye opener on the important roles played by frogs in the ecological balance and the need to conserve them. Mr. Chandan Das concluded the event with a vote of thanks. The event was attended by 104 participants.

Educational Tour: Dept of Education

The Department of Education organized an Educational Tour from 7th February – 15th February 2023 for the students of BA-6th semester and MA-4th semester, accompanied by Dr. Tania Sur Roy, Head, Department of Education and Dr. Ranjita Chanda, Asst. Professor (Sr.) Department of Education.

The educational institutions visited included Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi; Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, Amity University, Noida (AIE) and University18 Head Office, Gurgaon. In Jamia Milia Islamia, the visit was to the Department of Teacher Training and Non-Formal Education (IASE) where students attended interactive session. During this trip students also paid a visit to different Non-formal centres like Art & Craft, Tie and Dye, Needle work, Puppetry, Carpentry, Origami etc. At JNU, Prof. Minata Panda, Chairperson of Zakir Hussain Centre of Educational Studies, SSS, JNU delivered an enlightening session on Educational Research and Prospects. Student faculty interaction was coordinated by Prof. Saumen Chattopadhyay, Prof. Parimala Rao and Dr. Pradip Kumar Choudhury. Later the team visited the entire JNU Campus including the Central Library.



An event Maitri Bhawana- Vividhta Mein Ekta was organized by Amity Institute of Education, Noida in association with Department of Education, Assam Don Bosco University which focused on cultural and educational exchange through ice breaking activities, high tea, video presentation, cultural events, panel discussion, lunch, visit to the entire campus and Central library. The students of ADBU got an opportunity to meet Prof. Balvinder Shukla, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Amity University. The event was led by Prof. Alka Mudgal, Head, AIE and her team.

Apart from the institutional visits, the students were also taken for sight-seeing to places like India Gate, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Red Fort etc. in Delhi and Golden Temple, India Pakistan Border at Attari etc in Amritsar, Punjab. The entire team received an overwhelming welcome by all the institutions they visited in terms of food, hospitality, assistance, mutual collaboration which will remain unforgettable in the years to come.

International Whiskey Day

The Department of Hospitality and Hotel Administration organized a food production workshop on International Whiskey Day, 27th March 2023.

The event started with a short welcome speech by Chef Manas Sharkar, Departmental In-charge of the Dept. of Hospitality and Hotel Administration, followed by a three-hour food production practical demonstration by Chef Manas and the students of Hospitality and Hotel Administration. The entire menu was created using Whiskey as its chief flavoring agent and as a result every dish was having an aroma of whiskey. Apart from the Department students, the workshop was attended by Mr. Probal Acharya, TPO & Dr. Raja Chakraborty, (HOD Pharmacy) of Assam Don Bosco University.



World Social Work Day

Every year, the third Tuesday of March is celebrated as World Social Work Day. This year it was on 21 March 2023, and the theme was 'Respecting Diversity through Joint Social Action'. To observe the day, the Department of Social Work organized a panel discussion on the same theme in Room No 215, Academic Block II, Assam Don Bosco University.

The programme witnessed the presence of Rev. Fr. (Dr.) Jose Palely, honourable Pro Vice-Chancellor, Assam Don Bosco University during the introductory session. Fr. (Dr.) Jose Palely in his message highlighted how to promote the peaceful co-existence of different cultures, ethnic, religions, gender, communities etc in our society.



The panel discussion started with a presentation by Prof. Lukose P J, Department of Social Work, Assam Don Bosco University on the main theme i.e. 'Respecting Diversity through Joint Social Action'. Later, Mr. Ramesh Sharma, Head, Department of English gave a presentation on 'Aesthetic reception of Diversity' followed by 'Governmental initiatives for Inclusive Social Transformation' by Dr. Saurabh Chandra, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration, and 'Role of Mass Media in promoting diversity and address the Challenges' by Dr. Alpana Choudhury, Head, Department of Mass Communication. After all the presentations, a panel discussion was held with Dr. Subhrangshu Dhar, Head, Department of Social Work as the Moderator.

Seminar on Entrepreneurship

The Department of Mathematics organised a one day seminar on 'Entrepreneurship Development Programme' on 29th March 2023 at 11 a.m. in the Auditorium.

The topic of the seminar was 'Role of Mathematics in Entrepreneurship', where focus was given on different plans and strategies to be followed by new start-ups with examples of recent successful entrepreneurs. The resource persons delivering the talk were Dr. Upakul Sarmah, Deputy Registrar, TISS Guwahati, and Mr. Himanshu Barman, co-founder of Kalpavriksha Trust. The seminar was attended by students and faculty of School of Fundamental and Applied Sciences and School of Life Sciences.



International Women's Day

With International Women's Day (8th March 2023) this year coinciding with Holi (a National Holiday in India), the Department of Education organized a celebration of the same on 10th March 2023 with a theme 'DigitAll: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality'. The programme was graced by the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Fr. Stephen Mavelly; Prof. Ursula Fasselt, a delegate from Frankfurt University, Germany; Prof. Riju Sharma, Director of SHSS, faculty members and all the students of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities.



The programme started with Bible reading by the anchors Eufinia Paslein and Thejazo Gary Rutsa (B.A 2nd and 4th semester). The department students' presented a group song. Then a speech on International Women's Day was delivered by L. Bobita Singha and Prometheus Marak (M.A 2nd Semester) both in English and Hindi.

The Vice Chancellor, Fr. Stephen Mavelly shared his outlook on celebrating International Women's Day, the contributions of women in the society and gender equality and ended the speech stating the importance of digital media and the changes it brings to make our lives much easier. Prof. Ursula Fasselt spoke on how digital technology helps women to express their feelings and their opinions.

The programme continued with a skit by the students of B.A. 2nd and 4th semester which displayed some of the eminent women who inspired and shaped our society for the better. This was followed by a 'Thank you note' to all the women by Andrew Changsan (M.A 2nd semester). The programme ended by reciting the Lord's prayer by Dibya Lakra (B.A 4th semester).

The programme was co-ordinated by Dr. Bonnie Amonge Crerar and Miss Ritu Sarkar (Assistant Professors, Department of Education).



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