



# Spark

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Don Bosco University Newsletter

July - September, 2010



## DBCET WELCOMES GOVERNOR OF ASSAM

Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology, Azara, Guwahati had a remarkable new beginning of the academic year, graced by the presence of His Excellency, Shri J B Patnaik, Governor of Assam, the Visitor to the Assam Don Bosco University, on 27 July 2010. Addressing the assembly gathered on the occasion - students, parents, faculty and the management of the College, the Governor said, "It is just about a year ago that the first State University in the private sector, sponsored by

Don Bosco Society, was established through an Act of the State Legislature of Assam. As the Governor of the State, I am proud and privileged to be the Visitor of this University". Commenting on the main objectives of the University he said that providing quality education at the university level and making higher education more accessible to the disadvantaged sections of society are, indeed, the crying needs of our society today. He appreciated the Don Bosco Society which has come

forward to provide quality education in the State of Assam. He made a special note on its noble idea of making education accessible to the disadvantaged sections of society and said that it is the objective of every enlightened government and expressed his joy of having such determined partners in making this a reality.

Stating the University's choice on the courses of study, its assurance of the employability of every one of its graduates and its aim to create

generations of men and women who will have the capacity to transform and empower society, the Governor said that this University has come to meet the need of the time.

Calling on the attention of the budding engineers of DBCET, the first constituent college of Assam Don Bosco University, His Excellency spoke of the importance of quality education that helps to mould well-rounded men and women who will be an asset to the State. He affirmed that societies such as Don Bosco Society have a proven track record of establishing and managing institutions of excellence in India and all over the world whose graduates become the leaders and transformers

of society.

The Governor appreciated the chosen theme for the academic year 'tapping in to the Goodness Within', and said that this simple concept can make a world of difference by tapping in to the goodness within oneself and appealing to the goodness within the others.

Welcoming the august assembly Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Vice Chancellor of Don Bosco University expressed his joy at having the esteemed presence of His Excellency, Shri JB Patnaik, Governor of the State, as the Chief Guest and said, "He is someone special. He is the Visitor to the University". He thanked him for his keen interest shown in the growth and expansion of Don Bosco University and for his gracious presence at the function to inaugurate the academic year. He also welcomed the Guest of Honour, Dr. PK Goswami, Director of Technical Education and thanked him for being the tower of strength from the inception of the College.

Extending a special note of welcome to the new batch of students and their parents he said that they

now belong to the worldwide family of Don Bosco, and many, many doors are open to them as a result of that. He assured them offering the best of resources available and said, "We will spare no effort to see that you have the best by way of teaching and facilities, and that your placement will be, not just a hope, but a certainty". He exhorted them to become concerned and committed human beings and not mere engineers, managers and executives. Remarking on the theme of the year he said that tapping into the wealth of goodness within us and around us, we can reach out to each other, and to our neighbourhoods, and make a difference in the lives of those less privileged than ourselves..."

Dr. PK Goswami, Director of Technical Education in his message encouraged the students to start the new year with fervor and enthusiasm.

The students of DBCET added colour to the day's function with their singing, dancing and acting. Remarkable among these was the musical drama which explained the ideals of 'Bosconians'.







## DBU Team Meets the Chief Minister

A team from the University, led by the Vice Chancellor and Archbishop Thomas Menampampil had a meeting with the Chief Minister, Shri Tarun Gogoi on 8 July 2010 at his residence to appraise the Chief Minister on the most recent developments in the university: significant milestones achieved, a view of the master plan for the campus, and arrangements being made for launching on-line, web-based courses.

## COLLEGE ATRIUM INAUGURATED



27 July 2010 saw the inauguration of the show-piece of the college architecture, 'The Atrium' situated right at the heart of the college, an imposing six stories high, 130 feet by 55 feet, able to accommodate over 2000 spectators. It is an elegant looking arena with a full-scale portable stage and a sky walk, at 70 feet above the ground, giving a breathtaking view of the events below. In no time, it has become the hub, the nerve-centre of college activities: celebrations, get-togethers, meetings, assemblies, seminars, talent shows, street plays...



Panoramic view

27 July 2010

View from the clouds

## From Events Diary



**15 July 2010:** Prof. Garrett Campbell, Director of Global Schoolroom, University of Dublin, Ireland, held a discussion with the university officials on a joint certification programme for in-service training of teachers from North-East India.



**17 July 2010:** Fr. Josef Claes, Provincial Superior of the Salesians of Don Bosco (Belgium) dropped in at the University Campus to see the developments for himself and to explore ways of raising resources for the project in Europe.



**21 July 2010:** Prof. Douglas Michele Turco, from Goodwin College of Professional Studies, Drexel University, Philadelphia, at his meeting with the Vice Chancellor and a team from Don Bosco University discussed on the feasibility of starting an online Executive MBA Programme on Sports Management. He was keen on the participation of DBU students with their counterparts from Drexel University in a joint-research venture on spectator attitudes and behaviour during the forthcoming Common Wealth Games in New Delhi.

## Hostels for Men and Women Opened



26 July 2010 saw the two college hostels— Carreño Hall for men and Ferrando Hall for women – welcoming their first inmates. Designed to accommodate 500 (400 B Tech students and 100 MCA students) when the constructions will be over, these hostels provide room for 120 inmates at the moment.

## JOINT VENTURES

The Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC), established by the Planning Commission (Government of India) and the Construction Industry, is in talks with the university to conduct programmes in collaboration with them in the following areas:

- Vocational and Diploma Programmes in Engineering
- Post Diploma Programmes
- Joint researches
- Faculty Development Programmes
- Facilitating placement of students and organizing internships



**7 August 2010:** Fr. Klement Vaclav, Executive Council Member of the Salesians of Don Bosco Headquarters (Rome), spent a day at the university to familiarize himself with the progress on this momentous venture of the Society.





## Independence Day Celebrated

The 64th Independence Day was meaningfully celebrated at DBCET by the hostellers of Carreño Hall and Ferrando Hall on 15 August 2010 at the college grounds. The Chief Guest of the programme, Fr. Stephen Mavely, Rector, hoisted the national flag and addressed

the gathering on the importance of inculcating values that would enhance true freedom and growth.

The highlight of the programme was a speech on the true meaning of freedom by Barasha Hiloidhari. Kangan Swargiary spoke passionately about the prevailing situa-

tion in the country. The assembly paid homage to the Motherland by a hearty rendering of 'Vande Mataram'. The brief programme concluded with a prayer for peace in the land - "Lord we pray for golden peace".

*Tavleen Kaur, Ferrando Hall*



## Online Courses to Begin in DBU

The University has applied to the Distance Education Council of India (DEC, a statutory body supervising distance education in India) for permission to set up Centre for Distance Education. This Centre of the university will specialize in online and web based courses with the launching of MBA, MCA, BBA, BCA in the first phase in December 2010. A variety of Certificate, Diploma and Degree programmes in the online and distance modes will follow in quick succession.

## Extension of Approval

AICTE renewed the approval of Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology (DBCET) for the following courses and intake (Vide Letter No. Eastern Region/ 1-40338531/2010/EOA):

- Information Technology – 60
- Electronics & Communication Engineering – 120
- Electrical & Electronics Engineering – 60
- Computer Science & Engineering – 60
- Master in Computer Application – 60

# INTERACTIVE TEACHING

## A Faculty Enrichment Programme

A Faculty Enrichment Programme on 'Interactive Teaching' for the faculty of DBCET was held on 3-4 September 2010, conducted by Fr. Abraham Vettikal from Chennai. The main objective of this programme was to set the stage for the establishment of a sense of urgency in using interactive experimental training strategies. The concept of 'constructivism' was explained as the process which is more subtle than simple and whose power is pervasive. Fr. Vettikal explained the use of language and its contribution to bring about desired changes. The faculty members were trained in the use of various interactive instructional activities like action learning, case method, instructional puzzles, scenario, educational software etc.

The programme encouraged the implementation of some specific strategies to foster interaction during a lecture, such as the use of stories, personal anecdotes, headline news and interesting stories about celebrated scholars within

the discipline. Fr. Vettikal said that such strategies can enliven the lecture materials for the students and therefore help them to feel more personally connected with the subject matter. He instructed the group to encourage students to respond to questions and to allot enough time for them to frame their answers to the questions raised.

Participatory lecture formats and think-pair-share were among the other strategies discussed. Fr. Vettikal spoke of the importance of using ICT (information and Communication Technologies) to create meaningful connections engaging all. He underlined the need for using media and technology to work and learn together.

The entire programme was aimed at creating awareness for creating a interactive atmosphere during the teaching-learning process. To convince the faculty about the importance of interactive teaching, Fr. Vettikal kept repeating one of the sayings of Barbara H. Carson, "Stu-

dents learn what they care about, from people they care about, and who they know care about them".

**Mr. Ananya & Mr. Sidharth Roy,**  
DBCET







## Student Development Programme

Campus Ministry Department and the Training and Placement Cell of DBCET jointly organized a series of Residential Student Development Programmes, "Connecting youth in the changing world" at Don Bosco Institute, Kharghuli from 31 July 2010. The entire student body was divided into various groups and each of the groups had two full days of training programmes. Motivational sessions, soft skills training, group projects, recreation and fun filled those days. The programmes also gave the participants insights into the importance of learning to live and work together.

"The Student Development Programme conducted for the MCA students has been very enriching and encouraging. A lion's share of the two days' programme was spent developing our soft skills and impart-

ing ideas to improve our potentials to transform our lives for the better. We are now strong enough to accept the challenges of life and tell God 'Try me!' than asking Him, 'Why me?' - stated Subir Paul from MCA.

Sourav Das of V Semester, B.Tech said that he and his companions enjoyed the programme as it provided them with lessons on the importance of team spirit, self discovery and various soft skills through mock interview, group discussions, extempore speech and competitive tests.

Sweetey Paul and Apurba Jyoti Yein of III Semester, B. Tech, are convinced that they have improved in their levels of confidence and determination to fare well in life. "We came to know that, apart from the importance of technical skills, soft

skills are also very essential for excelling in our career. The session by Dr. Ashok Dutta, IIM Shillong, inspired us to be convinced of the field we have chosen and not to be influenced by others", they added.

Rukmani Bhagat of I Semester, B.Tech, commented, "The programme taught us the four pillars of education: learning to know, learning to do, learning to be, and, learning to live and work together".

Mr. Bikash Agarwal, faculty of DBCET, commented that the programme made the students explore their strengths and weaknesses, and enabled them to build their life on sound principles. He affirmed that the students of DBCET have the potential to make their life worthwhile and it was the right time for them to become aware of their latent strength to move ahead with confidence.



## FRESHERS SOCIAL 2010

The freshers' Day Celebration at DBCET is indeed a unique event, rich in significance. This year, the day was organized on 27 August 2010 by the students of III Semester, B.Tech. The entire programme was designed to encourage the students from different backgrounds and communities to feel comfortable in their new environment and to build bonds of togetherness.

Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Rector, DBCET expressed his joy at the creative ways the theme for the year 'tapping in to the goodness within' was presented on stage in song, dance and drama. He encouraged especially the newcomers to get into the spirit of Don Bosco College at the earliest and welcomed them to the worldwide family of Don Bosco.

Prof Manoranjan Kalita, Principal, in his message spoke of the plans the College has for every student to make each of them dependable human beings, capable of using their potential to build the society and the nation.



Student Coordinator, Pragyanil Bordoloi, welcomed the gathering and briefed the freshers on the quality of life the students enjoy at the college and assured them that life at DBCET will be greatly benefitted and enriched by the presence of the new students. Mr. P. Joseph on behalf of the faculty delivered a message of encouragement and appreciated the marvelous work by the Organizing Team behind the day's programme. Fr. Stephen gave out the awards for Mr. Fresher '10 (Dipanjnan Das) and Ms. Fresher '10 (Lisa Baruah) who were selected during the programme through a lucky draw.

Refreshments, dances, songs, a skit, fun and music added to the thrill and excitement of the occasion. The freshers went home on that day feeling very much at home in a well-knit family called "BOSCONIANS".

**Madhushruti & Madhusmriti**  
B.Tech, DBCET

## COLLEGE ASSOCIATION FORMED

Amidst the many activities happening in the campus, the formation of the College Association got underway a week before the final swearing in ceremony of the office bearers on 17 August 2010. The new members of the body, comprising of elected representatives from the students, nominated representatives from the staff and faculty and representatives of the management, pledged themselves to be committed to their tasks before the entire College community.

The College Association, a unique blend of staff, student and management representatives, plays a central role in planning and coordinating the major activities of the college community.

The concerns of any stakeholder



are the concern of the entire Association; however, it strives for the welfare and development of all sections of the college community and not just that of the stakeholders they represent. Being the nucleus of the college community, it seeks to seize

every opportunity to create and sustain an environment that nurtures life in its fullness for every member of the College community and set it on the path of excellence.

**Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya**  
B.Tech, DBCET



## BOSCO QUIZ 2010

The final round of BOSCO QUIZ 2010 was held on 27 August 2010 at DBCET.

### Winners

Shyam Sunder Kalita & Jyotirmoy Das, EEE, III Semester, B.Tech

### 1st Runner – up

Javed Ismail & Makamei Sylvester, ECE, IB, B.Tech

### 2nd Runner-up

Hrishikesh Kakoty & Avishek Barooah, ECE, V, B.Tech



## Small Scale Business for Economic Prosperity

### Summer Training with MDF

This year's Summer Training with Mushroom Development Foundation (MDF) gave Sanjib, Karbom, Phiba and Rupankar a wonderful opportunity to take up projects on developing the market for mushroom and its distribution network together with developing the backward integration and the branding of mushroom products. They learnt much about the wonderful work that is practically changing the outlook of the people in some areas of the region.

MDF is actively working on locations like Sonapur, Makum, etc, and areas within its vicinity. It is now working on expanding their services throughout the length and breadth of North Eastern region. Mr. Pranjal Baruah, the founder and General Secretary of the foundation, says that the trained farmers are working well even and in spite of drought conditions. MDF's future plans are to bring fresh mushrooms into a point of sale wherein it will be packed and distributed under the brand name

"Mushfill" which itself will form a separate company.

Mushroom, with its medicinal and nutritional attributes, is a good source of protein supply for the human body. The market for mushrooms continues to grow especially due to its culinary, nutritional, and health benefits. It is a completely vegetarian food and its prevalent uses in various dishes have set up the platform in the bottom of the pyramid, particularly among the farming populace for its cultivation. One of the major limiting factors that are restraining the local market of mushroom to prosper is the demand-supply reciprocation.

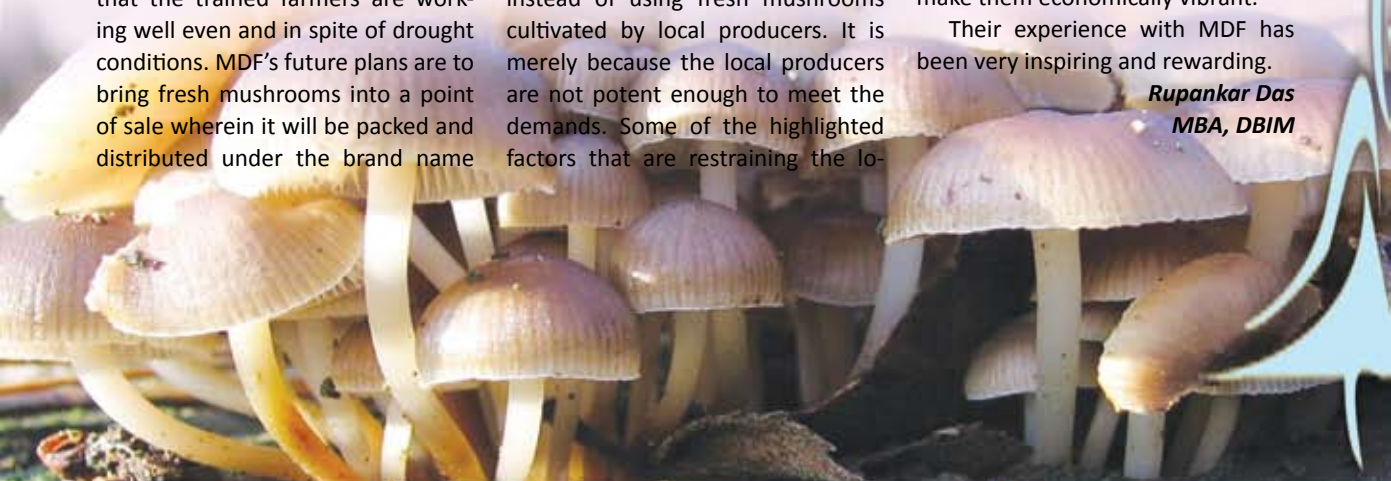
Ironically, today most of the popular restaurants, hotels and retail outlets are using tinned mushrooms instead of using fresh mushrooms cultivated by local producers. It is merely because the local producers are not potent enough to meet the demands. Some of the highlighted factors that are restraining the lo-

cal producers are- lack of awareness among the farmers, delay in the timely supply of spawn, shortcomings in cleanliness and tidiness of the mushroom huts, etc.

It is in this context that some of the organizations have come up to better the local market in a holistic manner. One among those is MDF which has been working over a decade. Since its inception in 1994, MDF has tried to encourage the rural farmers to get into this occupation. As a part of their initiatives, they are trying to build up the capacity of the farmers by providing them adequate training, supplying the farmers with spawns, setting up mushroom huts etc. The primary vision and mission of the foundation is to alleviate poverty among the marginal farmers and make them economically vibrant.

Their experience with MDF has been very inspiring and rewarding.

**Rupankar Das**  
MBA, DBIM



## Being a Part of Don Bosco Family... a dream come true

Walking down the memory lane I can still recollect the day when I was admitted in DBCET for the postgraduate course in Computer Applications (MCA). The day of inauguration of the Autumn Semester, 27 August 2010 was my very first day in the College. I was accompanied by my parents and we were greatly thrilled to receive a warm welcome. As I entered the campus, I was impressed by the well maintained campus with the splendid lawns encircling the college building. The environment of the college looked so congenial for intellectual growth of the students; and indeed, I feel privileged to be a part of it.

Every day at DBCET is special in its own way as we begin our day with the morning prayers and share our thoughts in the morning assembly. Even in academics we get a lot of help from our teachers and with the interactive learning process we never feel over-burdened. The well-equipped laboratories, computing centre, labs and library cater to all our needs. The administrative departments and various

departments are very co-operative and well organized. The cultural activities, club activities and social commitment programmes help us to become more responsible and socially committed.

One of the recent programmes that made an impact on my life is the 'Student Development Programme'. It gave us a platform to explore our latent talents and inspired us to perform much better than our usual practice. It called our attention to the need to focus, to make the right choices in life and to hold on strongly to our roots. In order to scale greater heights our goals should be distinct and combined with passion. Sessions on personal interview, group discussion and personality development were invaluable to us. Interview skills gave us necessary guidelines to face an interview; group discussions motivated us to use word power to improve our vocabulary and soft skills, and, the project work taught us to think creatively and innovatively, to shed our shyness and to work together as a team.



I have been deeply moved and inspired by the motto of the institution, which points out to me the path ahead of me. I am convinced that this institution can impart to me an education and an ambient that will make me 'intellectually competent, morally upright, socially committed and spiritually inspired person at the service of India and the world of today and tomorrow'.

Being a part of Don Bosco University is a dream come true for me and I am sure that DBCET will really help me in shaping my future.

**Antara Sharma**  
**MCA, DBCET**

## BEGINNING OF A NEW JOURNEY



It was 28 June 2010, when I, first entered the gates of DBIM (Don

Bosco Institute of Management). Situated at the idyllic Ramsai Hills, by the side of the majestic Brahmaputra, the very sight of the institution, with its captivating view took my breath away as I took my steps towards the new world of my learning. My anxious mind overtook my firmness. I sat back and pondered as to whether I've taken the right step. Will I reach my desired destination? There were many such questions revolving around in my

wondering mind, without any answers.

The whole situation was something new, which I cherish now. The new group of students (all of whom are good friends of mine now) together with their parents was very intimidating. Everyone was looking at each other's faces with unexplained expressions, but not for too long. The turning point came, when Fr. V.M. Thomas, Rector, DBIM announced an ice-break-



ing session – to get introduced to 10 new students of our batch, in 5 minutes. That was when, we all got up from our seats and rushed towards each other for the introduction process and in the melee, got scattered here and there. The whole exercise was quite exhilarating and it really helped in breaking the ice.

After having all the fun lessons, we were ushered in to the Sarai-ghat hall where, Fr. V.M. Thomas, together with his motivational talk, explained the various facets of the whole programme and what is expected from the students. The faculty also interacted with us on various topics, and the DBIM hostel management team gave us a preview of the hostel life.

After dinner at the canteen, we were led by the senior students to our respective hostels. Three other girls were assigned to my room. Our parents had to leave, which made us sad but at the same time, we were all thrilled to start a new life. That's how our new hostel world started.

Now, almost three months have passed in DBIM, with lots of mixed experiences and full of learning. After coming to DBIM, I have taken up the habit of going for morn-

ing jogging. With the Hostel Warden, who was later on joined by the Hostel Superintendent, all the DBIM Hostellers go for a morning jogging cum brisk walk, in the morning hours, enjoying the free healthy air. This morning activity (though it seems a heavy-duty activity for some) is very helpful for us, for it helps us to keep our mind and body fresh to tackle the challenges of the day.

After breakfast, the students come for the Morning Assembly. For me and for most of my friends, this is one of the most important activities, held at 9 o' clock sharp, every working day, where the morning prayers are offered, presided over by the Rector. Normally, important incidents, both internal and external, are intimated at the gathering. Important persons and guests are acknowledged and their relation with DBIM gets strengthened. We, the students also get the invaluable opportunity to reflect on the previous day's learning and thoughts, and deliver it in the form of short speeches and talks – a healthy practice that will stand us in good stead in the years to come.

The classes begin from nine-twenty, after the Assembly. The

class activities start with case studies, understanding of the various problems through supportive knowledge, unannounced tests and quizzes, theoretical and practical assignments and other class works. This may seem to be a lot of daily work, and actually it is, but with the help of the faculty, who are always co-operative and helpful, all these are done within the stipulated time-frame.

One of the most important parts of the DBIM culture is helping the poor students of society through an initiative called, 'Prajwal'. The voluntary members of this forum are the students of DBIM. They gather together, every Sunday, the small children of the nearest village, Joypur, to teach them literacy, hygiene and other social skills. It is a philanthropic activity, being carried out under the guidance of the Rector and Mr. Bikash Gogoi, faculty, DBIM. Apart from studies, the children are also engaged in extra-curricular activities viz., poem recitation, singing and dancing. We all feel very privileged to be a part of the wonderful forum, 'Prajwal', because it gives us real satisfaction to help and teach these children in need.

**Upama Thakuria**  
MBA, DBIM





## From the Desk of the Vice-Chancellor

Two months ago, while travelling in the States, I had a unique experience that kept me amused, and thinking for quite some time... an inspiration, an insight, an 'Ah Ha! Moment' as the management gurus call it...

I was to catch a flight from Providence in Rhode Island to New York, a connecting flight for the return journey to Delhi. After sitting in the aircraft for over an hour on the tarmac, we were told that the flight was cancelled due to technical problems.

Back at the terminal again, we formed a long queue at the check-in counter to look for alternate arrangements. The two clerks at the counter, a man and a woman, were having a harrowing time trying to solve each traveller's peculiar needs and making fresh reservations for over a hundred passengers – a tedious and, inevitably, a slow task.

I was about the 9th or 10th in the line. It was about an hour before I reached the top of the queue. Just then, a gentleman, from somewhere far down the line, suddenly pushed his way to the front, all fuming and fretting, and loudly demanding that he be given immediately a first class ticket to wherever he wanted to go.

The attendant, very coolly professional in his approach, said, "I'm sorry, Sir - but you will have to wait your turn. All these people are ahead of you in the line." That only made matters worse – the man pounded his fist on the counter and shouted, **"Do you have any idea who I am?"**

That's when it happened... the 'Ah Ha!

Moment'...

The other attendant at the counter, the lady, picked up the mike for the public address system and announced (for everyone to hear), **"Attention please. There is a gentleman here at the ticket counter who does not know who he is. If there is anyone in the airport who can identify him, please come to the counter."**

Crestfallen and humiliated, the man sheepishly walked back to his place in the queue... There was applause, heads were shaking in agreement, and suddenly it did not seem such a long wait in the queue anymore...

These days, as the new academic session started, news bulletins on the television carry every now and then some shocking cases of 'ragging' across the country – most of the time highlighting stories of mindless brutality and depravity perpetrated on the 'juniors' by those who consider themselves their 'seniors'.

The underlying idea is always the same – these 'juniors' must be taught humility; they must understand 'their place' in the hierarchy; they must learn to respect the 'alpha specimens' in the college or the university...

Respect has to be earned – it can never be forced. To do that, a person has to delve deep into himself / herself first, come to grips with what he / she encounters there, and then start on the long and

demanding road to self-discovery and growth...

There are no short-cuts along this necessary, but arduous, path that each one has to undertake, the path of 'self-discovery'...

This is the intention behind a lot of the activities that you have been involved in here at the University on a regular basis – call them what you will – student development programmes, orientation programmes, training in soft skills, club based activities, social commitment programmes, talent expos...

All these efforts have but one goal – to help you to become dependable human beings: cultured, confident, competent, knowledgeable, broad-minded, committed to society – 'educated' in every sense of that term – armed with the tools and the knowledge to cope with the ever evolving demands of a complex world... and, right at the core of it all, persons who are intimately in touch with themselves, and comfortable with what they see there... persons who have a sense of 'who they are' in fact.

Let me end wishing God's blessings on you and your Dear Ones as we enter shortly the season of pujas and festivities... not forgetting the examinations round the corner either!

**Fr. Stephen Mavelly SDB**  
**Rector & Vice Chancellor**

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