



Alumni Link

A publication of the Global Alumni Association of
Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur

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Policy for accepting submittals for publication:

Please send your comments and relevant information/materials for publication to gaabesu@gmail.com and write "Alumni Link" in the subject line. The following guidelines are followed in accepting materials for publication:

- 1) Comments, observations, & suggestions about any alumni activities & BESU;
- 2) Personal and professional accomplishments that you want to share with your fellow alumni;
- 3) Local news, event announcements and event/chapter reports;
- 4) Batch news, event announcements and reports;
- 5) Looking for friends;
- 6) Looking for help;
- 7) Anything you feel appropriate for the alumni community.

As long as the message does not attack anyone personally and/or contain any hidden political agenda, we will publish them as-it-is. Electronic newsletters are published in every two months but alumni web site is updated continuously. You may submit your articles anytime.

VC Selection – My thoughts

(This was written before we learnt that the selection committee sent the names to the Higher Education Dept., WB, already. We will soon find out if the new VC is any different from the ones in the recent past.)

The tenure of the present VC will expire at the end of this month. A three-member committee has been set up with two elected by BESU Court and one by WB Government (WBG) that will recommend names to the Higher Education Department of WB. In this connection, one should look at the report to be submitted by Yash Pal (former UGC Chairman) Committee, set up by the MHRD to critically review the selection process of VCs in the Central Universities. The committee concluded, "An independent process of appointing vice-chancellors is key to ensuring the autonomy of our higher education institutions. At present, our universities are autonomous only on paper." Looking back at the past few VCs (since Dr. Sen relinquished his position), it is understandable why the conclusions of the said committee stating "This current process ensures that those who wish to become VCs must be friendly to the ministry. It is impossible to expect them to be autonomous in their functioning as their presence as VC itself depends on the ministry," is equally applicable to the selection process of VCs in WB.

In the western world, the committee members to select "President of the Universities" come from a wider section of the public (from deans/senior administrators/alumni & student representatives/ board of regents). The nominations are sought by the committee and they screen the candidates based on academic excellence, administrative experience and recommendation letters. The selected candidates are invited to the campus and they meet deans, faculties/ students and the selection committee members. Based on the input from all, the selection committee chooses a "President."

It is quite obvious that the process strongly criticized by Yash Pal committee in selecting VCs of Central Universities has been used by WBG to select last few VCs at BESU. In view of this report, can we request the committee formed to recommend VC for BESU to be objective and transparent in the selection process and addresses the issues raised in the said report?

In our mind, the committee should consider the following criteria in recommending the name of next VC to the Higher Ed Department who will then forward the name to the University Chancellor for approval (a mere formality):

- 1) Academic excellence should be at the top. Academic excellence should be judged on the basis of research carried out by the candidate and papers published in peer-reviewed journals. The



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candidate should preferably be member of one of the National Academies. It is preferable that he has strong background in Engineering or Applied Science and has been associated with a reputed technical institution.

- 2) Next in order must be administrative experience. Normally, the Presidents in US are chosen from the deans of schools. The deans are top administrators of a school, to whom all its department heads report. Deans or Deputy Directors in IITs in India are people with somewhat similar administrative experience. Top administrators in National Research Laboratories who are normally technical people and/or head of the department of any engineering branch from reputed institutes are other such candidates.
- 3) In USA, fund-raising capability is a very important factor in selecting President. Although, it is less important in India, still the VC must be comfortable in dealing with alumni, industrialists and philanthropists so that he can convince them to donate money to the school.
- 4) The position of VC at BESU is 24/7 job and the VC must be willing to reside within the campus to take immediate action in case of any emergency. Anybody who wants a 10 AM to 5 PM job must not be hired as VC of BESU. Absence of VC in campus has prolonged student unrest and mishandling of unrest by the administration has caused the loss of INI status to BESU for the time being.

The committee members are, I am sure, fully aware of how the selection process has been carried out since Dr. B.Sen retired and how devastating, the selection has been to BESU (We just learnt that MHRD will not be converting BESU to an INI because of its poor governance.). BESU was once a top-tier technical institution in India and aspires to be top-tier (INI) again. To prepare for the transition from a provincial institution to an INI, the selection committee is urged to choose an eminent academician with administrative experience if they really care for the future of technical education in WB. It is often said that "Good policy is good politics" and as such, the committee will serve the WBG well if it selects a well-regarded academic as VC without caring if s/he is obedient to the ruling political masters.

Note: The editorial is representative of the thoughts and beliefs that are solely the editor's and is not representative of the official position of GAABESU.

BESU ACTIVITIES

Christening of Three Hostels at BESU, Shibpur

Reported by Drs. Santanu K Karmakar ('83ME) and Amalendu Ghosh ('66CE)

Hostels 7, 8, & 9 in the college campus have been christened "A C ROY HALL", "D BANERJEE HALL" & "B SEN HALL" respectively to honour their dedicated services as Principals/Director of our 150 year old beloved BE College. The christening function took place on the

5th January, 2009. It may be noted here that Hostel 10 had previously been christened "A. K. Seal Hall" on 2nd March, 2000.



Prof. Sen's wife Mrs. Sujata Sen, two daughters, one grandson and his relative Mr. Amitabha Sen '71ME as well as those of Prof. Banerjee (youngest brother Mr. Baneswar Banerjee '68CE and his wife) were amongst the invited guests to attend the function. [\[Click here for the Album\]](#)



Dr. N. R. Banerjee - Vice Chancellor chaired the function. The other attendees to adorn the occasion were Dr. Biman Bandyopadhyay ('84CE) - Registrar, Lt. Col. Anjan K Ghosh ('76ETC) - PICSA as well as Mr. Alok Mitra, Prof. Santanu K Karmakar ('83ME) and Mr. S. N. Datta - Superintendents of the Hostels 7, 8 and 9 respectively and other respected professors and their families.





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All the guests assembled at the Guest House at 11 AM and then moved to the venue (lawn adjacent to the Hostels 8 & 9). Mrs. Sujata Sen recollected the glorious time of the college. She also said that the students should not be involved in any activities that tarnish the image of the university. Mr. Banerjee spoke about his elder brother, Prof. D. Banerjee.

The Vice Chancellor, along with all the guests, alumni and students moved to Hostels 7, 8 & 9 in sequence to unveil the respective Plaques. At the end of the function, lunch was served at the University Guest House.

Seminar by Prof. Peter Hagedorn at BESU

Submitted by Dr. Santanu K Karmakar, '83ME

Prof. Peter Hagedorn, Professor, Technical University Darmstadt, Germany visited the University on 21.01.2009. He delivered a lecture on the current and future directions of research in the general area of Mechanics in the seminar room of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at 1:30 PM and interacted with the faculty members of the University.

Dr. Peter Hagedorn, Professor, Dynamics and Vibrations Group, Department of Mechanical Engineering Technische Universität Darmstadt has over 200 publications which include papers in international journals, refereed conferences, book chapters, lecture notes and books. He has 7 patents to his credit. He has taught various courses such as Vibrations of Continuous Systems, Machine Dynamics, Multi-body Dynamics, Statics, Theory of Elasticity, and Dynamics. He has been a Visiting Professor at COPPE, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Lecturer at University of Karlsruhe (Germany), Research Fellow at Stanford University (US), Visiting Professor at UC Berkeley (US), Universities in Paris (France), Irbid (Jordan) and Christchurch (New Zealand). He has also served in various positions (Director of the Institute of Mechanics, Dean and Vice-President) at TU Darmstadt.

Indo-US Seminar at Mechanical Engineering

Department of Mechanical Engineering, BESU hosted one-day Indo-US seminar on Microfluidics and Fabrication on January 8, 2009 [[Click here for details](#)].

Indo-US Workshop on Material Sciences

School of Materials Science and Engineering, Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur in collaboration with Combinatorial Sciences and Materials Informatics Collaboratory (CoSMIC-IMI), Iowa State University, USA organized an Indo-US Workshop. The event was held on January 5-7, 2009 at Taj Bengal, Kolkata [[Click here for details](#)].

GAABESU ACTIVITIES

GAABESU Initiative on Student Unrest

GAABESU President, Mr. Asit Palit ('63ME) lead a delegation consisting of Dr. Arun Deb ('57CE, VP, GAABESU), Mr. Syama P Datta ('67CE, Working President, GAABESU) and Mr. Shyamal K Mitra ('67CE, GAABESU EC Member) and met BESU VC to provide GAABESU's observations related to the issues behind the recurring disturbances in the campus and suggestions to address them.

GAABESU Membership Update

GAABESU welcomes new life members since we published names in our last issue of Alumni Link.

- Amitabha Sen, '71ME
- Apurba Dasgupta, '57CE
- Dipak K Mazumdar, '74ME
- Nihar K Sen, '55CE

Fund Collection drive for Dipak Majumder ('74ME)

Submitted by Amitabha Datta, '74CE

Dipak Mazumder ('74ME) is suffering from major kidney ailment. Both of his kidneys are affected badly. In fact he is now in a stage to receive dialyses twice a week. As per the doctor, he needs to continue with this till he is in a state to undergo the kidney transplantation. If he can keep up with the present treatment the operation can take place some time in 2010. Considering the hardship and financial burden the family is passing through, we the 1974 batch mates are thinking of creating a medical help fund by raising money and we request GAABESU to coordinate this fund drive. For more information please click [here](#). We thank the following donors (as of 12th February 2009) for helping Mr. Majumder.

Donations received by GAABESU office

- Amitabha Datta, '74CE, Kolkata, India
- Saibal Baul, '74CE, Kolkata, India
- M/S BABTECH, India
- Sanjoy K. Adhikari, '88ME
- Priyatosh Majumdar, '64ME

Donations received by USA Organization

- Rajib Sarkar, CA
- Koushik Chakrabarty, MA
- Sourav Banerjee, AZ
- Susobhan Ghosh, TX



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GAABESU Emergency Fund Update

GAABESU Emergency Fund Committee appreciates funds received from the following donors since our last publication of donors.

- Neelanjan Bandyopadhyay, '07ETC, India
- Santanu K Karmakar, '83ME, India
- Syama P Datta, '67CE, India
- Samir K Bhowmick, India

GAABESU Scholarships Update

Reported by Rajdeep Dutta, '88EE

We are pleased to update you the status of GAABESU's Scholarship, Admission Grant and Alumni Fellowship for Excellence Programme for the current academic year, 2008-09. Details of the programme are available at our web site,

http://www.becollege.org/news/news_item.asp?NewsID=407

A summary of this year's selection programme is provided below.

- Nearly 160 students applied for the scholarships,
- GAABESU Office and SSC reviewed all the applications and verified all the supporting documents submitted by the applicants, legal guardians, HoDs and Dean of Students,
- SSC conducted in-person interview during Dec 22-24, 2008 at the GAABESU Office and
- Nearly 100 students have been selected for different awards which amount to about Rs 10 lakhs for 2008-09

We completed the selection for the admission grants and scholarships. In going forward, we will continue with Alumni Fellowship for Excellence which we started this year promoting excellence in academics, sports and leaderships among BESU students.

GAABESU Corpus Fund

GAABESU launched Corpus fund to run GAABESU activities and to sponsor new projects at BESU. GAABESU acknowledge donations from the following person and groups for this new Corpus Fund.

- Santanu K Karmakar, '83ME
- Shyama P Datta, '67CE
- Class of 1964EE

ALUMNI NEWS

Seminar by BESU Professor at Dhaka, Bangladesh

Prof Ajit K Chattopadhyay ('58EE), Emeritus Professor of Electrical Engineering, BESU as an IEEE - IAS Distinguished Lecturer under Regional Speaker program was invited by the IEEE Section and PES Chapter of Bangladesh to deliver a lecture on " High Power High

Performance AC Industrial Drives - A Technology Status Review" at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Tejgaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh on 23rd December, 2008. About 150 participants attended the Lecture. Prof Chattopadhyay was also invited to deliver a lecture on "Power Electronics-Past, Present and Future" at the Plenary Session of the 5th International Conference on Electrical & Computer Engineering (IECECE), 2008 held at Sheraton Hotel, Dhaka on 23rd December, 2008.

Earlier, Professor Chattopadhyay was invited speaker as an IEEE-IAS Distinguished Lecturer, on 19th November on "High Power High Performance Industrial AC Drives" and chaired a Session on " Power Electronics & Drives" during IEEE-TENCON-2008 at Hyderabad, India. He delivered an invited talk on "High Power AC Industrial Drives" at IEEE Region 10 Colloquium held at IIT, Kharagpur on 9th December 2008 as well as a Keynote Inaugural Lecture in the same topic at IEEE- INDICON-2008 Conference held at IIT Kanpur on 12th December 2008."

Alumnus running for Parliament Seat

Mr. Amitabha Sen aka "Bholada" ('63CE and GAABESU Life Member) who was a University Blue in Hockey has announced his intention to seek a parliament seat from Calcutta North constituency as an independent candidate. After spending over thirty years in Canada and USA, he returned to India about twelve years back. He has been a practicing lawyer since passing bar examination from the State of California about 25 years back. He seeks support from the members of the BESU community. He can be reached at

E-mail: amitabhasen@vsnl.com or 91-124-400-4526 (H); 91-98-110-14033; 91-11-2335-2365 (O)

Looking for Batch mate

I am a B.E. College alumnus ('62ME). I am looking for Dibyendu Saha ('62ME also). If anyone knows his whereabouts, please let me know. Contact Info: Pradip Bharatiya; pbharatiya@yahoo.com

CHAPTER/BATCH NEWS

Class of 1983 Celebrates Silver Jubilee of Graduation

Reported by Amitabha Chatterjee, EE





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On 27th December, 2008, the alumni of academic year 1983, Bengal Engineering College celebrated their 25th year of graduation at BE College campus. With a newly decked up look of the campus - trees painted, roads paved with white lines on each side and gardens spruced up with flowers in full bloom, the mood was indeed festive.



After an early morning registration and breakfast, the inauguration ceremony started. Professor Amitava Ghosh ('62ME) and the ex-director of IIT-KGP was the chief guest and wife of principal late Dr. A.K.Seal was the guest of honour. Six professors from different departments represented the faculty.

Condolences were paid to the departed alumni and professors by observing a minute of silence. It was followed by the official inauguration of the event by lighting the lamp. The honoured guests, professors and a few alumni addressed the audience and reminisced the golden time they had.

After the program, a sumptuous lunch was arranged amidst casual chitchat and general catching up with friends. An informal gathering was due next at the Institute Hall where the alumni relived their glorious past by singing, caricature and dancing to the tunes of their time. The evening formally ended with a mind-blowing performance by the famous lokgeet band Dohar.

BECAA Delhi Picnic

- Submitted by Debabrata Pal, '88CE and Pradip K Bandyopadhyay, '88ME



BECAA-Delhi organized its annual sunlit picnic-2009 at Jamali - Kamali Tomb behind Outab Minar – on 1st February. All the interested

alumni joined in with high enthusiasm and passion to share their cool New Year resolutions under a warm sun, along with their family and friends. The picnic was a grand success decked with Loads of Adda, Mouthful of 'Pet Pujo', Joy of Togetherness' and Surprise of well-engineered Games!!

1964EE Event

Class of 1964EE met on 4th January, 2009 and raised money for GAABESU Corpus fund which was handed over to Dr. Santanu K Karmakar ('83ME), Hony. Secretary, GAABESU by Dr. Samir Basu.



Class of 1988 Celebrates 20 Years of Graduation

Submitted by Rajdeep Dutta, EE

2008 is a land-mark year for 300 plus alumni/alumnae who graduated from B.E. College (as known then) in 1988. 20 years of professional life after graduation certainly calls for a major celebration and a pretext for a reunion of all batch mates, who are now spread all over the world.

BESU has seen many ups and downs over its 150 years of existence. However, it has mainly been downs during the last few years and as such, some argued that it may not look nice that some alumni group is celebrating [Click [here](#) for more information].





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But in the end the batch members concluded that BEC has formed the basic foundation of their careers and that the love and respect for the institution and pride as alumni/alumnae will never go away, no matter what happens at the campus.



Although, in recent times, some adverse, selfish and immature acts by a handful of people in the campus have caused our anguish, it has no power whatsoever to destroy the good memories & gratefulness towards the institute. So 1988 batch decides to go ahead and celebrate 20 years of graduation in the campus along with their families.

BESU Poribaar, UAE – The Picnic 2009

Submitted by Tanusree Chakraborty, '91CE

The year 2009 started well for BESU Poribar UAE. After the great success of the cultural evening, the Alumni Magazine SOPAN – the first of its kind in UAE, was published, and then a great picnic organized by the BECAA, UAE had set the mood just right! The picnic was unique as it had seen many first time events in UAE like 'live cooking' in a park, singing, dancing and exhilarating fun-and-frolic in general. There was a never-ending flow of games for both children (of different age-group) and adults. A happy alumnus later compared the never-ending fun to the great magic 'Water of India' aptly! The following album is an attempt in vain to capture the great day - A day that started well, went on well and ended well too.



The BESU Poribaar members are now looking forward to the next cultural evening in May-June. [\[Click here for Album\]](#)

OBITUARY

Dr. Jitendranath Kar ('53CE), CE Department

With heavy heart, we would like to inform you that Dr. Jitendra Nath Kar, retired professor of Civil Engineering, is no more with us. On Jan 25th (Sunday) he passed away at around 9 P.M. due to sudden cardiac arrest. After receiving his BE, Dr. Kar went to IIT (Kharagpur) to get his M.Tech and Ph.D. degrees. He taught there for few years and returned to BE College around 1964 as Associate Professor. He was a very sincere teacher and well-liked by all. We will miss him. May his soul rest in peace!

Mr. Pankaj Chatterjee ('51CE)

Reported by Tarun Basu, '54CE

Pankaj Chatterjee passed away on Dec 31st, 2008 in his residence at New Alipore, Kolkata. He was kind of a rare individual with a friendly face and amiable nature. As a professional working in WB Govt., his was also a rare success story. Starting as an Asst. Engineer in PH Engg., he crossed the borders of Asst. Engineer and Executive Engineer quickly. As Superintending Engineer in Ranigunge Coalfield Area (RCFA) Water Supply Scheme, apart from performing his own duties, he formed formidable football and cricket teams which participated in local tournaments with reasonable success. There, he successfully persuaded Patterson Engineering Co., responsible for constructing the Water Treatment Plant in RCFA, to build an Inspection Bungalow with flower garden and swimming pool in Kalyaneswari without additional cost. This demonstrated his capability in handling a private company to his employers (the State PWD and I & W Depts.).

Later on, he was deputed to CMDA as Director, Water Supply. He eventually rose to be the Director General, Operations (PH) there. After retiring from CMDA, he joined Sulabh International as an Advisor and remained there till his death. In addition, he worked with UNDP for two years providing technical advice to the Govt. of Bangladesh.

He left behind his wife, a son and daughter-in-law besides innumerable friends and well wishers. Institute of Public Health Engineers (India) with whom, he was associated as President for several years arranged a memorial meeting on Feb 20, 2009 in its HQ Office at CK 58, Salt Lake.

May his soul rest in peace!



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Department*:

Hostel Name(s):

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Cell/Mobile Phone:

Company Name, in Any:

Primary E-Mail:

Secondary E-Mail:

[* Compulsory Fields]

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- 1) <https://www.becollege.org/members/AddName.asp>

- 2) Email: gaabesu@gmail.com
- 3) Fax: 91-33-26684564
- 4) Postal Mail: GAABESU, Guest House, Bengal Engineering and Science University, P.O. Botanic Garden, Shibpur, India, 711 103

B. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

(Tick relevant item(s))

- I am not a member of GAABESU. I like to become a (life/annual) member. Please advise me how to become a member.
- I am an annual member and I like to pay for another term/upgrade to life membership. Please let me know how to pay my membership fees.
- I am interest to know more about GAABESU Scholarship Programme.
- I am interest to know more about GAABESU Mentorship Programme.
- I am interest to know more about GAABESU Emergency Fund Programme.
- I am interest to know more about GAABESU Corpus Fund.
- I am interested in visiting BESU campus/delivering a seminar/workshop.

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