



Alumni Link

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

Vol 12, No 3; December 2011. <http://www.becollege.org>

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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.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Why Should You Speak Out?

Whenever some one raises questions about the lack of transparency in BESU or GAABESU or provides suggestions as to how it should be improved, persons concerned get annoyed and upset. They think the those who are speaking out are nothing but negative and pessimistic in nature and are in the habit of speaking out for the sake of speaking out. But should we keep quiet when we see improper and irregular activities being carried out? Should we remain silent if it does not affect us and hope to benefit for remaining silent?

To answer this, we should note what German priest Martin Niemöller said after the fall of Hitler's regime. This is what he said:

"First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out--

because I was not a communist;

Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out--

because I was not a socialist;

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out--

because I was not a trade unionist;

Then they came for the jews, and I did not speak out--

Because I was not a Jew;

Then they came for me--

And there was no one left to speak out for me."

So, the moral is that we must remain vigilant against any irregular or improper activities and must speak out even if it is carried out by a person occupying high position.



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GAABESU NEWS

The VoIP Trial- First Time in India (School Bell Project)

During a visit to the BESU campus in January 2011, Sumitra Sinha ('79ETC and GAABESU EC member) was thinking if it will be possible to establish a new communication laboratory using one of the latest technology, VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol).

She wanted to help her Alma Mater by way of introducing this new technology to the BESU students so that they can learn and explore this area of telecommunication and most importantly gain some hands-on experience with the VoIP project experiments.

As a Senior VoIP Architect at AT&T, Sumitra had worked with Ms. Carol Davids, an industry leader and Professor of Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), Chicago, for her Tele-communication research projects. Professor Davids has already developed a VoIP lab in her college campus of IIT. Sumitra teamed up with Professor Davids to introduce the very first VoIP project so both the institutions can help each other and make inter-campus phone calls over VoIP technology.

Ms. Sinha described the VoIP project to the students and challenged the then third year (current final year) students of Electronics and Telecommunication, who were passionate, to do something off the curriculum for the amelioration of the university. The brief introduction of VoIP was followed by strong support provided by Prof. Ajay Kumar Roy, VC and Prof. Arabinda Ray, HOD, Electronics and Telecommunication Department who urged every student to contribute to the progress of the project.

With the basic introduction of the VoIP project, the VoIP Laboratory was set up at BESU when the administration allotted Laboratory space.

The BESU and IIT, Chicago team were situated at two opposite ends of the globe; however, the distance was not a barrier for the students.

The entire class was divided into five groups who worked coherently to achieve the goal successfully. It was Rakesh Tripathi, a student of the same class, who was given the most precious onus of leading the entire company. Apart from that there were five sub-leaders leading each group. Next task was to get the pre-requisites from the other end i.e. receiving the training materials and VoIP documents from Carol Davids, Director of VoIP Research Lab IIT, Chicago. Once those were received, all the groups got involved in reviewing them and getting things clarified. A timeline was proposed which was broadly met throughout the peregrination. Internet speed was drastically improved to support the transmitting voice call over internet. Progress of the project was regularly reported to Prof. Davids and IIT team through Skype calls. Trixbox server was installed in the computers available in the IMPACT laboratory, which has been operating successfully. The

first successful results were obtained when an intra-department call was perfectly carried out in March, 2011. A virtual presentation was exhibited on "Student Colloquium on Real Time Communication" sponsored by IEEE, Chicago Section. Currently the team is working on installing requisite servers and different components of the "VoBESU" system in the newly formed "VoIP" lab in the fourth floor of the department. India's first ever fully dedicated VoIP lab is all set to get off in style by early January, 2012 when Sumitra revisits her Alma Mater.

GAABESU Scholarship & Research Fellowships

GAABESU's annual "Scholarship and Research Award Distribution Ceremony 2011-12" was held at the Alumni Seminar Hall on 26th November, 2011 between 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM. GAABESU Scholarship Sub-Committee announced the names of the Scholarships and Book Grant winners. Each scholarship pays Rs 12,000 except a few that pay Rs 6,000.

The lists of winners along with donors are available at http://www.becollege.org/news/news_item.asp?NewsID=492

Along with scholarships and book grants, GAABESU will confer four new research awards to three undergraduate students and one postgraduate student. Details of research awards are available at:

http://www.becollege.org/news/news_item.asp?NewsID=490

Each research award pays Rs 15,000 in 2011-12, and is expected to increase further in the subsequent years. GAABESU fellowships for excellence (in academic, sports and leadership) will be announced in early January 2011. Including all grants and awards (admission grants, scholarships, book grants, research awards and fellowships for excellence), GAABESU is paying nearly Rs 13 lakhs for 2011-12. This money has been raised from our global alumni and well-wishers.

The goal of the admission grants, scholarships and book grants is to help financially needy students to pursue studies at our Alma Mater. The goal of research award is to promote academic research while pursuing studies whereas goal of fellowship in excellence is to promote extra-curricular activities (sports, leadership) and academics. We hope you will join us helping present students (and future alumni) to pursue all round excellence while spending their formation years at our Alma Mater.

FCRA Approval

It was reported that FCRA approval (allowing GAABESU to accept donations in foreign currency without any restrictions) dated September 1, 2011 mentioning the Registration number from the Ministry of Home Affairs has been received by GAABESU. Pratik Dutta, Treasurer is working on the compliance communiqué and the future course of action at the GAABESU end.



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80G Approval

Syama Datta reported the status of 80G (allowing alums in India to claim tax-exemption for the donations) approval and informed the EC members that the approval is expected within a week.

Swimming Pool

The pool work was suspended after some of the pool tiles came out possibly due to heavy accumulation of rainwater in the pool immediately after laying of the tiles. Continuous dry spell not being available for a long time, work could not proceed. It was decided that instead of patch resetting of tiles, all the tiles from the floor would be removed and complete resetting will be done and the contractor agreed. Removal of tiles, a time consuming job, has been completed. The floor is being inspected closely to set the right bed for the tiling work. Resetting will be done after that and may take about 15 days. Completion of work inside pool including floor lighting work will take at least another 5 days.

Structural work, brick work and plaster of the change room as well as the septic tank and rear boundary wall have all been completed. Finishing work and sanitary plumbing work have just started. Deck tiling work will start shortly. Electrical work of change room is yet to start. Pumps and the filtration plant for the swimming pool have already been completed. Boundary wall on two sides and the front have not yet started.

Mr. Amitabha Ghoshal is coordinating the work. No timeframe for completing the work has been set. Based on the progress of the activities, the completion date will be determined. In the next meeting, a timeframe and possible completion date will be announced and another update with photograph will be provided.

BESU NEWS

ISEUSAM-2012

A 3-day International Symposium on "Engineering under Uncertainty: Safety Assessment and Management (ISEUSAM-2012)" will be held in the University premises during January 4 to 6, 2012, under the aegis of the Department of Civil Engineering. Please visit the official website of the symposium at <http://www.becs.ac.in/iseusam2012> for details.

The symposium will be the first of its kind organized in India, and so far the response of the technical contributors comprising the Keynote speakers, the Invited theme speakers, and the authors of the contributory papers is quite encouraging. Needless to mention, that the success of an international event like this depends to a great extent on the active participation and support of our alumni, our strength.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray, the main motivating force behind this entire endeavor, wants the event to be organized on a grand scale. Under the circumstances, the department does expect a pro-active role from our alumni towards fulfilling the wishes of our Vice Chancellor to raise the level of the symposium to an international standard befitting a 155-year old premier Institute in the country.

Please come forward and stretch forth your helping hand by providing valuable suggestions, advice and help for the cause of this unique event, the success of which would glorify our Alma Mater before the global engineering community. For information, contact:

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National Power Electronics Conference

The National Power Electronics Conference 2011 (NPEC 2011) is the 5th biennial conference of the Power Electronics community in India, focusing on the ongoing research in this area and seeking to find potential users of the laboratory-scale developments in the industry. This biennial event was launched in 2003 October at IIT Bombay, and held at IIT Kharagpur in December 2005, at IISc Bangalore in December 2007, at IIT Roorkee in June 2010. The present version of NPEC will be held in December 2011. The objectives of the conference are to provide a forum to promote and accelerate high quality research inviting professional interactions for the advancement and indigenisation of Power Electronics in India. Papers with up-to-date research results are encouraged for submission. Specifically, papers having significant experimental results to validate the propositions will be given preference. Technical papers will be accepted for presentation after peer review. The pre-conference tutorials will be held on December 19, 2011. Apart from these plenary sessions, keynote lectures and invited talks will also be held.

The country's industry, research establishments and academia are cordially invited to the event at the erstwhile Bengal Engineering College (or B.E. College) which presently stands as Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur, Howrah. Also of note, is that the Department of Electrical Engineering is simultaneously celebrating its Centenary year.



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ALUMNI NEWS

Class of 1983 Donation

The BESU administration has identified the reconstruction of the second gate as a priority. The 1983 batch has come forward to fund this project. They have decided to provide the fund directly to the VC. To develop the plan, a competition was held amongst the students, and the prize winners have been announced.

The 1983 class is now embarking on the fund raising. The current budget for the project is Rs. 12 lakhs. The batch is confident the alums will contribute handsomely so that they can complete the project in time.

Although the batch wanted this to be their gift for the 30th reunion (in 2013), the VC convinced them to deliver this gift much sooner.

Arnab Mandal, 2008 IT

Arnab has been selected as one of the winners of **MIT Climate CoLab Contest 2011**. This year, the theme of the contest was Green Economy and was organized by MIT Center for Collective Intelligence.

Arnab's proposal was "Dream for a Green Future" on an Indian context. It was the only team from Asia to reach upto this level. Winning ideas will be published by MIT. Winners will be invited to the UN Headquarters, New York and US Congress, Washington DC for idea sharing sessions.

Prior to this, the proposal went through multiple screenings and was selected as one of the final entries to the MIT Climate CoLab Contest 2011, an event of MIT Center for Collective Intelligence. There were a total of eight short-listed entries in the final voting round with three in the Global and five in the National Category. Ultimately four winners, two each from Global and National Categories were chosen. The rules say that a winner in each category will be selected on the basis of voting and another by the judges. Winners will be invited to present their ideas to the UN Headquarters and US Congress in January 2012.

This year their main question was regarding green economy: "How should the 21st century economy evolve bearing in mind the risks of climate change?" Arnab wrote the proposal for the National Category, which focuses on national economy (India). You can visit the links below for details:

<http://climatecolab.org/web/quest>

<http://climatecolab.org/web/quest/plans/-/plans/contest/d/5/planId/15205>

Arnab is requesting all alumni to register to the website and vote for "Dream for a Green Future" in the link below on or before November 15, 2011. [<http://climatecolab.org/web/quest/plans>]. The links below provides more details about MIT Center for Collective Intelligence, an initiative under the aegis of MIT Sloan School of Management:

<http://sloan.mit.edu/faculty/research/intelligence.php>;
<http://cci.mit.edu/>

He is requesting feedback on his idea.

Kaushik Chakraborty, 1998 CST

Kaushik Chakraborty (98 CST), one of our fellow alumni residing in the Boston Metropolitan Area (who has also been instrumental in forming the New England alumni chapter) formed a Bangla Band called Apaar Bangla [<http://www.apaarbangla.com/index.html>]

They're releasing their first CD on December 21, 2011 in Kolkata. Also attached is the video release of one the songs on their CD. [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIVKJpu3UJo>]

Golden Jubilee Celebration of 1958-62 Batch

The B.E. College (now Bengal Engineering & Science University) 1962 batch will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee (GJ1962) on February 4th and 5th, 2012. On the 4th, they will assemble at the College, initially meeting at the Institute Hall at 11.00 a.m. They will later have lunch together in the campus, with the VC and Mrs. Ray as their guests. After lunch, the alums shall stroll around the campus and have an informal reunion cum extempore performance/chat (adda) in the Institute Hall. The next day, i.e. February 5th, they will go for a day cruise in the River Hooghly. Spouses are invited to join on the 4th and the families (spouse, children/grand children) on the 5th.

Samarjit Chatterjee (scacpl@gmail.com) & Sukhen Dasgupta (sukhendugasgupta@gmail.com) are the Co-convenors of the Organizing Committee for GJ1962. Further details of the events will be made available in later postings. For the purpose of GJ1962 the followings are designated as 1962 batch mates: a) All 1958 entrants, regardless of year of passing and b) All 1962 graduates irrespective year of entry. (For Architects, 1963 instead of 1962).

On this occasion, there is a plan to bring out a memorable 'Memoirs' – a souvenir about the alums, and it needs everyone's particulars. A current bust photograph with spouse is requested. Any old photograph of the campus, during the then college, will also be very useful. Please try to send good soft copies of all these by email to Samarjit (scacpl@gmail.com) or Sukhen (sukhendugasgupta@gmail.com). Since the time is short, please send these particulars as soon as possible. Hard copies of these should be sent to:



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50th Anniversary Celebration of 1962-67 Batch

B.E. College alumni who studied together at any time during 1962-67 (1962-68 in case of Architects) are planning to have a reunion in January/February 2012 to celebrate their association with the BEC community for 50 years. They have decided to hold a get-together on January 8, 2012 at B.E.College Alumni Building. The get-together will be for the whole day - from breakfast to afternoon tea. Detail of programme and charges will follow.

For more information, contact Pradip Ranjan Dutt at pradip.dutt@gmail.com, Tel. 033-23211443, 9831025689-Cell).

Anirban Roy, 1988 ETC

Kony Solutions, Inc., the leading mobile application platform provider, announced that Anirban Roy has joined the company as Chief Operating Officer (COO), India operations. In this role, Anirban will spearhead all customer and partner engagements from an India operations perspective and will be responsible for scaling Kony's delivery capability by implementing best practices in all aspects of delivery management and face the challenge of expanding Kony's world-class technology delivery center in Hyderabad, India."

Prior to joining Kony, Anirban spent most of his 17 years with Citigroup in Singapore where he was responsible for implementing large scale, complex, multi-business financial applications both for Internet and mobile channels. Apart from Singapore, Anirban spent four years in the U.S. as part of Citigroup North America IT where he was involved in setting up a new technology center of excellence in Cincinnati, Ohio showcasing the latest internet, mobile and ATM technology platforms for North America Consumer Banking.

OBITUARY

Pratip Mondal, 1973 MetE

Pratip, topper in his batch, breathed his last on 13th October in his residence in Rishra. After working for some time in IISCO, he made a career in GWK where he was loved by all for his simplicity, good manners and friendliness. He later shifted to Gontermann Peipers (I) Ltd. He is survived by his wife and a son studying engineering. May his soul rest in peace!

Ashok K. Chakraborty, 1978CE

Ashok Kumar Chakraborty breathed his last at AMRI Hospital, Salt Lake, Calcutta around 6:45 A.M. on Oct. 23, 2011. Hailed from

Baruipur (South 24 Parganas), a small hamlet on the fringe of Calcutta, he joined B.E. College in the year of 1973.

He joined P.W.D., Govt. of West Bengal in November 1980 and rose to the rank of Superintending Engineer at the time of his sudden demise due to ailments in his colon. It came like a bolt from the blue to all. His leadership quality, personal rapport with Engineers as well as a cross-section of people contributed largely while handling many important projects like Underground Car Park in B.B.D. Bag and Ten storied New High Court Building. He was also instrumental in building a new block in the courtyard of Writers' Buildings to house the Office of the Chief Govt. Architect, PWD.

Soft spoken and well-mannered Ashok was popular for his amiable personality, which used to inspire his team-mates. Successful arrangement of two prestigious mega-events also added feathers to his cap – one is 69th Annual Session of Indian Roads Congress (IRC) at Calcutta in December 2008 another is yearlong celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Poet Rabindra Nath Tagore under the banner of "Rabindra Janma Sardha Shatabarsha Udjapan Committee" formed by Officers & employees of P.W.D. & P.W.D.(Roads) Department.

In the former event as Convener, Logistics Subcommittee he played a key role in all the construction & decoration work for presenting the IRC venue in a nice manner. In the later event, he was the torchbearer and as its General Secretary he himself mostly shouldered the bulwark of the entire event. He leaves behind him, his bereaved mother, wife, a son and a daughter. We would like to convey our condolences to his family. May God give him peace!

Samindra N. RoyChoudhury, 1963 EE

Mr. Samindra Nath RoyChoudhury passed away on 13th August 2010. He worked in Rourkela Steel Plant. Let his departed soul rest in eternal peace.

Prof. Makhan Lal Dasgupta, 1942 EE

Prof Makhan Lal Dasgupta passed away on August 18, 2011 at his DB-69, Salt Lake residence. After graduating in 1942, he was subsequently chosen on basis of merit to undergo postgraduate studies in Electrical Engineering at the New York State University where he was awarded the Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering in 1950. Soon after, he had an assignment with New York Ireland Electricity Company.

Returning to India, he joined the faculty of B. E. College. Prof Dasgupta served as the Head of Electrical Engineering for many years, and the Superintendent of Pandya Hall (PG Students' hall in those days) before being requested by the government to organise the Tripura Engineering College in Agartala.



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Prof. Dasgupta became its founder Principal, where he served from 1965 till 1982. Prof. M. L. Dasgupta leaves behind his wife, son, daughter, grandchildren and numerous pupils to mourn his death. His son Sanjay, also an ex-student of BEC ('69 ME), is currently serving with ISRO.

Nirmalya R Das, 1960 EE

Nirmalya Ranjan Das, our fellow alumnus, breathed his last on October 7th, 2011 around 7.00 A.M. at Kasturba Gandhi Hospital, BHEL, Bhopal after a brief ailment. He was cremated at Bhopal. He was born in 1935 in Birbhum. After graduation, he joined Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (now a PSU under Nabaratna category) at its Hardwar unit as its first Batch where he rose to the rank of Additional General Manager of its Bhopal unit at the time of his retirement. He was also among the first Batch of Engineers deputed by BHEL for a few years training at famous Electrosila Plant at the then USSR in early sixties.

He was of colourful character and dynamic in nature. He was an active worker as well as one of the office bearers of Bangiya Sanskritik Samiti, BHEL, Bhopal and Kalibari Samiti, Bhopal for a prolonged period. He leaves behind him, his bereaved wife Sunanda and two sons. We would like to convey our condolences to his bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace!

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