



# Alumni Link

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

Volume 8, No 3, December 2007. <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](mailto:gaabesu@gmail.com) and write "Alumni Link" in the subject line. The following guidelines are followed in accepting materials for publication:

- 1) Comments, observations, and suggestions about any alumni activities and 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

The year is coming to an end. It has been a great tradition at the US universities to call the alumni/alumnae for the year-end contributions to their *alma mater*. There are two reasons for calling the alums at this time. First, it is Holiday time as Christmas is close and everyone is in a festive as well as in a giving mood. Second, the year-end contribution to any non-profit organization can be claimed as a deduction while filing tax return. The donations from the alumni/alumnae often constitute the biggest endowments in top-tier schools.

They donate so that their *alma mater* has enough resources to maintain top facilities and recruit extraordinary academicians so that they can attract top students. This is repeated from generation to generation. In India, IIT alumni have started this tradition by calling it "Guru Dakhsina". In ancient India, students used to go to Guru's house and study there without paying anything. At the completion of education, they used to pay "Dakhsina" to the Gurus. In engineering schools, we got education almost free and now when we are earning, is it not fair to pay "Dakhsina" to our *alma mater*?

For the fiscal year 2007, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, MIT, Columbia, U-Penn, Cornell and Dartmouth respectively raised \$614M, \$304M, \$254M, \$333M, \$913M, \$450M, \$406M and \$159M from their alumni. Their respective endowments totaled at \$34.9B, \$22.5B, \$15.8B, \$10B, \$7.2B, \$6.6B, \$5.4B and \$3.8B. In order to make BEC a world-class institution, we need to contribute. We cannot expect the government to do it for us.

Sir Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." Few NRI alumni/alumnae are trying to follow that through their donations for the benefit of the Institute. As most alums live in India, is it too much to expect that they open up their wallets a little bit towards the same goal? Let us start now. If each of NRI alumni donates \$150/year and alumni based in India donates Rs. 1000/year, we can generate about about Rs. 2.5 Cr/year (1750x\$150 + 15000xRs.1000). Is it a pipe dream? Wish all of you happy holidays!

*Note: Opinions expressed in this editorial are solely the Editor's and is in no way representative of the official position of GAABESU.*



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### GAABESU ACTIVITIES

#### 2007 Mentorship Program: A Promising Beginning

Over the last few years, many current students informally sought professional and personal guidance from our alumni. To meet those needs, GAABESU launched the first mentorship program in July 2007, with the full support & commitment from the VC, Deans, PICSA, and GAABESU Executive Committee. The outline of the program including its goals, implementation process and forms are available in GAABESU website at: [\[Click here for more information\]](#).

Our target for the first year was to have 50 students and 10-15 mentors. It has been a pleasant surprise to see that in just 4 months (Aug – Nov), 85 students and 21 alumni have enrolled in the program. By analyzing the data ([see website](#)), it has been found that Civil & Mechanical Engineering students are taking advantage of the program in higher numbers compared to their counterparts in Electrical, CST or ETC. It has also been noted that North American alumni have overwhelmingly responded to be mentors. More participation from India-based alumni is required. And a surprise – more and more students (~50%) are looking to do their higher studies in India, and not abroad.

Over the next 2-3 months, feedback from the students and mentors will be sought and one or two “mentorship” talks in the college will be organized. Soma Bhadra ('98CE, Australia), Biswarup Guha ('99CE, US) & GAABESU assistants deserve special credit for their efforts in launching and administering the program. Any suggestions/comments should be sent to, [mentor@becollege.org](mailto:mentor@becollege.org)

#### Emergency Fund Program Update

In the last two months two successful fund raising drives were completed by the Emergency Fund Committee to help the families of late Mr. Arup Ratan Ganguly (died on June 14, 2007) and Mr. Raghubir Sen (died on August 20, 2007). Fellow alumni donated generously in both cases.

An amount of Rs. 3,50,000.00 was handed over to Mrs. Ganguly so that she could maintain possession of their residential flat at Jadavpur. This was the primary goal of this fund raising drive.

To cover the funeral expenses of Mr. Sen, fund in the amount of \$2,606.00 was raised. This was an urgent appeal and the response of our alumni was great.

Separately, friends of Kamal Das, '84CE, have raised nearly Rs. 2.5 lakhs until the first week of December to defray a portion of the medical cost. He is suffering from carcinoma of the lungs. BECAA Delhi chapter contributed to this fund drive too. Send your comments to [emergency@becollege.org](mailto:emergency@becollege.org).

#### GAABESU Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Scholarship Distribution Ceremony

GAABESU Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Scholarship distribution ceremony were held on Oct 13, 2007 at the Alumni Seminar Room. All who applied for GAABESU scholarships and recommended by the Interview Team (BESU officials & faculty members), have been awarded scholarships & grants. As there were a number of applicants with financial need, the global alumni community was urged to sponsor additional scholarships. Our alumni community responded to the request immediately and helped to bridge the gap between high demand (97 applicants) and available scholarships (52 scholarships & 10 book grants announced on July 30). As a result of this drive, no applicant returned home empty handed. This is indeed a great accomplishment for GAABESU.

In this year of BESU's historic 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, GAABESU is pleased to announce that it distributed a total of Rs. 8,14,000 to BESU students in Scholarships and Grants [\[Click here for more information\]](#).



Award ceremony at BESU organized by GAABESU



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### GAABESU Membership with Institute Caution Money

In order to enroll more new graduates to the GAABESU, about six months back, two of our Executive Committee members and one Permanent Invitee met with BESU administration and came up with a plan to use the caution money as a partial payment towards the membership fee with the consent of the new graduates. We are pleased that nearly 100 alumni of the class of 2007 have already joined GAABESU under that plan. GAABESU requests the rest of the class of 2007 to join the organization in the same way.

Application forms, showing consent to transfer the BESU caution money to GAABESU to be used as membership fee, are available at the office of the Controller of Examination as well as in the GAABESU Office (also available on-line) [[Click here for details](#)].

### CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

#### Formation of BE College Foundation, USA (GAABESU, USA)

- Submitted by [Amitabha Chatterjee](#), 83EE, NJ

There has been a lot of activity aimed at improving various aspects of our beloved *alma mater*; however, they have been the result of a few individuals working in a regional/local (mostly CA, NJ, DC and TX) setting. A need has been felt to raise these activities to a national level. Towards that end, we are pleased to announce the formation of BE College Foundation, USA. The foundation will be a non-profit organization devoted to helping GAABESU with its goals and objectives. There will be no membership fees or dues of any kind to join this foundation. A communication method will be created to reach all alumni in the US and this foundation will act as the vehicle for involving the US based alumni in GAABESU activities.

Alumni who expressed interest towards BESU activities, but are not in the GAABESU Executive Committee, volunteered to be the members of the foundation Executive Committee. The foundation Executive Committee members will work closely with GAABESU Executive Committee members & private individuals from USA to drive alumni activities in the USA. The foundation office bearers are currently engaged in registering

the organization within the US and obtaining not-for-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Further details will be made available as soon as possible.

#### Updates from BECAA Canada (BECAAC)

- Submitted by [Sunit Datta](#), 81ETC

BECAAC is a federally registered non-profit organization, and has been functional since 2003-04. The organization consists of regular members (alumni/alumnae), associate members (non-BESU alumni) and student members. Ontario (~ 70 members) and Alberta (~ 25 members) are the two provinces where most of the members reside. The members are involved in different activities like networking, mentoring, and providing a helping hand to newcomers to get settled in Canada. The URL to its website is [www.becaac.ca](http://www.becaac.ca).

Three events (General Body Meeting, Cultural Function and Picnic) have been held every year since 2005. As the North American Bengali Conference of 2008 will be held in Toronto on 4th – 6th July, BECAAC will act as hosts of our alumni meeting. Members of BECAAC cordially invite all alumni to attend the meet and wish that the visit to the beautiful city of Toronto be enjoyable.

#### BECAA Hyderabad Chapter

- Submitted by [Koustav Biswas](#), 00ME, Hyderabad

The BECAA Hyderabad Chapter has initiated a process to organize a technical seminar in association with the Institute of Engineers, Hyderabad Chapter. The topic of the seminar has been finalized as "Role of IT in Infrastructure Development" and the date is set for Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008. A seminar sub-committee has been formed to make the event successful [[Click here for details](#)].

#### BECAA DC Chapter Bijoya Sammelani

B E College Bijoya Sammeloni - 2007 was hosted by BECAA-WMA at Germantown community center, MD on Sunday, November 11. This was an evening filled with fun, frolic and nostalgia! The occasion was made colorful with songs, flute, dance, concert and spirited conversation on B.E.College Alumni Association, Washington D.C Chapter. Four course of home-cooked meal was served to satiate varied palates.



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The enthusiastic participation of a large number of alumni with their families made the evening a grand success.

### BECAA East Coast Chapter Bijoya Sammelani

- Submitted by [Arindam Mukhopadhyay](#), 90ME

BE College alumni in NJ area celebrated a "gharoa" Bijoya Sammelani on November 11 in Princeton, NJ. This has now become a tradition that started 2 years ago along with their annual roster of much larger summer and winter reunions. In the true spirit of Bijoya, this was a pure "potluck" party. Barnali Ghosh ('94 Met) and Suparna Basu ('83 ETC) were the prime movers.

Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah with their families. The parents of the birthday-girl deserve special mention here for paying cordial personal attention to each and every guest about their enjoyment, and their imaginary discomforts! The gathering had its share of nostalgia with the usual exchange of college tidbits, much to the disgust of some of the spouses who has had to hear the same for may be the 'n'th time – but to hardcore BEC-ites like us, those were music to the ears – the more, the better.



The event was attended by over 50 alumni/alumnae. The chapter is eagerly looking forward to the winter reunion, which usually attracts 100+ people. [\[Click here for more information\]](#).

### BEC Alumni Meet in Dubai

- Submitted by [Tanusree Chakraborty](#), 91CE

For the past few years, 8<sup>th</sup> November has become the unofficial reunion date for the BE College alumni residing in the UAE (the official occasion being the birthday of Mohana, only daughter of Manojit De, '87CE). This year was no exception, and many enthusiastic participants flocked the place from Abu

### ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

#### Badal Sircar ('47CE)

- Based on a recent interview with Ms. Sebanti Sarkar of The Telegraph

One of our most distinguished alumni, Sudhindra Sarkar ('47CE), lives in a Dickensian house on a sinewy lane of North Kolkata. That was his identity before he burst into the theatre world in the sixties as Badal Sircar, one of post-independent Bengal's most poignant playwrights. Although he never thought of career in theatres, for some reason, he liked to read dramas from his childhood and continued it through his college-going period. His exploration of western drama began with Bernard Shaw. "Shaw was an instant favorite. I ran through most of his plays by the time I was in college – Shibpur's Bengal Engineering College. I scraped through to qualify, as a Civil Engineer but was terribly frustrated in the process. In deference to conventions, the family dreamt of me as a doctor or engineer," he wrote.

However, BE College may have subconsciously honed the playwright in Sircar. He voraciously lapped up Moliere, Sheridan and Eugene O'Neill. "Couldn't put my teeth into



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Shakespeare till then. I was irresistibly drawn to the humor of Shaw and Moliere and O'Neill's grimness," wrote Sircar introspectively.

Between 1947-53, he had thrown up the construction job at Nagpur 'in desperation.' He wrapped up two civil engineering lectureships in Kolkata, a protracted one at Jadavpur University. After all these, when he finished a two-year town planning course from BE College, he at last found an academic discipline to fall in love with. For Mr. Sircar at 82, the past is coming back in many ways. In a recent interview with Ms. Sebanti Sarkar of The Telegraph, Mr. Sircar told her that he is in the midst of writing the third volume of his autobiography *Purono Kashundi* (Translation: Old Mustard Sauce), of which the first two volumes are out.

*Purono Kashundi* took readers on a lively jaunt through his childhood in north Calcutta, Darjeeling and Dehra Dun, and his days at BE College and Damodar Valley Corporation. Part II of *Purono Kashundi* narrates Sircar's experiences as a foreign student and professional in a world still nursing its wounds from colonial rule. "The third volume should be more interesting because it will feature the birth of Satabdi," said Sircar, smiling as if to say this is where *Purono Kashundi* might also reveal its pungent side in Sircar's recollections of the Bengali theatre scene. The first signs of it appear in Part II, Tapan Roy's Theatre Centre, Sombhu Mitra, Bohurupee and Nandikar find mention as well as the "disaster" that was the *Shouvanik Ebong Indrajit*.

Would he never write another play? Doesn't contemporary happenings excite him? "Yes, the Rizwanur case as reported in The Telegraph interests me. I realize this is the best time to hire the police for your dirty work. Mercenaries, if caught, would have to go to jail and run the risk of getting hung, but the worst that can happen to a policeman is a transfer," laughs Sircar, calling for tea.

### EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Silver Jubilee of 1982 Batch

Date & Time: 23rd December '07;

Venue: Institute Hall

Brief Agenda/Program:

- a. Registration and Breakfast: 9 AM to 10AM

- b. Campus tour with narration by our friends and photo session: 10 AM to 11 AM
- c. Business meet and felicitation: 11 AM to 1:00 PM  
Luncheons: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
- d. Cultural events: 2:30 PM - 7 PM (Any new idea is welcome)

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Sushil Chandra Das ([sushil.das@hpl.co.in](mailto:sushil.das@hpl.co.in))

[\[Click here for details\]](#)

#### Silver Jubilee of CST

25th Anniversary of the Department of Computer Science & Technology (CST), Bengal Engineering & Science University, Shibpur, is going to be celebrated during the academic session 2007-08. Grand finale will be observed with a colloquium titled "Recent Trends in Computing - in the perspective of Applied Research". Dates for the event would be January 12-13, 2008 [\[Click here for details\]](#).

#### NGMS

NGMS 2008 - 'Centre of Excellence on Soft Computation in Materials Science & Engineering' (COE) and 'School of Materials Science & Engineering' (SMSE) will be organizing the 2nd International Conference on Neural Network and Genetic Algorithm in Materials Science and Engineering (NGMS) on January 9-11, 2008 [\[Click here for details\]](#).

#### Sesquicentenary Lecture

Sesquicentenary Lecture on 'Science In The Future Of India' will be delivered by Professor C.N.R. Rao, F.R.S. National Research Professor and Honorary President & Linus Pauling Research Professor Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, India on Friday, December 21, 2007 at 10:00 hrs at Institute Hall, University Campus. – [Registrar.](#)



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In case you did not send your recent address to GAABESU, please fill-up your information and send it to GAABESU.

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State\*:

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Country\*:

4 digits graduating Year\*:

First Degree at BEC/BESU\*:

Other Degree(s) at BESU or Elsewhere:

Department\*:

Hostel Name(s):

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Cell/Mobile Phone:

Company Name, in Any:

Primary E-Mail :

Secondary E-Mail:

[\* Compulsory Fields]

Please fill up the form and send it either on-line or postal mail

- 1) <https://www.becollege.org/members/AddName.asp>
- 2) Email: [gaabesu@gmail.com](mailto: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.  I am not a member of GAABESU. I like to become a (life/annual) member. Please advise me how to become a member.
- ii.  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.
- iii.  I am interest to know more about GAABESU Scholarship Programme.
- iv.  I am interest to know more about GAABESU Mentorship Programme.
- v.  I am interest to know more about GAABESU Emergency Fund Programme.
- vi.  I am interest to know more about GAABESU Corpus Fund.
- vii.  I am interested in visiting BESU campus/delivering a seminar/workshop.

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