



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, 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

BESU Students' Union

In the last two/three years BESU has been in the media spotlight for all the wrong reasons. They have come whenever there has been some good news about the institute. Our alumni/alumnae have been dismayed at these incidents and have wondered if they have a role in mediating the problems. Although our GAABESU's constitution bars us to take any active role in the affairs of the college, we think as one of the stakeholders of the institute, we should provide constructive suggestions to the students as well as to the administration. From all the media reporting, it appears a lot of these incidents have taken place due to inter-union rivalries and have continued since strong actions were not undertaken by the administration.

However, rather than trying to find fault with anyone involved, let us see what can we suggest so that such incidents do not happen again. The main difference that we see between the old days (pre-eighties) and now (post-eighties) is the absence and presence of party politics in the students' union. Do we really need political parties involved in these unions? What do the students of well-known schools do? If one looks at the premier institutes in India (IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, ISIs), one can clearly note the absence of such incidents that have been taking place at BESU at a regular interval. Absence of party politics in the students' unions in those school and involvement of the students in extra-curricular activities are primary reasons for maintaining peace in the campus.

In the world-renowned schools in USA (like MIT, Wellesley College, Carnegie Mellon University, Columbia University, Boston University and University of Pittsburgh with which our alumni family has connections), the students' unions, also known as Student Governments (SGs), are elected on a non-party basis and are primarily involved in the welfare of the students. They advise respective University administrations about student issues; in turn, the administration seriously considers their concerns and accepts their suggestions more often than not. All these schools are located in the liberal areas of the country but the liberal party (Democrats) never tries to impose their will on the SGs. The students are there to learn and do not want to waste any time with party politics. The graduates from these institutions are highly sought by the industries and in time, they become the movers and shakers in the society. It has been reported that one national students'



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union has requested MHRD to allow them to keep their entity as it is and practice party politics. It is my hope that when BESU becomes IEST, the administration will follow the best practices of the schools in India and USA and do not recommend move to keep party-affiliated unions in the campus. It is the only way to keep peace in the campus and also our hope that in time, our Alma Mater becomes great institute like those in USA by following their practices.

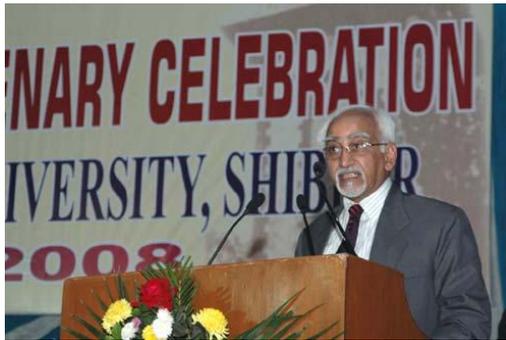
Note: The editorial is representatives of the thoughts and beliefs that are solely the editor's and are not representative of the official position of GAABESU

BESU ACTIVITIES

150th anniversary closing ceremony

Submitted by Amitava Ray, '90ARCH

Bengal Engineering College (presently Bengal Engineering & Science University) is celebrating 150 years of its glorious past worldwide. Finally, it was time to conclude the year long global celebration of this historic year for B.E. College (BESU) at the campus. The Vice President of India, Mr. Mohd. Hamid Ansari, delivered the keynote address at the Closing Ceremony of the Sesqui-Centenary Celebration, on Thursday, Jan 17, 2008 .



Following is the text of the Vice President's address on the occasion:

"It is an honour for me to be present today at the closing ceremony of the Sesqui-Centenary celebrations of the Bengal Engineering and Science University. It is a unique experience to be in an institution founded in 1856, one year prior to the first war of independence. It has also been a long journey from the Bishop's College in British India to the Bengal Engineering

College in independent India, then on to a deemed University and finally to a State University. What began as a college to meet the requirements of trained engineers for the PWD Department has today blossomed into a premier academic institution that has made significant contributions to the development of engineering and technology studies in India and I am confident will continue to do in the India in the future.

Engineering and technical education in the country occupies a critical role in our knowledge economy. While India produces over 400,000 engineers every year, it is nowhere close to the number of engineers required by our industry and economy. The skills deficit that we face in our country needs to be remedied at the earliest. Remedial measures have a long gestation period, yet the first step in that direction must be taken today. I would like to emphasize on four issues that must be addressed to raise the standards of technical education in the country.

First, the general quality of engineering and technical college faculty in the country leaves much to be desired. Our premier engineering colleges fail to attract and retain the best of their faculty. We need to revisit the terms and conditions guiding the appointment of faculty members and have systemic flexibility to enable engineering institutions to attract and retain talented faculty.

Second, industry-academia interaction is currently limited to some of the elite institutions and is not a generic feature of engineering and technical institutions. This should be remedied and the curriculum and teaching methodologies should take into account the relevance of engineering education for Indian industry and economy. The first step towards enhancing interaction of engineering colleges with industry is through the faculty of these institutions. We must facilitate their temporary movement to the industry to gain experience and knowledge of the latest and best industry practices.

Third, engineering and technical institutions should serve as foci of research and development activities. Unfortunately, over the years, engineering colleges have not fostered R&D activities. Engineering research continues to be undertaken in specific government institutes. This needs to change.

Fourth, the inter-linkages between the various levels of the engineering and technical education pyramid have weakened over the years. The linkages between vocational and technical institutes, polytechnics, state-level engineering and technical colleges and elite national institutions such as NITs and IITs



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have frayed. The regulatory mechanisms governing these various levels are also different further weakening the exchange of information and expertise across them. We need to examine how best to strengthen such linkages.

I am happy to learn that the Government of India has identified this institution to be upgraded to an Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology. This is recognition of the service rendered by the institution to the nation over the last century and a half. Full credit for this illustrious heritage goes to the past and current community of faculty members, staff and students.

I once again thank you for inviting me to be the Chief Guest today and wish the faculty, staff and students all success in their endeavours and let me say that it is a great pleasure for me to be back in the city of Kolkata." [\[Click here for more information\]](#).

Technical Seminars in Electrical Engineering

Submitted by Dr. Mainak Sengupta, Asst Prof., Dept of EE, BESU

BESU Electrical Engineering Department along with IEEE-IAS Calcutta chapter hosted several alumni and prominent persons for the following technical seminars in 2007 at the Shibpur campus. This is part of an ongoing initiative where GAABESU hosts technical seminars and works presented primarily by interested alumni, working closely with BESU to organize them at the campus [\[Click here for more information\]](#). The following is a list of the 2007 presentations.

1. Simulation of Power Electronic Circuits (Dr. Mahesh B. Patil, Professor, Dept. of EE, IIT-Powai, Mumbai, INDIA) [10.05.2007]
2. Electronic Power Converters for Aerospace Applications (Dr. Biswajit Ray ('81EE), Professor, Dept of EET, Bloomsburg Univ., Pennsylvania, USA) [16.08.2007]
3. Nonlinear Dynamics and its importance in Electrical Engineering (Dr. Soumitro Banerjee ('81EE), Professor, Dept. of EE, IIT-Kharagpur, WB, INDIA) [16.08.2007]
4. Digital Signal Processing/ Digital Communications – A practical, cohesive and hands-on approach in MATLAB/ Simulink, co-hosted with GAABESU (Mr. Siben Dasgupta (67EE), Asstt. Professor, Dept of EE, Wentworth Inst. of Tech., Boston, Mass., USA) [23.08.2007]

5. Recent trends in Power Transmission & Control (Dr. Bikash C. Pal, Reader, Dept. of EE, Imperial College, London, UK) [28.08.2007]
6. Impulse Impedance of Grounding Systems and its effects on Tower Cross-arm Voltage (Dr. Tapan K. Manna, Project Executive, M/s Black & Veatch Corp., USA) [20.09.2007]

IEST Update

MHRD, Govt. of India sent a letter to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of WB stating their intention to upgrade BESUS to IEST (INI) from 2008-09 vide F.No.11-5/2006-TS-I dated Dec. 28, 2007.

The letter was posted in the website on 31st December 2007. However, the reporting of this issue in the media may have created an impression amongst the alumni that BESUS has already been upgraded to IEST (INI). The letter sent by MHRD is actually equivalent to a letter of intention for the said upgrade but not a formal Govt. Notification / Order which would formally declare the institute to be IEST (INI) and enable it to start receiving grants. Hence, the EC of the GAABESU has decided to put forth all its efforts to get the MHRD, GOI formally issue Notification/G.O. so that the upgrade to IEST (INI) can become effective at the earliest and well before the end of this financial year (2007-08) [\[Click here for details\]](#)

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

BESU 150th Anniversary closing ceremony – Oman

Submitted by Rajdeep Dutta, '88EE, Oman



To mark the conclusion of the worldwide celebration of 150 glorious years of B.E College (presently BESU), the alumni/ alumnae of Oman organized an unforgettable evening of



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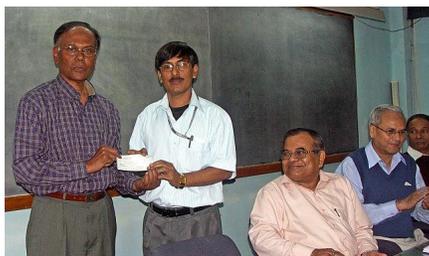
"NANDIKAR Theatre Festival", held in the Al Bandar ballroom at Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa. The group, Nandikar, comprising of Mr. Rudraprasad Sengupta, his wife Mrs. Swatilekha Sengupta and daughter Ms. Sohini Sengupta along with Mr. Parthapratim Deb and Mr. Anirban Roychoudhury presented three plays in succession throughout the evening. They were *Pata Jhore Jaye*, *Dulia* and *Nana Ranger Din*. This was Nandikar's first ever performance in the Middle East.



There was pin drop silence in the ballroom of Al Bandar as the audience watched the performances in rapt attention. They gave a standing ovation after each performance. Mr. Sengupta addressed the audience informally, in his own inimitable style. A cake cutting ceremony was held to observe the 73th birthday of Mr. Sengupta [\[Click here for more information\]](#).

Young Faculty Research Award Ceremony

Submitted by Dr. Biman Ghosh, '81MET, Ohio



The Young Faculty Research Award Ceremony was held on 11th January 2008. Dr. Salil Halder was the award winner for 2007. Dr. Sujay Mukherjee, HOD of AM Department welcomed the guests and the audience. Dr. Arun Deb addressed the audience on behalf of the Global Alumni Association. Dr. Dipak Sen Gupta explained the award process and the logistics. Dr. N. R. Banerjee, VC and Dr. Debasis Ghosh, Dean graced the

occasion with other HODs, faculty members and many other dignitaries. Dr. Arun Deb presented the award to Dr. Salil Halder [\[Click here for a photo album\]](#).

BECAA U.A.E. MEET

Submitted by Sudipta Ray, '87 Arch Dubai

The 4th annual get-together of BECAA UAE involving alumni and family across three emirates was held at Dubai Zabeel Park on Jan 25, 2008 [\[Click here for a photo album\]](#).



An intimate gathering provided the perfect forum to welcome new members, regret the absence of some who were held up due to other commitments and of course- share those timeless stories of our College, all over "refreshing" refreshments. It was discussed that while numbers of new alumni have increased in U.A.E. over the past few years, interaction has been limited as they are spread over 3 Emirates and other provinces. All members agreed that further interaction was required through more planned activities and social gatherings involving all 3 Emirates. Somnath Sinha Roy's unending enthusiasm and dedicated contribution will be sorely missed as he has decided to take an indefinite break from life in UAE to return to India.

Those great moments had to end with a promise to keep continuing with even greater spirit and participation of more alumni/alumnae [\[Click here for a report\]](#).

BECAA KUWAIT ANNUAL PICNIC

Like previous years, BECAA-Kuwait Chapter celebrated the 2007 outdoor annual picnic on 23rd November in the sea front 'Igalia Beach Park'. The extreme cold and windy weather could not beat the spirit and enthusiasm of the BE-collegians and their families to make the event a grand success. 12 members with their families turned up with a total headcount of 27.



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Amid chat and scattered jokes, the celebration started with *mukhorochok* snacks [[Click here for details](#)].

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tenth Annual Convocation - BESU

The 10th Annual Convocation of the University will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, Feb 16 2008 at the University premises. Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Chancellor of the University, will be presiding over the Ceremony. Dr R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt. of India and DAE-Homi Bhabha Professor will be the Chief Guest and deliver the Convocation Address [[Click here for details](#)].

Technical Seminar organized by BECAA-Hyderabad

BECAA Hyderabad is organizing a technical seminar in association with Institute of Engineers, Hyderabad Chapter. A seminar sub-committee has been created to make the event successful. The topic of the seminar has been finalized to be "Role of IT in Infrastructure Development" and will be held on Sat 23 Feb, 2008. [[Click here for details](#)].

BECAA Winter Meet in Princeton, NJ, USA

Like every year, BECAA will host the 2008 Winter Meet in NJ on Feb 16th from 6.00 PM to 9.30 PM at: Crown of India, 660, Plainsboro Road, Princeton Meadow, Plainsboro, NJ, 08536. The evening will be filled with nostalgia, update on college and IEST, cultural program by alumni & family, and will end with

dinner. Contact Suhas Ghosh (732-742-5818), Ajay Das (609-847-7618) & Debasish Basu (dbasu26@yahoo.com) if you have any question or comments. [[Click here for details](#)].

Seminar by B.E. College Ex-Students' Club, Bidhannagar

Ex-Students' Club, Bidhannagar, jointly with CE Division of The Institution of Engineers (India) - WB Chapter, has arranged a talk by Prof. Pijush Kanti Som – '50CE, former Dean, Faculty of Engg and Tech, Jadavpur University on HOW SAFE IS OUR CITY - ENVIRONMENTAL AND STRUCTURAL CONCERNS on 23 Feb 2008 at 6 PM at Ex-Students' Club, Bidhannagar, CK-14, Salt Lake City, Kolkata.

OBITUARY

Sri Amarnath Chakraborty ('68CE)

Contributed by Sri Amitabha Datta, 74CE

The former Director-General of Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Sri Amarnath Chakraborty ('68CE), a permanent invitee to the GAABESU Executive Committee and Chairman, GAABESU Fund Raising Sub-Committee passed away on February 9, 2008 in New Delhi, India. BESU alumni community and GAABESU executive committee are shocked at this sudden and untimely demise of an active and respected member of the BESU alumni community.



SHRI A. CHAKRABARTI

Sri. Amarnath Chakraborty graduated in Civil Engineering from B E College. He was conferred MI Struct E (London) and Chartered Engineer (UK) in 1973. After graduation, he joined the CPWD and retired from there as Director General (Works) in December 2007. Sri Chakraborty had around 100 technical papers to his credit with about 30 papers in international symposiums / seminars / journals. [[Click here for details](#)]



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[* Compulsory Fields]

- 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. 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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