



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

GAABESU – Report Card and Future

It has been more than three years since GAABESU came into existence. It is high time to evaluate its achievements. It was conceived about 4/5 years back when a few alumni were planning to celebrate BESU's 150th anniversary in a befitting manner and a few others were starting a campaign to convert BESU to an IIT (INI).

The thought was that if a global body of alumni could be formed, it could coordinate these activities, collect large funds and influence the government in deciding the importance of BESU's transformation to IIT(INI). It was also believed that scholarships and infrastructure improvement programs could be expanded through a global organization.

The effect of the formation of GAABESU has been mixed at best. While the BESU did not seek any help from GAABESU in the 150th anniversary celebration, the organization had to watch the same from the outside. So, our first objective was unachieved and that too for no fault of ours.

On a different front, most members of the GAABESU were unaware of the complexities and politics in the IIT (INI) transformation process while a number of GAABESU executive committee members were not interested in this effort. As a result, it is still being pursued by the same few alumni who started the process.

In case of infrastructure improvement programs, GAABESU is planning to rebuild the swimming pool (dry and in dismal shape for a long time) with the membership fees from the NRI members. However, it is doubtful that GAABESU will be successful in pursuing such ventures in the future as most of our alumni do not believe in donating money to any cause, beneficial to their Alma Mater. They believe they are entitled to almost free education, heavily subsidized by the poor tax-payers and that they owe nothing to anyone. This is why very few GAABESU EC members have pledged anything. While most of the top schools in USA, report alumni participation of 40%-50% during yearly fund-raising, it is probably less than 2% at BESU and most who participate are NRIs.

Only the scholarship program has been expanded quite a bit after GAABESU has been formed. It is partly due to the persistence of few alumni who have been handling this from



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before GAABESU was formed. It appears that it can move on without any formal help from GAABESU.

Therefore, our report card does not provide a hopeful picture about the future of GAABESU. With the initial excitement after the election of executive committee gone, it has almost become dysfunctional. Also, there is a big difference in perception as to the role of GAABESU among the alumni at India and abroad. This has caused many misunderstandings and has brought us to where we are.

Now, we ponder, if our GAABESU experiment should even continue! May be it is time to take a step back and put GAABESU activities on hold! Let us wait for the transformation of BESU to IEST and ask the new administration to take care of GAABESU activities under the stewardship of Dean or Director of Alumni Affairs (like any IITs/US schools). The alumni in USA are in the process of forming a non-profit foundation to raise money for BESU. GAABESU's charter may be modified to be an advisory board, concentrating on raising development funds from Indian and Middle-East alumni.

Note: The editorial reflects the opinions and thoughts of the editor only. It is not at all representative of the official position of GAABESU.

BESU ACTIVITIES

10th Annual Convocation

The 10th BESU convocation was held on February 16. The convocation conferred degrees to 427 under graduate and 353 post-graduate students as well as to 13 doctoral candidates who have completed degree requirements and passed the examination during the academic session 2006-07. University medals were awarded to 35 undergraduate and graduate students who secured highest marks in different disciplines.

President's Medal was awarded to the student who scored highest among the 9 undergraduate disciplines. The Best Student Medal and Best Student Project Award, in the discipline of Computer Science and Technology, instituted by Tata Consultancy Services were given away during this convocation.



At this convocation, Prof. Jayanta Kumar Sen, Prof. Nripendra Chandra Sinha and Prof. Amitava Dasgupta were honored as the outstanding teachers of the Institution, while Shri Badal Sarkar, Shri Buddhadeb Dasgupta and Prof. Samir Rakshit were honored as the illustrious alumni [[Click here for details](#)].

BESU students receives design awards

[Source: The Telegraph](#)

The fourth Pidilite Award for Excellence was held at a city hotel on February 15. A market leader in consumer-specialty chemicals since 1959, Pidilite Industries Ltd has taken an initiative to promote excellence among students pursuing architecture and interior design.

The award for Best Environmental and Ecological Architecture went to Soham De of BESU. For one of his projects he had to design a museum. "My project incorporated the three elements: object, artery and light. I used skylights to minimize external light source," he said.

Mahafuj Ali of BESU and Saumya Chakrabarti of JU won the awards for Optimum Space Utilization.



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BESU Collaborative Project:

ASCE's 2008 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award (OCEA) Finalist

Arsenic poisoning affects nearly 100 million people living in Bangladesh and West Bengal, India due to naturally occurring arsenic found in drinking water drawn from underground sources. While the problem may seem complex and difficult to address, the solution is actually easy-to-operate and culturally compatible. That solution, arsenic removal units (ARUs), was recently named one of five finalists for the 2008 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award (OCEA) presented by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This year's award-winning project will be announced at ASCE's annual Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Awards Gala on Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Va.

The project resulted from a long-standing collaboration between Lehigh University in Pennsylvania and Bengal Engineering and Science University in India and was partly funded by Water for People [[Click here for details](#)].

GAABESU ACTIVITIES

Shankar Bose ('67CE) of GAABESU donates Rs. 1 lakh

GAABESU Award and Recognition program received a boost when Mr. Shankar Bose, Kolkata, donated Rs. 1 Lakh to fund a new category of award introduced by GAABESU, thus extending the successful scholarship [[click here for details](#)] and admission grants program.

The Scholarship program, started by a few alumni in Northern California more than ten years back is now being run by the Scholarship Sub-committee (SSC) under the auspices of the newly formed GAABESU, for the last two years. Under GAABESU, the program has moved globally and alumnae/alumni from different parts of the world contribute about Rs. 10 lakhs to award nearly 100 merit-cum-means scholarships to the BESU students in 2007-08.

With the overwhelming success of the scholarship program, GAABESU expanded the scope to award Admission Grant [[Click here for details](#)] for the needy incoming students from 2006-07 session. While, these awards have been need-based, GAABESU has been exploring ways to undertake another program to award the students for their "Excellence" in different fields. Towards this goal, GAABESU has started campaigning to raise money from its alumni/alumnae. GAABESU is pleased to announce that Mr. Bose's donation will establish the first "Award for Excellence" in academics.

It will be called "Prof. Naresh Chandra Bose Award for Excellence in Civil Engineering" to be given to the student who will have the highest aggregate marks in the Dept. of C.E. at the end of eight semesters. This is one of the largest of individual donations from an alumnus living in India although few of our alumni in India have donated to the scholarship program in the recent past. We hope other alumni will follow Mr. Bose's example and donate money to establish such awards in memory of their beloved ones [[Click here for additional information](#)].

Students' Activities since last publication of Alumni Link

- 1) University students' football team participated in Vidyasagar Trophy – 2007-08 organized by Indian Football Association on 07.02.2008 at Howrah Municipality Stadium.
- 2) Students' Annual Athletic Meet 2008 was organized on 23rd February. A large number of students participated and attendance of girl students were noteworthy. The famous physically challenged swimmer Shri Masadur Rahaman Baidya was invited on this occasion to spread a message of courage and strength. He lost both his legs in an accident in his childhood. In spite of the heavy odds, he crossed the English Channel and the account of his mental strength is being taught as an example and is included in the Standard II texts of the West Bengal Board. Vice Chancellor of BESU presided over the function [[click here for an album](#)].
- 3) BESU football team participated in Invitation football match on 04.03.2008 at ISI Calcutta on the occasion of their 75th anniversary celebration.
- 4) Inter-hostel volleyball tournament started from 03.03 2008.
- 5) SPICMACY organized a classical music function on 17.03. 2008. Dr. Santanu Karmakar, HOD, Mechanical Engineering played a key role in organizing the event.



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CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

All India Technical Conference organized by BECAA – Hyderabad

Submitted by Koustav Biswas, '00ME

A two-day All India Technical Conference on "Role of IT in Infrastructure Development" was successfully organized by BECAA - Hyderabad Chapter along with the Institution of Engineers, AP Chapter on 23-24 February at the Seminar Hall of the Institution of Engineers, Hyderabad.

The conference was attended by eminent professionals from industry and academia including State Ministers, Director of NIT, Warrangal and policy makers from government and speakers from organizations like Microsoft and CA.



The offices of the President of India, the Vice-President of India, the Prime Minister of India, the Chief Minister of AP and the Vice Chancellor of BESU had conveyed their best wishes for the conference.

East Coast (NJ Chapter) Winter Meet

Submitted by Amitabha Chatterjee, '83EE

On Feb.16, East Coast (NJ Chapter) organized their winter-meet. I gave a talk on the status of IEST Shibpur USA foundation. Others such as Dhiraj-da, Subrata-da, Sumitra-di, Saroj-da and Arindam were also in attendance. Overall, It was quite a successful event.

There were a couple of announcements by Ajay-da on behalf of the NJ chapter. One of them was to organize a monthly seminar in the East Brunswick library.

Golden Jubilee Celebration for BEC Class of '58

Submitted by Debabrata Kar, '58CE

On 20 Jan, Sunday, the class of '58 and their contemporaries celebrated the Golden Jubilee (50th Year) of their graduation from BE College. Many alumni came for the programme from USA, Canada, Delhi, Mumbai and other parts of India.

A whole day get-together for batch mates and their spouses was held at the BESU Guest House. The programme included morning tea, lunch (Bengali style) and afternoon tea. The other items were chit chat, musical performance by batch mates and spouses, recitation, jokes, recollection of our college days, and visiting the old hostels. Some of the attendees were visiting the campus after as long as fifty years! Some of them had to introduce themselves. It was really a strange and a very pleasant experience for all of us!

About 80 people attended the get-together. Dr Santanu Karmakar, General Secretary, GAABESU and HOD ME, also joined the celebration with his family and had lunch with us. We all thank Santanu and the other BESU faculty members who participated in the function.

Overall the programme was a great success, All agreed to meet again during the current year- the 50th year of our graduation from BE College."

ALUMNI NEWS

A new theory changes the thinking behind creating robots and smart machines

Asim Roy ('71ME), Professor, Information Systems at the W. P. Carey School of Business, was on sabbatical at Stanford University in 1991 when several years of thinking about the operation of the brain and artificial systems inspired him to act. In a message to the leading Connectionist scholars, he threw down the gauntlet, challenging the prevailing school of thought and thereby the very foundations of the technologies behind smart machines and artificial intelligence.



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"There was a Connectionist mailing list [online] and I just came flat out and said, 'Hey, all of your theories of brain-like learning don't make sense,'" said Roy. In order for the Connectionist theories to work, he said, they would require what he labeled "magic." While claiming a sprinkle of magic may have been acceptable during the days of alchemy, it did not go down easily in 1991. Roy's colleagues around the world did not take kindly to his blunt, confrontational postulating. Read full story in [Knowledge W.P Carey](#)

Activities of Dr. Ajit Chattopadhyay, Visiting Professor at UTFSM, Valparaiso, Chile

Dr. Chattopadhyay, IEEE Fellow & Ex-Distinguished Lecturer of IEEE-IAS and Emeritus Professor, BESU, Shibpur, India, visited the Dept. of Electronics, UTFSM, Valparaiso, Chile at the invitation of Prof Jorge Pontt, Professor, Dept of Electronics and Director, Millenium Nucleus Power Electronics and Mechatronics (NEIM Chile) to deliver technical talks , to have technical discussions and attend a technical meeting and workshop on Power Electronics Applications and Challenges, 11-12 March at UTFSM.

Dr. Dulal Goldar ('67CE) Retires as Principal

After graduating in '67, Dulal Goldar joined Punjab Engineering College as Asstt. Prof. 1968 and stayed there until 1983 as Assoc. Prof. He moved to Delhi College of Engineering as a Reader in 1983 after receiving his M.Sc and Ph.D. degrees from Punjab University. He retired in 2007 after serving as Professor and HOD of Civil Engineering and eventually as Principal of DCE. He is a Life member of GAABESU.

The First Woman Engineer in WB-
Ila Ghosh, '51ME

- Excerpts from The Telegraph dated March 9

She was a backbencher in college, a bridge enthusiast and is now a television addict. She is also the first woman engineer in West Bengal. She studied mechanical engineering. At 75-plus ("let my real age remain a mystery", she mischievously says), Ila (Majumdar) Ghosh is still ready to keep pace with time.



In 1947, the then education minister, Nikunja Behari Maity,

opened the doors of Bengal Engineering College, Shibpur (now Bengal Engineering and Science University), for women. Two got through the entrance examination. But one dropped out in the second year. Ghosh stuck on and graduated in 1951 to set an example. Not many women dreamt of being an engineer then.

"Those were the days when few women opted for a career and the handful who did, stuck to medicine. Although, I got through medical entrance, engineering was what I wanted to study" says Ghosh, seated in the drawing room of her Lake Place flat.

Studying in BEC turned out to be a memorable experience. "There was only one other woman in the entire batch. The boys were shocked, but we soon became good friends. We would chat, crack jokes with them and cheer them on at cricket matches. Never did we feel uncomfortable," Ghosh says. The principal and faculty were very protective about her, especially after she became the only female student in the college. "They were sometimes too protective. The principal did not allow me to take up Civil Engineering as that involved extensive field study. So I took up Mechanical Engineering."

Ghosh did her post-graduate training from the Glasgow-based company Barr and Stroud. "The principal would not hear of me doing an apprenticeship in India. He felt I would be very uncomfortable in a workshop full of boys. I was initially worried whether my father would be able to shoulder the financial burden. But he agreed," she says. After her training, she was not finished with setting examples. She took up a job in the ordnance factory in Dehra Dun, where she lived alone in the staff quarters. "My parents were so worried that they forced me to take a servant along." Six month later, she took up a lecturer's post in Delhi Polytechnic.

Marriage brought her back to Calcutta. She first joined the Institute of Jute Technology as a lecturer, and then moved to be the Principal of Women's Polytechnic on Gariahat Road. She was so successful in her positions at Calcutta that the UN chose her to set up a polytechnic college in Dhaka. Ghosh says her appointment came through with much difficulty. The WBG did not want to release her and she was initially reluctant to leave her home and two sons behind. But finally the love of a challenge prompted her to take up the one-and-a-half year contract. "Again I stuck to only courses in architecture and electronics and the project was a success," she said.



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It was in Dhaka that she rescued a Hindu widow, Kokila Saha, — who had lost her family to communal strife — and brought her back to Calcutta. She, old and bent, now still lives with her.

It has been some years since Ghosh has retired. So how does she spend the time now? "I take part in various bridge tournaments. Cards, the internet and television keep me always occupied," she says, smiling contently.

CONDOLENCES

A Tribute to Late Amarnath Chakrabarti, '68CE
- A person who stood by his convictions

By S S Chakraborty, '57CE

Shri Amarnath Chakrabarti, a fine blend of all things humane, breathed his last on 9th February. A well-regarded alumni of BESU, he was affiliated with GAABESU as well, as its Permanent Invitee. His sudden and untimely demise was a great shock to everyone.

Shri Chakrabarti ('68CE), reached the pinnacle of his profession by retiring as the Director General (W) of the Central Public Works Department, Government of India. He would be fondly remembered by one all there, and elsewhere, for having completed a wide range of landmark projects - roads, bridges, stadia, housing, institutional buildings, amongst various others. Refurbishing of the existing sports facilities in Delhi like the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, National Stadium, S P Mukherjee Swimming Complex, Indira Gandhi Stadium, are some of them. It was the continuing involvement and professional wisdom of Shri Chakrabarti that these facilities are being improved to meet the current-day global standards, and far more, to make these initiatives self-sustainable. He stands out for having led a team of engineering professionals for the new Parliament Building in Afghanistan [[Click here for additional information](#)].

As President of the Indian Building Congress, Shri Chakrabarti was at the forefront of interactions with the Planning Commission. He was the driving force in the compilation of the manual of specifications and standards to take up the General Pool Residential Accommodation initiatives on public-private-partnership mode. Shri Chakrabarti, over his long and glorious past, always endeavored to share his knowledge with

professionals, authored and published several papers of great technical relevance.

The vacuum created by the absence of this great soul from the world scene is beyond words, but the indelible imprint of his endearing personality, and the aura of his professional ingenuity, will remain vivid in our minds ever and always.

Ujjwal Chandra Mukherjee, '60EE & Communication.

Submitted by Koustav Biswas, '00ME

With great sadness and much regret we inform you of the untimely demise of Mr. Mukherjee on 13th March at 03:04 AM. He was suffering from throat cancer for few years and his health condition deteriorated in the last few months. We, BECAA AP Chapter & the GAABESU members commiserate with his family at their loss. May his soul rest in peace.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BECAA – UAE: Cultural Evening on 6th of June

Submitted by Tanusree Chakraborty, '91CE

BECAA UAE Chapter will be organizing a cultural evening on 6th June at India Club Dubai. The special attraction of the event will be a drama staged by the children and a BEC anecdote telling session by its alumni. There will also be solo and chorus songs and dancing programs and a skit on Rabindranath written by Mayukh Datta ('90CE).

BECAA - Gujarat based in Baroda

Submitted by Asim K Chaudhuri, '75EE

BECAA-Gujarat chapter will be organizing a cultural evening at Baroda on 20th April with artists from Kolkata and Baroda. On this occasion we are releasing a souvenir with some technical articles and certain memories of B.E.College and the present status of B.E.College.



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- 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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