



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 to IEST: A Better Option?

When the campaign to convert BESU to an INI began about five years back, most of us wanted it to be an IIT. Five institutes selected by the MHRD-appointed Committees were thought to be the most ready for conversion. However, alumni of IITs and their directors campaigned against this as they were extremely conscious of their brand image and did not want that to be diluted.

The Committees then came up with the idea of developing these five institutes as Centers of Excellence for graduate studies which will attract international students. They wanted these institutes to put emphasis on research and development so that the graduates from these schools can alleviate the shortage of technological teachers in schools like IITs.

Now, our Alma Mater has a chance to fulfill the mission that the Committee members articulated. As MHRD has already sanctioned to set up eight more new IITs and decided to upgrade BHUIT to an IIT, there will be sixteen IITs. With sixteen IITs, the exclusivity will be gone and brand IIT will definitely be diluted whether the current IITs like to admit it or not. As CUSAT also wants to be an IIT and AP Govt. is not sure about their schools, conversion of BESU into IEST will allow it to be the only institution of its kind just like another unique institution IISc. With the mission outlined by the committee, it will have the potential to be like IISc.

Our alumni/alumnae can play a major role in making our Alma Mater like IISc, probably the best research university in India. The alumni/alumnae who are faculty members at prominent universities or research institutes can initiate collaborations with them through faculty exchange or joint research. This will allow our faculty members to pursue advanced research and the graduates will also be exposed to the advanced curriculum.

Our alumnus, Dr. Nihar Biswas, '70CE, has already initiated such a program with the University of Windsor, Canada. We hope other alumni/alumnae will come forward & help develop relationships with the institutions, they are attached. It appears that it may have been a boon that BESU did not get converted to an IIT. If BESU can properly utilize this opportunity with the help of our alumni, there is immense potential for our IEST, Shibpur to become a premier research institute in India as envisioned by the MHRD – Appointed Committees.



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BESU ACTIVITIES

Update on IEST

Conversion of BESU to an Institute of National Importance (INI) which will be called IEST has been going through a roller coaster ride. As soon as it appears that the conversion is imminent, something happens and it gets delayed.

In the middle of the last month, the Joint Secretary, MHRD sent a letter to the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal stating that the conversion will be delayed due to the complexity in revising the National Institutes of Technology Act, 2007 (No.29 of 2007). However, the letter also mentioned that the UGC will be releasing funds for the upgrade of infrastructural facilities in 2008-09 as promised.

Then, on the 27th of May, MHRD sent a second letter to the VC in which it was stated that an accelerated process was intended for this conversion. Accordingly, MHRD decided to constitute a Committee to assess all administrative and financial implications of the take-over of the two State Universities, BESU, Shibpur and CUSAT, Cochin. The committee will have seven members including the VCs from BESU & CUSAT. Since then, CUSAT has chosen to drop out.

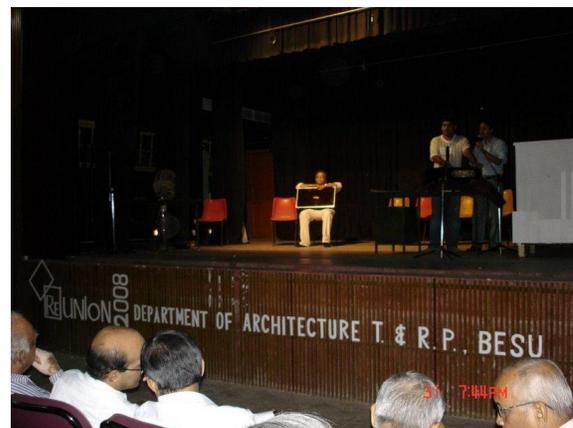
The committee is expected to submit its report at the earliest to enable approval of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) / Cabinet. The revised NIT bill will then have to be approved by the Central Cabinet before it is placed in the parliament. In the meantime, MHRD has asked BESU to meet with them next week to discuss the number of faculty, staff, and number of students to be admitted in the schools, other relevant details and how BESU spent their past grants and plan to spend grant money in the future.

We hope that all these issues will be resolved soon and our Alma Mater becomes an INI.

Reunion Architecture, Town and Regional Planning
- Submitted by Amitava Roy ('90ARCH)

An Alumni Meet was organized by the students of the Department on May 31, 2008, to reunite the past with the present. It has been a long time indeed, about nine long years, since December 1999, when the last Reunion/ Get-together

was been organized along with the golden jubilee celebration of our department. This must have been a long-awaited call for those who graduated in the 21st century. Around 75 alumni/ alumnae of this department have attended the event despite such a short notice. Though the student organizers expected a larger turnout, a number of recent graduates could not come as the day coincided with the marriage reception ceremony of a 2001 graduate.



Students of Architecture, Town and Regional Planning organized a departmental reunion on May 31, 2008 at BESU Campus



Display of work samples by the students and professionals



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We are fortunate that the weather was nice and clear, considering the time of the year which is frequented with *Kalboishakhi*-s. The Registration was scheduled to start from 4 PM in front of the Netaji Bhavan. I reached a bit late, though alumni from various batches were having *addas* in groups, busy in reminiscing their days in the department, talking nostalgically and wandering down the memory lanes. In the past, our departmental reunion used to be organized inside the drawing halls of the department, in its earlier location on the second floor of the main building (between first and second lobby).

Senior alumni and people around our batch must have yearned for a glimpse of the space, where they used to spend hours in front of the drawing board. Unfortunately, that space associated with so much of nostalgia does not belong to the Architecture department any more. We have been shifted to the 8-storied building (on the embankment road running east to west at the end of the campus) in 2005. At the first floor of the department, an exhibition of students' works was organized, which was sponsored by Godrej Furniture arranged by one of our graduates of 2005 batch. Including that, there were two sponsorships each of Rs. 10,000 and one from Bengal Ambuja arranged by Debasish Kar of 1985 batch.

In the evening, the Reunion function was held in the Institute Hall. Dr. Sibabrata Halder, HOD, Arch. T& RP along with some senior alumni were present on the dais. One of the senior alumni stressed on the need of an alumni body/ society of the department, which could include a students' chapter (like, SSAT at present). The HOD applauded the student organizers for their commendable efforts for the Reunion to make it happen within a rather short preparatory time, and just before the semester final exams. He also mentioned that the department is going to complete its 60 yrs of existence (1949-2009) in next year and urged the alumni community for their active support to make the Diamond Jubilee celebration a great success. Preparation for that should be started well in advance so that alumni staying far away can arrange their schedule accordingly.

After the brief spell of speeches, the cultural part started with some old departmental songs by 2-3 senior alumni- Abhijit-da, Jyoti-da etc. (60's and 70's) in chorus with a harmonium arranged from campus. Ambience of the Institute hall is much better these days, people would be happy to learn; it is now

air-conditioned and has a better seating arrangement although the stage remains almost the same. There were performances subsequently by Pallab-da ('81), Partha-da and Arup-da ('85). The students' performance was appreciated by the alumni, especially given their time constraint for rehearsal.

Around 8:30 in the evening, people started moving for dinner at Netaji Bhavan, so the cultural performance came to an end. We had a decent sumptuous dinner in a nicely decorated Netaji bhavan. Many of the alumni were moved looking at the Lord's ground and the hostels behind. It was really great to see so many old faces together after such a long time and to know their whereabouts. There were some alumni who came from Delhi or Jamshedpur to attend the event; at least two of our alumni (90's) who are now working in US, were in Kolkata at the time and were able to attend the meet. Those who could meet their Jockey-s and Ghora-s, were particularly delighted.

Entire credit for the success of the event goes to the students who initiated the move and took the pain in this peak summer to organize the event successfully. That concludes my note, and sorry for making it a bit long, even though I intended to keep it short.

BESU Faculty Members Visit North America

Prof. Santanu K. Karmakar ('83ME), Head of the Department, Mechanical Engineering visits Canada and the USA in June and July to advance the collaborative program initiated earlier with the University of Windsor and to explore similar opportunities with the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Karmakar is scheduled to meet ex-students and their families at the Alumni Meet held during the North American Bengali Conference at Toronto (NABC2008). Please contact Dr. Nihar Biswas, '70CE of the University of Windsor and Mr. Jyoti R. Sengupta, '54CE of Toronto for details.

Prof. Gautam Bhattacharya, '77CE, Head of the Department, Civil Engineering will visit USA in August 2008. He will attend the Sixth International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering at Arlington, VA 22202, organized by Missouri University of Science and Technology during August 11-16, 2008. Please contact Dr. Biman Ghosh, '81MET



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of Columbus, OH or Ms. Kalpana Majumdar (Sarkar), '87CST of VA for details.

GAABESU ACTIVITIES

JOIN ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME & HELP STUDENTS

The alumni scholarship programme in the present form was set up in 1998 to help meritorious and needy students. Now, students with documented financial needs are now being offered the opportunity to apply for scholarships to meet their costs of tuition, books and boarding.

In the last academic session (2007-08), a total of Rs. 8,24,000 was raised mainly through the contributions from alumni all over the world. This enabled GAABESU to award 73 full scholarships of Rs. 10,000 each, 3 special scholarships of Rs. 5,000 each, 15 book grants of Rs. 1000 each and admission grants totaling Rs. 45,000 for 5 students. An amount of Rs. 19,000 has already been collected for the admission grants for the 2008-09 academic sessions. Please [Click here for details](#) regarding Recipients in 2007-08.

The number of scholarships varies yearly depending on the funds available and the number of qualified applicants. A Scholarship Sub-committee has been formed by the GAABESU Executive Committee, where representatives from all participating Alumni Chapters in India and abroad co-ordinate with BESU faculty & administration. A scholarship management procedure has also been developed by the GAABESU to bring about a documented, fair and a transparent selection process. [Click here for details](#) regarding GAABESU Scholarship information & process.

Alumni from following Indian cities and other countries/ chapters/batches are participating or have participated in this programme: Mumbai, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, USA, Canada, UK, UAE, Oman, Kuwait, 1983 batch (USA), Oonoashi (1979) batch (worldwide) and 2000 Mechanical Engineering (worldwide). From this academic year (2008-09) alumni in Kolkata, Japan, Australia and 1990 batch (worldwide) will join in this programme.

A new "Award for Excellence" scheme has also been introduced from this year to reward meritorious & talented students, in addition to help financially needy students already covered by existing "Scholarships" and "Admission Grants" schemes. All alumni worldwide hereby are requested to participate in this programme whole-heartedly. The past donors are expected to continue their supports for this noble cause. Due to the increase in cost of education & boarding, full scholarship will be increased to Rs. 12,000/- each from the ensuing academic year. Any alumnus willing to participate in this programme as donor or like to know more about this programme could send e-mail to Scholarship@becollege.org for details.

Mentorship Programme

- *A report by a mentor, Soma Bhadra, '98CE, Australia*

I visited BESU on April 30th. I went to the alumni office, met with two of my mentees and talked with them for more than 1.5 hours. I was ready with a presentation, but neither any conference room was available nor the students were informed about the talk. Anyway, my meeting with my mentees was very successful, we talked one-on-one.

I met Dr. Anirban Gupta ('89CE) at his office. After some discussions, he invited me to talk to his 2nd year class about career choices.

We spent the whole class talking to the students about the various options they have ahead of them, the mentoring program by the Alumni association and the help they can receive from the ex-students. I also tried to inspire them to start thinking of their careers from 2nd year. It was past 4PM when we were done in class.

Unfortunately I was not able to meet Pratikda ('90MIN) after that. The offices were closed.

I had a positive experience at our Alma Mater. I would suggest that the mentorship program be advertised more widely in the campus. Several students did not know about this at all. Also, when ex-students visit and give talks, it is very helpful. Apart from institute-wide seminars, visiting a small class of 30-40 students and talking to them face to face and informally may be very rewarding.



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CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

BECAA AGM 2008
- Submitted by Biprasish Chaudhury ('75EE)

The AGM of BECAA was held in Toronto on May 25, 2008. It was attended by alumni and their spouses. The President and other Directors reported on their activities during year 2007-2008. The audited financial report for year 2007-2008 was tabled. A new slate of Regional Directors was elected. A number of important issues were discussed.



At the end of the formal meeting the alumni and their families had an informal get-together over dinner. A report is posted to the web site [\[Click here for a PDF version\]](#)

BECAA UAE Cultural Event
- Submitted by Tanusree Chakraborty ('91CE)

The BECAA-UAE cultural evening was a grand success – even better than what the organizers hoped and the attendees expected! The children drama 'Space Station' and the skit on Rabindranath Tagore gripped the attention of the audience and were highly applauded. *Boithoki* - the savory display of music, dance and recitation – punched with the usual dose of fun and enjoyment ended with a nostalgic after-dinner-story-telling session that was participated and enjoyed by all!

GAABESU related affairs and the scholarship programs were also discussed. A core committee is going to be formed soon to help the ongoing GAABESU drive move faster.



The great evening ended with a promise of more such events in the near future.

CONDOLENCES

Himangshu Kumar Bhanja, '53ME
Submitted by Biman Ghosh, (81MET)



A life member of GAABESU Himangshu Kumar Bhanja, '53ME, passed away on April 25, 2008 at 1:40 pm, in Zanesville, Ohio, USA after a prolonged illness.

Gobindo Chandra Roy, ex-Demonstrator, Architecture
- Submitted by Amitava Roy ('90ARCH)

A sad news for the alumni, the recent demise of our beloved Gobindo-babu (Sri G.C. Roy), a great human being, affectionate teacher and a father figure. All the sketches of the



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past principals and buildings displayed in the BESU board room were made by him.

He has expired in early hour on Sunday, June 08, 2008. He perhaps does not need an introduction to the Architecture alumni community - since the beginning of our department in 1949, almost all the batches till 2000 or so were his students. He was around 88 yrs, and was ailing since some time. Students went to his house to invite for the Architecture, Town and Regional Planning Reunion; he talked to them, was really interested after knowing about Reunion but was not in a state to come. We pray, may his departed soul rest in peace.

A personal note from Suddipto Chakraborty ('82ARCH) on GC Roy (provided by Dr Indra N Sinha ('82MIN) Professor, Department of Mining Engineering)

I do not know how to express my anguish. Gobinda-babu was actually much more than a drawing teacher – at least to me.

He was a demonstrator, probably, by designation, but he actually demonstrated quite a few things and qualities which are rare even in many highly qualified teachers, not just from Architecture but from any background.

He was a 'jeebonrosik', with a very positive spirit, and enjoyed life to the fullest – sports, angling, indoor games, driving and cycling. During the educational tours, he used to wear different local dresses at different places.

He took interest in new gadgets and could operate many machines even at those olden times. He procured one of the first transistor radios, one of the first sophisticated cameras, he could handle a photo lab, operate a movie camera and a film projector. He could knit very well - beautiful woolen items and all that proves his interest in multifarious activities. He was a superb sculptor and a portrait artiste. All those unforgettable drawing made by him....on our marriage, he gifted us a joint portrait of that he drew. We still have it.

He used to smile even at the rough times and we still try to learn this trick from him.

He loved us, we could feel it; and we have kept in touch. I told him the last time I met him that I would love to write an article

on him for our BEC 82 souvenir. I wanted to interview him this time, which I would never be able to do now.

His love for 'masima' and her love for him were legendary. It was nothing less than inspirational and there are hundreds of anecdotes on that.

The most important thing is that all the above qualities were revealed only to us, who loved and understood him. It would not take long to discover that the good person behind a humble appearance and small designation, Gobinda-babu, was much taller than his designation and much deeper than his appearance. I am glad that I could introduce my daughters to him, and that they had been blessed by him.

Manjari ('87ARCH) and I salute him and would remember him as long as we live.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BESU Alumni Meet at NABC 2008

Submitted by Jyoti R Sengupta, '54CE

Event: BECAA Reunion of Alumni/Alumnae of Bengal Engineering and Science University (erstwhile B.E.College/BECDU).

Host: B E College Alumni Association of Canada (BECAAC)
Venue: Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Room No.: 206 A

Date & Time: Saturday, 5 July, 2008, 1:00pm to 3:00 PM

Programme:

- [Time (pm) Description Speaker]
- 1:00-1:10 Registration
- 1:10-1:15 Welcome and brief history of
- BECAAC Chairperson
- 1:15-1:25 Self Introduction of Participants All participants
- 1:25-1:35 Experience of a new immigrant in Canada Dr. Shovini Dasgupta



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- 1:35-2:05 Alma Mater and GAA BESU News, Question and Answers, Dr. Santanu Karmakar, HOD Mech. Engg. BESUS
- 2:05-2:15 What the Global Alumni community can do to uplift the image of our Alma Mater All (Moderator: Chairperson)
- 2:15-3:00 ADDA

All Alumni/Alumnae and their spouses are welcome. Beverages, snacks and Bengali style lunch will be available for participants. BECAAC requests confirmation of your participation to:

Jyoti R. Sengupta '54CE,
E-mail: ranju@rogers.com
Telephone: (416) 269-8842

BECAA Maharashtra - Challenges of Engineering Education for Sustainable Development of India

Date & Venue: June 13, 2008, NPCIL Auditorium, Nabhikiya Urja Bhavan, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai 400 094

Tentative program

Session – 1:

14.30 – 14.35 Welcome by President, BECAA Maharashtra
14.35 – 15.05 Inaugural address by Session Chairman.
15.15 – 15.30 (Some important declarations)
15.30 – 16.00 Address by Chief Guest
16.00 – 16.30 Key note address

Session – 2:

16.30 – 18.30 Panel Discussion
1830 – 1835 Vote of thanks, General Secretary, BECAA Maharashtra
High Tea.

Dr. Kirit Parikh, Member Planning Commission has kindly agreed to be the Chief Guest. Dr. Srikumar Banerjee, Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Center has kindly agreed to deliver the Keynote address. Dr. S. K. Jain, Chairman and Managing

Director of Nuclear Power Corporation (I) Ltd. has kindly consented to Chair the 1st Session and deliver the inaugural speech. Prof. V. N. Gupchup, former Pro- Vice Chancellor of Mumbai University, Prof. A. K. Mishra, Director, IIT Bombay, Prof. N. R. Banerjea, Vice Chancellor, Bengal Engineering & Science University and Shri Arun Sur, an illustrious alumnus of BE College and President, Reliance Communications have kindly consented for Panel Discussion.

25th Anniversary of the class of '83

- Submitted by Amitabha Chatterjee, '83EE

It was 25 years ago when the class of 1983 ended their golden years at BE College and began their journey to put their imprints on the world. It was a big transition from a sheltered to an unsheltered world. Now, 25 years later, we will be celebrating this great occasion on Dec 27th and 28th of 2008.

The celebrations on the 27th of December will be held on the college campus. The venue for the 28th is still being decided and will be in the form of a river cruise on Hooghly.

We will be publishing a souvenir which among other things will list all the members of the class and any current information that the organizers have been able to gather.

Also, we have been raising funds for the past 3 years and will attempt make a significant donation towards some worthy cause in the college (e.g., scholarships) during the celebrations.

We have also organized a Yahoo-group to communicate with each other. If you are not yet members of this Yahoo group, please send an email to becollege1983-subscribe@yahogroups.com. You can also contact some of our class mates directly. You may choose to send an e-mail to Amitabha Chatterjee, EE at achatterjee@yahoo.com, or call Atin Dey at 91 98318 69618, Kusal Thakur at 91 98307 84865 or Abhijit Bhaumick at 91 98300 05263.

If you are not a member of the class of '83, but know someone who is, we would greatly appreciate if you could inform them of this event.



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Secondary E-Mail:

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