



# Global Alumni Association Newsletter, Bengal Engineering & Science University, Shibpur

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For comments or suggestions: Contact alumni web team at [gbecaa@yahoo.com](mailto:gbecaa@yahoo.com). Deadline for article submissions for next newsletter is September 30, 2005.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### BESUS TO AN IIT: IS IT BENEFICIAL TO WEST BENGAL?

Bengal Engineering & Science University (erstwhile BEC and now BESUS), College of Engineering & Technology of Jadavpur University and five other engineering colleges from other states have been short-listed by the Central Government for probable conversion to IITs. The managements of these institutes were requested by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) to present their visions of their schools in a meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> of July at New Delhi. Although State Governments where other five institutes are located are very interested in this proposition and lobbying for this conversion, West Bengal Government (WBG) is somewhat lukewarm to this idea. However, they have neither rejected nor embraced this proposal publicly.

So one wonders what the reasons behind this ambivalent attitude of WBG are. Is it not beneficial for the State of West Bengal to have more IITs when no other Universities other than University of Calcutta have any name recognition outside India? Is the name recognition not important for a new university like BESUS whose glorious past is completely forgotten now? If anybody objectively considers pros & cons of conversion, especially for BESUS, it will be obvious that WB's interests will be best served by this move. The advantages for this conversion are summarized below:

- a) A good percentage of the best and brightest students from WB are competing in the national engineering entrance examination and leaving the state to attend schools of national reputation (IITs, IISc, IT-BHU and BITS). This exodus of good students causes not only a huge intellectual loss but also to a smaller extent an economic loss to the State of West Bengal. Flight of good students leads to fall of standard in the state institutions. In addition, if BESUS is converted to an IIT, the State's revenue indirectly gets a boost by the spending of the IIT. In absence of this, the State of West Bengal is deprived of the additional revenue. Also, once the students leave the state, they seldom come back. As a result, WB loses human capital. Massachusetts in USA provides a good example of how a state benefits economically and intellectually from their top-tier universities. WB will similarly benefit if BESUS is accorded top-tier status as an IIT. If both BESUS and Jadavpur University are converted to IITs, Calcutta could



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become the Boston (MIT, Harvard) of India like Bangalore has become the silicon valley of India.

- b) As WB is trying to attract knowledge-based industry, additional IITs within the state will be of tremendous help to convince companies to move to WB. In this connection, one may look at the situation at Dallas, Texas. A number of corporations including Boeing Corp. did not move to Dallas even after the state offered a lot of financial help because it does not have any top-tier university. State of Texas is trying very hard to upgrade one of the local universities but it does not happen overnight. So when WB has a chance to do just that and be competitive with the rest of India, one wonders why they are not going for it. It must accept the proposal and take the necessary steps.
- c) IITs are Institutes of National Importance (INI) and they have earned worldwide recognition with respect to the quality of education as well as students. WBG is sure to be well aware of this. Graduates from IITs are more marketable throughout the world and as such, students from WB will benefit if the college becomes an IIT. Also once they graduate, a good percentage of them will stay around and thus will create an excellent pool of technical personnel within the state. In addition, some of them will start their own businesses which, in the end, will create more well-paid high tech jobs in WB.
- d) In order to make BESUS a true Centre of Excellence, it will need an enormous amount of money to upgrade its infrastructure and to attract top-grade faculty. Presently, WB Government provides a yearly grant of about Rs.16 to 20 Cr. to BESUS. On the other hand, MHRD's annual budget allocation for a typical IIT is about Rs.105 Cr. in the form of grants (about Rs.85 Cr. as non-plan and about Rs.20 Cr. as plan). Individual institutes also generate revenues from the sponsored research, consultancy etc. separately. From these sources, IIT-KGP earns most among all IITs. It is in the neighborhood of Rs.80. Cr./ year. Over and above this, IIT's revenue comes from the interest of the endowment, consultancy overhead and sponsored fees, donations, technology transfer royalties etc. IIT-KGP earns about Rs.40 Cr. from these sources. However as about half of it is common with the R & D earning, the actual budget of IIT-KGP, is about Rs.200 Cr./year. Thus, to be competitive with a typical IIT with respect to the infrastructure, faculty and other necessities, BESUS will need a yearly budget of about Rs.80 to 100 Cr.

It is impossible for the WBG to spend that much money to turn BESUS into a Centre of Excellence in the true sense. As MHRD is considering designation of BESUS to an IIT (thus, an INI and a real Centre of Excellence), the responsibility of funding will be theirs. WB Government will be relieved of the financial burden to run this institute and they could divert the savings to other engineering colleges for upgrading their infrastructure or to start another good college in WB which will again be enormously useful in these days of mushrooming substandard colleges. Those government colleges, in turn, will attract better students.

- e) Lastly, degrees from a new University like BESUS which does not have any name recognition outside the state does not carry the same weight as that from more-renowned institutions. As a result, it becomes difficult for graduates from this university to get proper recognition of their ability compared to the graduates of INI with respect to getting employment or getting admitted to the graduate schools outside India. When B.E. College was under Calcutta University (CU), it was easier to get into the top graduate schools in the west as CU is widely known throughout the world. Now-a-days, one seldom sees BESUS alumni from the '90s onwards even in the second-tier schools in USA.

Considering those facts, it is a no-brainer for WBG to accept MHRD's proposal. West Bengal is in a unique position to have three top-tier engineering schools (Shibpur, Kharagpur and Jadavpur) of India. In this context, the WBG should remember the fate of Calcutta Medical College. Just after independence, Mr. Nehru, the then PM of India, wanted to make the Medical College a national institution (AIIMS) but Dr. B.C. Roy, the then CM of WB, did not want to relinquish the control of the college to the Central Govt. and so Mr. Nehru set up AIIMS at New Delhi. This kind of short-term advantage for the ruling party creates long-term problem for the state. With the poor condition at the Medical College, WBG is now trying very hard to get it upgraded to AIIMS.

Similar situation arose when BEC's principal in the late fifties, Mr. A.C. Roy declined an offer to get a computer that went to CMERI, Durgapur. He simply did not understand the importance of computers. From sixties onwards until BEC got a computer, it had to depend on the goodwill of IITs and CMERI to get computer time for its researchers. As a result, research works at BEC suffered. Mr. Roy's lack of foresight in another case has made permanent damage to BEC. He did not find it necessary to fill the 36 posts of Professor sanctioned by the Central Government during the



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sixties (when technical education was experiencing expansion throughout the country) and ultimately, they withdrew the grant for financing the positions. Thus, though BEC was the FIRST institute in the country to start Master of Engineering course, the whole programme dwindled to almost nothing.

Unfortunately for WB, the lack of clear vision for the welfare of its residents has not been limited to the government officials. The trade union leaders had their share too. They vociferously opposed the installation of computers in industrial organizations in Calcutta in late sixties. As a result, those computers were moved to places like Bombay and Bangalore. Having been introduced to the computers earlier, they are now leading the IT industry while Calcutta is trying to catch up.

Having lived in the United States for over thirty years, I have noticed how states' representatives (congressmen and senators) look after the interests of their respective states. While Democrats and Republicans fight tooth and nail in the election, all representatives of a particular state irrespective of their ideology join hands when the interests of the their state are at stake. They ensure that their states get due share. Quite often, states with influential members get even more than their fair share. These people look at the interests of the people who elect them. In India, West Bengal's record in getting its due is abysmal since the seventies. A big part of this problem is the lack of vision on behalf of the ruling party to go beyond their short-term vested interests. It is the duty of the leadership to educate people to think beyond popular sentiments. The administration may lose popularity in the short-term but it will definitely help the state in the long run.

The present government under Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharya has started this process by taking steps that do not always cater to the interest of his party but are beneficial to the people of WB. This is quite encouraging and it must continue. Lack of foresight and trying to get short-term political advantage (like losing control of an institution) have cost quite a bit to WB in the past and it should not be repeated. If WBG fails to pursue MHRD's offer, colleges from other states will be accorded INI status and interests of the future generation of WB will suffer. West Bengal has fallen behind other states in many areas during the past 30-35 years and it is now trying to make up the lost ground. Here is a great chance to improve the situation in one of the very important areas (engineering education in WB) and WBG must avail it. It is high time for them to stop dithering and initiate the process of converting BESUS to an IIT.

### BESUS IN THE NEWS

#### Formal Inauguration of BESUS

*(Press Release - Formal Inauguration of BESUS - Wednesday, July 13, 2005, updated with President's speech on July 29, 2005)*



In a solemn but memorable ceremony, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, President of India, formally inaugurated Bengal Engineering & Science University, Shibpur on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2005. Despite an inclement weather, a large number of guests, invitees and alumni were present in addition to the faculty members, the administrative officials and staff and the students.

Sri Kanti Biswas, Minister-in-Waiting and Sri Satya Sadhan Chakraborty, Higher Education Minister also graced the occasion and addressed the audience. The President unveiled a plaque commemorating the occasion.

While welcoming the President, the Vice Chancellor, Dr. N. R. Banerjea made an audio visual presentation, briefly recalling the glorious past of the Institution and the mighty efforts which were being taken by the University in academics and research, including development of cutting edge technology for defence and other Government endeavours and the industrial applications.

A novel feature and perhaps the most interesting part of the programme was a lively interaction that the President had with the children of B. E. College Model School and the under-graduate students of the University.



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### IITs, IIMs in expansion mode

*(Excerpt from the original article published in The Economic Times, Monday, July 04, 2005: by URMI A. GOSWAMI)*

NEW DELHI: The wait may finally be over for IIT and IIM aspirants. Setting up new IITs and IIMs is set to become a national priority. This could mean that plans for an IIM in the North-East, and upgrading of seven engineering institutes to IIT status, which have been in the pipeline, will finally see the light of day.

Not only will the new IITs and IIMs provide an opportunity for top of the line education for a larger number of students, but also address the issue of regional imbalance. The existing seven IITs account for some 3,000-odd graduates every year, while the six IIMs take in some 1,200-odd students. The Planning Commission is also of the view that the expansion plans should address the issue of regional imbalance.

The need for a larger number IITs and IIMs has been a long felt need, the number of seats at the IITs and IIMs have been increased. Besides this, last year, the HRD minister Arjun Singh announced the government's plan to set up an IIM in the North East. The idea was to address the issue of regional imbalance. However, the plan has not moved ahead as the location of the institute —Shillong or Guwahati—has not yet been finalised.

The setting up of new IITs has been on the cards for several years now. The NDA government had to give up on the idea of setting up new IITs, because of a fund crunch. Instead it opted for upgrading existing engineering colleges. The SK Joshi Committee set up in '03 to identify potential institutes that could be upgrade to IITs submitted its report earlier this year. Seven engineering institutes had been identified. These were Institute of Technology, BHU, University College of Engineering combined with University College of Technology, Osmania University, Bengal Engineering College, Jadavpur University's engineering and technology departments, Zakir Hussain College of Engineering and Technology, AMU, Andhra University College of Engineering and Cochin University of Science and Technology. The UPA government has not been able to decide whether to upgrade or set up new IITs. But the renewed emphasis on this plan to expand numbers by the Planning Commission may bring this plan on track.

*(End of excerpt)*



*The new 8 storied building*

### Over 200 students placed in just over two weeks at BESUS

*(Prof. M K Sanyal, Head, Human Resource Management (Training and Placement) of BESUS updates alumni on the campus interview started on July 28, 2005, and an update on August 12, 2005)*

Although Campus Interview for the class of 2006 started only on 18th. July, 2005, well over 200 students were placed in just over two weeks.

The initial slots were allotted to selected IT giants based on a perception survey conducted amongst the students. Everyone was longing for the Day-1 slot and obviously everyone couldn't be satisfied.

However, this has been a good beginning, and in just a few weeks 240 students have got employment offers. Following is a break-down of the placements so far:

ABB – 3, Siemens – 7, Ashoke Leyland – 1, Tata Steel – 2, Infosys – 43, TCS – 66, CTS – 63, Vedanta Resources – 14, IBM – 25, Interra Systems – 3, Satyam – 6, Hewlett Packard – 3, Price Water House Coopers – 4

The following Campus interviews already scheduled through the 2nd Week of September: Siemens Infotech, Tata Elxsi, HCL, ITC Infotech, Samtel, Software Paradigm, Birla Soft, Aztec, NIIT Technologies, Google, Inverto, and Alstom.

Though all of the above are already confirmed, there is an apprehension that not all of them would be getting sufficient



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number of students from desired branches qualifying the required eligibility criteria, since most of them are considering the circuit branches. Because of this, we had to sacrifice M/S Mindtree.

I thank you very much for your interest. I do feel a pragmatic Placement Policy for the University needs be formulated with sufficient flexibility for modification to keep pace with changing time. I am already putting in my efforts on the job. But, this can not be accomplished without constructive suggestions from all alumni who have exposure to the industry much better than me.

I shall try to keep you posted on the developments."

*From the desk of Prof. Manas K Sanyal (1984CE), Head, HRM*

## Power Electronics Activities at BESU- An Update Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at 13:41

IEEE Distinguished Lecture tour of Prof. Ajit K Chattopadhyay, 58EE to Thailand, China and Malaysia has been published in the IEEE-Industry Applications Magazine, (<http://www.ieee.org/ias>), July/August, 2005 Issue with photographs.



Also, the first National Workshop on Power Electronics (NWPE 2005) for Industry Institute interaction under the aegis of NaMPET was held at Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESU), Shibpur, West Bengal on 17-18 June 2005. This was jointly organized by BESUS and IIT Kharagpur. Around 100 delegates from various Industries, Academic Institutions, R&D centres participated in the

programme.

The workshop was presided by Dr. S K Bhattacharya, Chairman and MD, Durgapur Steel Plant, SAIL and Inaugurated by Shri. Ajeer Vidya, Joint Secretary (F&A), Department of Information Technology. Shri T.K. Sarkar, Senior Director, Department of Information Technology presented the theme of the workshop and NaMPET. Key note address on Evolution and Technology trends in Power Electronics was delivered by Prof. A K Chattopadhyay. The following Invited papers from various industries and Academic Institutions were presented during the two day sessions of the workshop. The workshop was concluded with an active panel discussion.

Details can be found at:

[http://www.nampet.org/Nampet/Research\\_wshop1.htm](http://www.nampet.org/Nampet/Research_wshop1.htm)

## GAA – BESUS CONNECTION

### Technical focus groups

The GAA has embarked on an initiative to form technical focus groups. The objective of each technical focus group would be to network alumni, students and BESUS faculty in that particular technical subject area, to foster a lifelong intellectual and emotional connection between the college and its graduates as well as to enhance the capability of Bengal Engineering & Science University (BESUS) in sharing technical knowledge.

Through these technical focus groups, alumni will be connected to the Alma Mater and they can mentor students and collaborate with faculty on conducting research. They will be motivated to visit BESUS to deliver seminars, guide undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate level theses, network at national / international conferences, and even co-organize workshops / conferences.

The alumni web team's original idea was discussed with several faculty members at BESUS and they promptly agreed to join this initiative and several groups have been formed since then.

The groups formed so far are (alphabetically):

*BEC\_Environment\_All* – Environmental engineering group

*BEC\_ES\_DSP\_ALL* – Embedded system and digital signal processing group



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*BEC\_PE\_ALL* – Power electronics group

*BEC\_Petro\_All* – Petroleum engineering group

*BEC\_Structure\_ALL* – Structural engineering group

*BEC\_VLSI\_ALL* – VLSI group

*BEC\_Projects\_All* – Project management group

To run and grow all these groups effectively, we need at least two faculty members from BESUS along with two alumni volunteers as group moderators for each group. As moderators, they will invite, add, and unsubscribe members from students, faculty and alumni as well as define the scope of the group so that it is mutually beneficial to its users as they share technical knowledge and information electronically.

To obtain details on how to join these groups send a message to [gbecaa@yahoo.com](mailto:gbecaa@yahoo.com) with the name of the group you are interested in. All alumni who want to join any of these groups would have to be registered members of the alumni web site, <http://www.becollege.org>. Students need to send their requests via faculty to the alumni web team ([gbecaa@yahoo.com](mailto:gbecaa@yahoo.com)). Faculty can directly contact alumni web team.

### Student grant - a new alumni proposal & initiative

Alumni have floated another proposal to help needy students to join BESUS. Getting admitted to prestigious institutes is not always easy and could be very challenging to needy meritorious students; more so than getting 100% marks in Mathematics or securing top ranks in JEE. Every year hundreds of needy students fail to pursue higher studies for lack of money required for Engineering and Medical College admissions. Sometimes friends, relatives and neighbors donate money towards those fees for needy students who had successfully secured a rank in the JEE. Most of these institutions have provisions for scholarships that are available only after admission. Question arises if a needy student cannot pay for the admission, what good would be the post admission scholarship?

Alumni felt an urgent need to create “Admission Grants” for those needy meritorious students. Recent newspaper reports on such student profiles show a strong need for the same. We, the BE College Alumni Association, have decided to create

twenty-five “Admission Grant” awards of Rs.5000 each for students aspiring to pursue a program in BESUS to commemorate 150 years of glorious existence of our institution and celebrate its 150th birthday in 2006. Please donate as much as you can and feel proud to give back to your alma mater. Check out the proposal at:

<http://www.becollege.org/news/GrantProposal.pdf>

An article on the same was published in the Bengali daily Aajkaal. A copy of the report is available at:

[http://www.becollege.org/news/Aajkaal\\_Grant.pdf](http://www.becollege.org/news/Aajkaal_Grant.pdf)

Interested alumni and/or students can reach Pranesh Biswas at: [pranesh9000@yahoo.com](mailto:pranesh9000@yahoo.com) for details. This new initiative will supplement ongoing alumni scholarships that were awarded to more than 34 recipients last year. Efforts are ongoing to coordinate all alumni scholarships by a central virtual team.

### Alumni, Memorial & Vivekananda Youth Scholarships

*(The following is a communiqué to Dr. N R Banerjee, Vice Chancellor, Bengal Engineering & Science University send on August 10, 2005 by BESUS Alumni representatives)*

Dear Dr. Banerjee:

On behalf of BESUS alumni scholarship team representing USA Scholarship Committee, BECAA Maharashtra Chapter and BECAA Oman Chapter, we are happy to announce 20 scholarships in all to the undergraduate engineering students studying at BESUS. Vivekananda Youth Circle (VYC) has kindly agreed to extend all operational supports to manage these scholarships following a unified process though the scholarship funds come from different geographical locations. For year 2005-06 the following 20 scholarships, each of Rs 10,000.00 will be awarded.

*BECAA Maharashtra Chapter Scholarships (2), India  
Rabindranath Dutta Memorial Scholarships (2), Oman  
BECAA Oman Chapter Scholarships (3), Oman  
Malobika Bagchi Memorial Scholarship, USA  
Bishnupada Bhattacharya Memorial Scholarship, USA  
Smt. Golap Saha Memorial Scholarship, USA  
Amulya Ratan Saha Memorial Scholarship, USA  
Satyabrata Roy Memorial Scholarship, USA  
Elizabeth Sengupta Scholarship, USA  
Ganapati Sengupta Memorial Scholarship, USA.  
Arunima Das Memorial Scholarship., USA  
Dipak K Ray Memorial Scholarship, USA  
BECAA – Southern California Chapter Scholarship, USA*



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*BECAA – USA Alumni Scholarship, USA  
Saswata Mishra Scholarship, USA  
Sandip Sinha Memorial Scholarship, Canada & USA*

We request you to kindly notify this year's scholarships to all the prospective students and collect their applications as it has been done in the last 7 years. VYC will be in touch with the BESUS scholarship team (Finance Officer, Register, and PICSA & Controller of Examiner) for processing of the applications. Once the list of scholars is finalized by VYC and BESUS scholarship team, we would mail individual drafts to your office with a request to distribute them to the selected students. In future we intend to bring all other chapters together to coordinate and expand the scholarships to help all qualified but needy students by providing scholarships, without which, the students may have financial difficulty in completing their degree programs. We thank you for your personal interest and strong cooperation by your staff to run this program for last 7 years.

With best regards,

Sukanto Roy, 77ETC for BECAA Maharashtra Chapter

Prof. (Dr.) Dipak Chaudhuri, 68ME for Advisory Board and Rajdeep Dutta, 88EE for Executive Committee, BECAA Oman Chapter

Dr. Swapan Saha, 88EE for USA Scholarship Team (Sripati Bhattacharya, Subrata Ghosh, Tanmay Das, Swapan Saha)

BECAA Kuwait decided to join this unified process and they will award 2 scholarships. Till now 22 scholarships are confirmed and a few chapters are finalizing their decisions. We expect to award around 30 scholarships for 2005-06 as several other chapters are likely to join this process. We hope to continue bringing more chapters and batches to award scholarships to needy but bright students at BESUS. If you have any questions or suggestions on alumni scholarship program, please contact alumni web team at [gbecaa@yahoo.com](mailto:gbecaa@yahoo.com). Your request will be forwarded to appropriate chapter or global alumni scholarship team, [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BEC\\_Scholarship](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BEC_Scholarship).

### GAA ACTIVITIES

#### Suggestions needed to improve alumni web operation

In our efforts to help BESUS management in developing a Master Plan (required by the Central Government after being

identified as the 3rd best among the ten schools most suitable) for upgrading it to a top-tier school in India, we solicited suggestions from our alumni as to what should be included in the plan. After our successful campaign in compiling the alumni suggestions from all over the globe, that should be included in the proposed Master Plan, we are requesting all of you again for suggestions, comments on how to improve the operations of the global alumni association - web site, newsletters and creating virtual technical fora.

Our objective is to build and run web operations to serve our global alumni need and help our Alma Mater at the same time. Your responses are vital in developing a good web site and will help BESUS and its stakeholders (students, faculty & staff, alumni and administration).

However, before we go further, let us share some information with you.

1) Global Alumni Association - Many of you sent have enquired about the status of GAA. In brief here is the status. GAA has been registered in Kolkata in the second week of June. Alumni Team who volunteered to set up the GAA and the alumni office at the campus (to run Global Alumni operation) is working on details with our senior alumni around the world. They will be in touch with the representatives of different local chapters and batches to finalize the details of GAA. All alumni will be contacted via email and/or regular mail to inform the goal and process of GAA.

2) Alumni Suggestions to VC - University's senior administrators are working to develop a Master Plan for the BESUS that will be sent to New Delhi by the end of July. Dr. N. R. Banerjee, VC has conveyed his appreciation to the alumni web team for their efforts in providing the suggestion from the alumni all over the world and assured that he was considering alumni suggestions seriously in developing the Master Plan. Please stay tuned for further information.

We will be currently concentrating on the following upcoming activities:

#### A) New Alumni Web Site

Goal - Enhancement of alumni web operations to include chapters, batches and to create discipline specific virtual technical fora where alumni, faculty and graduate students can exchange technical knowledge and information via web.

Process - We will build a new web site from scratch to meet



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not only the growing needs of the alumni, faculty and students but also run the GAA operations and support major alumni initiatives – converting BESUS to an IIT/INI and 150th anniversary celebration. However the present web site will continue to support alumni activities till the new site is ready. We expanded the alumni web team from 2/3 persons to around 20 persons spread all over the world with strong skill sets needed to run 24/7 web based operations.

*B) Expanding Technical Forum*

### ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### Alumnus offered a lectureship at the University of Oxford

Prof. Gautam Bhattacharya, Dept of CE, BESUS reports on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 13:56:53 +0000

I'd like to share a great news about one of our Alumni. One of our young Alumni, Dr. Subhamoy Bhattacharya ([sb353cam@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sb353cam@yahoo.co.uk)) of 1998 (Civil) has been offered lectureship at the University of Oxford.

#### Alumnus elected Chairman of NACE International (Oman Section)

Mr. Rajdeep Dutta ('88, EE) has been working on "Corrosion Engineering", a technical field in oil & gas industries for the last 15 years. "NACE International", a professional body with headquarters in Houston, Texas, USA, is the apex organization in that field. They issue engineering code of practices, standards, etc. on corrosion engineering that are followed all over the world.

Recently, Mr. Dutta successfully completed all the requirements to qualify as a "Specialist", the highest level that can be achieved in the specialized subfield of "Cathodic Protection", under corrosion engineering. Normally, 10 persons worldwide are certified under this category every year. This year, 5 were there from USA & Canada, 2 from Latin America, 2 from Europe and Mr. Dutta was the only one from Asia.

In addition, Mr. Dutta, being the individual with the highest level of existing professional certification (Level 4) and owing to his long association and commitment to NACE International (since 1995) was selected "Chairman - NACE International - Oman Section". It is a remarkable feat for someone who is not an Arab national.

*To share your professional accomplishments with your fellow alumni, please contact [gbecaa@yahoo.com](mailto:gbecaa@yahoo.com).*

### BESUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### International Collaborative Research with CANMET

Prof. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, CE-87, Civil Engineering Department, BESUS, provides the background of a collaborative research project between CANMET, Canada and BESUS.

"I am working as Principal Investigator of a collaborative research project with CANMET, Canada. The project is funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), New Delhi. The aim of the project is to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emission from cement industries through utilisation of fly ash in larger quantities in cement/concrete for different construction activities. BESUS is the only academic institution in our country that is involved in this international collaborative research work with CANMET. Other two research organizations are CBRI, Roorkee and SERC, Chennai who are also funded under this scheme. Some construction industries (e.g. HCC in Mumbai) and Govt. authorities (e.g. Delhi Development authority) are also trying to implement this technology developed by internationally-reputed research organization CANMET, Govt. of Canada. This is basically a part of an agreement between GOI and Govt. of Canada to reduce the green house emissions based on the Kyoto Protocol".



*Left: Testing FlyAsh Concrete Mix at BESUS. Right: Aggregates at Bengal Engineering & Science University, Howrah*

The project aims to determine the optimum fly ash content (40 to 60%) in concretes (made with OPC and PPC) designed to meet the requirements of concrete grades M25, M40 and M60 by using Indian fly ashes. The mechanical properties and some durability characteristics of these concretes will also be



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determined.

### EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **GRADUATE STUDIES IN CANADA: Master's and Ph.D. Opportunities in Tribology and Surface Science**

NSERC/General Motors of Canada Industrial Research Chair at the University of Windsor has openings for graduate students (Master's and PhD) in Light metal Tribology, Surface Science and Coatings. Details at: (<http://www.uwindsor.ca/tribology>)

Several of our current Master's and PhD students are successfully completing their research work this year. We are looking to replace them with equally good students to work on exciting research programs on the fundamental and engineering aspects of tribology including wear resistant aluminum alloy design, fabrication and properties of novel surface coatings, and new machining processes. All programs are conducted in collaboration with General Motors.

Candidates should have strong background in physical and mechanical metallurgy. PhD candidates should have research experience in at least one of the following areas: thin film fabrication process, solidification processing, transmission electron microscopy, or finite element methods.

Please send your CV's and transcripts to Ms. Qin Tu at [qintu@uwindsor.ca](mailto:qintu@uwindsor.ca). Please include PDF files of your published articles, if any.

For University of Windsor graduate study admittance requirements, please see the University website ([www.uwindsor.ca](http://www.uwindsor.ca)).

*Information made available by:*

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#### **BECAA East Coast (NJ) 2005 annual reunion**

BECAA East Coast (NJ) 2005 annual reunion will be held on 10 September. The auditorium of Princeton Senior Center has

been reserved for the occasion from 1.30 PM until 9.30 PM. This year's program is a little bit different as you have noticed – the fun filled time will be of longer duration, from early afternoon until late evening. BECAA NJ chapter will organize a cultural program in the evening. If you want to organize or participate actively in any cultural program, please let them know. For direction please look at:

<http://www.princetonol.com/groups/senior/directions.html>

Check out <http://www.becaa.org> for additional information.

### HELPLINE

#### **Oval Caretaker Ramjiban Chauhan needs help**

*Appeal received from Arghya Mandal and Puspa Sourav Biswas (Both 2003 EE)*



*Flashback: Oval 25 years ago*

Our beloved Ramjiban-da, caretaker and head Mali of our Oval ground, needs our wholehearted support. He lost his home to a deadly fire last month and incurred a loss of about 3-4 lakhs of rupees. His entire savings is gone. To add to that, he would be retiring at the end of this year. His entire family is now on the streets.

Many of us must know this wonderful man, whose commitment towards the oval ground and the Athletic Club of our college is unquestionable. It is a call to all the BEings to help this needy man out, who was and is always fighting on the side of the students on several issues.

A charity match was conducted on the 30th of June this year,



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which helped raise INR 20,000. However, there is need for a lot more. All the BEings are invited to contribute towards this cause. You can send your contribution directly to Ramjibanda's account [Account No: E/360406; Bank and Branch: UBI, BEC Extension; Name on Account: Ramjiban Chauhan] or send your checks/drafts to the care of:

PICSA  
Bengal Engineering & Science University  
P.O. - Botanical Garden, Dist. - Howrah  
West Bengal, PIN – 711103, India

For any queries please feel free to contact:

Arghya Mandal: 09339862239; Via email at:  
[arghya.mandal@cognizant.com](mailto:arghya.mandal@cognizant.com)

Puspa Sourav Biswas: 09830682389; Via email at:  
[puspa.sourav.biswas@in.pwc.com](mailto:puspa.sourav.biswas@in.pwc.com)

*(Chronological updates on Ramjiban Chauhan and other "Helping Hand" initiatives are available at:  
<http://www.becollege.org/members/ActiveCases.asp> )*

### **Another Success Story - BESUS student receives aid to attend a conference**

In our previous edition of alumni newsletter, we published an appeal to help Aritra Banerjee. Help poured in from alumni around the world and alumni initiative to help a fellow student ended in another success story.

As indicated in the previous newsletter, we received a request from ARITRA BANERJEE, a 4th year B.Arch student regarding financial support to attend the SB05 Conference in Tokyo, Japan. The National Conference Board, Japanese Ministry of Land Infrastructure & Transport is organizing this international conference in Tokyo from 27th to 29th of September, 2005 on SUSTAINABILITY OF BUILDINGS (Details for the conference is at the website <http://www.sb05.com>). Aritra submitted an Abstract & Full Paper on the above issue that was accepted along with an offer to present the same at the conference. While he applied for financial support from the organizers, none were available.

Santanu Roy (B.Arch 1999) coordinated the collection effort, and in the end the required INR 39,000 was collected from recent Architecture Department alumni in India, Middle East, UK and US. This was probably the first ever effort of its kind, where departmental alumni has funded conference attendance for a student; and that too within 42 days of receiving the

initial request. Surprisingly, the list of contributors comprised entirely of recent graduates, the senior-most contributor being from the Class of 1995. (Please visit the helping hand section <http://www.becollege.org/members/ActiveCases.asp> for details on the contributions)

Besides departmental alumni, BEC Alumni Association in Tokyo has been kind enough to step up to the occasion and help Aritra with accommodation and conveyance during his stay in Japan, substantially reducing his expenses for the conference attendance. Debabrata Pal and Jyotirmoy Halder (both EE '2000) have played significant roles in arranging for the same.

On the departmental end of things, Prof. Souvanik Roy (Professor, Department of Architecture Town and Regional Planning, as well as B.Arch '85) was very cooperative and responsive to this effort.

In conclusion, it was one more successful initiative where the University and its alumni worked hand-in-hand to accomplish something that each can be proud of.

*(Chronological updates on Aritra's conference attendance and other "Helping Hand" initiatives are available at:  
<http://www.becollege.org/members/ActiveCases.asp> )*