



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

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Policy for accepting submittals for the newsletter:

Please send your comments and relevant information/materials for publication to gaabesu@gmail.com and write "Alumni Newsletter" in the subject line. The following are guidelines for acceptable content for such comments:

- 1) Your comments, observations, and suggestions about any alumni activities and BESU;
- 2) Your 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 not have any political agenda, we will include them unaltered. Electronic newsletters are published in every two months but alumni web site is updated continuously. So submit your articles whenever are you ready.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It has been a while since we published our last newsletter. A lot of water has flown through the Ganges during this period. BESU, which is located on the bank of this sacred river, appears to get back to life after its near death condition. This miracle happened when BESU and its alumni got together to revive this proud institution.

As you may know, when a bunch of faculty and alumni started to plan about BESU's 150th anniversary celebration, it occurred to them that the proper way to honor its contributions to the development of India and to the expansion of technical education in India would be to request the Central Government to convert BESU to an Institute of National Importance. To coordinate these activities effectively, they thought that it should be done through a global organization of BESU alumni. This concept became a reality through the formation of the Global Alumni Association of Bengal Engineering and Science University (GAABESU).

There are a number of goals that GAABESU is pursuing. However, the first two goals stated in its mission statement are: a) concerned with the welfare of the Alma Mater that nurtured its members to become distinguished in their chosen profession and b) a desire to help her to regain its status as the best technological university:

We are glad to say that through the formation of GAABESU and successful election of the executive committee, it is now a true representative forum of all our alumni where we meet, propose, argue and then come to a consensus to pursue activities that are beneficial to our University.

You must have learned by now that the efforts started by then BECDU Teachers' Association and a few alumni, even before GAABESU was formed, to convert BESU to an INI have been successful. The West Bengal and Central Governments have agreed to the terms and conditions for converting BESU to an Institute of National Importance which will be called Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology (IEST) - Shibpur. This will be done through an act of the parliament.

It shows that when we, the alumni, work together along with all stake holders of BESU, our dreams can turn into a reality. Our dream to convert our Alma mater to an INI is now almost a certainty. However, this is only a first step. To make



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our Alma Mater the best, a lot of efforts will be required. It is our duty to look after our old "Nurturing Mother" so that it remains attractive to the young learners for years.

GAABESU is already involved in a number of programs (like awarding about Rs. 6 lakh/year to provide over fifty scholarships). These programs [\[Click for Details\]](#) have been quite successful. Previously, they were independently run by groups scattered all over the globe. Now they have been brought under the GAABESU umbrella and are being run by the newly formed sub-committees of this organization. GAABESU is in the process of initiating other projects and programs such as mentoring students and building a students' center which would require help from every alumnus/alumna.

If each of its 20,000 sons and daughters of BESU family helps a little, the combined efforts can certainly change the existing moribund conditions of the college, for the better. GAABESU platform can be utilized to realize this change. When someone living overseas becomes a GAABESU Life Member, his/her membership fee goes to a fund for special project (to be announced) to be implemented for the betterment of the institute. So, it is our sincere request to all the alumni/ alumnae that they join GAABESU and help this proud college. No help is too small!! So let us help however small it may be. With our combined efforts, I am sure we would bring back our Alma Mater's reputation as the best engineering and technological institute in India again.

BESUS NEWS

IEST (INI) Status for BESU - Update

On behalf of the global alumni community, we thank both the State and Central Governments for coming to an agreement on the issue of granting INI status to our college. We hope that the necessary formalities will be completed by both of our Governments shortly so that our BESU is declared Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology (IEST) - Shibpur (INI) before it concludes year long 150th anniversary celebration in November 2007.

Complete coverage of this historic as well as marathon process is available at the GAABESU web site at

<http://www.becollege.org/>. Please click on *Mission: IEST, Shibpur* to find the detailed background and chronological information of this initiative since the summer of 2003.

BESU VC visits UK, Canada and USA in June & July 2007

BESU VC visited several universities in the UK, Canada and USA in June and July. An official report will be published in the GAABESU web site and subsequently in the next issue of the newsletter upon its availability.

Visit of BESU, VC to Windsor during 15-17 July, 2007

A news item from "[Daily News](#)" - University of Windsor Public Affairs & Communication

[Campus visit advances ties to Indian university](#)

The University of Windsor's strengthening ties with India were in evidence last week as it played host to a senior representative of the Bengal Engineering and Science University, in Shibpur, near Kolkata, India.

Nikhil Ranjan Banerjee, vice-chancellor of the Bengal Engineering and Science University, was on campus to discuss the implementation of a memorandum of understanding, the two institutions signed in January. Last year, the Indian university celebrated its 150th anniversary.



Nikhil Ranjan Banerjee (centre), vice-chancellor of the Bengal Engineering and Science University, was welcomed during a visit to the University of Windsor by President Ross Paul and Graham Reader, dean of engineering.

"We are very proud of this association with one of India's



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oldest and most prestigious institutions in engineering and science," said Nihar Biswas, Windsor's acting vice-president, research. "Both sides are excited at the opportunities for collaboration in research and teaching."

According to Graham Reader, dean of engineering, discussions focused on faculty exchanges and areas of common research interest, including automotive engineering, computer engineering, materials, and water and wastewater treatment. The Bengal school is slated to receive considerable funding from the Indian government to develop a new centre of excellence in automotive engineering.

GAABESU ACTIVITIES

GAABESU Election and Executive Committee and Global Tele-conference

As mentioned in our editorial earlier, GAABESU members elected 27 members to its Executive Committee (EC) [[Click for Details](#)]. Executive Committee members elected 7 office bearers [[Click for Details](#)]. EC invited several representatives as "Permanent Invitees" (PI) from regions which were not represented in the EC via election and active alumni who are constantly working to promote GAABESU. Please check GAABESU Meeting Minutes page [[Click for Details](#)] for additional information on GAABESU EC and its activities. In the 3rd EC meeting of GAABESU held at BESUS on 26th May, 2007, "GAABESU Plans and Program" for smooth running of the organization was approved. This 3rd EC meeting was historic in the sense that it was conducted through tele-conference connecting USA, Canada, Middle Eastern countries, Bangalore and College campus.

GAABESU Hosted a Press Conference

GAABESU arranged a press conference at the Press Club, Kolkata on "Global Alumni unite for immediate upgradation of Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur to Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST), An Institute of National Importance (INI)". The press conference on June 7, 2007 [[Click for Details](#)] was a huge success in terms of number of media representatives covering this event and the number of news articles published in the print and on-

line media.

GAABESU Scholarship Programme – Transcending Boundaries

The alumni scholarship programme was started in 1998. The objective of this programme is to ensure that students of BESUS can focus on their study and career, without concerns for financial constraints. This initiative has also been able to bring the global alumni community together and has created a bond between the alumni and the gifted but needy students. It is expected that the awardees will benefit by watching the results of such philanthropic initiatives of the alumni and they, in turn, will contribute positively in different ways to advance the reputation of this 150 year old institution globally. This will differentiate them from the alumni of other institutions.

The scholarship programme has grown many folds in the last nine (9) years. While 34 scholarships (and 4 book grants) and 43 scholarships (and 9 book grants) were awarded in 2005-2006 and 2006-07 respectively, GAABESU is pleased to announce that for the year 2007-08, 52 such scholarships of Rs. 10,000/- each and 10 book grants of Rs. 1000/- each [[Click for details](#)] will be awarded. This amounts to a total commitment of Rs. 5,30,000 in this academic year so far. We are sure that the numbers will increase further, as and when more sponsors join the programme.

A global team has been formed and a common guideline has been formulated. Alumni from India, Middle East (Oman, UAE & Kuwait), Europe (UK) and North America (USA & Canada) have joined in this initiative to sponsor scholarships and participate in the selection process jointly through the Scholarship Sub - Committee of GAABESU. This programme would help to develop a culture of cooperation and gratitude among the recipients of awards towards BESU and its alumni.

Global Alumni Association of Bengal Engineering and Science University (GAABESU) has announced five assistantships under "Admission Grants Scheme" for the students qualified to attend BESU but lack ability to finance admission cost [[Click here for details](#)].

Alumni residing in North America, Europe, Australia and Japan can initiate a new scholarship donating in the equivalent of US\$ 2500.00 to the "B E College Alumni



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Scholarship Fund, USA", a non-profit charitable trust set up in the USA. US donors receive income tax benefits towards all donations to this fund. Through this scholarship programme, BESU faculty and the students will come closer to the global alumni community. This spirit of camaraderie, unity and bonding transcends age differences and international boundaries. May this spirit live on!

GAABESU Mentor Programme

Over the last few years, many of our alumni received informal request /appeal from current students for guidance on higher studies in India and abroad in engineering and non-engineering disciplines, employment opportunities, industry trends and various other professional development needs. In late 2006, GAABESU planned to formalize and give shape to these requests by structuring a Mentorship Programme between interested students and willing alumni. We shared the guidelines of the programme broadly with the alumni community using various outreach channels and received a very positive response from them to sign up as mentors. To ensure scalability and sustainability for the long-term, we plan to integrate the management of the programme with our alumni website [[Click here for details](#)] some time in the near future.

In the interest of time and with the objective to move ahead with the mentorship program, we have decided to launch it in August 2007 simultaneously with the annual Alumni Scholarship program. Sheer word-of-mouth has generated substantial early interest from students and we are looking to make this available to all students, including scholarship recipients.

On behalf of GAABESU and as the coordinator of the "Mentorship 2007", it gives us immense pleasure to introduce the Programme today to our students and global alumni [[Click here for details](#)].

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Canada Chapter: BECAAC Picnic on July 7, 2007
- Submitted by Dr. Samir Basu ('64EE)

"We also had a great picnic on July 7, 2007 in Toronto. It was well attended and had a good game of cricket. I have attached 2 pictures showing our BECCAC logo golf shirt".



BEC/BESU reunion was held on June 30, 2007 at Detroit
- A report submitted by Dr. Biman Ghosh ('81MetE)

A reunion of BEC/BESU alumni was held on June 30, 2007 at the Cobo Hall during North American Bengali Conference 2007 in Detroit. The alumni started gathering around 9:00 am when they were greeted with cha, singara and misti following registration. The meeting started at 9:25 am with a welcome address by Dr. Arup Gangopadhyay ('79 MetE) followed by the keynote address by Dr. Tapan Datta ('61CE), Professor, Wayne State University, Detroit. Prof. Datta spoke on "Life



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after B. E. College" with emphasis on giving back to the community both in US and in India.

Dr. Biman Ghosh discussed about the role of GAABESU (Global Alumni Association of Bengal Engineering and Science University) and its current activities including driving the IEST initiatives. He cited the Middle East Chapters as the model chapters of the Association and illustrated how the association is helping current and past students. He urged everybody to become a life member of the association by paying \$300 membership fee.



Mr. Siladitya Ganguly ('79CE) spoke about entrepreneurship after B.E. College and shared the story on building his business and how he was benefited by networking with college alumni. It was an enjoyable success story that everybody liked. More than thirty alumni joined and it was gratifying to see everybody after a long time. The attendees thanked the following individuals for organizing the reunion. Ms. Sumitra Sinha sent a video of the college campus, which was played prior to the beginning of the meeting, and everybody enjoyed it very much.

Arup Gangopadhyay ('79MetE)
Sumitra Sinha ('79ETC)
Biman Ghosh ('81MetE)
Prasun Ghosh ('93EE)
Shyamal Das ('74CE)

BECAA Canada Host VC on July 14, 2007

BECAA Canada Chapter hosted an alumni luncheon

reception on July 14, 2007 for visiting Dr. Nikhil Ranjan Banerjee, VC, BESU. For the report posted to the web site, please [Click Here](#) for details.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Alumnus receives ICE Gold Medal

Mr. Sudhansu S. Chakraborty ('57CE) received ICE (UK) Gold Medal in 2007. ICE Gold Medal is awarded for civil engineering excellence to an individual who made valuable contributions to civil engineering over many years. This may cover contributions in one or more areas, such as, design, research, development, investigation, construction, management (including project management), education and training. The Gold Medal is awarded to individuals who are in the course of, or have just completed, their active careers.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

50th Anniversary Celebration 1958 Batch
- Contributed by Debabrata Kar ('58CE)

Year 2008 is the 50th year of graduation of the class of '58. We are planning to celebrate this occasion in a befitting manner starting from Nov 2007 till Dec 2008. All the ex-students who studied in BEC during the years 1954 to 1958/59/60 are invited to participate in the celebrations. Many of them are in USA, UK, Canada, Australia and other parts of the world. Proposed contact persons for them are:

Mrinal Bera [mrinalbera@hotmail.com]; presently in Toronto, Canada ('58ME)
Aloke Banerjee [slakban@sify.com] ('58EE)
Debabrata Kar [debuk@vsnl.net] ('58 CE)
Shyamal Dasgupta [rebadasgupta@yahoo.com] ('58Met)

OBITUARIES

Contributed by Debasis Gangopadhyay ('77EE), Indranath Sinha ('82MinE), Tarun K Basu ('54CE) and Arup Sarkar ('85Arch).

Arup Ratan Ganguly ('77EE)



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With deepest sorrow and great regret we inform you all about the sad and untimely demise of Arup Ratan Ganguly ('77EE) on 14th June 2007, leaving behind his ailing mother, wife Sharbari and only daughter Sudeshna. He had been to Simlipal Tiger Reserve with his family and friends from 25th to 29th May 2007 and subsequently suffered a bout of Malignant Malaria, which could not be detected in time and took away his life.

Prof. Jadablal Chakravarty

Prof Jadablal Chakravarty (1933-2007) breathed his last on 14.07.2007 at 22:20 hr at the Apollo Medical Research Institute (AMRI), Kolkata. He left the lucrative industrial career and joined Bengal Engineering College, Shibpur on 1st January 1961, as an Assistant Professor in Mining Engineering. Subsequently he obtained his master's degree in Mine Planning and Mechanisation from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.



He became a Professor in 1980 and headed the Department of Mining and Geology till his retirement in 1994. He contributed greatly towards growth, sustenance and development of the Department. For more information please [Click Here](#).

Suprakash Guha ('00 Arch)

This is to report the unfortunate demise of Suprakash Guha ('00Arch) at Chennai on 14.06.2007. He was killed after he was hit by a road-leveling machine on Old Mamallapuram Road near Thoraipakkam on Thursday. Suprakash was employed in the software industry with a multi-national company in Sholinganallur. He was walking towards the bus

stand to go to Tiruvanmiyur. A road-leveler deployed there as part of the IT Corridor construction work, hit Suprakash. He was rushed to a private hospital in Perungudi, where he died.

Amaresh Mukherjee ('52CE)

Amaresh Mukherjee ('52CE) died in his Delhi residence on April 21, 2007. Besides being an eminent engineer he was a keen lover of classical music, both Indian and Western.

Guruprasad Banerjee ('51CE)

Guruprasad Banerjee ('51CE) died in his Dum Dum Park, N-24 Pgs., residence on Apr 24, 2007. Gurud retired voluntarily as Dy. Chief Engineer, Calcutta Port Trust. He was also a remarkably brilliant Contract Bridge player, in Calcutta circuit, in his heydays.

Sunil Ch. Mukhopadhyay ('52CE)

Sunil Ch. Mukhopadhyay ('52CE) died in his Lake Town, N-24 Pgs., residence on June 10, 2007. Sunil retired as Chief Engineer, Construction Board, Government of WB in Mar. 1990. However, right after the accidental crumbling of the multi-storied apartment house owned by Kundalia, CMC requisitioned his expertise to ensure that the CMC Bldg. Rules are properly adhered to and he joined as the Special Engineer (Bldgs.) in CMC.

Partha Bose ('82CE)

Partha Bose (Tabli: '82CE) is no more. He passed away at 03-30 AM on 28-03-2007.

May their souls rest in peace.

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