



Bengal Engineering College Alumni Association |

Alumni Newsletter – Vol 7, No 1, February 9, 2005
<http://www.becollege.org>

From Editor's Desk

Few alumni of the BE College, which has been converted to a full-fledged university (known as Bengal Engineering and Science University or BESU), have been trying to re-establish its past reputation. However, everybody knows that it is easier to destroy than to build. So, it is not a very easy task to get back. We need the help from all alumni who would like to make their Alma Mater as one of the best in India that it used to be. To increase participation of all alumni in this effort, we are trying to let them know through this newsletter what is going on at the College and how some alumni are helping in restoring its past glory. We hope that this will reconnect you with the college and you, in turn, will help in our endeavors to make the college regain its status as one of the premier institutions in India. Please visit <http://www.becollege.org> to get the latest news about alumni and BESU.

We would appreciate if you share this newsletter with other alumni who are not on the mailing list. Would you be kind enough to let us know the names, addresses and e-mails of the alumni with whom you have contact, so that we can update our alumni mailing list?

Editor, Tarun Basu, 67CE, receives email at tbasuus@yahoo.com

Alumni web team members are: Siddhartha Banerjee-2003ME, Sanjay Ghosh-2002ETC, Ramen Dutta-2002ETC, Gunjan Mandal-2001ETC, Gautam Datta-2001ME, Chitta Haty-2000CST, Koustav Biswas-2000 ME, Debabrata Pal-2000EE, Kaustabh Dasgupta-1997CE, Apurba Tribedi-1994CE, Pranesh Biswas-1990CE, Bhaskar Chattopadhyay-1989ETC, Swapan Saha-1988EE, Tarun Basu-1967CE & Santosh Sinha-1965CE.

Next newsletter is scheduled to be distributed in early April, 2005. However all alumni and BESU news and events are posted to the web site as soon as they are received.

Coming Event(s)

CONVOCATION

Convocation is scheduled on February 16, 2005. Please

contact Registrar for more information.

REBECA - 2005

68th annual reunion celebration, REBECA 2005 will be held from 17th February to 20th February 2005. To make this event a grand success, all alumni are requested to attend. Alumni in Calcutta, Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and other major centers in India are specially requested to contribute generously for the Reunion Celebrations. For detailed schedule of the event, please visit <http://www.rebeca2005.org>

An e-transfer account as shown below has been arranged for the alumni including those who settled abroad for sending their contributions:

Account name: REBECA 2005
Account no. : 35523
Swift Code: UTBIINBBOBE
United Bank of India
B.E.College (Extn.) Branch

Alumni Initiatives

150th Anniversary Celebrations & Institute of National Importance

B.E. College will be 150 years old on November 2006. This is a milestone not only for the second oldest engineering college but for the entire nation. The objectives of the celebrations are to highlight the contributions of BE College in expanding the engineering education in India and how its alumni contributed to the development of post-independent India. In acknowledgement of this contribution, Government of India will be requested by the BEC community to recognize it's as an Institute of National Importance (INI).

It is to be noted that the alumni (both in India and in U.S.) are trying individually and collectively to move forward with respect to the INI status. Amitabhada (Professor Amitabha Ghosh, 1962ME, ex-Director, IIT Kgp) is playing a vital role in this matter. However, change in Central Government as well as some other unforeseen events is delaying this effort.

In order to develop a plan for this celebration, few alumni from BECAA – Calcutta and college administration got together on 25th of August, 2004 and formed a Working Committee (WC). Dr. Santanu Karmakar ('83ME), professor of Mech. Engg. was unanimously chosen as the Convenor of the WC. The WC decided to have a year-long celebration



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from 24th November, 2006 to 23rd November, 2007 to commemorate this event. The WC further decided that Local Regional/BECAAs would be requested to form Local Committees and share their recommendations/ suggestions etc.

WC consists of Mr. Sailapati Gupta (Chairman) and Mr. Santanu Chatterjee, Mr. Birenjit Kumar Pal, Mr. Gautam Roy, Prof. Dipak Sengupta, Dr. Nilratan Bandyopadhyay, Dr. Bhaswati Mitra, Mr. Pranab Chatterjee (all members) and Prof. Santanu Kr. Karmakar - Convener

In addition, the Vice Chancellor, the Dean (Faculty), the Dean (Student), the Dean (Research), all HODs, all Directors of Schools, the Registrar, the Finance Officer, Professor (Training & Placement), Prof. Saibal Ghosh (member, PMB), Dr. Arun Deb, Dr. Jamini Kanta Das and Mr. Amitabha Ghosal are included as permanent invitees.

A number of WC meetings have been held since its formation. Some of the salient points are summarized below. In the meeting held on 11th December, 2004, the Organizing Committee was formed with the following members subject to their consents.

Patron-in-Chief - Hon'ble CM, Govt. of West Bengal subject to his kind consent

Patrons - Minister of HRD, Govt. of India, Minister of Higher Education, WB subject to their kind consents

President - Prof. Sankar Sen, Working President - Vice Chancellor, BESU

Vice Presidents - yet to be decided

Organising Secretary – Mr. Santanu Chatterjee

Organising Joint Secretaries - Dr. Santanu Karmakar and Mr. Nilanjan Sengupta

Treasurer – Mr. Anjan K Ghosh

Joint Treasurers - Dr. Sudip Roy, Dr. Biman Das and Mr. Alok Maity

Members - yet to be decided.

It has been decided by the WC that a number of sub-committees are to be formed to oversee different segments of the celebration. The number of such committees will be decided later on. However, it was felt that a Resource

Mobilization and Information and Publicity Sub-Committee as well as an Institutional Sub-Committee to maintain regular contact and liaison with the Regional/Local Committees should be formed as soon as possible. In addition, a Coordination Committee (such as Monitoring or Steering Sub-Committee) chaired by the Organizing Secretary should be formed to monitor the progress of the various Sub-Committees and to ensure co-ordinated action. Below are the responsibilities of some of the sub-committees and some actions taken the WC.

a) First sub-committee will contact Indian Postal Service for the issuance of the 150th anniversary commemorative postal stamp. They will interface with M/s Interpub, 12B Vandhana Building, 11 Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi 110001 to obtain a quotation for preparing alternative designs of the stamp. They will ensure that the Postal Department issue the stamp and release the First Day Cover on 24.11.2006. The sub-committee will prepare at least four alternative designs of the proposed stamp and the First Day Cover within fifteen days for examination by the Organising Committee and onward transmission to M/s Interpub.

b) Second sub-committee would write a proposal to the UGC requesting a grant of at least Rs. 1 Crore for the 150th Anniversary Celebrations and follow up the proposal.

c) The Institution of Engineers (IE) and the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) were approached for holding their annual conventions in the University campus. In a reply ISCA stated that the request of holding the Congress in January 2008 will be reviewed by their Executive Committee. It was decided by the WC that Engineering Congress can be held in December 2006 if IE agrees and Dr. Nilratan Bandyopadhyay would be the point man for this.

d) The sub-committee for arranging International/ National conferences would plan for the dates, topics, and names of the speakers. However, as it takes a long lead time, these seminars may have to be arranged later on.

e) The invitations to His Excellency, The President of India, The Hon'ble Prime Minister, The Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha and other dignitaries as also Nobel Laureates will be sent as soon a detailed programme is drawn up. Internationally renowned persons would require a minimum advance notice of one year for participation.



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f) Immediate setting up of an Alumni Office with full infrastructural facilities is essential for each and every aspect of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

g) The Vice Chancellor would be requested to visit Bangalore, Mumbai, New Delhi and other major alumni hubs in India to meet the ex students there, spell out to them the objectives and the details of the year-long programmes of the celebrations and request them to contribute generously to the corpus fund.

h) Preliminary drawings and budgetary estimates for the physical infrastructure to be created out of grants from the Central Government and its various organs and donations from the Alumni are urgently required. We have a large number of ex students who are internationally / nationally known for their expertise in architecture and they are prepared to help without any remuneration.

i) An appeal to the alumni would be for a donation of "expected" 1% of the total annual income for the current year and the next two consecutive years for the upliftment of BESU.

At the end of this meeting WC was dissolved. The Organizing Committee (OC) will be responsible from now as the members of the proposed OC accepted their membership. The following is a proposal from OC for anniversary celebrations.

Proposed Programmes for 150th Anniversary Celebrations of Bengal Engineering College (renamed as Bengal Engineering & Science University, Shibpur)

Main Events :

1) Inaugural function on the foundation day (Nov. 2006) in which the President of India may be invited as the Chief Guest. CM of West Bengal, MHRD minister, UGC and AICTE chairmen may be invited to deliver the speech on the occasion.

2) From Nov./Dec., 2006 to March/April 2007, number of National/International seminars on selected topics of Science & Technology may be arranged. Each engineering department should try to arrange such a seminar.

3) Some national events like Science Congress/ Engineering Congress etc. may be hosted during the celebration year.

4) An exhibition in science & technology may be arranged in the University premises or in the Science City. Another such may be organized for the school students to arouse interest of the future generation selecting areas and topics that may be interesting and inspiring to them..

5) An alumni meet may be organized on a grand scale in the University premises.

6) Arrangements for other cultural / entertainment programmes may be made.

7) A closing ceremony in November 2007.

Supplementary Events / Activities

1) A series of lectures, covering the entire period of celebration, to be delivered by renowned scientists, technologists, economists, etc. on cutting edge technology, social issues, community services etc may be arranged.

2) Works for creation of some useful infrastructure such as university-annex building, library, auditorium, expansion of guest house etc. may be initiated on this occasion.

3) Following publications should be made available on the day of inauguration and may be on sale thereafter :

(a) 150 years' commemorative volume

(b) An alumni directory containing address, e-mail, telephone number of the past and present students to keep a track of all of them so that they may be contacted whenever necessary.

4) A 150 years' of celebration LOGO may be attractively designed and this may be used in all letter heads, brochures etc. during the celebration year.

Special Drive for Fund Collection

A special drive should be initiated on the memorable occasion to collect donation from alumni mainly residing abroad to build up a corpus fund to be used in future by the University as and when necessary. The Alumni



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Directory will be immensely helpful for this purpose and the necessary preparation for the same should start without any further delay.

Wishful Thinking

However glamorous and eventful the celebration is, it has only a short time impact. The main goal of the University is to grow, expand and excel in respect of creation and dissemination of knowledge and development of technology serving the need of India. It has to face the global challenge and to combat the external threat as well. This cannot be achieved in a day. A well-defined objective in clear terms should be set. A strong determination and a coordinated effort put forth by all concerned coupled with a periodic monitoring and corrective system can only lead us to reach the desired goal. May we rise up on this memorable occasion, start assessing our strength in each individual department and section and identify the areas in which we should grow (a short term and a long term planning) in future. Once this is agreed upon, the details of the action plan may be worked out.

Suggestions were requested to be mailed by 15th September, 2004 to:

Dr. Santanu K. Karmakar, Professor, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering
B. E. College (D.U.), P.O.: B. Garden, Howrah – 711103
& Convenor of the Working Committee for 150th Anniversary Celebration

Some suggestions from alumni regarding the set-up of the OC. OC will review these suggestions and incorporate them as appropriate.

1) The 150th Anniversary OC should have 4 Vice Presidents. One should be from Calcutta, one from Bangalore/Delhi/Mumbai, one from U.S. and one from Canada.

2) There should be an Advisory Committee (AC), which should have all the illustrious and eminent alumni all over the world as members. This Committee need not physically meet, but could exchange views over e-mail and make recommend/ suggest about the different aspects of the celebrations. If the OC finds that any recommendation/suggestion cannot be implemented, it should inform the AC explaining why this could not be implemented.

3) The Regional/Local Associations could be requested to suggest names of members for the Advisory Committee.

4) At least one third of the members of the OC should be graduates of 1985 or thereafter, to ensure that there is a sufficient number of younger members with new ideas and a vigorous drive.

5) At least half the members of the OC should be from outside India, not only for ensuring a stronger bondage amongst all the alumni, but also to ensure that the 150th Anniversary does not turn out to be local affair.

6) For logistical purpose, at least half the members from India should be faculty members of BESU.

7) Instead of having the annual reunion from 18th to 20th February 2005, it should be held later, at a time when we may expect a wider participation from abroad. This would really be a reunion in the real sense of the term. In any event, we are going to have a very special celebration some time during the anniversary year (preferably in winter) with sufficient advance notice, so that it is possible for those abroad to come here and join the celebrations. This particular programme should not only have social & cultural contents, but there should also be seminars/workshops etc., especially on interdisciplinary topics and cutting edge technology. Some of the renowned alumni may be persuaded to deliver special addresses on their subjects of specialization.

BESU in News

Shibpur varsity eyes tag for Delhi grant

Source: <http://www.telegraphindia.com/1050122/asp/calcutta/>

Barely four months after being declared a full-fledged university, Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur, has begun lobbying for the status of an Institute of National Importance (INI).

If approved, the INI tag will enable the 148-year-old institution, earlier known as Shibpur Bengal Engineering College, to fetch an additional annual grant of over Rs 20 crores from the Centre. Presently, the institute is solely dependent on state government funds.

The state now doesn't have any INI to boast. The only institute for which the government had approached the Centre for the status is Calcutta Medical College and Hospital. The proposal is still pending, said officials of the higher education department. INIs in the country include the Indian Institute of



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Science, Bangalore, and the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

“We have submitted the proposal for the INI status to the state government, which will forward it to the Centre,” said N.R. Banerjea, vice-chancellor of BESU.

The authorities, sources said, are likely to place a copy of their proposal before Union human resources development minister Arjun Singh, when he visits the university on February 16.

According to sources in the higher education department, the university is eyeing the INI tag not just to enhance its reputation, but also to source extra funds for boosting academic activities. The bulk of the Rs 20 crore that the university receives from the state government each year is spent on salaries to teachers and non-teaching employees.

A principal condition that an applicant institute has to meet for getting the status is to arrange its admission procedure in a way that will enable students from across the country to sit for the test. Vice-chancellor Banerjea said the condition would not be a problem, as the state government had already thrown open the JEE for students from other states.

BESU Governing Body

BESU has constituted a committee to draw up a statute for the constitution of a Court and an Executive Council (equivalent to the Senate and the Syndicate of certain other Universities). Two Professors of BESU, who are ex-students of BESU and one ex-student from the industry are members of the 7-member committee. It has been reported that BESU's Court will have 35 members and the EC would have 13 members. There would also be various faculty councils with 20 members each and a finance committee with 10 members. It is likely that two of the members of the Court would be nominees of the alumni.

BE College teachers oppose new courses

Excerpts from a news article from The Statesman, Kolkata

Attempts at expansion by Bengal Engineering and Science University seem to have run into rough weather with a section of the teachers opposing the move citing an overburdened faculty and absence of required set-up.

The Bengal Engineering and Science University Teachers' Association today submitted a mass memorandum to the

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Banerjea on the matter. On 11 January, Dr. Banerjea had proposed the introduction of new engineering programs in electrical, chemical and mechanical engineering streams in the evening hours, to the university's academic council. Other courses also suggested are on physics, chemistry and mathematics through distance education mode and post-graduate programs in software engineering and educational technology.

According to the association, the faculty of the departments of chemistry, IT, mathematics and physics are already overburdened. They have demanded to stop introduction of all new courses unless additional permanent faculty positions are created. Also, they are concerned that with so many engineering colleges around, the evening courses might fail to take off.

“The V.C. did not report to the members of the academic council and board of management, the resolution taken by the faculty members in their meeting of the departmental academic council. He is taking unilateral decisions,” Prof. Santanu Karmakar, secretary of the teachers' association, complained. Dr. NR Banerjea, declined to comment on the matter.

VC sets priority for 2005

<http://www1.timesofindia.indiatimes.com//articleshow/971218.cms>

Dr. N.R. Banerjea, the newly appointed vice-chancellor stated that getting BESU on the list of the top-10 institutions of the country is his primary objective in 2005. In order to achieve that he wants cooperation from the faculty who he thinks, need to be pro-active in this matter. He also wishes the students, faculty and staffs of the school to be more disciplined. He believes that lackadaisical attitude of a small minority spoil all the good work done by others.

Another Centre of Excellence at BESU

Submitted by Dr. Ajit K. Chattopadhyay (1958EE), Emeritus Professor,
Dept. of Elec. Engg. , BESU, Shibpur, Howrah-711103,
India; E-mail: akcee@hotmail.com, akcee_2000@yahoo.com

The Department of Information Technology (DIT) under Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Govt. of India is launching a project entitled "National Mission on Power Electronics Technology (NaMPET)" which will be implemented through a network of academic institutes and manufacturing industries with C-DAC, Thiruvananthapuram as the nodal centre with overall



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responsibility for its execution.

The objective of the mission is to provide the country with the capability to become a significant player internationally in the Power Electronics (PE) Technology in the next 5 years time by identifying and giving thrust to R&D activities, upgradation of technical know-how in the industries and resources in the premier academic institutes, conducting awareness programs through National/International Seminars/Workshops/short term courses, launching specific mission projects etc

With DIT initiative, a no. of major indigenous R &D projects have been pursued in the PE such as National HVDC Project (200MW, 200kV) with BHEL, FACTS Controller with Powergrid, Custom Power Devices with C-DAC(T). Some advanced research projects have also been attempted in few academic institutes. Based on these activities, DIT's R &D Working Group on Industrial Applications (of which Prof. Chatterjee is an Expert Member for the last 10 years) felt that coordination and consolidation of these efforts are required by utilizing the strengths of the premier academic institutes and industries. It recommended (after a meeting held on May 24, 2004) the launching of the NamPET to the Ministry.

During the discussion of the report prepared by Mr. T.K. Sarkar, Senior Director, DIT and C-Dac(T), with respect to the approach to be adopted to achieve the mission, the committee recommended that the research arm in the Network will consist of Six institutes with C-DAC (T) as the nodal centre. BESU, Shibpur. (Prof. Chatterjee put forward a strong case for BEC for its inclusion because of its research contribution and industrial consultancy work for the last 5 years in this area) will be one of them.

The other institutes that have been selected are IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Kanpur, Indian Institute of Science-Bangalore and the Chennai-based Anna University. Each of these institutes has been selected on the basis of the advanced level to which it has taken its power electronics, which is a new branch of electrical engineering and is not available in too many institutes in the country. Teachers of electrical engineering in BEC have not only been researching in this field, but one of its youngest teachers, Dr. Mainak Sengupta, was recently awarded the Young Engineer Award-2004 by the Union government's Indian National Academy of Engineering.

At BEC, students take up power electronics as a compulsory paper right from their undergraduate (B.E.) stage. IIT-Kharagpur's Dr. A.K. Chattopadhyay has been roped in as emeritus professor to teach students and guide teachers in

their research. The institutes will select consumer items at a meeting in Bangalore on November 17.

The Ministry has approved the Project with a total outlay of Rs 24.7 crores for first five years, to be released by the DIT as grant-in-aid of which Rs 5 crores has been earmarked as aid for infrastructure/resource development at the six earmarked institutes (BESU included) and around Rs 10.7 crores for the projects. Out of Rs. 24.7 crores, a sum of around Rs 80 lakhs is expected by BESU for infrastructure development. The BESU has already identified a space for developing the infrastructure for the project. It may get around 2 crores in addition for projects that may be sanctioned in future.

The 17th November meeting of the project at IISc Bangalore was attended by Dr M. Sengupta from BESU. He indicated the areas in which BESU faculties are working such as Cycloconverters & matrix converters, drives based on DSP Controllers, levitation, development of industry grade special motors like BLDC, SRMs in close collaboration with Weibel Mediatronics and NSTL etc. The Meeting decided that the first Workshop on Industry-Academic interaction on Power Electronics will be conducted jointly by IIT-Kharagpur and BESU sometime in March/April this year.

Global Alumni Association (GAA)

To coordinate the activities of all alumni spread all over the world, the need of a global association can not be over-emphasized. Absence of a global association has created a vacuum. As a result, whenever, some alumni try to help the Alma Mater, he/she does in his/her own way and this has created quite few alumni associations throughout the world. This creates duplications of efforts. This is in contrast to the situations, one can notice in the Universities in USA or UK. With one global association, it is easier to influence the activities at the college and it will be easier to press WB and Central Governments to upgrade BEC to an INI. This will also eliminate duplication of activities among the various alumni associations. With this mind, the WC and a number of alumni in USA decided to create a global body of alumni. Mr. Sudhansu S. Chakraborty, Dr. Arun Deb and Mr. Amitava Ghoshal took the responsibility to prepare a report about the proposed GAA. The report is shown below was adopted by the WC.

- Global Alumni Association (International) to be formed.
- Office to be established at Guest House with Global interconnection and one full time Director with part



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time support from members/students/BESU staff who volunteers service. BESU will be requested to provide free accommodation and infrastructure (electrical/bandwidth/water etc.).

- GAA will have two executive bodies -
 - a virtual one that represents global alumni and
 - an executive operational body for directing the activities with members drawn from Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and other large alumni centers in India.
- This Association will immediately introduce Annual/Life membership fees to be collected from the members for funding the operational cost of the Association.

Objectives of the Association will be:

- to systematically uplift the image and status of BESU, both nationally and internationally;
- project nationally and internationally the Institution and its contribution to the engineering profession;
- to network the present and future alumni on a common platform on a continuing basis;
- to become the voice of the alumni in all the matters related to betterment of BESU;
- to foster continuing professional/academic development by drawing support from achievers amongst the alumni in their respective fields;

Suggested members of the Initial Core Committee are as follows:

Mr. S. S. Chakraborty, Delhi
Dr. Nikhil Ranjan Banerjee, Vice Chancellor, BESU
Dr. Sankar Sen, Kolkata
Dr. Amitabha Ghosh, Kanpur
Dr. Arun K Deb, PA, USA
Mr. Amitabha Ghoshal, Kolkata
Dr. Kajal Gupta, CA, USA
Mr. J R Sengupta, Toronto, Canada
Mr. Santanu Chatterjee, Kolkata
Mr Basab. Majumdar, DG, CPWD, Delhi
Mr. Amarnath Chakraborty, ADG, CPWD, Delhi
Dr. Swapan Saha, CA, USA,
Dr. Santanu Karmakar, Kolkata
Mr. Apurba Dasgupta, Mumbai

Mr. N. R. Bandopadhyay, Kolkata

The Global Alumni Association would raise its own resources to realize its objectives and for which the suggested membership fees are as follows:

Annual Membership (India) :	Rs.100.
Annual Membership (Overseas) (or equivalent)	US \$25. (or equivalent)
Life Membership (India) :	Rs. 2,000.
Life Membership (Overseas) :	US \$250. (or equivalent)

It would be further expanded to Executive Committee members who would be chosen from across the globe. Various suggestions have been received from several quarters of which the following are being mentioned:

- The expanded Executive Committee could be drawn from the members and other centers, besides the Core Committee members:
- Through our network, we are soliciting more names and the Executive Committee would be finalized, once the Association is registered and finalization of other operational aspects is formulated.
- Mr. S. S. Chakraborty, Dr. Arun K. Deb and Mr. Amitabha Ghoshal will start drafting the Bye-Laws in an expeditious manner and to take all the initiatives to take other formalities to be completed and placed before the Committee.
- Various sub-committees would be formed to realize all the five objectives as stated earlier.

It was decided that after they draw up the bye-laws and take initiatives for other formalities like registration of the GAA, opening a Bank Account, obtaining Tax Exemption etc., further action would follow. Amitavada (Ghosal) would arrange for getting GAA registered in India.

Mr. Amitava Ghosal held a meeting with Mr. Santanu Chatterjee on 28th January 2005, to finalize the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed GAA. He would be submitting the Application Form for Registration of the name of the Association shortly. Thereafter, once the name is registered, the final Memorandum and Articles of Association and Bye-Laws have to be filed for approval and registration.



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Meanwhile Global Networking, exchange of ideas and proposals regarding formation of sub-committees could be discussed. The Chairman of the Sub-Committees would be permanent invitees of the (Organizing) Committee of the GAA. It is to be noted that about 2700 alumni around the world registered to www.becollege.org site.

Alumni Projects

Alumni Seminar Series Project Annual Report 2004

Submitted by Prof Pratik Dutta pkd@mining.becs.ac.in on Fri, 28 Jan 2005

The alumni community of the institute launched the Alumni Seminar Series Project in the year 2004. The main objective of the project is to reach, serve and engage all alumni, faculty and students and to foster a lifelong intellectual and emotional bond between the college and its graduates through seminars and lectures by alumni and other invited speakers. To meet the expenses for the seminars (local transportation, snacks, token gifts, handouts etc.), a fund has been set-up with the donations from Mr. Ashish Basu, 1983CE (\$500.00) and BECAA-Northern California (\$3,000.00) from USA. The fund has been allocated to the Registrar, BESU and is maintained centrally according to the existing financial rules of the institute.

The speakers for the seminars have the options to select a topic from wide range of areas such as technological advancements, technological challenges, curriculum development, entrepreneurship, higher study options or any other related topics. In order to manage the effort professionally and in a transparent manner, it is governed by certain rules and guidelines and the complete process document is available in the website <http://www.becollege.org>. The project is coordinated by a global alumni team and a faculty team under the chairmanship of Dr. S.N. Biswas (Dean, Faculty of Engineering & ATRP) with Prof. Pratik Dutta as convenor. Since its launch in April 2004, nine seminars have been delivered during 2004. Most of these lecture materials are available at <http://www.becollege.org>.

SEMINARS DELIVERED DURING 2004

Since its launch in April 2004, the following nine seminars have been delivered during 2004:

1) Dr. Subhamoy Bhattacharya, '98 CE, 21st Century of

Excellence Fellow, Centre for Urban earthquake Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology, "Pile supported structures still collapse during earthquakes! What is the missing load in the design method?" 28.4.2004

2) Nilanjan Mitra, '98 CE, PhD Student, University of Washington, "Reinforced Concrete Beam-Column Joint Model", 17.7.2004

3) Sudeshna Mitra, '98 CE Graduate Student, Department of Civil Engineering & Engineering Mechanics, "Transportation Safety- A growing Concern Worldwide", 17.7.2004.

4) Prithwish Mukherjee, '80 EE, Chief Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India, "Eastern Regional Grid and the Bulk Power Settlement System", 28.7.2004.

5) Ashish Basu, '83 CE, Vice President, Sales & Business Development, Interra Syatems, California, "Intellectual Property: The New Frontier", 5.8.2004.

6) Dr. Manoj Bhattacharya, '78 EE, Hewlett Packard Laboratories, California, USA, "Digital Printing Technologies", 11.10.2004

7) Prof. S. Khasnobis, '62 CE, Department of Civil Engineering Wayne State University, Michigan, "Asset Management Strategies to Optimize Transportation Investment" 29.11.2004.

8) Dr. Sujit Ghosh, '86 CE, Regional Technical Director, Aggregate and Concrete Division, Lafarge South East Asia, "High Performance Civil Engineering Materials- Present Stage of Development and Future Needs", 23.12.2004.

9) Prof. J.N. Mandal, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, "Geotube for Shore Protection", 24.12.2004.

Most of these lecture materials are available in the website <http://www.becollege.org>.

This laudable effort by the alumni community is at its infancy. However, most of these have been limited to Civil Engineering. The committee takes this opportunity to appeal to other departments of the institute to utilize resources under this project and help to enhance awareness about the outside world. Also alumni community from all disciplines is requested to come forward and share their knowledge and expertise with their alma mater. Contact Prof Dutta if you want to deliver a seminar at BESU.



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Seminar Room Upgrade by Alumni

B. E. College is now Bengal Engineering and Science University. Unfortunately, it does not have any good auditorium with modern facilities (like a/c, good acoustics or state-of-the-art presentation equipment) to hold seminars or conduct conferences. It creates problems when outside speakers give seminars. Recently, the university built an eight-story building to accommodate a no. of engineering and science departments and business school. This building has several seminar rooms. A few of the alumni from India and U.S. thought it would be a good idea to upgrade one of the seminar rooms to the state-of-the-art form.

Mr. Bhudeb Lodh (1953 EE) while in Kolkata found out the cost of upgrading one of the seminar rooms to be about \$ 40,000. A group of alumni has raised about \$ 28,000 (BECAA East Coast US\$ 25,000.00 and Bhudeb Lodh US\$ 3,000.00) for the project. Construction of this project started in November 2004 and should be completed by March 2005. An additional \$12,000 will be needed to complete this project. The alumni group appeals to all of our alumni to donate for this project.

Contact Information:

- Bhudeb Lodh, 53EE, San Francisco, USA Email: blodh@yahoo.com; Ph: 1-415-776-1258
- Arun Deb, 57CE, Philadelphia, USA arundeb@msn.com, Ph: Kolkata 91-33-2418-8029; Philedelphia-1-610-363-6281
- Amitabha Ghoshal, 57CE, Kolkata Ph: 91-33-2473 2538, e-mail: gamitabha@yahoo.com
- * Email: webmaster@becollege.org

For alumni in India and Abroad (except USA), please make your check/draft payable to "BESU-Seminar Room A/C" and mail to:

Dr. Nikhil Ranjan Banerjea, Vice Chancellor
Bengal Engineering & Science University
P.O. Botanic Garden, Howrah 711103, India

For USA Donors

Please send your USA tax-exempt donation (Check payable B.E. College Scholarship Fund or BECAA) at the following address:

B.E. College Alumni Scholarship Fund
C/o Mr. Sripati Bhattacharya
613 Manhasset Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

BECAA
C/o Mr. Asok Chakraborty
3 Wells Court
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Write "Seminar Room" in Memo in both cases.

Golden Jubilee Celebration 1954 Batch

A two day program was arranged. On Saturday 4th December, we met at the college campus with some of our spouses who were willing to make the trip. We assembled at the Alumni House and then went over to the Seminar Hall at the Dastur Building at 11 am. The Vice-Chancellor and some Faculty members attended. We started with a 1 minute silence for our dear departed friends, a chorus of 'Purano Shei Diner Kotha', addresses by the VC and Faculty, Question and answers on various aspects of the newly minted 'Bengal Engineering and Science University' and reminiscences from the alumni about the 'Good Old Days'. Box Lunches were served and then we walked around the campus and the hostels.

On the next day, Sunday, 5th December we gathered at 'Ibiza Club' near Jokha on the Diamond Harbour Road and a wonderful hot lunch amidst very lush and pleasant environment.

The attendance was about 45 on the first day and 50 on the second, including the spouses. We could have had a better showing; nevertheless those who attended thoroughly enjoyed the 'Adda'. Our classmate Sasanka Roy went around from door to door to solicit attendance. Baseball caps with a logo "B E College Alumni 1954 Batch, Golden Anniversary" were handed out to all participants as a memento for the occasion.

I urge all of you to organize similar meets. Besides nostalgia, it would strengthen Alumni participation and support for the BESU authorities to improve the standard of our Alma Mater.

Jyoti R. Sengupta, 54CE; ranju@rogers.com



Bengal Engineering College Alumni Association |



The house thanked the few enthusiastic people who had put in their time and labour to contact all the alumni and prepare a list with all their contact details. This effort is recognized as the first step towards an organized gathering. Vote of thanks was also given to M/s W. J. Trowell and M/s L & T, Oman - who had sponsored the occasion. Bhaswati Roychowdhury and Soumitra Chatterjee very ably conducted the evening. Mayukh Dutta had a tuff time behind the camera capturing the mood and important discussions.

The spouses and the children of the alumni were very cooperative through the evening. Special games were arranged for children & spouses. The alumni got the chance to introduce their family members to all, as well as they were encouraged to talk their hearts out about their college days, which were applauded by all present. The evening concluded with a cheerful "adda session" & dinner.

Chapter News

BECAA - OMAN

Contributed by "Rajdeep Dutta"

rajdeep_dutta2003@yahoo.com, 88EE

The alumni of B. E. College in Oman organized first general body meeting and get together on 3rd February at the Haffa House Hotel in Ruwi, Muscat. It was a pioneering event for its alumni in Oman and was enjoyed by the alumni and their families alike.

The momentous gathering grabbed this opportunity to serve their alma mater. Proposal was made and accepted by the house to provide scholarships to the needy students. At once money was raised for this noble cause and the alumni of Oman are now ready to provide help to the needy students from the forth-coming academic session. Other proposals included raising fund for the college library and providing chairs for lectureship or professorship in the different departments. These proposals will be looked into in the future and may be taken forward if proper funds can be raised.

An Executive Committee was formed to take forward the above proposals. The committee consists of Shuvendu Bakshi, Subhashis Chanda, Rajdeep Dutta, Debjani Chatterjee, Debkusum Dutta, Goutam Mondal, Rathin Bhattacharya and Arunava Lahiri. As per the tradition of the college, the senior members have kindly consented to work as an Advisory Board. This Advisory Board consists of Mr. C. B. Ghosh, Mr. J. K. Mitra, Mr. Vijay Kripal, Mr. Rajat Chakraborty and Dr. Dipak Chowdhury.



Shuvendu Bakshi (91 Arch) & Rajdeep Dutta (88 EE)

New Registrar at BESU

Submitted by Amit Gorai, 2000MinE

Prof. Indranath Sinha (82MinE) has been appointed to the post of Registrar of BESU on December 28, 2004. He



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obtained his first master's degree from IIT Kharagpur and second (Diplome d'Etudes Aprofondies) from 'Ecole Nationale Superieure des Mines de Paris' on a French Government scholarship. Subsequently he earned his Ph.D. from Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad. He came to BESU from ISM.

Dr. Sinha has not only been interested in academic matters but also in extra-curricular activities. He is a SPIC MACAY evangelist. He was keenly involved in the organization of the East Zone inter University Youth Festival and a key figure behind successful organization of VIRASAT 2004, a week long Classical Musical Bonanza.

Dr Indra N Sinha, Registrar, Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur, P.O. Indian Botanic Gardens, Howrah - 711 103, WEST BENGAL, INDIA; Email: indranaths@yahoo.com / indranaths@lycos.com; Phone: + 91 33 2668 1503(O)

Obituary

Shailendra Singh (1991MetE)

There is sad news reported by Kaushik Chatterjee, 91CE. "One of our alumni, Shailendra Singh (1991, Met.) is no more with us. Shailendra, popularly known as "HUBBA", was working in B.A.R.C. and was stationed at Tarapur. He was a member of BECAA Maharashtra also. On 23rd January, he along with his wife and 5 yr. old son was driving back to Tarapur from Aurangabad after a weekend trip. At around 9 AM his Maruti Zen collided head-on with a Volvo Bus near Aurangabad and all three of them died on the spot."

Narayan Sanyal (48CE)

An alumnus of Bengal Engineering College and eminent writer of modern Bengali literature Sri Narayan Sanyal passed away on last Monday (07/02/2005). He was 81 yrs of age. According to the family sources, the writer died at his residence in Kolkata following a major cardiac arrest. He is survived by his wife, a daughter and a son.

He was born in Kolkata on 26th April 1924. His father was late Chittasukh Sanyal and mother Late Basantalata Devi. After completing his science graduation from Calcutta University in 1944, he joined BEC in Civil engineering department and passed out from there in 1948. Then he joined PWD as Building Engineer. Later he joined NBO (National Buildings Organisation - Ministry of Works and Housing, Eastern Region, Govt. of India). He was a Fellow of the

"Institute of Engineers" (India) in 1976 and also a Fellow of the "Association of Engineers" (India) in 1976. He retired in 1982 from there.



Let us pray that their souls may rest in peace.