



Bengal Engineering College Alumni Association |

Alumni Newsletter – Vol 7, No 2, April 4, 2005
<http://www.becollege.org>

From Editor's Desk: Most of us attended BEC as it was one of the top-tier institutions of its kind in our time. I am sure all alumni would always prefer to be known as the product of an elite school and wish that BEC always remain in that category. Unfortunately, it is not so today. To remedy this situation, few alumni of the BE College, now known as Bengal Engineering and Science University or BESU, have taken initiatives to re-establish it as one of the best engineering schools in India. But, it is proving to be quite challenging now. We need all the assistance we can get from all the alumni in achieving the goal.

As we plan to celebrate 150th anniversary of the school next year, we thought it proper to take initiatives for converting BESU to an IIT/INI and become a top-tier school again. This conversion will be a recognition of BEC's contribution to the engineering education in pre and post independent India. We thank Dr. Santanu Karmakar for initiating the process in August of 2003. We are also grateful to many distinguished alumni in India and abroad who worked closely with him and his team. We had initial success in the first round of a marathon process as the committee appointed by NDA Government and headed by Dr. Joshi recommended BEC and six other engineering schools to be the candidates for conversion to IITs. However, it has been a roller coaster ride for all of us connected with the upgradation since the recommendation was publicized. The recommendation is on hold now. This is where your help is needed. If you believe that BESU should be upgraded to an IIT and/or an INI and you can influence either of State and Central Governments or both, please contact Dr. Karmakar at BESU. We believe converting BESU to an IIT and/or an INI is the most important priority for us (specially when observing 150th anniversary in 2006).

The objective of this newsletter is to bring awareness and increase participation of all alumni for the improvement of our school. This newsletter brings you the information about different things that are going on at the College and how some alumni are helping in realizing our goal of making our Alma Mater to be one of the best institutions in India. We hope that this newsletter will reconnect you with the college and you, in turn, will help in our endeavors. The newsletter is compiled from alumni and BESU news posted to the alumni web site. Please visit your alumni web site <http://www.becollege.org> to get the latest status of the news included here and to get news and information about our Alma Mater and Alumni community. The sources of all the news items are noted at the

web site. Alumni and faculty contribute regularly to news items and rests are collected from either printed media or online media.

Since our last newsletter, we compiled contact information for the administrators and faculties at BESU. The list is available at the web site also and you can get a copy by sending your request to gbecaa@yahoo.com or webmaster@becollege.org. As a next step, we intend to publish a list of alumni teaching in major Indian Institutions (IITs, IISc, IIMs, etc.) and abroad. The list will not only help our present students and recent graduates who want to pursue higher studies but will also help BESU faculty to build partnerships with alumni for collaborative research. An incomplete list is enclosed along with the email, please help alumni web team to create a complete list and help our Alma Mater and future alumni.

We would appreciate if you share this newsletter with other alumni who are not on the mailing list. We do have around 2800 alumni registered to the alumni web site and only 1400 joined to the distribution list which is being used to send out electronic newsletter. Our target is to compile an alumni roster of 5000 entries by the end of 2005 and 10,000 before the 150th celebration so that we can publish the addresses of 10000 alumni in a book form and distribute them during 150th celebration. 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, 70ME, 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, Apurba Tribedi-1994CE, Pranesh Biswas-1990CE, Bhaskar Chattopadhyay-1989ETC, Rajdeep Dutta-1988EE, Swapan Saha-1988EE, Tarun Basu-1967CE & Santosh Sinha-1965CE.

Recent Indian Media comment about BESU Alumni Web Site:

"But it's the engineering and management colleges, not surprisingly, that have actually learned to optimise the use of the Internet to get the most out of their alumni associations. Bengal Engineering College (becollege.org) has a nifty site that gives you the current temperature in Kolkata, offers a running news



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feed of headlines and a thriving discussion board.” - Nilanjana S Roy, Business Standard, Sunday, April 3, 2005.

“BECAA uses their site and email newsletters to raise funds for their alumni projects. Now the Web site is being used to generate \$100,000 to set up a state-of-the-art chip design institute”- Bijoy A K | September 08, 2003 15:49 IST, “India’s online student networks gain momentum”, Rediff.com

BESU News

BEC to IIT! Not at this time!

New Delhi: The S K Joshi committee, set up at the behest of the then PM, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, to study a proposal to start five new IITs in 2003s, has submitted its report. The committee looked at academic standing and infrastructure to shortlist the institutes. Parameters like faculty, research papers published in a year, courses, student strength and physical infrastructure have also been taken into account.

But the committee did not consider the 17 regional engineering colleges that were upgraded to NITs during Murlu Manohar Joshi’s stint as HRD minister with the logic that they already had the same governance structure and deemed university status as IITs. The committee has short listed the following seven technical institutes that can be upgraded to IITs:

- Bengal Engineering College (Howrah), WB
- Jadavpur University's Engineering and Technical Department, WB
- Benaras Hindu University's Institute of Technology, UP
- Zakir Hussain College of Engineering, Aligarh, UP
- Andhra University College of Engineering, AP
- Osmania College of Engineering (Osmania University College of Technology), AP
- Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kerala

In the one and a half years since Vajpayee made the promise, the ministry had been flooded with queries from the state governments and questions in Parliament on which institutes would be the lucky ones. The NDA government would have probably jumped at the recommendations and may have initiated action soon but the new dispensation is not too sure.

They are debating the issue of whether we need more IITs. Wouldn't half a dozen more IITs dilute the brand equity of the existing ones etc.? Besides the big five, two IITs were set up at Guwahati (new) and Roorkee (upgraded) by the NDA government.

However SK Joshi committee also stated in its report that all these seven colleges "fall far below the level of existing IITs in all criteria." "The committee felt it would not be correct to position these institutions straightway alongside the IITs," and suggested that these seven colleges be described as institutions possessing the best potential for upgradation to the level of IITs and recommended an experts' group to visit these institutions to assess their suitability.

The government however, referred the issue to the Standing Committee of the Council of IITs, which suggested that instead of converting them into IITs a "differential treatment" could be extended so that they develop further. On the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Central Government ruled out according the IIT status to seven engineering colleges in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala at this time and decided to give a "differential treatment" to these seven colleges to enable them to improve further. They have called a meeting of these institutions to discuss the issue.

Mondialogo Engineering Award Finalist (C.E. Dept.)

STUTTGART, Germany, and PARIS, March 9 -- An international jury has nominated the finalists for the "Mondialogo Engineering Award", the first worldwide intercultural contest seeking ideas for sustainable technical improvements in developing countries. 40 project ideas from international universities, selected from 111 submitted proposals (39 of which included U.S. participation), have now been short-listed for one of the awards (up to 20 awards), which together carry 300,000 euros in prize money. The winners will be announced during an international ceremony at the end of May in Berlin, Germany.

Among these final 40 project ideas, seven include participation of U.S. academic institutions and BEC's collaborative proposal is one of them:

Lehigh University of Bethlehem with Bengal Engineering College, India - (Project: "Providing arsenic-free water in remote villages in West Bengal, India")

Assessment of the project ideas was based on the criteria of technical excellence, sustainability, feasibility and intercultural dialogue within the project group. More than



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1,700 young engineers and students from 79 countries had registered for the contest and formed 412 international teams.

The "Mondialogo Engineering Award" is an initiative from DaimlerChrysler and UNESCO aimed at the worldwide promotion of dialogue among civilizations. The initiative calls on students from industrialized and developing countries to work together on technical proposals addressing the UN Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of poverty and the promotion of environmentally sustainable development.

Among the finalists nominated during the jury meeting in Stuttgart are teams representing all continents? Working with their project partners, students and engineers from universities in the regions of Asia/Pacific, Africa, Arab states, Latin America/Caribbean, North America as well as teams from Europe have successfully managed the leap into the group containing the best project proposals submitted worldwide.

Dr. Anirban Gupta ('89CE) said that "The proposal was prepared jointly by BEC and Lehigh University in the same line as our present collaborative work is going on with Dr. Arup K. Sengupta. One of Ph.D. Scholar (Sudipta Sarkar '95 CE) was conducting part of his thesis research at Lehigh for which he is supported for about 10 months from a project funding of Dr. Arup Sengupta. He wrote the first draft with Dr. Sengupta's guidance and then it was forwarded to me for comments and revisions. It was finally sent for Mondialogo award. We are waiting eagerly for the outcome. The proposal is regarding use of suitable arsenic removal device in rural Bengal."

President of India cancels BESU visit

The President of India, Mr. APJ Abdul Kalam cancelled his visit to West Bengal on 11th March 2005. As such, the inauguration ceremony of the Bengal Engineering and Science University has been postponed to a later date. Mr. Arjun Singh, Central Minister for Human Resources, Mr. Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Governor, WB, Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, Chief Minister, WB and Mr. Satya Sadhan Chakraborty, Higher Education Minister, WB also confirmed their visits along with the President of India.

In a meeting of the HODs, Deans and Celebration Committee Members, it was unanimously resolved that the inauguration of the University ought to be held in a befitting way. It is worth waiting for the President's next visit to the State than to hold the ceremony without him. The school is awaiting confirmation of a date from the President's Office. The Function was to be held at LORDS. Mr. Santanu Chatterjee

was to be the Chairman of the Celebration Team.

Synopsis of BESU VC's Convocation Speech

The 7th Convocation of the Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur was held on February 16, 2005. Professor Sankar Kumar Sen, an eminent scholar, educationist and one of the illustrious alumni and Professor C.N.R. Rao were awarded Doctor of Science (honoris causa) degree. Prof. Rao, being out of the country at the time, could not make it; however he accepted the tribute and has consented to be at the college at the earliest opportunity.

Academic Programs & Honors

The VC reported significant progress in academic (teaching & research) and other extracurricular activities since the 2004 convocation. He stated that the total student-enrolment has been 724 in the year 2004-2005. This includes 362 in undergraduate engineering, 201 in post-graduate engineering including full-time day course and part-time evening course, 71 in 4 branches of postgraduate Applied Sciences, 30 for MCA and 60 for MBA. In addition, 52 new students have registered in the Ph.D. programme.

721 students received degrees and prizes in this convocation (383 undergraduates, 329 postgraduates and 9 Ph.D.s who completed their studies and passed the examinations during 2003-2004 academic year). Undergraduate engineering degree in the branch of Information Technology, postgraduate engineering degree in the field of Industrial Metallurgy and postgraduate science degree in the field of Applied Geology were awarded for the first time at this convocation. University medals were awarded to 33 candidates who secured highest marks in different disciplines (10 in undergraduate and 23 in postgraduate). 4 Memorial Medals were awarded to the best candidate in 3 faculties who qualified in the postgraduate examinations. President's Medal was awarded to the top scorer among the entire undergraduate student body.

A total of 6 memorial medals, donated by the members of the family of the alumni of Bengal engineering College were given away during this convocation.

Research Activities

The University's reputation for excellence in research and development is demonstrated by the commendable performance of its faculty members (especially by their research output which is reflected by a good number of publications in peer-reviewed national and international journals). A significant number of research projects funded by



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AICTE, UGC, DST, CSIR, ISRO, DRDO, DIT and international funding agencies like CIDA, SANEI etc. bear the testimony of the quality of the research programmes carried out at the University. New research projects numbering 22 have been sanctioned in favour of the University worth nearly 432 lakh since last convocation. Nearly 65 sponsored research projects are presently under operation in the University with a financial outlay of approximately 650 lakh. More than hundred sponsored research activities in project mode worth approximately Rs. 1460 lakh have been received and implemented/under implementation by the University over last 5 years.

Besides the conventional fields of technology and sciences, the University in recent years, has brought many frontier areas of S & T under the purview of its sponsored research activity. Some of such areas, where research activities are underway are:

- Power Electronics
- Fuel Cell
- VLSI and Embedded Systems
- Nano Science & Technology
- Disaster Engineering
- Cellular Automata
- Mobile Computing
- Bio-Mechanics
- Remote-sensing and GIS
- Space Technology
- Tribology

Enhancing the Academic Programmes

Commensurate with advanced research activities, development of academic infrastructure has also been undertaken through DST- FIST scheme worth nearly 5.5 crore, covering eight academic departments, with inclusion of two new departments during the current year.

In addition, the University is already covered and designated as Lead Institute under World Bank funded Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP). Under this plan, about INR 23 Crore has been earmarked for this University towards improvement of its academic infrastructure over five years. The implementation of the scheme has already started in the current year. This is an outright grant to the University by the State Govt.

As a part of our infrastructure development programme, one strong-motion accelerograph will be installed in the Civil Engineering Department in collaboration with IIT- Kanpur.

This is under the sponsorship from World Seismic Safety Initiative.

Academic activities organized by various Departments

Various departments of the University have organized academic events throughout the year including Workshops, Seminars, Short-term Courses, Refresher Courses, Executive Development programmes, etc.

Besides these programmes, the University has also collaborated with other professional bodies to organize International Conference on Nanotechnology and Asian Test Symposium at Kolkata during the current year.

Visitors to the University

The University has welcomed a number of visitors from in-country and abroad, both from academic institutes and industry, during the school year. Some of the visitors who visited us from abroad are:

- Prof. L.Pavesi University of Trento, Italy
- Prof. S. Harpalani, South Illinois University, USA
- Prof. Upal Ghosh, Maryland University, USA
- Mr. Arindam Mukhopadhyay, American Express, USA
- Prof. S. Bandyopadhyay, University of New South Wales, Australia
- Prof. S. Seal, University of Central Florida, USA
- Prof. P. R. Chakraborty, California State University, USA
- Prof. Prasanta Ghosh, Syracuse University, USA
- Prof. Anjan Bose, Dean, Washington State University.
- Dr. Manoj Bhattacharya, Hewlett Packard, USA
- Dr. Tinku Acharya, Adjunct Professor, University of Arizona, USA
- Prof. S. Khasnobis, Wayne State University, USA
- Dr. Subhamoy Bhattacharya, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan
- Mr. Nilanjan Mitra, University of Washington, USA
- Ms Sudeshna Mitra, University of Arizona, USA
- Mr. Ashish Basu, Interra Systems, California, USA

In addition, a delegation from Colombo Plan Staff College, Bangkok, comprising 30 eminent S&T personalities from different south-east Asian countries visited this University with the purpose of building up academic collaboration.



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Accolades for University Faculty

During the year, a no. of faculty members has won awards and laurels for their excellence in academic pursuits. To name a few of them:

- Prof. N. C. Dey (Mining) – Engineering Gold Medal by MGMI in 2004.
- Prof. Sudip Basak -AICTE Career Award for Young Teachers
- Prof. Dr. N. R. Bandyopadhyay - Distinguished Metallurgist Award of I.E. (I).
- Prof. Subrata Chakraborti (Civil) - BOYSCAST (Better Opportunity for Young Scientists in chosen areas of Science & Technology) Fellowship for the year 2004-05 by DST-GoI for advanced Research at University of Arizona, Tuscon, USA. He has also been selected in cultural exchange programme of UGC with Italy.
- Prof. Mainak Sengupta - Young Engineer Award.
- Prof. Susmita Mukhopadhyay (SOMS) - Excellence Award.
- Prof. B. C. Chattopadhyay - Grade Excellence Award for the MODROB project.
- Prof. Sekhar Chandra Datta - Specially recognized by European Seismic Code Committee for outstanding research work in the field of earthquake engineering.

In addition, a good number of Members of Faculty had highly acclaimed participation in International Conferences and Symposia abroad in the last year.

Extra-curricular Events

Besides the academic events organized by the departments, the university has also been involved in organizing various central programmes and events both for the students and faculty. Some of the major programme and events organized by the University in the last year are : Celebration of Teachers Day, Celebration of Engineers Day, Observance of Cleanliness Day, Performance Effectiveness Programme, Discourses on Holistic Development, Awareness programme on Technology Incubation, Micro-Teaching Courses, Academic Meet for students, Organising Japanese Film Festival, etc. Cultural activities are also regularly organised in the University under the banner of Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPICMACAY)

A series of popular science lectures was organized by the University through its Science faculty and School of

Community Science and Technology under the Year of Scientific Awareness 2004 Programme.

Training and Placements

The ultimate success of a predominantly technological University like ours is judged by ability to develop technically sound, trained, industry-ready professionals and their placements in jobs. We are extremely happy that a remarkable progress in placements has been achieved by this University in the current year with sincere attempts to maximize the opportunities in the prevailing conducive environment. The cooperation received from industries in this regard is gratefully acknowledged.

Social Commitments and Community Services

The School of Community Science and Technology was set up in January 2004 as the outreach arm for carrying out various extension activities and fulfill the commitments towards society. During the current year, the School organized training programmes on Application of IT for Rural Development, Environmental Awareness, Technology Transfer, Laboratory to Land projects, etc. Time-relevant Seminar on Tsunami and Natural Calamity was also conducted at the University premises and other places under the auspices of the School.

Infrastructure Development

Having been upgraded to the status of a full-fledged University, major programme for infrastructure development has been undertaken and planned to cope up with the changed requirements. The University is exploring all possibilities to mobilize resources both from State and Central Government as well as other sources including alumni and industry houses to go ahead with such ambitious infrastructure development plan. Major activities contemplated under such plan are construction of new Academic Building (first and second floor of Dastur Block - 1.35 crore), construction (second phase) of Administrative Buildings (2.76 crore), construction of new Library Buildings (2.33 crore) and construction of Surface Water Treatment Centre & Distribution facilities (6.0 crore).

Actions related to construction of a new Canteen Complex (6.0 lakh), renovation of existing hostels (2.1 crore), renovation of existing Workshop Buildings (13.0 lakh) and maintenance of staff quarters (15.0 lakh) have already been initiated.

Construction of a full-fledged Auditorium/Convention Complex, restoration of existing Heritage Buildings within



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the Campus and construction of new staff quarters are also being planned as a part of the ensuing 150 Years Celebration of the Institute.

The construction of the multi-storied building, for new academic complex, which started in 2000, has been completed this year. Some of the departments have already been moved to the new building. The formal inauguration of this new complex is expected very shortly.

Partnership with the Industries

The University maintains a close liaison with industry houses and stakeholders in terms of development and transfer of technology and knowledge sharing. Some of the noteworthy partnerships in this regard are:

The Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd, as a part of its Centenary Celebration, has proposed partnering with some select premier technical universities/colleges of the country. This University is also included. Modalities for such collaborative arrangements are being worked out.

This University has entered into an MOU with M/S Infosys as a part of their Campus Connect Programme, which will encompass faculty development and grooming up programme for students as per specific requirements of the industry.

Being sponsored by Canadian Financial Agency CIDA, an industrial research project on High Volume Fly-ash Concrete Technology has been undertaken in association with Confederation of Indian Industries.

To act as nodal agency for applied research, development, prototyping and production trials for the regional foundry industry, a Centre for Research and Application on Foundry Technology (CRAFT) has been set up under Metallurgy Department.

During the current year, the university has been assigned for industrial research projects worth nearly Rs. 60 Lakh, sponsored by industries, both in public and private sectors.

Consultancy services are also being rendered by various faculty members of this University to industries and developmental agencies, on a regular basis.

Alumni Initiatives

The support from vast Alumni base of this heritage institution, spread all over the globe is a major source of strength and inspiration for this University.

To foster a lifelong intellectual and emotional connection between the University and its pass-outs, an Alumni Lecture Series Project has been launched under the sponsorship of the Alumni Committee. During the current year nine such seminars have so far been organized in the University premises.

A project of Rs.5 crore in the field of VLSI Design and Test has already been taken up under the initiative of the North California BE College Alumni Association. During the current year, an additional sum of nearly Rs.1 crore has further been committed towards strengthening of VLSI Laboratory.

A project on mobile computing is being carried out in PDSIT with a grant given by Mr. Bhudev Lodh (Alumni) worth US\$ 30,000. Components are being developed to integrate mobile devices with back end applications.

The Alumni Association has also sponsored another fund of Rs.30 lakh to strengthen the IT activities in the University. Support in the tune of Rs.25 lakh has also been received from alumni towards developing a mini auditorium in the new academic complex. Alumni of 1976 batch have taken steps to strengthen departmental sub-libraries also. A large number of scholarships have also been instituted by our alumni for needy students of the University.

Mission and Vision of the University

Vision: To be one of the ten best engineering and science universities of the country, committed to transforming India to a developed nation and partnering in the realization of the Developed India Vision 2020, through development of world-class engineers and scientists.

Mission: To be a research-intensive university with focus on creation and dissemination of knowledge, holistic development of students, teachers, employees and consistently meeting the expectations of the stakeholders, in a dynamic environment ensuring that,

- Teaching and learning are conditioned by the latest research and development, and the nation is endowed with competent engineers and scientists of the highest calibre
- The university earns recognition as an intellectual powerhouse by way of pioneering innovative ideas and high quality industry-oriented research programmes aimed at making the country globally competitive in emerging areas of technology and developing indigenous technologies relevant to



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- industry requirement and growth
- Eternal human and organizational values of the country are internalised and demonstrated by everyone

BEC's M.E. Dept. designing Sweet-making Machines

It will not exactly be a scene straight out of Hirak Rajar Deshe but fact is that mithai-making is going hi-tech with the mechanical engineering department of Bengal Engineering and Science University (formerly B.E. College) just completing the draft design of the wonder machines programmed to carry out the entire manufacturing process.

A number of lip-smacking Bengali sweets - rosogollas, chamchams, rajbhogs, sandesh and kheerkadam - will soon be churned out by these sophisticated machines, say BESU teachers. They are finalising the R&D part of the project. Works on developing the complex machines will be undertaken within the next couple of months.

These machines will first turn milk into cottage cheese, crush the 'chhana' into paste, mix the ingredients and, finally, slice them into those sweet shapes that you see on the shelves. "Since the sweets will be machine-made, they will adhere to the strictest standards of quality and hygiene.

Productivity will also be enhanced," BESU mechanical engineering department teacher B.K. Saha said. A member of the advisory committee of the association for development of sweets in West Bengal, Saha is spearheading the project. The forum, the Pashchim Banga Mishtanna Byabsayi Samiti (PBMBS), has more than a lakh members throughout the state.

General secretary of the association R.K. Pal is upbeat about the prospect of machine-made sweets. "With everything going hitech, why should we lag behind?" he asked, adding that it would help boost sales of Bengal's famous sweets not only in the state. "The demand from the international market is expected to scale up to a new height," Pal, a managing partner of Hindusthan Sweets, added.

Though the latest figures are not available, a study of the industry five years ago revealed sales of Rs 20,000 crore per annum. Of this, Rs 12,000 crore was retailed in West Bengal alone. Apart from engineers at BESU, scientists, engineers and officials from Calcutta University, the Indian Institute of Packaging and the state food processing department are working on shelf-life, packaging and logistics. "We are

keeping in mind the small-scale operators to make the machine affordable," said Saha.

Alumni Activities

Alumni Association Update

As reported earlier, an organization to coordinate the activities of all alumni throughout the world is being set up at Calcutta. The formal approval of the name of this organization, "Global Alumni Association of Bengal Engineering & Science University, Sibpur" has been received from the Registrar of Firms, Non-Trading Associations & Societies, and Government of West Bengal. Mr. Santanu Chatterjee took the initiatives to get the association registered.

The object of the Association is to actively provide help and support in every manner to Bengal Engineering & Science University so that it can become a Centre of Excellence and Institution of National Importance and includes the following :-

- a) To raise and collect monetary contributions and donations in kind from individuals and bodies of persons for providing financial help to Bengal Engineering & Science University (BESU) for developing its infrastructure and facilities for advancement of learning.
- b) To help BESU to hold national & international conferences, seminars, workshops, symposia etc.,
- c) To acquire funds, lands, buildings and other properties, both movable & immovable and to hold the same and to sell, improve, maintain, develop, exchange, lease, mortgage, dispose of or otherwise deal with such funds, lands, buildings and other properties for and in the interest of the Association.
- d) To borrow raise or secure payment of money in such manner as the Association shall think fit to promote measures of social security of the members of the Association, the teaching and non-teaching staff and officers of BESU and the students of BESU.
- e) To provide a platform for the Alumni to co-operate and collaborate for promoting the interests and welfare of BESU.
- f) To do all other acts as are relevant or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

The Core Committee, consisting of Mr. Sudhangshu Chakraborty, Mr. Amitabha Ghoshal, Dr. Arun K. Deb and others for setting up this organization have finalized the Memorandum of Association and the Bye-Laws of the proposed Global Alumni Association. The draft documents



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are now being examined by the said authority. After receipt of comments/ observations from him, the final documents, duly signed and executed, would be submitted for registration. As soon as the Association is formally registered, applications would be made to (a) The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, and (b) To the Commissioner (Exemptions), Income Tax for exemption under Section 80G / 35 AC of the Income Tax Act, 1961, with regard to receipt of membership fees, donations, etc.

Alumni Donors

At the organizing committee meeting for 150th anniversary celebrations held on Sunday, 20th March, 2005, the Vice Chancellor stated that over the decades the school received a large number of donations for providing scholarships to meritorious students and/or students from economically disadvantaged families and for various other purposes. Detailed records for such donations are not now available, especially for donations received many years back. A total amount of such donations of about INR 50 lakhs is lying idle in deposit with the banks.

As it is difficult and problematic to maintain a large number of separate endowment accounts and to administer them, it has been decided unanimously that, subject to the approval and concurrence of the donors, the sum would be transferred to a separate account and utilized for infra structural development and creation of capital assets for the University. If, however, any donor wants that his/her donation should only be utilized for the specific purpose for which the donation was made, the donor is requested to confirm this, mentioning the sum donated, the approximate date of donation, the specific purpose for which the money should be utilized etc., either to Mr. Santanu Chatterjee santanu.chatterjee@cescltd.com or to the Vice Chancellor of the University VC@becs.ac.in, preferably within 30 days.

Update on VLSI Lab Project

Faculty team has been reorganized with the following faculty members to run Ganapati Sengupta VLSI Lab at BESU.

Prof S N Biswas Professor, Department of Electronics and Telecommunication	Chairman
Prof S S Barat Professor, PDSIT	Member

Prof Prasad Shyam Assistant Professor Department of Electrical Engineering	Member
Prof Sukanta Das Lecturer, Department of Information Technology	Member
Prof Sulata Mitra Lecturer, Department of Computer Science and Technology	Member
Prof Biplab Sikdar Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Technology	Joint Convener
Prof Hafizur Rahaman, Assistant Professor, Department of Information Technology	Joint Convener

To know more about the most ambitious alumni project (Market worth of Rs 5 Crores), please visit <http://www.becollege.org> -> Projects -> VLSI Lab. The recent developments are:

- BESU received VLSI Software from Magma
- All issues in hardware are resolved including IBM Server
- Faculty and alumni teams are negotiating to buy additional software from Mentor Graphics.

The Lab will be used for a new Masters program in VLSI Design for EE, ETC, CST and IT graduates. It will be used for undergraduate summer training and workshops for practicing engineers.

Bengal Engineering & Science University 150th Anniversary Celebrations Update (24th November, 2006 – 23rd November, 2007)

In the first meeting of the 150th anniversary celebration committee held on Sunday, 20th March, 2005, following decisions were made. The meeting was attended by:

1. Dr. N. R. Banerjee, Vice Chancellor – in the chair
2. Mr. Sailapati Gupta
3. Mr. Sudhangshu Chakraborty
4. Dr. Santanu Kumar Karmakar – Joint Secretary
5. Mr. Nilanjan Sengupta – Joint Secretary
6. Mr. Anjan Kumar Ghosh - Treasurer
7. Mr. Santanu Chatterjee – Hony. Secretary
(List incomplete)

A. The constitution of the Organizing Committee as follows, was confirmed:-



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President	Dr. Sankar Kumar Sen
Working President	Dr. N. R. Banerjee, VC
Vice Presidents	Dr. Kajal Gupta, Chief Technologist, NASA, U.S.A Dr. Amitabha Ghosh, Former Director, IIT, Kharagpur Mr. Sudhangshu Sekhar Chakraborty, Chairman, CES Mr. Amrit Das, CEO, Netguru, USA
Hony. Secretary	Mr. Santanu Chatterjee
Hony. Jt Secretaries	Dr. Santanu Kumar Karmakar & Mr. Nilanjan Sengupta
Hony. Treasurer	Mr. Anjan Kumar Ghosh
Hony. Jt Treasurers	Dr. Sudip Roy, Dr. Biman Das & Mr. Alok Maity

While the consent of many of the aforesaid office bearers had already been received, some of our acceptances were yet to come. Further, depending upon the work load and other requirements, there may be additions/alterations to the aforesaid structure.

B. Action Plan: After elaborate discussions, it was decided that an office with a computer system and other facilities would be immediately set up in the former Alumni House (University Guest House). It is to be manned by a person who would build up and maintain data bases, receive, acknowledge and forward e-mails and maintain communications as necessary. Initially this office would cater to both the 150th Anniversary Celebrations Committee and the Global Alumni Association, which is being registered. Subsequently, when the work load so demands additional personnel would be hired on contract. After completion of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations, the office would cater exclusively to the Global Alumni Association. The Vice Chancellor very kindly agreed to advance a loan of INR 200,000 to the 150th Anniversary Celebrations Committee for setting up an office, procuring a computer system and other facilities and payment of wages for the first few months. The aforesaid seed money would be refunded to the University as soon as possible.

In order to ensure that there is no further delay and pressing work in the important areas may be taken up in ready earnest, three tentative and ad hoc Sub-Committees were constituted for

- documentation and publicity,
- seminars, conferences, and symposia, and
- for resource mobilization.

While these committees would be expanded and finalized after obtaining suggestions from the Global Alumni and the consent of the members chosen, work would immediately be taken up by the members who were present in the meeting or who had already given their consent.

C. It was felt that a basic concept plan for comprehensive infrastructural development of the University, with costs estimates and known/committed sources of funds, would be essential to meet the major objectives of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations and the Global Alumni Association. For this purpose, a committee with the Vice Chancellor as the Chairman, and Prof. Saibal Ghosh, Prof. T. K. Roy and Prof. B. N. Dutta as members was constituted. The Vice Chancellor would induct additional members if required. Once the basic concept plan is ready, a summary of the plan containing the salient features would be posted on the Global Alumni website for comments/ observations/ suggestions, etc.

The Vice Chancellor stated that in addition to the existing 121 acres of land that the University had, an additional 40 acres or so would be required for setting up various infrastructural facilities. Certain plots had already been identified, like land in Rani Rashmoni Devi's property. In view of the proposed extension of the Shalimar Railway Yard, it was decided that immediate action should be initiated for acquisition of land for the University through the Land Acquisition Department, Government of West Bengal. For this purpose a committee was constituted under the guidance and control of the Vice Chancellor, consisting of Prof. Saibal Ghosh, Prof. Debashis Ghosh and Mr. Debashis Dutta, Secretary to the Vice Chancellor.

The Vice Chancellor further informed that Prof. Jaydeb Sarkar, Prof. Saibal Ghosh and Prof. Kalyan Chakraborty would finalize the plans for replacing the old "Second Gate" of the University by the "150th Anniversary Gate", preliminary drawings for which had already been prepared by Prof. Jaydeb Sarkar. This committee, with more members inducted in future, if required, would also prepare preliminary plans for the proposed Ladies' Hostel, the proposed International Guest House, the proposed library building and the proposed auditorium.

D. It was noted that Dr. NR Bandopadhyay was arranging for an international symposium of the Science Group some time in January, 2006. Depending on the calendar of programmes for the 150th Anniversary Celebrations, the Civil Engineering Department would hold an International Symposium either in November, 2006 or January, 2007 and the Mechanical Engineering Department would also hold an International



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Seminar in January, 2008. These are contingent upon holding the Indian Science Congress and the Indian Engineering Congress in the University, for which approvals in principle have already been received by Mr. Santanu Chatterjee.

The Vice Chancellor also informed that the Association of Indian Universities had approached the University for holding the Eastern Zonal one-week programme some time between September to November, 2005. After discussing it was decided that the University would accept the proposal, provided it did not clash with the academic calendar or other programmes.

E. It was decided that a publication similar to Centenary volume published in 1956 would be brought out, utilizing the archives lying in the custody of various departments, particularly the Department of Architecture, with suitable emphasis on heritage buildings inside the campus. Further, a brochure would be published as soon as possible for worldwide distribution informing inter alia the objectives and programmes (in brief) of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

It was decided that the next meeting of the committee would be held either on 29th or 30th April, 2005 after the Vice Chancellor ascertains the convenience and the approval of the President, Dr. Sankar Kumar Sen.

Alumni Seminar Project Expands its Scope

After a successful year, the alumni seminar project [Seminar Project - Annual Report 2004] expands its scope beyond pure technical areas. Dr. Sachi G. Dastidar (67ARCH), Distinguished Service Professor, Politics, Economics and Society Department, State University of New York, Old Westbury, NY 11568 delivered a seminar (titled "Antarctica in My Dream") to students and faculty of BESU based on his recent visit to Antarctica on January 20, 2005. Dr. Dastidar also visited ARCH dept and donated books in his subject area. A transcript of his speech is posted in the www.becollege.org website.

Dr. Nihar Biswas, 70CE, Associate Dean of Engineering (Research and Graduate Studies), University of Windsor, Canada is scheduled to deliver a talk on "Higher Studies in Canada" on April 12, 2005. Prof. Biswas will also meet and present a technical talk to the students and faculty of Civil Engineering dept during his visit to BESU.

Alumni as External Guides

As an extension of successful alumni seminar project, VC agreed to involve alumni in India and Abroad as external

guides to undergraduate projects and masters thesis. A detailed project plan is being created which will be submitted to the VC, Deans and all HoDs for formal approval. We hope to start the project on pilot basis from July 2005.

Job Section at Alumni Web Site

What is this? This section is intended to supply job related information to Bengal Engineering and Science University (Erstwhile B.E. College) students and recent graduates. Here we publish the news of any requirement that we come across, from our vast alumni base across the world. We only publish those jobs opening which our alumni can help directly a fellow job seeker. To access (either view or contribute), <http://www.becollege.org> -> Discussion Board -> Jobs.

Why is this? To get an edge in this competitive environment using a solid knowledge base of our near and dear alumni.

How to participate? Visit the alumni website for the latest and hot openings. Have some openings in your company or do you know someone hiring? Or you can refer fellow alum or a present student to your company, please either send an email to Webmaster@becollege.org or directly post to the web site.

Alumni Faculty Seeks Help

Himika Biswas, an alum of BESU, 2001-CST and currently a lecturer in the CST department will attend Fifth SIAM International Conference on Data Mining which is going to be held in Newport Beach, CA from 21st April to 23rd April. Due to shortage of budget, she seeks temporary accommodation from alumni residing around Los Angeles area. Please contact Ms Biswas at himika@cs.becs.ac.in.

Obituary

We are extremely sad to inform you that 3 alumni families in Durgapur, India encountered a tragic road accident and lost 6 family members on March 25, 2005. All 3 are from 1977 batch of BE College. We do not have any further information except what has been published to Anandabzar Patrika, a Bengali newspaper in Kolkata, India. You can also read Anandabazar articles at the alumni web site. They were employees at CMERI and Alstom Power Company.

We pray to God for their souls to rest in peace and give enough strength to their families to overcome these tremendous losses!