

# Alumni News

## News Letter of Burdwan University Alumni Association

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- **Editorial Note**

The alumni are like the children who have a noble obligation and duty towards their parents. An alumni association is a corporate body through which the children, especially those who have made a difference to their life seek to do something collectively. The concept of 'alumni association' is Western in origin, and in the West the alumni contribution in many forms to the well-being of their *Alma Mater* is very widespread and well-recognized. There the required culture and mental outlook has taken deep roots for many centuries. In India, the same is yet to take shape. But we need to inculcate that culture among us, and among the current students too so that the continuity is maintained. The Association needs also to take it down to society at large so that society feel it worthwhile to extend hands of co-operation and help in hours of need for the society's institutions that the universities are.

As the above registration year will show, ours is a new association. But as the following will indicate, a good beginning has been made despite many hurdles and problems.

The publication of this newsletter has been long overdue. I cannot absolve myself completely of the blame! But I am happy that ultimately this could be brought out. I wish to extend my thanks and gratitude to fellow alumni who have extended hands of help and co-operation making this possible within a short time by demonstrating the 'alumni spirit', so to say. . I wish to record in particular my sincere thanks to the founding-president of the Association, Dr Monojit Acharya Choudhury, formerly Professor of Botany and Dean of Science of the university for allowing me to use his records for the purpose at hand.. This is a mouthpiece of our Association so in future we would solicit more alumni news, their achievements etc that could be published.

- **A Brief history of the association**

The Burdwan University Alumni Association is only four years old. It was established in the year 2007 and it is unique by itself in the sense that none of the other State Universities, as far as my knowledge goes, has such a central association of its alumni covering all departments of studies which should be in the fitness of things although in many of these universities, including ours, there are individual departmental Alumni Association..

In fact, the BUAA owes its formation to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). During its maiden visit to Burdwan University in 2002, it expressed

its opinion that the University should have a central Alumni Association to bring all alumni from different departments of studies under one umbrella and it should play the role of a coordinating body. Receiving the cue from the NAAC, I, in January 2003, reminded the then Vice Chancellor, Professor Amit Kumar Mallik, about the need of formation of such an association and donated a sum of Rs. 15,000/ as seed money for taking necessary steps to form the Burdwan University Alumni Association (BUAA) before the next visit of the NAAAC Peer Team. However, the initiative was eventually taken in December, 2006 and the BUAA came into being on the auspicious day of 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2007, on the birth day of Swami Vivekananda. The major objective then identified was, inter alias, to provide necessary support to the alumni as far as practicable, to organize academic activities for the students, to raise funds for benevolent activities for the students and to arrange a forum for interactions with students by our alumni who have earned name and fame in their respective field. Another important objective was to maintain a close liaison with the University authorities in order to render all possible sorts of help and cooperation for the betterment of the academic and administrative environment of the University.

With the above objectives, the memorandum of Association and Regulations guiding the activities of the Association was framed up and an Ad-hoc Executive Committee (EC) consisting of the President, Secretary, and Treasurer and eight ordinary members out of only 18 registered members was formed to carry out the activities of the association. At that time I was approached by the University with the proposal to shoulder the responsibility of the Association as its President which I agreed because it was indeed a great honour to become the first President of the Alumni Association. Sri Janardan Roy and Sri Partha Narayan Ghosh were nominated as the Secretary and the Treasurer respectively.

The first meeting of the EC of the newly formed BUAA was held on 2.3.2007 at the Rajbati Office where it was resolved that a Savings Bank Account in the name of BUAA be opened with the Burdwan University Branch of the State Bank of India and be operated by any two from amongst the President, Secretary and the Treasurer. The second meeting of the BUAA EC was held on 9.3.2007 to discuss the matters related to arranging an interactive meeting with the alumni members and the NAAC peer Team scheduled to be held on 14.3.2007 at Rajbati meeting hall. On the scheduled date, there was a very lively and meaningful discussion with the alumni members and the NAAC Peer Team. The discussion began after the President BUAA apprised the guests of the aims, objectives and the future plan and activities of the BUAA.

It must be admitted at that juncture all the activities of the BUAA including the promise of a steadfast drive for the enrolment of the new members of the Association became almost sluggish or in suspended animation (!) until it was announced by the University that the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the University of Burdwan would commence on and from 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and 16<sup>th</sup> June there should be a whole day *Alumni Meet*. For this, the University constituted many subcommittees including an Alumni Sub-Committee to celebrate 50 years of its academic excellence. This really gave tremendous impetus to the activities of the BUAA and the enrolment of members increased from 32 to more than 600 within a span of three months. The *Alumni Meet* was, however, held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 instead of 16<sup>th</sup> June as originally scheduled due to some unfortunate incidents and the consequent Burdwan bandh on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

The BUAA has implemented a number of community welfare schemes undertaken on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebration such as (1) donation of Rupees One lac to the Golden Jubilee Building Fund of the University, (2) a one time donation of Rupees One lac to the University for providing rent-free guest house facility to the registered members of the BUAA, (3) donation of Rs.10,000/ to the Chief Minister's Aila Relief Fund, (4) disbursing of Rs.1000/ each to five poor but meritorious students of the PG departments as educational aid and Rs. 1000/ to one student as medical aid(2010-11), (5) undertaking of Golapbag Campus beautification scheme with the financial assistance from the University etc. However, the academic activities of the Association did not get much attention.

The Annual General Meetings are regularly held and elected EC as formed on the Alumni Meet Day (6.12.09). Annual reports by the Secretary and audited reports were submitted during AGM. I must admit that we could not do many things, particularly in the academic arena, which I believe, will be taken up by the next EC. Nevertheless, we should not be complacent with what we have achieved so far limited wherewithal; we must remain confident to keep the BUAA ever viable and vibrant in and through multifarious activities befitting with the aims and objectives of the Association. I take this opportunity to thank all office bearers and members of the BUAA for rendering all sorts of help and cooperation. I hope they should continue to do so in future for our beloved Association.

- **Aims and Objectives of the Association** (as laid down in the official Memorandum)
  - To keep close relation among the members of the Association i.e. the ex-students of Burdwan University for their welfare
  - To educate the members of the Association in discharging their duties and responsibilities
  - To solve the various problems of the students of the University through discussion
  - To establish good relation between the members of the Association and the competent authorities of Burdwan University
  - To give necessary suggestions and advices to the authority Burdwan University for improvement education and culture.
  - To help the needy students of Burdwan University for their education
  - To improve the social and cultural life of the members of the Association by organizing various social and cultural functions from time to time
  - To promote sympathy, fellow-feeling and cordial relation among the members of the Association irrespective of castes or creed
  - To affiliate itself with such other recognized organizations, bodies, societies whose objects are fully or in part similar
  - To arrange and organize meeting, conference etc from time to time for discussion of various problems of the members as well as the students of the University
  - To arrange and organize tour programmes, picnic, cultural function etc fro time to time for the recreation of the members
  - To do all such other things as may be deemed incidental or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objects

## **Activities performed**

During the brief period, our Association has undertaken quite successfully a number of activities for the well-being of the university community as a whole. The Burdwan University authorities have also extended hands of co-operation whenever so needed. Some of the activities performed and services rendered under various schemes of the Association are listed very briefly for the knowledge of fellow alumni.

### **Students' aid and medical exigencies scheme**

- BUAA provides partial financial assistance to extremely needy five regular PG students to maximum limit of Rs 1000/- per student for meeting a part of their expenses relating to their study.
- BUAA also provides partial financial assistance to five regular PG students to maximum limit of Rs 1000/- per student for meeting a part of their expenses relating to emergency hospitalization/ medical treatment.

The above expenses are met out of the accrued interest from a fixed deposit of an amount of Rs 2 lakh that has been made at the State Bank of India, Burdwan University Branch.

### **Campus beautification scheme**

- Our Golapbag campus today looks more beautiful than ever before thanks partly to the efforts of BUAA which, in association with the university authorities, undertook a campus beautification scheme. The hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the university inaugurated the scheme on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2009. Nearly 350 plants of different species have been planted along the path close to the water channel and the surrounding academic buildings at Golapbag. The beautiful hedges have grown and are regularly nourished and maintained by the association. In this regard, our thanks goes to the authorities of Benoy Krishna Chowdhury Rural Technology Centre for supplying vermicompost free of cost.



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#### Financial support to the university

- A sum of Rupees One lakh has been handed over to the university authorities towards the construction of a Golden Jubilee Building



#### Humanitarian aid

- BUAA donated a sum of Rs 10,000 to the Chief Minister's Aila Relief Fund of rehabilitation of the affected people.

#### Alumni service scheme

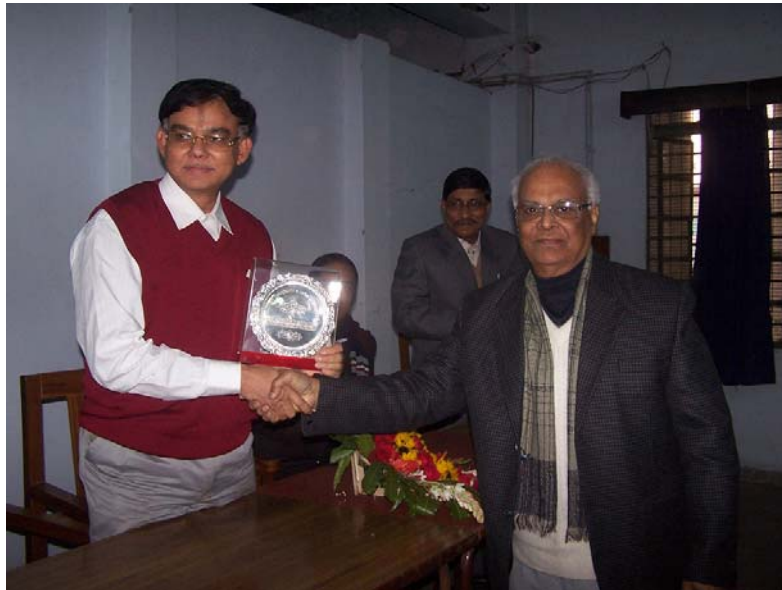
- Provision has been made to provide rent-free accommodation at the university Guest House to the registered members of BUAA and their family members. For this a sum of Rupees One lakh has been given to the university authorities for meeting the expenses for the said purpose.

## Events

- **Golden Jubilee Alumni Meet (Phire Dekha)** was organized at the Golapbag Auditorium on 6 January 2009 with a lot of fanfare and activities. A few hundred alumni gathered at the beautiful campus for the whole day. The occasion was started by lighting a candle by a very senior alumnus, and a song befitting the occasion. There were lots and lots of reminiscences by the alumni since it was 'Phire dekha' for them all! Some luminaries and our donors including Professor Amit Kumar Mallik, former Vice-Chancellor of this university graced the occasion. There was a lunch, or better a sumptuous, lunch break until 2 pm when the AGM was held with the usual items of business. In the afternoon, there was a cultural programme by the alumni themselves that included songs, recitation, mime and so on. And our alumni proved their talents in various cultural fields.



- **Felicitation:** The Association felicitated Dr S. Dan, an alumnus, on January 6, 2011 for being the first Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University at the Central Library Hall of the University.



**Obituaries:** The Association is sorry to report the sad demise of Professor Ramaranjan Mukhopadhyay, the longest-serving Vice-Chancellor of this university and a scholar extraordinary, and Falguni Mukhopadhyay, an alumnus, and an elected representative of the Burdwan Zilla Parishad who fell to the bullets of an assassin!

#### **Our valued Donors:**

- Prof. Monojit Acharya Choudhuri
- Dr. Pranab Kumar Roy
- Dr. Amal Kumar Bandyopadhyay
- M/s. Rahul Foundation
- Dr. Satyasadhan Datta
- Dr. Pradip Kumar Dan
- Dr. Tapas Kumar Das
- Dr. Kabita Mukherjee
- M/s. Sarat Book House
- Mr. Sudhabindu Dhar
- Dr. Sunil Roy
- Dr. Kanchan Kamila
- Dr Prabhat Kumar Ghosh
- State Bank of India (BU Branch)
- United Commercial Bank (B. C Road) .

#### **Alumni Speak:**

“I was fascinated by the charming beauty and ambience of the Golapbag Campus of the university when I first visited the campus in the early seventies as a college student. Since

then I cherished the desire of becoming a part and parcel of this great place of higher learning. The great dedication and vision of all great men, that is charting new stories of success for the university with each passing day imbued me to a great extent. My heart is fully content with the academic and administrative gift of my Alma Mater. I do hope that this university will continue to excel both at its academic pursuits and in its attempt to attain humanity and compassion towards all and learn to live in harmony with the universe”

- Dr Shoroshimohan Dan, (Session 1973-75 M. Sc. in Physics),  
Pro-VC, and Registrar (Addl. Charge), B. U.

**Membership Drive:** This AGM gives us an opportunity to make an all-out effort to increase membership of our family by encouraging fellow alumni to become members, preferably Life Members. You will find the requisite Forms in the folder for the purpose. Let us resolve to find new five members, at least, by each one of us enrolment. Do try also to find the suitable donors. In our society there many people who are benevolent. We need to persuade them. Parents whose daughters and sons have been educated by us could be one possible source of donations. We need to visit, perhaps with a leaflet, to each class one, to popularize the idea.

**Founding Ad hoc Committee 2006-2007**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>
Prof. Monojit Acharya Choudhuri	Malancha, Bhangakuthi, G.T. Road, Burdwan-713104
Mr. Janardan Roy	Baburbag(Kalitala) Burdwan-713104
Sri Partha Narayan Ghosh	U-7A B-II/4, Udaykanan P.O.-Natunganj Burdwan-713102
Prof. Swapnadip Thakur	University Teachers' Co-operative Housing Society Ltd. Krishnapur Road Burdwan-713104
Dr. Shoroshimohan Dan	U-7A B-I/4, Udaykanan P.O.-Natunganj Burdwan-713102
Dr. Deb Kumar Panja	Inspector of Colleges The University of Burdwan Burdwan-713104
Dr. Debidas Mondal	Joint Registrar The University of Burdwan Burdwan-713104
Prof. Harihar Bhattacharyya	R.B. Chatterjee Road Burdwan-713102
Dr. Sukumar Mukhopadhyay	Indraprastha Baburbag Burdwan-713104
Mr. Tapan Kumar Sinha Roy	Lakurdi, Karmakar Para Burdwan-713102
Dr. Sambaran Pramanik	Abhaykanan Burdwan-713104

### **Elected Members of The Executive Committee 2010-2011**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>Position</b>
Prof. Monojit Acharya Choudhuri	Malancha, Bhangakuthi, G.T. Road, Burdwan-713104	President
Prof. Harihar Bhattacharyya	R.B. Chatterjee Road Burdwan-713102	Vice-President
Mr. Janardan Roy	Baburbag(Kalitala) Burdwan-713104	Secretary
Dr. Prabhat Kumar Ghosh	Department of USIC The University of Burdwan	Assistant Secretary
Sri Partha Narayan Ghosh	U-7A B-II/4, Udaykanan P.O.-Natunganj Burdwan-713102	Treasurer
Prof. Swapnadip Thakur	University Teachers' Co-operative Housing Society Ltd. Krishnapur Road Burdwan-713104	Member
Dr. Debidas Mondal	Joint Registrar The University of Burdwan Burdwan-713104	Member
Dr. Deb Kumar Panja	Inspector of Colleges The University of Burdwan Burdwan-713104	Member
Dr. Kanchan Kamilya (on Lien)	Central Library The University of Burdwan	Member
Dr. Atis Chandra Mondal	Department of Physics The University of Burdwan	Co-opted member
Dr. Mantu Saha	Department of Mathematics The University of Burdwan	Co-opted member
Dr. Debdas Rakshit	Department of Commerce The University of Burdwan	Co-opted member
Sri. Ashok Raja	Department of Bengali The University of Burdwan	Co-opted member
Dr. Biplab Sarkar	Department of Computer Centre The University of Burdwan	Co-opted member
Sri. Prasanta Choudhuri	Department of USIC The University of Burdwan	Co-opted member
Sri Debmalya Ghosh	Department of Zoology The University of Burdwan	Co-opted member

### **Editorial Board**

- Prof. Harihar Bhattacharyya, *Editor-in-Chief*
- Dr. Swapnadip Thakur, *Member*
- Dr. Prabhat Kumar Ghosh, *Member*
- Dr. Partha Sarkar, *Member*
- Dr. Biplab Sarkar, *Member*

### **Future Plan**

- Quality enhancement of university-extending hand of cooperation towards quality enhancement
- Active participation in designing the most relevant and useful curriculum
- Efforts to integrate the department-based alumni associations
- Serious steps in increasing membership of the association
- Special fund-raising drive
- To institute on a regular basis seminar/talk by famous alumni and eminent persons

**Contact Us: Prof. Monojit Acharya Choudhuri (9434667054) or Mr Janardan Roy (9434100291).**