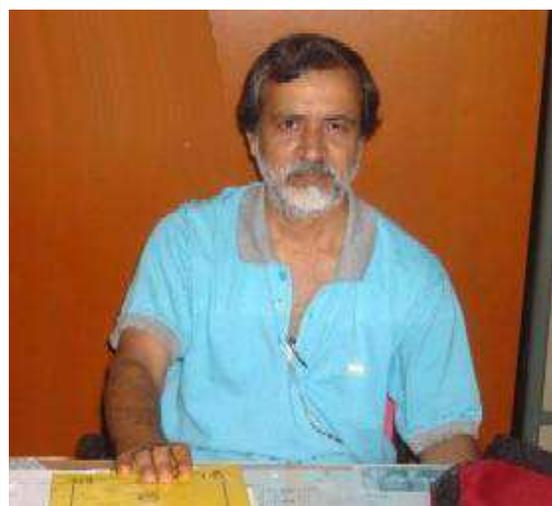




From the Principal's Desk.



Mikhail Lomonosov, the Great philosopher, scientist of erstwhile USSR once commented "I regard one experiment more valuable than a thousand opinions created only by the imagination". It will be a needless argument to continue how correct he is in the present - day context. Although imagination is an added quality for a successful student, his inquisition towards experimentation, readiness towards performing innovative experiments for checking the existing truth or establishing a new fact will make him a perfect scientist in the true sense. For all these, in addition to the enthusiastic mind and a friendly and encouraging mentor, one needs a suitable environment, state-of-the-art infrastructure, laboratory and sophisticated equipments.

Nature has given Birjhora Mahavidyalaya a great natural laboratory for biological sciences. It is equipped with vast hilly tracks in and around its campus for exploring rich flora and fauna and experimenting with different cultivations – from rubber, tea plantation to horticulture or floriculture. In addition to these, UGC- the apex body of higher education has provided huge funds to the college for procuring sophisticated instruments for this purpose. Now it's success depends solely on the two main stakeholders- the students and their guide- the teachers. Their wholehearted involvement in the scheme will be a milestone for the college. Instead of producing mere science graduates, the twenty fifth year old college should also give a deep-thought in this arena for the betterment of the student and the society. Then and then only, the basic idea of setting up of a higher education institution in science in this locality by the protagonists will be fulfilled. So it is high time for the fraternity to concentrate more on the utilization of the resources available to it in a big way.

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The year 2010-2011 is a landmark year for Birjhora Mahavidyalaya .This year will commemorate the silver jubilee of its service to the cause of providing science education

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at undergraduate level in this region. A committee for celebrating this memorable year was formed with Hon MLA, Bongaigaon P B Choudhury as president.

A series of activities has been planned as a part of the year long celebrations. The 1st of September 2010 was an occasion to bring together all those who have been involved with the college from the past and present. The silver jubilee celebrations were inaugurated with a function on September 1st 2010 organized to mark the occasion of foundation day of this college. Throughout the day celebrations were held, flag hoisting, speeches by dignitaries, visit to the sacred grove and cultural programmes. The high point of the day was the lighting of diyas around the college campus by the founder members of the college. This was followed by a fire works display.



Throughout the year various academic and cultural programmes were held.

A workshop on 'Methodology for Development of Curriculum and Lesson plan' was held on 11th October 2010 at Birjhora Mahavidyalaya, Bongaigaon. Prof. Khanin Pathak, from IIT Kharagpur was the resource person. The inspiring presentation by Prof K Pathak provided a unique occasion to faculty from surrounding colleges to learn about the latest developments in the educational scenario.



On 27th of December a programme to commemorate the death anniversary of the famous folk singer Protima Baruah Pandey was held. Invited speakers Mrs. S. Brahmachoudhury and Biswabihari Das spoke on the life and work of the singer. An essay competition and a cultural show were also part of the programme.

COLLEGE DIARY

□ The Saraswati Puja for 2011 was celebrated in the college campus on the 8th of February. The College family attended the puja ceremony which was followed by Puspanjali and distribution of Prasad. This puja marks the occasion of Basant Panchmi and the college family always celebrates it on a large scale. Devotees sought the blessings of the Goddess of Knowledge in their academic life. A community lunch was a part of the event.

□ The National Science Day 2011 was celebrated on 28th February 2011 at Birjhora Mahavidyalaya, Bongaigaon. This was a part of the ongoing Silver Jubilee celebrations of the college. A seminar talk was organized on that day which was presented by Dr. R. Roy and Dr. A. Borah. Dr. Roy delivered her lecture on the topic : “A study on the different varieties of rice plant cultivated in Bongaigaon area of Bongaigaon district ,Assam.” and Dr. Borah on the topic: “A preliminary study on flood tolerant trees in Sonitpur district of Assam.”



□ As a part of a programme for sensitizing the public to be aware of their voting rights and requesting the public to cast their votes, students from this college took part in an election rally organized by the district administration on the 9th of April.

□ A film show on biodiversity conservation was held on 2nd May in the Department of Botany as a part of their extension programme on National Environment Awareness Campaign 2010-2011



□ A workshop on ‘Introduction of Semester System in Undergraduate Courses under Gauhati University’ was held on 31st May at Birjhora Mahavidyalaya, Bongaigaon. This was jointly organized by Birjhora Mahavidyalaya and Bongaigaon College. Faculty members of colleges from Bongaigaon and Chirang district participated in this workshop. Prof D. K. Sarma, Director, College Development Council, Gauhati University and Dr D. Choudhury, Deputy Controller of Examinations, Gauhati University interacted with the faculty members of the surrounding colleges of Bongaigaon and Chirang District. Issues concerning the logic in introducing semester system in undergraduate courses, the steps which the university proposed to take up in such

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a system ,administrative and examination procedures in the new system were areas of discussion at the workshop.



NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OFFICE

The Foundation laying ceremony of the Women's Hostel took place on 1st January 2011. The proposed 30 bedded hostel with proper amenities will fulfill a long felt need of the college. Work is continuing in full swing at the construction site.



- ▣ An interactive program by alumni Nayan Jyoti Mazumdar with the students of the college took place in the Dept of Botany. He gave a talk on career opportunities after graduation with special reference to his field of computer software.



The University exams (part I, II and III) started in the 3rd week of February. The examination committee appointed for this purpose has successfully conducted them in an efficient and smooth manner.



CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING CELL

The Career Guidance and Counseling Cell of Birjhora Mahavidyalaya was reconstituted in the session 2010-2011. Three faculty members were given the responsibility of coordinating the various activities of the cell. Disseminating information about career opportunities is done on a regular basis. It also organized expert seminars on career planning.

Responding to the students' requests, a talk on "Opportunities in the Civil Services" was organized on the 13th of November 2010. Dr Gauranga Sarma, Faculty of Assam Institute of Management, Guwahati, interacted with the students and gave them valuable insights on careers in civil services and preparation for the same. Dr Sarma gave information on the new Recruitment Process of Civil Services Exam called the CSAT or the Civil Services Aptitude Test which would come into effect from the Civil Services Examination, 2011. He spoke in detail about the papers, guidelines for study and other preparation for civil service examinations. An interactive session followed the talk.

On the 4th of June 2011, the cell organized a lecture on the different topics "Examination stress management", "Substance Abuse Disorder in Youth" and "Maintainance of Oral Hygiene".

Dr Santanu Ghosh a former student of this college addressed and interacted with the students on the first two topics.

In his first lecture Dr Santanu Ghosh of Tripura Medical College spoke on the cause, symptoms and consequences of examination related stress. He gave valuable tips to the students to help them combat this stress and face examinations in a confident manner. In his second presentation, he explained Substance Abuse is a complex problem having medical and social ramifications which impacts all social strata. He talked of the ways and means for treating this problem and further stressed that the young students should not be victims of substance use disorder.

Dr Epshita Ghosh of Tripura Dental College then talked to the students on the importance of maintaining good oral hygiene which is necessary for overall well being. She explained about the different problems of the teeth and gums and how to prevent them.

At the end of the lectures an interactive session where the doctors answered all queries put to them by the audience. Mrs P Devi, Dept of Zoology delivered the vote of thanks.



REFRESHER COURSE / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

➤ Mr. Hemanta Saud lecturer, dept. of Economics attended a conference “Climate Change and water: Assessing vulnerability, impact and adoption in the Eastern Himalayas” organized by Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati from 2nd to 5th January 2011.



➤ Mr. Pranab Das Assistant Professor, Deptt. Of Chemistry completed refresher course in “Chemistry: Fundamentals and Advances” at Jadavpur University From 3-01-2011 to 22-01-2011.

➤ At a UGC sponsored national seminar on *Disaster Management Through Teaching Curriculum* held at Kokrajhar Science college on 12th February 2011, Mr Hemanta Saud presented a joint paper “*Role of NGOs on Disaster Management: A case study of Goalpara district of Assam*” with Dr R Ray and Dr N Baruah as co-authors. Dr A Borah also presented his paper “*A Preliminary Study on Flood Tolerant Trees of Sonitpur District of Assam.*” Mrs H B Roy Barman and Mrs B Das also participated in the above seminar.

LIBRARY NEWS

In March, 2011 all wooden almirahas were replaced with steel racks numbering nine in all.

In May, 2011 the library started the preparation of a database for periodicals.

In the first week of June, the college became a member of N-list project launched by INFLIBNET under UGC- INFONET. 2100 E-Journals and 55,000 E books are available to the members under the scheme.

➤ Dr A Borah participated and presented a paper entitled “ An Introductory Report on Kalamati: A Lesser Known Biodiversity Site” in UGC Sponsored National Seminar on Plant Resource Management and Conservation

strategies in N. E. Region held on 18th and 19th February, 2011 organized by Department of Botany, Cotton College, Guwahati. Dr R.Roy also presented a paper “A study on the different varieties of rice plant cultivated in Bongaigaon area of Bongaigaon district, Assam.” Students Ranjit Sahani, Tapan Barman, Bhaskar Sarmah, Dhruva Jyoti Barman and Pabitra Seal who actively assisted in this project also participated in the seminar.



- Sanjib Kalita, Lecturer, Dept of Physics participated in a workshop from 7 to 13th February at BHU “Workshop on Recent Trends in Nuclear and Particle Physics” under UGC Networking Programme.
- Dr K.K Sarma, Mr Manabendra Das and Nirmal Kr Das attended a one day orientation workshop on semester system at Gauhati University on the 8th of May 2011.
- Dr Amal Kr. Deka, Associate professor, Dept. of Statistics participated in a workshop from 10th to 12th March “Small area estimation: Theory and Application in Health Science.” Jointly organized by Applied Statistics Division, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata and Deptt. of Statistics, Gauhati University; Guwahati.

- Hemanta Kr Saud presented a paper on “A preliminary study on conditions and prospects of Rubber plantation in Assam” at HSS, IIT Guwahati on 21st March. His presentation highlighted the importance of natural rubber as a versatile industrial raw material.
- M Thakuria and Dr A Borah extended their services as judges for the district level exhibition on science and technology among high school students under Inspire Award scheme 2010, Govt. of India.
- Dr A Borah was the resource person at a training programme for JFMC members held on the 19th of May 2011. He was also the resource person for the World Environment Day program held at Ananda Ram Barooah Academy, Pathsala.
- Dr Amal Kr. Deka Associate professor, Dept. of Statistics attended a workshop on “Improving Learner Support Services through Study Centres” organized by KKHSOU on the 9th of May 2011. The workshop discussed the problems currently being faced by the university as well as the study centres and the ways to find a solution to the same. The different facilities for improving Learner Support were made known to the participants. A set of audio visual hardware for upgrading learner facilities were given to all study centres.

- Mr. M.Ahmed of the Physics Department, Birjhora Mahavidyalaya, attended a training cum workshop in electronics and computer laboratory for college teachers organized by the Instrument Development and Services Centre, Department of Physics, Cotton College, Guwahati on the 16th, 17th and 18th of June 2011.



EXTENSION WORK

- Dr. R. Roy, Dr. A. Borah and Mr. H. K Saud extended services as resource persons on the occasion of International Wetland Day observed at KuruaBhasha M.V School, Goalpara on 2nd February 2011. A number of students from the Botany and Zoology Dept, Bhaskar Jyoti Sarmah, Kankan Bhagabati, Pinaki Adhikary, Ranjit Sahani and Tapan Barman attended the programme. The programme was organized jointly by AARANYAK and KuruaBhasha M.V School.
- Dr. A. Borah and Miss A. Talukdar were the judges at a district level science based competition held at Eco park of Bongaigaon on 5th February 2011. The participants were from different Arybhatta Science Centers of Bongaigaon District.
- Mr Paresh Chakraverty Dept of Chemistry and Dr Ananta Borah Dept of Botany gave a lecture cum presentation to the school students of Bongaigaon district on the occasion of *International Science day on 28th February 2011*. Mr P Chakravarty spoke on the topic "Chemistry in daily life."
- Dr. R. Roy, Dr. A. Borah and Mr. H. K Saud along with few students organized a week long programme for the celebration of Earth Day, 2011 from the 22nd of April. They organized a rally, environmental film show, awareness talks, plantation, essay writing competition and preparation of leaflets and distribution throughout the week in different schools of Bongaigaon



- An Awareness programme on biodiversity conservation as a part of National Environment Awareness Campaign 2010-2011 was conducted by the Department of Botany, sponsored by ministry of Environment and Forests government of India. Popular talks, environmental film shows, distribution of information of threatened species including medicinal plants and orchids to some schools of Bongaigaon area and exhibition of rice varieties were among the activities conducted.



THUMS UP

RESEARCH PROJECT

Dr. N. Baruah has been granted a minor research project under UGC. Her project title is "*Analysis of food value and potential hazardous compounds in hormone applied selected vegetable crops in present climatic condition.*"

Tarali Chakrabarty, Lecturer of Zoology department completed a project entitled "*Distribution and Annual turn over of Dillenia indica in Bamunpara village*" in the month of February.

EXCURSION

A one day Excursion cum picnic was organized at Khakarpur by department of Botany for all the students of Botany dept under the guidance of Dr.R. Roy and Dr. D.C Deka. Teachers and students from the other departments also accompanied them.

- Geetartha Chakravarty for winning the third prize in "REFLECTION -10", an international level essay competition held to commemorate the death anniversary of Dr Bhabendranath Saikia. The topic of the essay was "**Assam of my dreams.**"
- Jyotirupa Sarma for getting 1st prize in poem recitation during Silpi Divas function organized by AASU on 17th January 2011.
- Pallabi Dey for being adjudged the best singer during Silpi Divas function organized by AASU unit of Bongaigaon. She won the 1st Prize in *Jyoti sangeet* and joint 1st prize in *Rabha Sangeet*.
- Himakshi Barman for getting 2nd prize in poem recitation during Silpi Divas function organized by AASU on 17th January 2011.

The Editor's Pen



"He who fails to plan, plans to fail" is a well known proverb. The importance of this increases manifold in today's educational scenario. With the introduction of the semester system in undergraduate courses under GU from 2011-2012 both the students and the teaching faculty have to plan out their academic activity. The semester system allows the students no luxury of studying at the last moment and still getting good marks in the final examination. Careful planning of instruction which includes lesson plan, continuous evaluation, new teaching methodology are all the need of the hour.

We extend our welcome to all the students in the new academic session , hopeful that they will use their time wisely and well.

The editorial board thanks the principal, teachers and students of this college whose efforts have contributed to the newsletter being published.

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