

Architecture Update

Interns from Department of Architecture

To fulfill the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Architecture in BRAC University, students who have completed the fourth year of their program need to work as architectural trainees in some esteemed architectural firms located either in Bangladesh or abroad. The objective of the internship is mainly to gain knowledge of the professional practice. As requirements for ARC 300: Practical Training, the following students completed their internship during the period from May 18, 2008 to 14th august, 2008.

Name and ID	Name of the Firm
HOSNEE REZA (03108011)	Architect Satprem Maini Auroville Earth Institute Auroshilpham, auroville 605 101- T.N. India
ANIKA TASNIM (03208007)	Architect Uttam Kumar Shaha Nandan Architects 10-21, Priyopangan Tower, Banani, Dhaka
A S M SHAHRIAR (04108005)	Architect Bashirul Haq Bashirul Haq & Associates ltd 35b/2, Indira Road, Dhaka-1215
SYEDA NUSRAT JAHAN (04108012)	Architect Satprem Maini Auroville Earth Institute Auroshilpham, auroville 605 101- T.N. India
TASNEEM MOSTOFA (04108015)	Architect Tanya Karim Tanya karim & NR Khan Associate C1, House 35, Road 15 Dhanmondi
DALOUR HOSSAIN (04108020)	B K S Inan CAD limited Road-44, Gulshan-2, Dhaka
FARHANA KABIR (04208003)	Jimmy Lim Design Architects, Imagineers, Conceptioneers 8 Jalan Scott, Brickfields 50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
TASNEEM BINTE ISLAM (04208007)	Architect Mohammad Foyes Ullah Vistara Architects D-1, SE(H) 6, Road 143, Gushan- 1, Dhaka
AYESHA MATIN MILI (04208008)	Jimmy Lim Design Architects, Imagineers, Conceptioneers 8 Jalan Scott, Brickfields 50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
REZWAN KHURSHID (04308002)	Architect Marina Tabassum MARINA TABASSUM Architects House 13/a, Road 3, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
NAYMA NAWSHIN (04308004)	Architect Rajeev Kathpalia VASTU SHILPA Consultants "Sangath", Thaltej Road, Ahmedabad-380058, Gujrat, India.
SAIMA SHARMIN NIPA (04308008)	Architect Rajeev Kathpalia

	VASTU SHILPA Consultants "Sangath", Thaltej Road, Ahmedabad-380058, Gujrat, India.
BASHIRUL MUGHNI (04308010)	WOHA 29, Hong Kong street Singapore-059668
ADRITA ANWAR (04108014)	Architect Uttam Kumar Shaha Nanda Architects 10-21, Priyopangan Tower, Banani, Dhaka
GAZI MD. FAZLE RAHIM (04108017)	Architect Mohammad Foyes Ullah Vistara Architects D-1, SE(H) 6, Road 143, Gushan- 1, Dhaka-112 Tel: +880-2-9894909

ANGAN Travel Sketch

Huraera Jabeen, Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture discussed her experience in ANGAN, the forum for co curricular activities after rejoining the department after the exchange visit in Development Planning Unit (DPU) of University College London. It was about her research 'Adaptation to Climate Change in Cities' funded under the British Council Higher Education Link Program. The lecture held on 16th of September titled as ITCHY FEET in the banner of ANGAN Travel Sketch. She also shared her visit and observation to different institutes in UK and USA including King's College London, IIED, MIT and Columbia University.

BRAC Development Institute Update

Citizenship

During the month of September 2008, the Citizenship research team held 4 field workshops with Proshika in Madaripur, Bangladesh Sromojibi Kendra in Gopalganj, Samata in Pabna and BRAC in Bagerhat. Presentations were made in Bangla for each of these organizations. The purpose of these workshops was to take back the research findings from the recent survey to the areas where the project conducted the research and share findings with the relevant field staff and members of these organizations in order to get their feedback and validate our findings. Additionally participatory videos that were made by the members of these organizations during the participatory video workshops were shown in the workshops. A draft of our communication strategy for the next phase of the research project (April 2009 to September 2010) has also been prepared in September 2008.

Career Services

Job Placement Report September 2008

Muntakim Bin Sayef Prime Bank Ltd
Kazi Fayzur Rahman BRAC-IED
Rezwanul Hoque Ascent
Rupam Dev Ascent
Dipankar Saha Beximco Textile
Mahjabeen Razzaque Wings Electronics

Centre for Languages Update

CfL Arranges Workshops on Writing-across-the-Curriculum and Critical Thinking Pedagogy

CfL immensely prioritises faculty development and with this view, CfL arranged three workshops in September, 2008. The workshops were facilitated Dr. John C. Bean, Consulting Professor of Writing and Assessment of English at Seattle University and Rosalie (Kit) Bean, Composition and Reading in the English Department at South Seattle Community College where she coordinated the Writing Center. The workshops were designed to promote learning through in-depth discussion of essential aspects of language teaching such as - Writing-across-the-Curriculum (WAC), Implement critical thinking pedagogy in language teaching

instruction and Extending Critical Thinking pedagogies into the Centre for Languages (CfL).

The 1st workshop held on 7th-8th September focused on "**How Writing-across-the-Curriculum Pedagogy in the United States Might Be Adapted to a Bangladeshi Context.**" The participants were the department leaders from different public and private universities. Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, the Director of CfL Mrs Sarwat Abed and lecturers from CfL, Governance Studies and Department of English of BRAC University were also present. The second workshop held on the 9th - 10th was on a contemporary issue "**How a Critical Thinking Pedagogy Might be Integrated into English Language Instruction in Bangladesh.**" It was centered towards the English Language teachers of different universities of the country. Both of the workshops were held at BRAC Centre.

Professor Bean, through an open discussion with all the participants of the workshop, highlighted the fact that writing should not only be limited in English language classes, rather an interdisciplinary emphasis on writing would lead students to proper success. The usage of exploratory writing and problem-based task for the students in the American Context were discussed in the workshop. The participants shared their views regarding the constraints they face or might face while introducing the writing-across-the-curriculum method in Bangladeshi context; the following possible constraints were discussed:

- Conventional education system in the pre-university (school and collage) level that does not encourage critical thinking.
- Students' inability to think critically as a result of the prevailing curriculum
- Large number of students in a class.

The last workshop was on "Extending Critical Thinking Pedagogies into the Centre for Languages' English Curriculum." This workshop was held at BCDM, Rajendrapur, Gazipur for two days (12th -13th September). The participants were the English language teachers of Centre for Languages (CfL). As CfL has already been practicing Critical Thinking in its curriculum, this intensive workshop became an excellent opportunity for the teachers to reinforce their knowledge about using pragmatic approaches

in the classroom. Through interaction, sharing different ideas and experiences, the participants focused on different issues of promoting critical thinking. The success of promoting critical thinking and the problems of introducing this new approach in the traditional environment of language teaching in Bangladesh were the focal points of the discussion. Dr. Bean and Rosalie Kit Bean shared their ideas regarding some constraints CfL teachers commonly faced, such as how to make students read critically, what is legitimate class time to devote to critical thinking, how to prevent plagiarism and continue critical thinking even outside the classroom. Dr. Bean successfully came up with some realistic solutions such as putting profound emphasis on selecting and designing authentic materials and tasks according to the needs of the students, promoting interaction by making the students work in a group, encouraging students to start from a common context and exploring different perspectives for better learning. In the workshops, CfL teachers took part in the real-classroom tasks designed by Dr. Bean and got some practical idea about the outcome of using those materials in the classroom. CfL teachers are enthusiastic, love to take challenges and introduce new methods in classroom teaching. The workshops on Critical Thinking rejuvenated their existed knowledge and definitely encourage them to strive for further refinement.

In a nutshell, the participants of all workshops earned how to integrate a critical thinking approach into their language learning pedagogy; thus the workshops were nothing but a success.

Computer Science and Engineering Update

CSE Faculty attended CIICT2008 conference

C. M Iftekhar Hussain attended a three day long China Ireland International Conference on Information and Communications Technologies (CIICT2008) on September 26th - 28th in Beijing. He was invited to present his paper "Performance of PID controller both in Soft and Hard RTOS" at the conference site in Beijing.

China Ireland International Conference on Information and Communications Technologies (CIICT2008) organized by Beijing University of Post and Telecommunication (BUPT), one of the leading Universities in China specialized in telecommunication. The conference was held in Beijing this year from September 26th to 28th. System and Control Research Group (SCRG) of BRAC University had submitted one of our research

papers. To the consequence of that, C. M Iftekhar Hussain was privileged to attend that conference and present the paper. CIICT conference is mainly a joint collaboration academic project by which these two countries made a technological bridge between them to share the advanced technological expertise and development. C. M Iftekhar Hussain was the only participant other than people coming from China and Ireland. The participants from those two countries were exited after hearing that such researches are conducted in under graduate level in Bangladesh. The opening of the CIICT2008 was chaired by Prof. Junping. Du. Prof Fagchun Yang and Irish Ambassador to China H. E Declan Kelleher also addressed the conference.

New Appointment

Mr. Tarem Ahmed has recently re-joined the CSE department as a Senior Lecturer. Tarem's fields of expertise are telecommunication, networking and digital design. His background includes research experience at McGill University in Canada after a previous stint as Lecturer at BRAC University, industrial experience in the USA, and a Master's in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania in the USA.

English and Humanities Update

Lecturer leaves BU to pursue MA at University of London

Sahana Bajpaie, Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities, left BU to pursue an MA in Languages and Cultures of South Asia at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (UK). She will be doing research on literature of the 1947 partition.

Lecturer goes on study leave for PhD program

Nazia Husain, Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities, left BU to attend a fully funded three-year PhD program in Applied Linguistics at the University of Nottingham. Her doctoral research will focus on second language learning motivation in Bangladesh.

New Appointment

Roohi Huda joined BU as a Lecturer in the Department of English and Humanities on 1st September, 2008. She completed her B.A. in English (cum laude) and an M.Ed. in Education from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (USA). Her M.Ed. thesis was titled "A Narrative Study on the Educational Experience of South Asian Immigrants in the United States."

Economics and Social Sciences Update

Faculty Member went for Higher Studies

Tanzir Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer, ESS went on study leave to pursue his Ph.D in Economics at University College London (UCL), United Kingdom. Mr. Chowdhury will receive partial financial assistance from UCL.

Faculty Member Conducted Workshop on Mental Health & Counseling

Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer, ESS and Counselor, with the counseling team of BRACU has conducted a workshop on 'Mental Health & Counseling' on September 20, 2008 for students of residential semester. The workshop was held at Sulla Building, Residential Campus, Savar, BRAC University. 146 students of residential semester participated in the workshop. Students learnt about physical health, mental health, importance of mental health and counseling, when and where students can take counseling. There were presentation, group work, assessment session, psychological game for concentration and group discussion in the workshop.

Institute of Educational Development Update

Workshop on Critical Thinking Teaching in Classroom

A two-day workshop on "Critical Thinking Teaching in Classroom" has been facilitated at the Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University on September 17 and 18 by Prof. John Bean and Rosalie Bean. John Bean is a professor of English at Seattle University and has been active in the writing-across-the-curriculum movement since 1976. Rosalie Bean teaches in the English Department at South Seattle Community College. 9:00am-12:00pm was the duration of the workshop each day having its 24 participants

think, discuss and share ideas and views about critical thinking. The main focus of the entire body of the discourses that took place in the workshop encompassed topics like The Theory and Practice of Teaching Critical Thinking, Simple Classroom Exercises for Promoting Critical Thinking, Designing Critical Thinking Problems Based on Course Reading or Cultural Issues and Teaching Strong Reading.

BRACU Faculty Orientation at Savar-TARC

September 02-04, 2008 saw another BRACU Faculty Orientation at Savar TARC. Although a little compressed due to Ramadan, these days were filled with different sessions facilitated by the core team members as well as guest presenters, ice-breaking sessions, different activities, lively discussions and debates, and small-group and large-group assignments.

The following were the core team members from IED responsible for planning and designing the Orientation:

Monica Gomes, Ali Md. Shahiduzzaman, Sumera Ahsan, Mohammad Kazi Foysal, Dilruba Sultana, Kazi Sameeo Sheesh and Rino Wiseman Adhikary.

Starting with "Career at BRACU and Performance Evaluations" the orientation dealt with a relevant range of topics such as "Effective Teaching", "Defining 'Teacher'", "PowerPoint in Your Classroom", "Academic Rules and Regulations", "Microteaching", "Learning and Learning Styles", "Student Assessment", "Psychological Needs of Students and Counseling", "Student Advising" and "Your Commitment to BRACU".

Mathematics and Natural Sciences Update

Inter Academy Panel Meeting, Ottawa, Canada, 8-9 September 2008

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Panel held in Ottawa, Canada from 8-9 September 2008 at the invitation of the Inter Academy Panel on international issues (IAP). The Meeting discussed some important global issues like climate change, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), capacity building, women's health education; science education; water resources and management; biosecurity; natural disaster mitigation; access to digital knowledge etc. The Meeting decided to participate in the World Economic Forum's "Annual Meeting of New Champions 2008" otherwise known as the Summer Davos to be held in Tianjin, China from 26-28 September 2008. Two young scientists from Bangladesh have been selected for participation in the Forum's sessions on "Managing Science for a Better World" and "The Role of Frontier Science in Shaping Society". It may be mentioned here that the IAP is a forum of 100 Academies of Sciences of the world including the Royal Society, UK and the Japan Council for Science.

Residential Semester Update

Residential Semester Fall 2008

A total of 162 students joined the Residential Semester, Fall 2008 on 12 September. The students are from BBA, CSE, ECE, ESS, LAW and ENH Departments. There are 89 male and 73 female students. 146 students are Muslim, 11 are Hindus and 2 are of Christian religion. The Residential Semester will be of 14 weeks duration and will be terminated on 18 December, 2008. Regular classes started from September 14, 2008. Students mix is as follows:

PROGRAM	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
LLB	4	8	12
BBA	46	40	86
CSE	14	10	24
ECE	23	2	25
ENH	0	11	11
ESS	2	2	4
TOTAL	89	73	162

Orientation

On September 13, an orientation session followed by a seminar was held in the Markuli Hall from the morning to evening. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC conducted the program. Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, Campus Superintendent, BU Savar Campus, acted as co-facilitator. Students were divided into six groups to decide the campus rules by themselves. A student from one group (Amit Kumar Das, ID: 08304015) wrote

the following poem as class rules:

CLASS RULES

*Come, come, come in the class
Come in the class everyday
All the students requested to come in the class everyday.*

*Keep, keep and keep silence in the class
Keep silence in the class every moment
All the students requested to keep silence in the class every moment.*

*Off, off, off your mobile phone
Put off your mobile phone in the class
All the students requested to put off your mobile phone in the class.*

*Don't, don't, don't be late
Don't be late in the class
All the students requested don't be late in the class.*

*Do, do, do your home work
Do your homework in proper time
All the students requested to do your homework in proper time.*

*Give, give and give respect
Give respect to the teacher
All the students requested to give respect to the teacher.*

*Never, never and never take drugs
Never take drugs in your life
All the students requested to never take drugs in your life.*

School of Public Health Update

MPH Programmes

The MPH students completed their Reproductive and Sexual Health & Rights course this month which began on the 31st August and was completed on 11th September. The course was taught by Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid and Dr. Malabika Sarker. On the last day of the course, students presented their short exploratory PowerPoint presentation on Reproductive and Sexual Health Status conducted on field trips at different Govt and Non-Govt organizations in Dhaka.

The students also completed the module on Principles of Health Communications and Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Health Programmes, which began on 14th September and was completed on 18th September. The course Principles of Health Communication was taught by Dr. Muhiuddin Haider and Ms. Mahrukh Mohiuddin. Ms. Ana Coghlan and Dr. Syed Masud Ahmed were the faculty for Monitoring and Evaluation course.

Field Visit

Ten MPH students visited the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) for their field trip, as a part of the Health Communication course. The half-day visit included a session on Strategic Communication, presented by Dr. Nazrul Haque, Director, BCCP, and a tour to the media-material center of BCCP.

Nagasaki completes the Internship

To promote research, education, and capacity building especially in the area of health development between the two institutions 11 interns and faculty members from the Nagasaki University visited BRAC, JICA and ICDDR,B's project sites. They also visited some public hospitals to acquire first hand knowledge and experience on health systems, project management, and project activities; understand the process of problem analysis and formulation of projects. The duration of the intern programme was from 27th August -

16th September, 2008. At the end of the visit the students presented their reports based on the knowledge and experience they gained and exchanged their ideas with the School.

Formation of an Academic Study Group (ASG) at the School of Public Health

An academic study group (ASG) was formed at the School of Public Health in the month of September. The main objective of the ASG is to continually develop the research and teaching skills of the in-house faculty, researchers and programme staff. The ASG will ensure that the group meets at least once a month to present and discuss topics of interest. Dr. Nasima Selim, lecturer at BSPH, coordinated the first formal activity organized by the Academic Study Group: the first in-house seminar held on September 11th, where Dr. Hashima-e-Nasreen (BRAC RED) made a presentation on "Impact of maternal depressive symptoms and anxiety on infant development and health in Bangladesh". The key personnels involved in the investigation were Mushtaque Chowdhury (BSPH), Maigun Edhborg & Zarina Kabir (Karolinska Instut, Sweden) and Kaosar Afsana (BHP). The seminar was followed by a lively discussion which revolved around the objectives, methodology and ethical aspects of the study. There were many participants from the School of Public Health at the seminar. The Academic Study Group also held its first meeting in this month and it will meet again in October.

Workshop on Sharing Draft Strategic Framework for Developing Standard Operating Procedures for Services to People Living with HIV and AIDS

The GFATM team organized a workshop on the 23rd September at BRAC Centre for Strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of Government, NGO and Implementing partners towards sharing draft Strategic framework for developing Standard Operational Procedure for services in people living with HIV/AIDS. The chief guest was Mr. A M M Nasir Uddin, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The program was led by the DR. AMR Chowdhury, Dean of James P Grant School of Public Health. Their were members from the Population Council who overviewed the program and a presentation was made by Ms. Ismat Bhuiya, Team Leader & Senior Program Officer of the Population Council. The workshop included an open discussion where the special guests participated.