

2006/august

Advising and Registration for Fall 2006

The Advising and the registration of the students for Fall-2006 took place from August 27, 2006.

Educational Trip, Students of Oikos Dhaka



A team of fifteen students of OIKOS Dhaka led by a faculty advisor, Moshahida Sultana, went to a two-day educational trip to Kapasia from August 23-24, 2006. The students visited BRAC education program on the first day. On the second day, 15 students interviewed about 30 solar panel users in the villages of Kapasia. As a follow up of the trip, students of OIKOS Dhaka are currently writing a report suggesting a solar project in the BU campus.

ESS Lecturer Attended an International Workshop

Moshahida Sultana, Lecturer, Economics and Social Sciences (ESS), BU, participated in the International Workshop on Migration, organized by Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) in collaboration with Ford Foundation. The workshop was held in BRAC Center Inn from August 21-22, 2006. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Dr. Abdur Rob Khan chaired three sessions in the workshop. Other speakers were Dr. Mahendra P. Lama, Dr. Tasneem Siddique, Dr. Abrar Siddique, Mr. Shahidul Hoque, Dr. Jagannath Adhikari, and Dr. Sumaiya Khair.

Orientation Program

Orientation Program for new students (Fall-Semester, 2006) was held in BRAC Centre Inn on August 20, 2006 and at BU Campus, Savar on August 21, 2006. The inauguration session was followed by a get-together arranged for the new students and their parents, teachers and administrative staff of BU.

Library Orientation Program

The Ayesha Abed Library arranged a Library Orientation Program on August 20, 2006 for the new students of Fall Semester 2006. The program was started with a brief welcome address (by the Librarian Md. Abdul Hayee Sameni). Students were introduced to the library facilities, rules & regulations, policies (including membership procedure, member's book borrowing procedure), cyber library resource & facilities, library web resources and online catalog searching through a power point presentation prepared and presented by Zahurul Md. Tamim, Junior Librarian, IT. In addition to the direct communication, a nice printed Bookmark was distributed to them. The bookmark contains necessary information of the library.

Online Newsletter of AIESEC in BU

AIESEC in BRAC University has successfully published its first ever-online newsletter on August 20, 2006. Website address is: <http://www.aiesec.net/users/www.aiesec.net/users/naureen/BU1.html>

Grade Sheet of Summer Semester

The Grade sheets of Summer Semester 2006 were published at website on August 17, 2006.

Admission Test, Fall 2006

Admission Test for the Fall Semester 2006, for undergraduate programs was held on August 4, 2006. Written test results were announced on August 7, 2006. Interview of the selected candidates were conducted on August 9 and 10, 2006. The names of candidates finally selected for the undergraduate programs were announced on August 13, 2006. Admission test for the Fall Semester 2006 for Graduate program was held on August 18, 2006, written test results were announced on August 20, 2006, the names of candidates finally selected for the Graduate programs were announced on August 24, 2006.

Training on Use of Digital Resources

Ayesha Abed Library (AAL), BU organized its 2nd Training Program on use of digital resources for the young faculty members and the officials of BU on August 14, 2006. The topic of the program was JSTOR, an electronic journal archive subscribed by AAL, BU. The program was started with a brief welcome address (by the Librarian Md. Abdul Hayee Sameni). Thirteen participants, including faculty members, DCOs and library staff members were taught various techniques of searching, downloading and printing journal articles in JSTOR. The training was given through a power point presentation (by Mr. Jahurul Md. Tamim, Junior Librarian, IT) followed by a practical session.

Final Exam, Summer 2006

The classes of Summer Semester 2006 ended on August 1, 2006. The Final Exams of the Summer Semester started on August 6, 2006 and finished on August 9, 2006.

ARC Update

Chairperson Visits AIA Headquarters and Catholic University of America in Washington DC

Professor Fuad H Mallick Chairperson of the Department of Architecture visited the American Institute of Architects (AIA) headquarters in Washington DC on August 03, 2006 for a meeting with Dr. Richard Hayes, Managing Director of Knowledge Resources of the AIA. The AIA had donated a large number of books and journals to the department last year. Dr. Hayes will be visiting the department in November 2006. Further collaboration with the AIA professional is expected. He also visited the School of Architecture at the Catholic University of America also in Washington DC on August 04, 2006. He participated in the design juries of undergraduates and had a meeting with the faculty members.

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL) Professors at the Department of Architecture

Professor Bruno DeMeulder, and Professor Kelly Shannon of the Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Planning of Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL), Belgium recently visited the Department of Architecture, BRAC University. The tour is part of the feasibility study for eventual set up of a multi-year program in Dhaka. During their four days visit (August 21-24, 2006) the team sat in a series of round table meetings with experts in the relevant fields. Professionals from UN-Habitat, RajUK (Rajdhani Unnayan Kortripokkha), LGED (Local Government Engineering Department), UDD (Urban Development Directorate), CUS (Center for Urban Studies), Waste Concern, BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology), KU (Khulna University), JU (Jahangirnagar University), AUST (Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology) and BRACU (BRAC University) participated in different sessions. The meetings were held at and facilitated by the Department of Architecture, BRAC University. Later, the team explored some areas of Dhaka as a site for possible case study. Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed hosted a dinner for the visiting team on August 23, 2006.

Faculties Receive Award in a National Architectural Design Competition

Dr. Q. M. Mahtab Uz Zaman, Associate Professor and Khondoker Hasibul Kabir, lecturer, along with Nafisur Rahman and Tanmoy Chakrabarty, students of the Department of Architecture received a certificate and crest for the National Architectural Design Competition for Visitor's Center at Lawachara National Park on August 09, 2006 at National Museum. Alhajj Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Hon'ble State Minister of Environment

and Forests, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Mr, Gene George, Charge d' Affairs of the Govt. of the United States of America and Mission Director, USAID, Md. Osman Gani, Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department distributed awards among the winners. Earlier the Competition was called by 'Nishorgo'- Bangladesh's Protected Forest Area Management Program in association with the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) to stimulate the most creative ideas for a design of a visitor centre, in Lawachara National Park in Srimongal. Out of 32 innovative entries, they received honorary mention.

Certificate giving ceremony of Arch.KIDS Workshop 4

A certificate giving ceremony of the fourth workshop of Arch.KIDS was held on August 14, 2006 with the presence of the eminent botanist, environmentalist, Dwijen Sarma, Dr. Q M Mahtab uz Zaman, Khondoker Hasibul Kabir, teachers and students of the Amdala Govt. Primary School, Mankiganj. The fourth workshop of Arch.KIDS, an outreach program of the Department of Architecture was held on July 28, 2006 at the focusing on the theme-"My Dream School Garden" with an objective of promoting awareness of having a school garden and was jointly organized by the Dept. of Architecture, BU Environmental Awareness Forum & ShaDa [An NGO Shamajik Daybodhdhotta working with corporate social responsibility].

Faculty Member invited to speak at Jahangir Nagar University

Dr. Q M Mahtab-uz-Zaman was invited by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning of Jahangir Nagar University during a one-day seminar on August 26, 2006 titled: "Planners, Planning and People" to present paper on "Social and Environmental Implications of New Building Regulation of Dhaka".

School of Public Health (SPH) Update

Course Update

The MPH students successfully completed the course "Environment & Health" during the period of July 30 - August 10, 2006. The course was taught Dr. Bilqis Hoque, EPRC (Course Coordinator) and Dr. Paul Rauf, Columbia University. Dr Nasima Akhter, RED, BRAC (solid waste and its management) and Dr. Shafique, World Bank (community participation in water, sanitation and hygiene interventions) also took part in the course. Dr. MS Laskar, Senior Research Associate, BRAC SPH, was the teaching assistant for the course.

SPH faculty attends the "2nd National Conference on Breast Feeding & Complementary Feeding"

SPH faculty members, including Dr. Demissie Habte, International Director, Dr. Zarina Kabir, Senior Fellow, Dr. MS Laskar, Senior Research Associate, and Research Associates Dr. Mizanur Rashid Shuvra, Sabiha Chowdhuri, Rumana Akter and Dr. Farhana Sultana attended the two-day "2nd National Conference on Breast Feeding & Complementary Feeding" held at the ICMH, Matuail, arranged by the Bangladesh Breast Feeding Foundation. Over 700 participants attended the conference from across the country. Dr. Demissie Habte was the chairperson for the opening session of the conference. Dr. Mizanur Rashid Shuvra and Rumana Akter presented individual papers in the conference.

Assistant Professor attends " Pathway to Empowerment" workshop

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor, attended a workshop titled " Pathway to Empowerment" at Rajendrapur from August 19-21, 2006. She provided a background paper for the workshop.

Faculty Update

Dr. Farhana Sultana joined the School as a Research Associate. She is a medical doctor who completed her MPH at NIPSOM. She is involved in the multi- country RPC titled "Communicable Disease: Vulnerability, risk, and poverty". Previously, she was working at ICDDR,B in a project titled " Evaluation of two methods of prevention of RTI/STI among hotel based commercial sex workers".

Moumina Dorgabekova joined the School as an intern. She has a Masters in Medical Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She has various experiences in public health programmes with UNICEF and WHO in Geneva, Switzerland and the Aga Khan Foundation in Tajikistan.

Sabiha Chowdhuri, Research Associate, has chosen to defer her admission to August 2007 to the MPH programme at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. She has been accepted in the "Reproductive, Adolescent and Child Health" track in the Department of Population and Family Health. She will be continuing to work for the multi-country RPC titled " Realizing Rights: Improving sexual and reproductive health for poor and vulnerable populations" under the supervision of Dr. Sabina Rashid,

Assistant Professor. She will also be involved in work with the Centre (see below).

Centre for Health Systems Studies

Dr. Zarina Kabir, visiting Senior Fellow from Karolinska Institute, Sweden will be closely involved with the soon to be established Centre for Health Systems Studies (CHeSS) to develop the conceptual basis and agenda for the centre. Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor, has been appointed Coordinator of the Centre has been closely working with Dr. Zarina. Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury will be overseeing the Centre as Director.

Research Grant

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid has brought in a year-long research grant from the National Centre of Epidemiology & Population Health, The Australian National University. Dr. Rashid will be in charge of the research on "Urban slums and infant health". The project is a joint collaboration with the National Centre in Australia.

Seminar Series

The SPH conducts a weekly seminar series for the development of its MPH students and staff. This month two guest lecturers made presentations: Dr. Sajeda Amin, Population Council, New York made a presentation titled "Popular perceptions of Emerging influences on Mortality and longevity in Bangladesh and West Bengal" while Professor David Ludden, University of Pennsylvania, presented "Health Environments: Descriptions, Analysis & Interventions"

Dean attends Health Systems Action Network meeting in Toronto, Canada

Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean, attended a two-day consultative meeting on health systems in Toronto, Canada sponsored by DFID and Gates Foundation. Health systems professionals from developing countries attended the meeting. The meeting set up a network called "Health Systems Action Network" (HASAN). Dr Mushtaque has been selected as member of the steering committee of this network. The Dean was one of the 25 participants selected out of a pool of 400 applicants.

Internship on reproductive health communications

Kasey Kozara, a 2006 BRAC University Research Intern from the United States, completed research during the months of July and August 2006 in the area of reproductive health communications, through a new partnership program coordinated and implemented by Professor David Ludden of University of Pennsylvania and funded by the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS). Kasey was received by the BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health under the mentorship of Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid. Kasey expects she will return to Bangladesh to continue research in the summer of 2007, when she will have completed a reproductive health fellowship in Lucknow, India.

DSP hosts Scoping Workshop

The Pathways of Gender Empowerment project which is housed in the Development Studies Program (DSP) of BRAC University held a scoping workshop in Rajendrapur from the 19th to the 21st of August 2006. The workshop was attended by participants from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Brazil and Ghana. The sessions were very lively, and the papers presented concentrated on reviewing the main steps taken for women's empowerment in the region over the last 30 years. The project will go on for another 3 and a half years, and its main objective is to understand and take forward the conditions that have led to women's advancement in the region.

BU Teachers on Fulbright Programs

Naira Khan, lecturer ENH left for a one-year Fulbright Language Teaching Assistance Program (FLTA). She will be based in Duke University, North Carolina, during the tenure of her stay in the US.

AZM Shahriar, Lecturer ESS has joined Williams College, USA to pursue Masters Program in Development Economics under the Fulbright Fellowship Program.

Visiting Faculty in English and Humanities Department

Suhail Muhibul Islam, Associate Professor, Department of English, Nazareth College, USA is teaching as a visiting professor in the Department of English and Humanities for the Fall Semester 2006. He is a specialist in Rhetoric and Technical Communication, and will be taking linguistics and editing courses during the semester. He will also help to develop the Applied Linguistics and ELT concentration in the MA in English program.

Visiting Faculty in School of Business (SoB)

Dr Sharmistha Banerjee, Reader (Associate Professor), Department of Business Management, University of Calcutta has joined the School of Business (SoB), BU as a visiting faculty for the Fall 2006 session. She is a Ph.D. in Business Management from University of Calcutta and has over 15 years of teaching experience at post graduate and undergraduate levels. Besides her regular teaching assignments for the MBM program she is closely associated with Netaji Subhas Open University and Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata in promoting small business entrepreneurs. Her research interests include academic studies on child labour and primary education, in which she has completed a number of international research projects. With special expertise in small business and entrepreneurship, she had been a Fulbright Scholar at the Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania, USA.

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