

NOVEMBER 2014



JPGSPH at AIUB's 1st Conference on Young Public Health Professionals

Tag: BRAC Institute of Global Health

Year: November 30th, 2014

James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) at BRAC University organized a conference jointly with American International University of Bangladesh (AIUB) on 29 November 2014. The objective of the conference was to provide a platform to encourage young public health professionals to harness their ideas into research. A total of 65 students and faculty participated, from icdd,rb, AIUB, BIRDEM, Holy Family Medical College & Hospital.

A selection of USAID's Next Generation of Public Health Experts (NGPHEP) Research Fellows presented their research project abstracts, including: **Ms. Shahana Siddiqui, Dr. A S M Nurullah Awal, Mr. Taimur Reza, Dr. Md Ashraf Alam, Dr. Kamruzzaman Mihir Khan, Mr. Tapas Mazumder. Professor Dr. Malabika Sarker**, Research Director, JPGSPH at BRAC University moderated the lively and interactive session. There was keen interest in the MAYA project, ICT based-learning, medical humanities, and problem-based learning techniques. The conference was deemed a success and discussion for future such events was encouraged.

Workshop on Heart Centered Play Therapy

Tag: Counseling Unit

Year: November 29th, 2014



Recently three members from the Counseling Unit of BRAC University **Ms. Safina Binte Enayet, Ms. Monzia Mushtaq and Ms. Anne Anthonia Baroi** participated in the five days workshop on Heart Centered Play Therapy, from November 23-27, 2014 which was organized by Institute of Educational Development (IED), BRAC University. It was an introductory workshop on play therapy which was facilitated by **Susan Garofolo, B.A., CPT, CTT**, Play Therapist and owner of Play Therapy for Children in Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

The workshop covered contents like importance of play, effective use of self, introduction to therapy, directive and non-directive play therapy, heart centered play therapy, adaptation of above modalities, session on play therapy with children, therapy's sunshine circles for groups. The objectives of the workshop were to introduce the concept of heart centered play therapy, help participants to learn some effective tools of play therapy, so that participants can assist clients especially those who are age of between three to seventeen to release their traumatic emotions, enhance emotional, cognitive and behavioral competencies which ultimately would help client's attachment with their family and peer group to be attuned and lead them towards positive self esteem, self empowerment and joyful engagement with surroundings. The presence of total twenty five enthusiastic participants in the workshop made the learning environment more interactive and prolific one.

Visit to National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory (NFDPL) 27 November, 2014

Tag: Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Year: November 29th, 2014

A group of students from Biotechnology and Microbiology Programs of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, BRAC University, visited the National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory (NFDPL) along with **Dr. Mahboob Hossain** and **Ms Romana Siddique** on 27 November 2014. NFDPL, situated in the premises of Dhaka Medical College Hospital was established in 2006 for the purpose of DNA fingerprinting in various cases including criminal record establishment. The students were given a briefing on how the DNA fingerprinting was carried out and a few cases solved by the Forensic Laboratory. They were further introduced with the different materials and equipment used during the procedure of the fingerprinting and the types of samples used. The student team included Sazzad Khan, Tasnim Mortuza Zarin, Sara Sadia Chowdhury, Nazia Chowdhury, Dipanjana Datta, Fahim Bin Najib, Mehbubun Nayeema, Anila Labonnya Modhu, Taizina Momtareen, Faria Mahjabeen, Nafisa Tabassum, D.M. Ashiquzzaman Sourav and Sanjida Akter.

Achievements of Robotic Club

Tag: Student Affairs

Year: November 29th, 2014



It was the 1st ever Robot fight competition in the history of Bangladesh robotics on 27th November, 2014 at the Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology (CUET). BRAC UNIVERSITY got 2nd & 3rd Position there. Both Teams are from Robotics Club of BRAC UNIVERSITY. Team "BRAC SESTO ELEMENTO"- 1st Runner-up (left) & Team "BRAC BACK BENCHERS"- 2nd Runner-up (Right). Team members of SESTO ELEMENTO include Md. Shadman Sakib & Tahmid Rashid. Back Benchers members include Ali Ahsan, Mohammad Zahirul Islam, Ratul Acharjee and Sadman Sadab.

Seminar on 'Innovative Strategies in a Rapidly Changing Environment'

Tag: Student Affairs

Year: November 29th, 2014



We now live in an age where technology is at its highest peak and it is making the things around us change in no time. So, we have to come up with some ways to adapt with these changes. Keeping this idea in mind, BRAC University Business Club (BIZ BEE) organized a seminar on ‘Innovative Strategies in a Rapidly Changing Environment’ on November 24, 2014.

BIZ BEE – BRAC University Business Club is a dynamic and well reputed club, working their way ahead till now for a decade. Over the time BIZ BEE has made a mark in the world of business through its numerous activities. It has proved through its efforts to be more than just a club and hence made a stand through the work that has been established by now. Various seminars, workshops and road-shows with renowned icons of the country are the regular activities of the club. It also organizes a job fair called ‘the job incubator’, and is the proud publisher of an exclusive business magazine called ‘Vision’, of which four volumes have already been published and still growing.

The mentioned seminar on ‘Innovative Strategies in a Rapidly Changing Environment’ took place in BRAC University Auditorium at 3:00 pm. The keynote speaker in this event was Ms. **Rubaba Dowla**, a corporate icon of the country, currently working as Chief Service Officer in Airtel Bangladesh Limited. The session chair was **Prof. Syed Saad Andaleeb**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University. **Mr. Mohammad Rezaur Razzak**, Associate Professor of BRAC University attended the event as a special guest. **Mr. Tanvir Ahmed**, Advisor of BRAC University Business Club (BIZ BEE), along with some other faculty members of the university was also present there. The program began with receiving the guests with flowers. Later on **Prof. Syed Saad Andaleeb** started the session by giving an introductory speech regarding the subject. He mentioned that today’s youth is tomorrow’s leader. So, the young generation must prepare themselves to bring innovation in their work to build a better society and be productive citizens of tomorrow. Then **Ms. Rubaba Dowla** took the floor and enlightened the audience with her intellectual words. She showed how rapidly the environment around us is changing and mentioned how to tackle with this uncertainty. According to her, the solution to this problem is to come up with vibrant, innovative ideas. She set some wonderful examples for her audience as to how we can think outside the box, and suggested that we use our creativity along with logical reasoning. After the inspiring speech, **Mr. Rezaur Razzak** took the stage and concluded the program with some thank-you notes. Finally, the event came to an end by giving out refreshments to the guests and the audience.

ESS Faculty news, November, 2014

Tag: Department of Economics and Social Sciences

Year: November 27th, 2014

Professor Syed Hashemi conducted training on “Introducing Bangladesh: A Two-Day Training Program for Experts in Bangladesh”

The UK High Commission had requested BRAC University to develop a two-day training for its staff to provide an introduction to the history, economy and culture of Bangladesh. Professor Ainun Nishat had tasked Professor Hashemi to develop and run the training program. Participants included staff from DFID, the British Council, the Consular Section, the Legal Section and other departments. Nine modules were presented. These included:

- A Brief History of Bangladesh: Struggles for Democratic Rights and Economic Freedom
- The Economic Development of Bangladesh and the Advances on the MDGs
- Politics in Bangladesh: The Culture of Conflict and the Care Taker Governments
- Secularism and Fundamentalism in Bangladesh: The Quest for Identity
- The Indigenous People of Bangladesh: A Political History
- The Structure of Government and the Governance Challenges in Bangladesh
- Bangladesh in the Global Context: The Making of Foreign Policy
- NGOs, Civil Society and the State: Confrontation, Collaboration and Coexistence
- Climate Change and Vulnerability in Bangladesh

Speakers included Ainun Nishat, Syed Hashemi, Riaz Khan, Samia Huq from BRAC University and others from outside. The training was held on November 24th and November 30th.



Wahid Abdallah, Assistant Professor, have attended a conference on "Reflections on "Doing while learning": A retrospective look at how social innovations scaled across South Asia", organized by BRAC Social Innovation Lab held in Bellagio, Italy on 4 - 8 November 2014. He has talked about "How can we Support Organizational Learning" in the conference which initiated an exciting discussion on effective learning processes in organizational setting. A blog post on the conference can be found at <http://blog.brac.net/2014/11/voices-from-across-south-asia-sharing-stories-on-scaling-up-and-what-works/>.

Associate Professor **Shahidur Rahman's** paper on "Brain-drain to brain-gain" has been published in Journal of Asian Profile. The paper studies the changes in the nature of higher education and how the service sector has created a new culture in the education sector.

Shahidur was invited to become a judge in the "HULT" competition organised by BRAC University.



Seuty Sabur, Assistant Professor, was invited to Asian University of Women on November 13, 2014. She had a lunch meet with the AUW students and a seminar in the afternoon titled "Shahbag, the Secular Congregation: Gender, Class, Religion and Ethnicity Question". Later she presented at TALE talk titled "Dislocation, Discontentment, Disillusion: In Constant Search for Allies/Comrades" in the evening. In TALE she spoke about her personal, ideational, and/or professional journey. She explained how dislocation, discontentment and disillusion has been three constants, contouring her politics/existence. This narrative was about a person from 'nowhere', and how she turns her marginality into privilege to explore the worlds of 'seen/ unseen', 'spoken/unspoken' and 'known yet unknown'. Embodying history of particular time and spaces, she unraveled the narratives of middle class – their privileges and politics

Lecturer **Meheri Tamanna** was invited to the first International Women and Justice Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey on November 25 and 26, to present her talk on “The Perception of Youth on Politics”. The summit was organised by the Turkish Government’s Ministry of Women Affairs and KADEM (an association for Women and Democracy). The objective of the summit was to support the movement of civil societies to promote the civil and human rights for women and the democratic reforms for their socio-cultural, economic and political lives.



Adnan M. S. Fakir, Lecturer, presented his work titled “A Framework for Balancing MFI Regulation” in University of Birmingham, UK at a conference organized by the Institute of Research Engineers and Doctors (IRED). The study develops a conceptual framework for encouraging private investments in the microfinance sector, both for non-profit and for-profit Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). Private investments for Microfinance have been becoming a major fuel for its growth and inadvertently the role of the MFI regulatory body in inducing private investments remains a conspicuous issue. Based on a continuous spectrum of light and heavy regulatory laws, the paper explores how a regulatory body can make legal adjustments while aiming at optimal levels of private investment.

New Publications from MNS Department

Tag: Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Year: November 27th, 2014

F.B. Mosharraf, Z. Jahan, M. Datta, M. Hossain, N. Islam, N. Choudhury. Medicinal plants: An alternative source for antimicrobials against emerging pathogens. **OSMJ** 2014; 4 (3): 12-20.

Z. Jahan, F.B. Mosharraf, S. Rahman, M. Hossain, N. Islam, N. Choudhury. *Cynodon dactylon*: Antimicrobial potential of crude extract as valuable medicinal plant. **OSMJ** 2014; 4 (3): 6-11.

International Publication: IJSBAR- International Journal of Sciences : Basis & Applied Research-Vol 16, No 1, (2014) ISSN 2307-4531, pp 131-153, “Comparison of the socio economic states in term of income, education, industry of employment, occupation and labour force of several suburbs of Victoria – a province in Australia.”

STM Journal (India) – Omniscience: A multidisciplinary journal: ISSN: 2231-0398 (online), ISSN: 2347-9949 (print) Volume 4, Issue 2, www.stmjournals.com, “A study based on a survey of overall Australian labour force, occupation, industry of employment comparing to Victorian (“Victoria” – a province in Australia) suburbs.”

Price Media Law Moot Court Competition 2014, South Asia Rounds, New Delhi, India

Tag: Student Affairs

Year: November 27th, 2014



We are proud to inform that, the team comprising of **Dr. Tureen Afroz** as coach, Md. Pizuar Hossain and Kifat Bakhtyear as mooters has successfully represented BRAC University and Bangladesh in the South Asia Rounds of Price Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2014 organized by the University of Oxford in New Delhi, India. The team was ranked the best national team and ranked 2nd in South Asia.

Movie Show

Tag: Student Affairs

Year: November 27th, 2014



BRAC University Film Club made organized a movie show on 26th November 2014 at BRACU Auditorium and the name of the movie was *Deliver Us from Evil*.

New faces at BRACU and Left from BRACU

Tag: Human Resource Office

Year: November 27th, 2014

New faces at BRAC University

Management and Admin

The administrative department of BRAC University extended their pool by adding two new members.

Ms. Fariba Aziz joined as Department Coordination Officer in the Student Affairs Office (SAO) in November 2014. **Ms. Aziz** obtained her Bachelor in EEE in Telecommunication from North South University. Currently she is doing her MBA from BRAC University.

Ms. Sharmistha Das also joined as Department Coordination Officer in the Office of Co-curricular Activities (OCA) under the Student Affairs Office (SAO) in November 2014. Ms. Das completed her Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from Dhaka City College.

Left from BRAC University

Ms. Sizia Farhana, served as Assistant HR Officer in Human Resources Department, resigned from her position and left us in November 2014.

Faculty on Study Leave

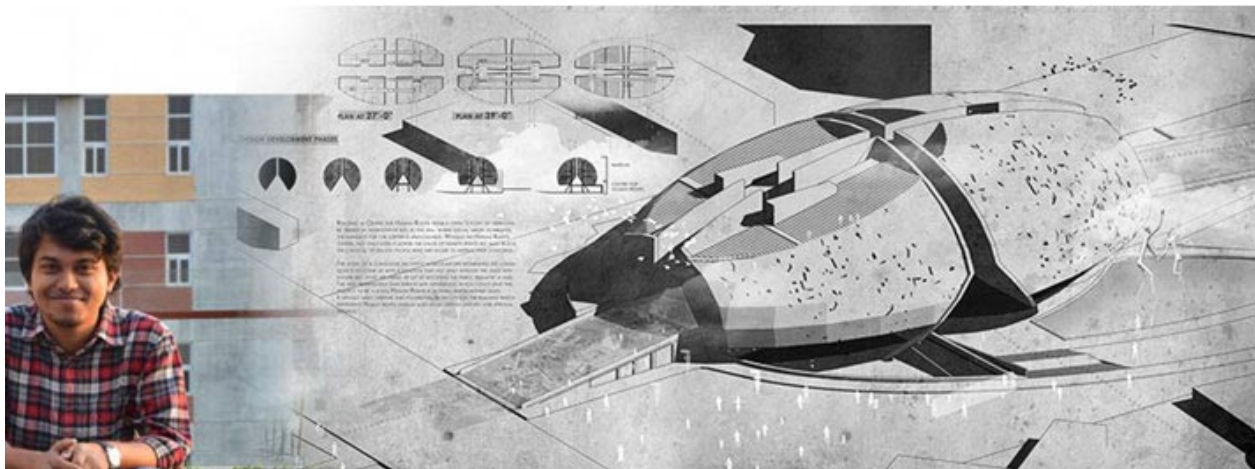
Ms. Sanjana Ahmed, who was serving as Lecturer-I went on study leave in November 2014. Ms. Ahmed will be pursuing her PhD in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from University of Nottingham, United Kingdom.

Dissemination Workshop of Climate Smart BRAC Project
Tag: Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research
Year: November 26th, 2014



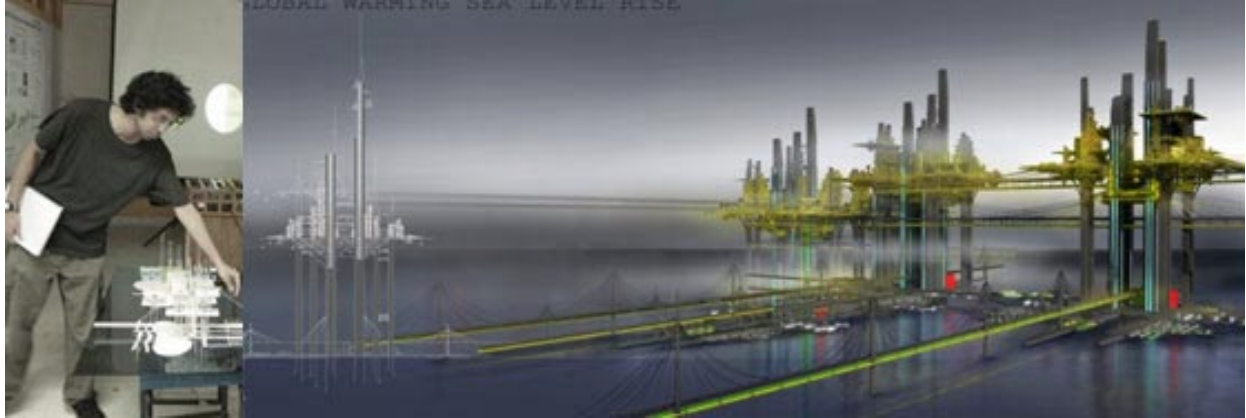
BRAC, DECC and C3ER jointly organized a dissemination workshop of Climate Smart BRAC project on 25 November 2014 at BRAC Centre. **Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury**, Vice-Chairperson and Interim Executive Director of BRAC inaugurated the session. Afterward, **Dr. Ainun Nishat**, Professor Emeritus of C3ER presented project findings, strategies and recommendation to the audiences. Other honorable guests were **Mr. Mahabub Hossain**, Advisor to the Interim Executive Director and **Mr. Asif Saleh**, Senior Director, Strategy, Communication and Empowerment, BRAC and BRAC International; **Md Akramul Islam**, Director, WASH & DECC, BRAC; **Ms. Tanzeba Ambereen Huq**, Programme Head, DECC, BRAC; **A S Moniruzzaman Khan**, Director, In-charge, C3ER; **Ms. Roufa Khanum**, Coordinator, Operations, C3ER. After the presentation, the floor was open for discussion. A draft of the project also circulated to the participants for getting back their feedback and comments.

BRAC U student's Design Projects has been selected as participants' favorites in Archiprix
Tag: Department of Architecture
Year: November 25th, 2014



The final project of Rafid Reasat Hai, Center for Human Rights titled “ 21st Century Cyrus Cylinder” has been selected as participants' favorites in Archiprix. Archiprix is an international Competition of the best graduation projects of Architecture, Urban Design, and Landscape architecture around the world, held in every two year.

The project has three parts - space for human rights organizations, museum and institutional center. As for the institutional center it holds various workshops related to human rights victims who can share their experience and thoughts to people and media. An Archiprix book will be published in 2015 compiling all the projects along with his project.



It should be mentioned that another final year project was also selected as participants' favorites in Archiprix 2011. 'Global warming sea level rise 2100+' was Shakil Ahmed Shimul's Graduating thesis project, which was selected from the department of architecture BRAC University, to participate in Archiprix 2011, Cambridge MIT. His project was the first of that kind from BRACU and one of three projects from Bangladesh. The project was an architectural exercise envisioning and designing the future Dhaka city considering a 10 meter sea level rise. A book has published in 2013 compiling all the projects along with the project.

Professor Emeritus Ainun Nishat Awarded "Nature Conservation Award 2014"

Tag: Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research

Year: November 25th, 2014



Water resource and climate change specialist Professor **Ainun Nishat** has got the Prokriti O Jibon Foundation and Channel i "Nature Conservation Award 2014" for his contribution to the conservation of biodiversity, environment and nature of Bangladesh. At an award ceremony held on November 08, 2014 at Channel i Bhaban, Honorable Minister **Mr. Anwar Hossain Manju**, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh gave the award to **Dr. Nishat. Hasneen Muktedir**, Director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd, handed over a cheque of Tk 1 lakh to **Professor Nishat** while **Dr Sarder A Nayeem**, chairperson of Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital, gave him a certificate of complimentary treatment for lifetime. A video documentary on Prokriti O Jibon Foundation and the Video Biography of **Dr. Ainun Nishat** were shown and cover of the DVD – 2014 of 'Prokriti O Jibon' Television Series has been unveiled in the award giving ceremony.

In Conversation with Zia Haider Rahman

Tag: Department of English and Humanities

Year: November 25th, 2014



On 24 November, BRACU teachers and students had the opportunity to listen to the charismatic speaker and the acclaimed writer of *In the Light of What We Know*, **Zia Haider Rahman**. **Professor Firdous Azim** set the ball rolling by announcing that it would be a lovely conversation between two fiction writers, both hailing originally from Sylhet.

Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam engaged him in an interesting conversation. **Mr. Rahman** mentioned that the art of creative writing is the most capable of providing introspection on the human expressions, emotions and experiences. Discussing his emotional investment in the writing experience, he mentioned dedicating over four years to creating this novel and completely relishing the opportunity of immersing himself in his work. He also elaborated on the contribution that his scientific knowledge made to his striking literary style. In the Q&A session, he invited the audiences to sample the first chapter of his book (available online) and to invest in it only if they liked it.

Faculty returned from Portugal under Staff mobility Program of EMMAsia

Tag: Department of Architecture

Year: November 24th, 2014



Md. Shajjad Hossain and Saiqa Iqbal Meghna, two faculty of the Department of architecture visited Evora under Erasmus Mundus mobility program, 2013 (EMMAAsia). Both of them got full support to spend one month in one EU partner universities for improving their personal skills and knowledge **in the related field**. This month long visit created scope for exchanging views and experiences between BRACU and the University of Evora.

Visit to Architect Bashirul Haq's Buildings

Tag: Department of Architecture

Year: November 24th, 2014



Students from the studio ARC201 visited two contemporary buildings designed by eminent and one of the pioneer architect Bashirul Haq. One is the East West University and the other one is the Architect's own residence. The students were accompanied by the architect himself. He shared his ideas and design strategies with the students while visiting these two projects. Others studio instructors **Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana, Dr. Habib Reza, Md. Shajjad Hossain** and **Farsha Zaman** were also with the team. The students were required to design a residence in light of the experience and understanding gathered through the visit.

The 1st year students (ARC112: Graphic Communication) of the department of Architecture traveled to Manikganj in the last week of November 2014 to visit an architectural project design by Architect Bashirul Haq. The project was Shabuj Shona Center for PRISM Bangladesh. The students photographed and measured the building and after coming back to classroom, produced detail drawings which were part of the final graphic communication project of the course. Studio Teachers **A.K.M. Sirajuddin, Dr. Habib Reza, Md. Shajjad Hossain** and **Farasha Zaman** were conducted the tour.

10th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Competition 2014, Regional Rounds, Tehran, Iran

Tag: Student Affairs

Year: November 24th, 2014



We are proud to inform that, the team comprising of **Dr. Tureen Afroz** as coach, Nauriin Ahmed, Shaoli Dasgupta as mooters and Noor Mohammed Bhuiyan as researcher, of Moot Court Society of BRAC University was the Champion in National Rounds of the 10th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Competition 2014 organized by the 'International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Thereafter, qualifying for the Regional Rounds which was held in Tehran, Iran. In the Regional Round the team was ranked one of the top 4 teams among teams from all over South Asia and hence have now qualified to represent Bangladesh at the Asia Pacific Rounds of the competition which is to be held in Hong Kong.

First Aid Training

Tag: BRAC Institute of Global Health

Year: November 24th, 2014



Tanvir E Naher at Savar speaking to the students

A First Aid Training session has been organized for Residential Semester, Fall-2014 students at BRAC U. On behalf of JPGSPH, **Tanvir E Naher** facilitated the session. **Farina Rahman** and **Tanzina Yesmin** of Midwifery Programme have assisted the training program.

This is the first time BRAC U has organized a session on first aid at Savar campus for undergrad students from all disciplinary. The session was mainly focused on role and responsibility in providing first aid, legal aspects and moral obligation, key components of primary observation, history of event, examination of vital signs, identify types of bleeding wounds, injuries, amongst others and the appropriate first aid interventions.

Participants: 448 students (259 boys and 189 girls) and around 20 teachers and staff including residential doctor and staff nurse

Next Generation of Public Health Experts Project (NGPHEP) Research Fellows Complete Research

Tag: BRAC Institute of Global Health

Year: November 24th, 2014



NGPHEP presentations

NGPHEP presentations

NGPHEP presentations

The second batch of research fellows from the NGPHEP presented their final findings on Sunday, 23 November 2014 to the honourable working group members as well as their supervisors and the NGPHEP team. The fellows were given five minutes to present their final findings and five minutes to field questions from the room. Also present were the newly selected third batch of research fellows who were also allocated five minutes to present their proposal ideas and to answer any questions. The research fellows presented on topics including “Psychological denial of earthquake: Provoking a humanitarian and public health disaster in Dhaka”, “Prevalence and Knowledge on Effects of Tobacco Use among Adult Population in Dhaka City” and “Public Health Education Program for Rural Medical Practitioners in Ban-

Participation in the conference at Santa Fe Institute, New Mexico, USA

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, participated in the conference titled, “Acting, Locally, Understanding Globally”, at Santa Fe

Tag: Department of Architecture

Year: November 23rd, 2014

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, participated in the conference titled, “Acting, Locally, Understanding Globally”, at Santa Fe Institute, New Mexico, USA on 19-21 November 2014. The

main focus of the conference was to build an international community of practice for neighbourhood data collection and analysis. This may lead to the ultimate objective to create a collaborative process, facilitated by technology, that at once tackle pressing local problems of human development in urban communities around the world – *act locally* – and, at the same time, build knowledge about the general nature of such problems and how to solve them more effectively in practice and in theory – *understanding globally*. Kabir was invited in the conference to share the process of ‘Planning and Building with Community Involvement’. He focused on the topic by sharing BRAC University’s experience in the context of Bangladesh and in Haiti. The conference ended with the consensus that interested institutions/organizations, participated, will be in touch to work together to (re)develop objectives and effective way forward to practice and theories. The participants of the conference were from around the world that represents the perspectives of the urban poor, local governments, international agencies, open-source software groups, researchers and foundations to discuss how efforts of data collection at the local level worldwide can lead to productive hands-on collaborations and knowledge accumulation globally.

BRAC University (ESS) and Georgetown University Research Collaboration

Tag: **Department of Economics and Social Sciences**

Year: November 23rd, 2014



On November 22, 2014, the Economics and Social Sciences Department and the Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace and Globalization at Georgetown University formally launched their research collaboration and inauguration of a Speaker’s Forum. The first activity of the collaboration was an ethnographic study mapping faith actors who play a role in development in Bangladesh. The study investigates the development initiatives that the faith actors undertake, the faith messages they disseminate and the relationships they have with secular development agents.

The Speaker’s Forum brought together international and local scholars to discuss issues pertaining to faith and development. Globally renowned scholars like Jose Casanova, Professor at the Department of Sociology at Georgetown University and head of the Berkeley Center’s program on “Globalization, Religion and the Secular” and Rajeev Bhargava, Professor at the Center for Studies of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi, participated at the forum. On November 23, 2014 ESS organized a small round table for students to talk and debate with the scholars.

Sessions for Medha Bikash Students

Tag: **Counseling Unit**

Year: November 23rd, 2014



The Counseling Unit of BRAC University has been visiting the Medha Bikash, a program run by BRAC Education Program for the underprivileged intelligent students coming from poor backgrounds. These students are typically high-achievers in the Secondary School Certificates (SSC) but financial pressures often hinder their academic performance and restrict their ability to pursue higher education. Therefore the Counseling Unit conducts motivational sessions for these students to help them to build confidence and motivation to study further and develop positive attitudes towards self and world.

Four members of the unit facilitated total four sessions for Medha Bikash program in November 08, 22, 2014 respectively. In total hundred students participated the sessions. The counselors facilitated the sessions on particular psychosocial issues like: Mental Health, Self-Confidence, Acceptance and Goal Setting, Developing Positive Attitude. Besides that, group counseling sessions were conducted to help them to share their issues with each other and how they can overcome such problems. Then individual counseling sessions were also given to the students who showed their need to talk individually. At the end meditation for enhancing self confidence and will power was conducted.

The session inspired them a lot to realize the broader picture of what they are up to, motivated them towards moving further with positive attitude. Both of the sessions were very much interactive and participatory with the students.

2nd UNISEC Global meeting

Tag: **Student Affairs**

Year: November 23rd, 2014

Group1: Overview of Safe water Coverage in Shahbajpur Union, Jamalpur Sadar, Bangladesh

Group 2: Analysis of bottlenecks towards effective coverage of IFA in Netrokona District

Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project Round-15 Data Collection Complete

Tag: **BRAC Institute of Global Health**

Year: November 22nd, 2014

The Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP) finished round 15 phase 1 data collection in the third week of November, 2014. FSNSP data collection officers started their data collection for this phase from 16 October, 2014. The data is collected based around thematic headings:

1. Household characteristics,
2. Food security,
3. Nutritional status of women and girls,
4. Maternal care and nutrition,
5. Child feeding and care,

BRAC University 9th Convocation

Tag: **Administration**

Year: November 21st, 2014



The **9th Convocation** of BRAC University took place on Thursday at the Army Stadium, Dhaka Cantonment. **Md. Abdul Hamid**, President, People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor, BRAC University, presided over the convocation ceremony. In his speech, the President congratulated the fresh graduates and appreciated BRAC University's aim of preparing future leaders by combining their knowledge with social engagement for sustainable development.

Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Minister, Ministry of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Special Guest of the event, asserted that, BRAC University has set an example by maintaining rules and regulations of the government and delivering quality education.

Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman delivered the Convocation speech as Convocation Speaker. In his inspiring speech, Professor Anisuzzaman expressed his views about holistic approach to education. He indicated that knowledge should enlighten one's conscience and encourage righteousness which was clearly present in our history where students were always outspoken for the cause of justice and peace.

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, BRAC University, **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG** and Vice Chancellor **Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb** were present at this auspicious occasion along with the members of the Board of Trustees, Syndicate, Academic Council as well as other distinguished guests.



A total of 1495 students from various academic disciplines joined the ranks of BRAC University graduates. Hon'ble President awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal to **Shirleen Manzur** from the department of Social Science & Economics (ESS) for undergraduate programs and **Zubaida Marufee Islam** from the department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences (MNS) for postgraduate programs for their outstanding academic results as well as all-round contribution and performance during their period of study at BRAC University.

Visit [BRACU YouTube](#) channel for video streaming.

Degree awarded from the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at 9th Convocation Ceremony, 20 November, 2014

Tag: Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Year: November 21st, 2014



BRAC University 9th Convocation Ceremony was held on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at the Army Stadium, Dhaka Cantonment. Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor, **Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid** graced the occasion as the Chancellor of the university and **Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid**, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was the special guest. A total of 23 students from the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences graduated including two in BS in biotechnology, six in BS in Microbiology, one in BS in Applied Physics and Electronics and fourteen in MS in biotechnology. **Ms. Zubaida Marufee Islam** was awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal for having the Highest CGPA in her Master's results in entire university. She also received the Vice Chancellor's Medal. **Ms. Sreoshee Rafiq** of BS in biotechnology, **Ms. Shafaque Rahman** BS in microbiology, **Ms. Sayeda Mayesha Azim**, BS in applied physics and electronics and **Ms. Sadia Ahmed**, MS in biotechnology were also awarded the Vice Chancellor's Medal for having the highest grade point in their respective programs.

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury appointed as Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA) 19 November, 2014

Tag: Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Year: November 20th, 2014

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury has been appointed by the Government of Bangladesh as Chairman of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA) with effect from 19 November, 2014 for a period of three years. BAERA is the competent authority for all radiological and nuclear practices in the country. It is playing the key role in formulating, implementing and amending BAERA Act (2012) and NSRC Rules-1997 in order to strengthen nuclear regulatory control and implementing effective regulations throughout the country. **Professor Choudhury** joined BRAC University as Coordinator of biotechnology and microbiology programs in the MNS department. He was involved in the formulation of the National Biotechnology Policy 2005, National Bio-safety Guidelines in 1999 and then in 2005 and in formulation of the National Science and Technology Policy, 2011. He is a Member of the Executive Committee of the National Council for Science and Technology (ECNCST) of the Bangladesh Government. For his outstanding contribution in science and technology, **Professor Choudhury** received the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences gold medal in 2000 and Zaki Memorial Award in 2002.

NPGHEP Awards Six Fellowships

Tag: BRAC Institute of Global Health

Year: November 20th, 2014

NPGHEP, a project funded by USAID recently selected 9 Research Fellows to implement 6 month research projects. The fellowships are meant to provide an opportunity to develop innovative ideas for improving the quality of, and access to, public health education. A selection committee consisting of experts in the field judged candidates based on the academic background of the candidates; strength of the proposal; work experience in public health; previous research experience; writing skills and ability to multitask. Selected candidates are from institutions such as Director General Health Services, BRAC Research and Evaluation Division and RTM International, amongst others and will carry out research on topics including ‘Psychological denial of earthquake: Provoking a humanitarian and public health disaster in Dhaka’, ‘Introducing Hospital Acquired Infection Prevention and Control as a major subject in Public Health Education’ and ‘Patient Safety Practices among the Clinical Care Providers in Public and Private Medical College hospitals in Bangladesh.’

FSNSP data collection officers started their data collection for round 15 phase-I from 18 October, 2014.

Global Body Politics in Development

Tag: **Department of English and Humanities**

Year: November 18th, 2014

On November 17, the Department of English and Humanities organized a talk entitled “Global Body Politics in Development” by **Dr. Wendy Harcourt**, an Associate Professor at Erasmus University Rotterdam and a feminist researcher engaged with feminist activism, global body politics, women’s movements, and gender and development policy debates.

INTROVIEW – FALL 2014

Tag: **Student Affairs**

Year: November 18th, 2014



BRAC University Film Club has always welcomed the freshermen to join their club through a trademark event known as ‘Introview.’ It gives the them an opportunity to introduce themselves to the club as well as learn about its activities. This time, Introview Fall’14 had the theme of Halloween and the theme chosen this time was “The Adaam’s Family” - a popular cartoon series of the 90’s by Charles Addams. The dress code for the event was black and white, which represented the fact that, up until then there was a distinct difference between the new and existing members.

The Indoor Auditorium was decorated aptly in dark colors in pure Halloween fashion. A few of the BUFCians even played the main characters of The Adam's Family which literally brought the theme to life. They were welcomed with Halloween music and a round of applause for the family. The event started with a small introduction of the huge family of BRAC University and then there was a presentation on how the whole team of BRAC University Film Club is connected to each other through different departments forming the Royal Family. After that, there was another photo-presentation introducing the president, vice-presidents, directors, executives and apprentices of all the departments of BUFC. A "Fun Session" involving the freshers eased them up afterwards.

The president and the vice-presidents also shared their views with everyone regarding their experience working with this loveable and hardworking family. They also motivated the audience to gather lots of experience and hone the leader within them by working with Film Club

as BUFC doesn't deal with films only but also provides opportunities to earn valuable skills that have immense real life value.

A huge list of performances was scheduled after the successful completion of the ramp-show which displayed the BUFC T-shirts of all time. The spirits that be decided just then to play the greatest Halloween prank of all-time on the people of Bangladesh. The 10 hour meltdown of the National Power Grid was somewhat akin to the evil spirits of Halloween and the BUFCians were the saints with candles in hands determined to drive them away.

The abrupt unplanned ending made this event a lot interesting because everything was in tandem with the spirit of Halloween. The cherry on top was the group photo of the BUFCians along with the freshers. The smiling faces once again proved that, whatever the situation is BUFC knows how to overcome the obstacles and enjoy life to the fullest.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed calls on President

Tag: **Administration**

Year: November 18th, 2014



Chairperson of the BRAC and Board of Trustees of BRAC University **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed** called on **President Abdul Hamid** at Bangabhaban on Monday, November 17, 2014. During the call on, Sir Abed handed over the invitation letter to the President requesting him to attend BRAC University's 9th Convocation on November 20 as the chief guest. The BRAC chairperson apprised the President of the academic activities of BRAC University (BRACU). **President Abdul Hamid** thanked **Sir Fazle**

Hossain Abed for handing over the invitation letter and expressed satisfaction at the activities of the university. Established in 2001, BRACU follows liberal arts approach to education which nurtures fresh ideas and gives new impetus in the field of tertiary education.

Diversity & Differences

Tag: Department of English and Humanities

Year: November 17th, 2014

International Tolerance day was observed by BRAC University Diversity Studies Unit jointly with BRAC on the 16th of November 2014. Presided over by **Professor Firdous Azim**, two papers were presented. **Zerrin Afza** and **Nabelshawer Dewan Tripura** of BRAC Diversity and Inclusion Cluster discussed their ongoing research on “Tolerance: Practices and Management in Bangladesh” while **Fahima Durrat**, Lecturer of Dhaka University, spoke on “Muslim Communities: A Framework for Analysis”. This observance was the first of its kind in Bangladesh. The meeting was coordinated by **Afsan Chowdhury** Professor, BRACU and Senior Advisor, Communications, BRAC.

A Popular Theatre Act

Tag: Residential Campus

Year: November 17th, 2014



An exposition of popular theatre named, ‘Firey Ashi’ was performed by a popular theater group of the Community Empowerment Program (CEP) of BRAC, who came from Madhupur, Faridpur. The drama was staged on 16 November, 2014 in the Duranta Field at the BRAC University Residential Campus, Savar. The faculty members of the HUM103 course, the management staff of the Savar Campus and all the students were present at the program.

The drama drew attention to some of the contemporary and much discussed issues, such as the social condition of higher class, the role of parents and friends in life and others, to encourage insightful thinking on these issues. The act was punctuated with entertaining traditional songs that aimed to further illustrate these thoughts.

Notably, some of the students participated in the performances and shared their experiences and views towards modern society and culture. Furthermore, they identified the event as a moment of liaison with their roots.

Remarkable Progress of the Project of CARG SIGHT (Bangladesh)

Tag: Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Year: November 17th, 2014



IEEE SIGHT USA newsletter published its update in their November newsletter. A team from Technical University Munich (TUM), Germany visited BRAC University on 16th November, 2014 to observe the ongoing project of “Power Conservation for Electrically Assisted Rickshaws with PV Support, Torque Sensor Paddle and the Solar Battery Charging Station - A Complete Solution.” The visitors were Research Associates of Technical University, Dipl.Ing. Martin Soltes and Dipl.Ing.SaschaKoberstaedt followed by four students. Their aim was to investigate the requirements and opportunities of a modular electric vehicle for a developing country. They also conducted workshop in BRACU to find out challenges of a modular vehicle specifically for our country and searched for further cooperation partner of their global Drive project including the visit of some of BRACU students to Technical University Munich (TUM) on their cost. It is indeed a great achievement of the Control & Applications Research Centre (CARC), BRAC University.

PARTICIPATION IN HAY FESTIVAL 2014

Tag: Department of English and Humanities

Year: November 17th, 2014

Professor Firdous Azim had a stimulating conversation with **Zia Haider Rahman** in the session “The Impossibility of Knowing” in the Hay Festival 2014. It spanned topics such as **Mr. Rahman’s** personal history, his transition from a banker and human rights lawyer into a fiction writer and his observation of the writing process. **Zia Haider Rahman** is the author of the acclaimed debut novel *In the Light of What We Know*. The Hay Festival is the biggest international literary festival held in Bangladesh.

Dr. Firdous Azim also moderated the launching ceremony of *Humorously Yours* by comedian **Naveed Mahbub**. The book is published by Daily Star Books.

Rukhsana R.Chowdhury was a speaker of the session “Fault Lines” in the Hay Festival. It was a discussion on a collection of short stories on 1971 by **Niaz Zaman** and **Asif Farrukhi**. **Prof. Niaz Zaman** and **Rukhsana Chowdhury** were in discussion with UPL’s **Mahrukh Mohiuddin** where **Ms. Rukhsana** spoke about the 1971 perspective in Pakistan and the Urdu speaking community in Bangladesh.

PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOP

Tag: Department of English and Humanities

Year: November 17th, 2014

Md Mahmudul Haque attended a 5-day literary translation workshop at Dhaka Translation Centre, Dhanmondi. The workshop was developed by the Dhaka Translation Centre and the British Centre for Literary Translation. The aim of the workshop was to offer opportunities for literary translators to improve their translation quality and skills. The workshop focused on the consensus translation of a short story by **Shaheen Akhtar**, facilitated by **Arunava Sinha**, an acclaimed translator.

Lecture on “Trended Structures” by Architect Niklaus Graber from Switzerland

Tag: Department of Architecture

Year: November 16th, 2014



A renowned Architect Niklaus Graber conducted a lecture on “Trended Structures” on 15 November 2014. Niklaus Graber is founder member of Niklaus Graber& Christoph Steiger Architects ETH/BSA/SIA, Lucerne/Switzerland. Their works includes public and institutional buildings as well as private houses. They have been awarded several Competitions. Niklaus Graber is currently teaching at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. Students and Faculty of the department of architecture were present in that event

Policy Dialogue on “Taking stock of Bangladesh Health Sector and looking beyond 2015: the gaps and challenges towards achieving Universal Health Coverage”

Tag: BRAC Institute of Global Health

Year: November 16th, 2014



On 15 November the second phase of the policy dialogue was organised by CoE-UHC bringing together policy makers, academics and professionals in the health care sector where the findings from the first phase was shared. The first phase was a series of policy dialogues with relevant stakeholders at the district level with support of the World Bank. In the 1st step, three district level dialogues were arranged in Sylhet, Barisal and Khulna districts (low, medium and high performing districts as per health indicators). The objective of the dialogues was to elicit perception of the stakeholders at the grassroots on-

- 1) Current state of the health systems: successes, gaps and challenges for access, scale and quality of services (from supply and demand side perspectives)
- 2) Where we want to go from here and how
- 3) What UHC means for Bangladesh in post-2015 scenario

Quantitative Research Methods Short Course

Continuing Education Programme (CEP), James P. Grant School of Public Health, organized for the first time “Quantitative Research Methodology” from 9 - 13 November, 2014.

Tag: BRAC Institute of Global Health

Year: November 16th, 2014

Continuing Education Programme (CEP), James P. Grant School of Public Health, organized for the first time “Quantitative Research Methodology” from 9 - 13 November, 2014. In the inauguration programme dean, JPGSPH, **Prof Malabika Sarker**, JPGSPH and **Enam Hasib**, Lecturer, JPGSPH were present there. 29 participants from BRAC, BRAC University, BRAC Institute of Governance & Development, James P. Grant School of Public Health and Indonesia were enrolled in this course. The five day course covered introductory topics from steps of quantitative research to ethical perspective including research question, study designs, sampling, and questionnaire design. The course was based more on practical learning, so two and half day was equipped with interactive lectures and rest of the course time was assigned for group. Participants were divided into six groups and each group worked on their own research topic and presented a research protocol on the last day.

C3ER Faculty in Higher Study

Tag: Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research

Year: November 16th, 2014

Two of C3ER faculties, **Ms. Taslima Akter** and **Mr. Minhaz Farid Ahmed**, have been awarded scholarship for higher studies. **Ms. Taslima Akter** is going to participate in Master's program with specialization in Transportation Planning in University of Toledo, USA. Another faculty **Mr. Minhaz Farid Ahmed** is going to pursue PhD program at The National University of Malaysia in the field of Environment and Development.

C3ER Researchers Completed a Short Course on Quantitative Research Methods (QRM)

Tag: Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research

Year: November 16th, 2014

Sharmin Nahar Nipa and **Farzana Rahman** participated in a short Course on Quantitative Research Methods (QRM) offered by James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. **Dr Syed Saad Andaleeb**, Vice Chancellor of the university sponsored the course fee to enhance capacity of faculties from different departments and centres. **Dr Malobika Sarker**, director - Research of the school took several sessions of the course. In addition, faculties of the school and researchers from ICDDR, B conducted diverse sessions that enrich the course.

Penn State University Official Visits BRACU

Tag: Administration

Year: November 13th, 2014



Ms. Mary-Ellen Madigan, Director of Enrollment Management, **Pennsylvania State University** had visited BRAC University on 13 November 2014. The purpose of the visit was to develop bilateral relationship between two of these universities. The discussion focused on working strategies for mutual benefits through exchange programs and resources sharing. It is worth mentioning that, Pennsylvania State University is one of the prominent universities of United States of America. **Syed Saad Andaleeb**, Vice-chancellor of BRAC University chaired the session along with distinguished faculty members and administrative staffs.

Seminar: Identifying Socio-Cultural & Spatial Settings In A Self-Organized Living Environment Of Slum In Bangladesh

Tag: Department of Architecture

Year: November 13th, 2014



The Department of Architecture, BRAC University has resumed their WORKING PAPER SEMINAR SERIES again. On 12 November of 2014 they organized a

seminar titled ‘Identifying socio-cultural & spatial settings in a self-organized living environment of slum in Bangladesh’, at the Departmental seminar room (UB41301) of Building 4, BRAC University. Dr. Nandini Awal, Assistant Professor of Department of Architecture, was the speaker and delivered her presentation on the slum dwellers’ life-style and affordability, how they play a key role in the improvement of their own living condition.

Dr. Mohammad Habib Reza, Assistant Professor of Department of Architecture, BRAC University was the facilitator of the seminar. Professor Fuad Mallik and all faculty members were present at the seminar and the seminar ended with a ‘Discussion’ session.

Dr. Nandini Awal is currently working as an Assistant Professor at Department of Architecture, BRAC University. She completed her Masters and Ph.D. in Architecture from the Department of Architecture of the University of Tokyo, Japan in 2009 and 2012 respectively. She completed her B. Arch degree from BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and technology) in 2006.

PRESENTATION

Tag: Department of English and Humanities

Year: November 13th, 2014

On the 6th of November, **Professor Firdous Azim** presented on women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) at the School of Public Health. It is a flagship program of JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Sabreena Ahmed presented her paper titled “Incorporating Study Trips in a Composition Course” at the International Conference *Inspire to Write* organized jointly by the Department of English, University of Dhaka and the University of Manchester on November 12, 2014.

PUBLICATIONS

Tag: Department of English and Humanities

Year: November 13th, 2014

Rukhsana R. Chowdhury’s paper, “The Mother Complex of Martha Quest”, has been published in the October issue of the Journal of Literature and Art Studies. It is a reputed peer-reviewed international journal and is indexed in international databases such as, EBSCO, LLBA Database of ProQuest, J-Gate, Newjour; Ulrich’s Periodicals Directory, Google Scholar etc. and has a good impact factor for 2014. A copy of the journal is available at the ENH Seminar Library. It can also be accessed at: <http://www.davidpublishing.com/show.html?18028>

Ms. Mahmuda Akhter’s paper, “Challenges and Possibilities of Computer Assisted Language Teaching in Higher Education: Bangladesh in Focus” was published in Harvest: Jahangirnagar University Studies in Language and Literature, Volume 29.

Tagore as a Linguist

Tag: Department of English and Humanities

Year: November 12th, 2014



Tista Bagchi--a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Delhi and distinguished ethicist--gave a lecture titled “Rabindranath Tagore as a Linguist with Foresight: Bangla Shabda Tatya and Bangla Bhasha Porichay” in the BRAC University auditorium on November 11, 2014. The event was moderated by **Syed Manzoorul Islam**. She mentioned how Tagore’s mastery over Phonology and Morphology stand out even so many decades later and that he could be interpreted through the structural linguist Ferdinand De Saussure.

Shansad Bhaban visit

Tag: Department of Architecture

Year: November 12th, 2014

Fifty students of Department of Architecture have visited National Parliament Building of Bangladesh on 11 November, 2014. The building is the one of the best piece of works of world renowned Architect Luis I Kahn. The tour was conducted by the faculty Dr. Mohammad Faruk, Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana, Dr.Habib reza, and Farasha Zaman.

New Project Engineer in CARC

Tag: Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Year: November 12th, 2014

Control and Applications Research Centre (CARC)’s Project Engineer **Rafiur Rahman Surjo** left October, 2014. His position has been replaced by **Sheri Jahan Chowdhury**, a recent graduate of BRAC University from the department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering on 7th December, 2014. The new Project Engineer is looking forward for her work with the centre with great enthusiasm.

Dissemination of Market Survey Using Discrete Choice Experiment

Tag: BRAC Institute of Global Health

Year: November 11th, 2014



A half-day long dissemination workshop was held for the study ‘Market Survey Using Discrete Choice Experiment in Bangladesh’ took place at BRAC Centre Auditorium on 10 November 2014. This study aimed to identify the factors that are most likely to influence demand for services at the NHSDP network clinics. The findings are expected to help the NGOs to modify their service delivery approaches in order to maximize the client flow. Director of CoE-UHC, **Professor Syed Masud Ahmed** welcomed the participants and **Dr. Halida H. Akhter** (Chief of Party, USAID/DFID NGO Health Service Delivery Project) chaired this workshop. A total of around 40 participants including NSHSDP staffs, Project Directors, Clinic Managers, Service Promoters/Providers, Field supervisors joined workshop.

Coalition for Sexual Bodily Rights (CSBR) One Day One Struggle (ODOS) Discussion

Tag: BRAC Institute of Global Health

Year: November 11th, 2014



November 9th, 2014 marked the 6th year of Coalition for Sexual Bodily Rights (CSBR) One Day One Struggle

(ODOS) - an international campaign across the Middle East, North Africa, South and South East Asia to promote sexual and bodily rights in Muslim societies. In order to commemorate this, The Centre for Gender, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, at the James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University hosted a film screening of “Je Golper Shesh Nei”, a film by **Fauzia Khan** who was also in attendance to answer any questions regarding what was shown. This was followed by a discussion with panel members from Boys of Bangladesh, ULAB, Maya.com.bd and the Sex Workers Union of Bangladesh. The event covered issues including the lack of a formal lesbian network, the issues surrounding teaching youth about sexuality as well as reproductive health and the problems faced by sexual minorities living in a heteronormative society. The event was rounded off with more informal discussions.

C4D Phase II Agreement Signed

Tag: BRAC Institute of Global Health

Year: November 11th, 2014

Project Cooperation Agreement for Communication for Development (C4D) project (Phase II) was signed on 10th November, 2014 between James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) and UNICEF. JPGSPH was formally assigned as an external party for monitoring of the C4D project and has successfully completed Phase I of the project. In Phase I, JPGSPH has developed two separate but interconnected monitoring frameworks and necessary M&E tools for assessing the progress of the program. In Phase II, JPGSPH will implement the tools developed in the previous phase to assess the program effectiveness. The project will continue till June 09, 2016.

International Seminar on Cellular and Molecular Biotechnology, Dhaka 11 November 2014

Tag: Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Year: November 10th, 2014

Department of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Jahangir Nagar University, organized an “International Seminar on Cellular, Molecular and Bionanotechnology” at Zahir Raihan Auditorium's Seminar Hall. **Professor Paul A. Millner**, Head of School of Biomedical Science and **Professor Nicola Stonehouse**, School of Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Leeds, UK attended the seminar. Professor Stonehouse focused on the future of antibiotics and how they could be replaced by modified DNA/RNA called Aptamers while Professor Millner talked about a more modified form of the biosensors Aptamers and their uses in the near future especially in cardiac function and oncology. They also introduced their teams working on their projects. A group of undergraduate biotechnology students from the MNS Department namely, Aqief Afzal, Humaira Nur, Sanjida Akter, Mehbubun Nayeema, Rahnuma Ishrat Noor, Navila Sultana, Fahim Bin Najib, Syed Akib Hossain, Arka Roy and Fuad Mustafa participated in the seminar. The seminar was also participated by local researchers including Dr. Shahidur Rahma, Chairman, Department of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Jahangir Nagar University, Dr. Mohammad Mursalin Billah and Dr. Umme Salma from Khulna University.

OSA's Academic Success Workshop continues: ASW 3 & 4

This month TLC has organized a series of academic workshops, ASW-3 & ASW-4 for students to assist them with their examinations and enhance their overall academic pe

Tag: Co-curricular Activities

Year: November 10th, 2014

This month TLC has organized a series of academic workshops, ASW-3 & ASW-4 for students to assist them with their examinations and enhance their overall academic performance. ASW-3 was mostly based on discussion of students' performance on their Midterms, self assessment and to guide them in the proper direction for better results, followed by ASW-4 which comprised of tips for exam and a proper planning for acing the Final Exams.

Socrates-er-Jobanbandi- A Theatre Performance

Tag: Residential Campus

Year: November 9th, 2014



The drama 'Socrates-er Jobanbondi' was staged by the theatre group Drishyapot on 07 November, 2014 in Markuli Hall, at the BRAC University Residential Campus, Savar. Present on the occasion were **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, Director, BIL, the faculty members of the HUM103 course and the management staff of the Savar Campus.

The two acts of the drama, 'Discovering Socrates' and 'Trial of Socrates' portrayed the philosophical and ethical conflicts that exist in the society. The objective of the show was to make the students aware about shaping their judgments in life through philosophy, ethics and culture, which will also create a ground for them to think for themselves and also for the country.

Flagship Course on SRHR

Tag: BRAC Institute of Global Health

Year: November 9th, 2014



The Centre for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights organized the Flagship “Gender and SRHR” short course from November 1st to 6th. The course, funded by Nuffic, aimed to stimulate a full conception of SRHR in the context of Bangladesh. The 28 participants included professionals from diverse educational and employment backgrounds, ranging from the public to private sector. The course was facilitated mainly by professor Sabina Faiz Rashid (JPGSPH), **Professor Anouka van Eerdewijk** from KIT (Netherlands), and **Sunita Kujur** from CREA (India) in collaboration with, and included guest lecturers from **Barrister Sara Hossain** and **Prof. Firdous Azim**. Participants were enlightened on various aspects of SRHR through lectures and films, as well as group activities, such as discovering and mapping sexual hierarchies.

The course changed participant’s attitudes towards sensitive issues, such as sex workers and sexual orientation mentioned by the participants by the end of the course. Many also stated that the course broadened their understanding of complex topics such as sexuality and gender along with the rights associated with them. The course also featured a discussion panel featuring representatives from Bondhu, Maya.com.bd, and the Sex Workers Union. As the first of its kind, both its participants and facilitators reported the course to have been successful in achieving its objective, which was raising awareness about SRHR and Gender.²

Office of Student Affairs and Teaching and Learning Centre faculty members attended conference/ training/ Events

Tag: Co-curricular Activities

Year: November 9th, 2014



Professor Riaz. P. Khan, Dean Student Affairs & Director of

TLC was invited to the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) held in Doha, Qatar from November 4-6, 2014. The topic of this year's summit was "Imagine-Create-Learn: Creativity at the Heart of Education."

Professor Riaz P. Khan was a discussant at the "Speaker's Forum: Secularism and Faith-based Development," organized by BRAC University and Georgetown University, on November 22, 2014. He was a discussant for papers presented by Professors Jose Casanova, Rajeev Bhargava and Samia Huq.

Professor Riaz P. Khan presented a lecture on "Political Conflicts and the History of Caretaker Governments in Bangladesh" during a two-day training program for the UK High Commission held on November 24 and 30, 2014.

Raquib Quasem and **Tanjia Afrin Turin**, Lecturer, OSA & TLC attended a day long workshop on *Bridging the Gap: Facilitating Student-Centered Learning* which was jointly organized by University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and U.S. Embassy Dhaka on November 1, 2014. It was arranged at the ULAB campus for faculty and aspiring teachers of English Language. The workshop was facilitated by the English Language Fellow's working here in Bangladesh. After attending the workshop participants received certificate from the Director of American Center, Ms Ann B. MacConnel.

Md. Solaiman Jony and **Muhammad Foysal Mubarak**, Lecturer, TLC and OSA, participated in a basic training course on *Quantitative Research Methods*. It continued for five days starting from November 9 to 13. The training was organized by the Continuing Education Program (CEP) at James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. After completion of the training course a Certificate of Completion was handed over to the participants.

Md. Solaiman Jony and **Muhammad Foysal Mubarak**, Lecturer, OSA and TLC attended the *Outdoor GBM (Fall 2014)* on November 28, organized by the BRAC University Film Club. It was arranged in Rangamati Waterfront, Gazipur.

BRAC University Film Club organized a program "*Kothopokothon*" with Tauquir Ahmed; a famous actor and film director on November 30, 2014 at BRAC University Indoor Auditorium (UB 01). **Md. Solaiman Jony**, Lecturer, OSA & TLC attended the program.

FYAT- RS Day

Tag: Co-curricular Activities

Year: November 9th, 2014

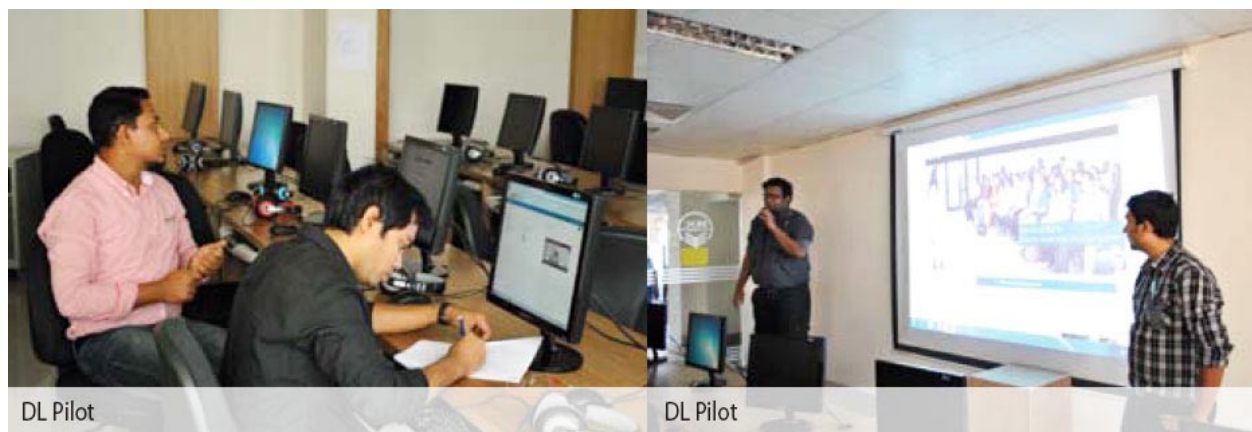


A daylong event was arranged on November 8, 2014 by the FYAT Team led by the FYAT Coordinator **Raquib Quasem** from OSA at the BRAC University Savar Campus. The event consisted of two sessions which included interactive discussion among the FYAT Coordinator, advisors, mentors and residential students. The second session was followed by group advising. Here, the students mainly discussed with their FYAT advisor regarding academic planning for the next three years and setting goals. The RS students shared their experiences, challenges they encountered in their first year and their expectations.

Piloting Distance Learning Course ‘How to Give a Talk’

Tag: BRAC Institute of Global Health

Year: November 6th, 2014



The piloting session of the first Distance Learning Course “How to Give a Talk” by **Dr. Richard Cash** was held on 5th November 2013 under the USAID's Next Generation Public Health Experts Project (NGPHEP), James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. The session started with an introductory by **Khadija Leena** (Project Coordinator, NGPHEP). Then **Hamim Al Ahsan** (Senior Technical Officer E-learning, NGPHEP) took over for briefing the participants on how to assess the course. The participants were asked to assess the quantity and quality of the course content and pedagogy of the course. Also they were also asked to take note of its accessibility and

usability. After that **Arnob Khan** (Senior Technical Officer E-learning, NGPHEP) walked the participant through the distance learning platform (LMS) and course page interface (MOODLE).

The participants were then asked to take the course. As a part of that they went through the interactive lectures and took the quizzes. After completing the quiz they participated in the course evaluation. The piloting sessions ended with a discussion session that mainly focused on the lacking of the course and scopes for improvement. We are planning to launch the course for bigger audience after incorporating the feedbacks of the piloting session.

Case Studies with A Problem-based Learning And Multidisciplinary Approach

Tag: BRAC Institute of Global Health

Year: November 3rd, 2014

A presentation was delivered by **Ms. Lima Choudhury**, Head, Master of Public Health Programme of James P Grant School of Public Health at ‘The Asian Conference on Society, Education & Technology 2014’ (ACSET 2014) Osaka, Japan on Sunday 2 November, 2014.

The presentation covered sharing different approach of teaching and learning at James P. Grant School of Public Health such as innovative, community based learning, reflective learning, case based teaching method (pedagogic methods) and group learning. Case-based teaching is a powerful means of promoting student-centered learning and problem solving, where students are actively involved in the learning process and at the same time develop key skills in group work, communication and the application of theory. The cases developed were designed for inclusion in different modules of Master of Public Health courses.

The three shared cases that JPGSPH has developed and a more detailed presentation was made about on “Maternal and Neonatal Health, Program Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Urban Health” (Providing Maternal Health services in an urban slum: The MANOSHI project). The general and specific objectives of this case teaching, inclusion in different modules, lessons learned from case study teaching and emphasis on continual faculty development for this different pedagogical approach was also covered in the presentation.

The conference was organized by ‘IAFOR’ the international academic forum from October 28, 2014 - November 2, 2014 where around 350 participants from almost 40 countries attended this programme.

New Face at OSA

Tag: Student Affairs

Year: November 2nd, 2014



Fariba Aziz joined Office of Student Affairs (OSA) on November 1, 2014 as a Department Coordination Officer (DCO). She completed BS in Electrical & Electronic Engineering from North South University and is pursuing Master of Business Administration at BRAC University. She started her professional career as a

Management Trainee from a reputed software company named DNS Software Limited for about a year. Later, she also worked as an English Language Teacher at Mastermind School.

DEV Drama on the History of Bangladesh

Tag: Residential Campus

Year: November 2nd, 2014



‘History of Bangladesh’ was a drama staged by the students of the 37th RS batch at the Savar Campus on 01 November, 2014. All the RS faculty members and management staff were present at the event.

The drama was divided into 16 episodes and was performed by the 16 sections of the Bangladesh Studies course reflecting their learning on the history of Bangladesh from the ancient period until 1971. In the drama they covered the sociopolitical condition of the ancient period, the Muslim rule, different resistances and movements against the colonial rule, the partition of India in 1947, the Pakistan period, the rise of Bengali nationalism, the 1952 language movement, the six-points program of 1966, the Mass Upsurge of 1969, the liberation war and the independence of Bangladesh 1971. The drama created a lot of enthusiasm and motivation among students.