

2011/february

BRACU 6th Convocation



The sixth convocation of BRAC University was held on February 7, 2011 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Education Minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, was present as the chief guest while Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and an environmental activist, was the convocation speaker. Sir Fazle Hasan Abed was present as special guest. BRAC University Vice Chancellor, Professor Ainun Nishat inaugurated the event whereas BRAC University Pro-VC Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir delivered the welcome address. Students along with their proud parents, faculty members and guests also attended the convocation ceremony. The program began with the national anthem and the BRAC University anthem.

Nurul Islam Nahid, in his speech, foregrounded the magnitude of tertiary education. *"The top priority for universities, along with giving a quality education, is that of 'creating values' and this is where I am very impressed with BRAC University's stated goal of 'creating ethical leaders'. Excellence in education means conducting research in all the fields,"* he said.

Mary Robinson focused on climate justice while delivering her speech. Addressing to the graduates she said, *"As you have been studying in a country regarded as highly vulnerable to climate change, you are of the generation which will need to grapple with this huge 21st century challenge in a way that my generation and generations before me have failed to do."* She added, *"I would hope that BRAC University will be seen over time as one of the leading universities in the world on climate justice."*

The Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed said, *"Our vision behind setting up BRAC University was to provide broad-based learning that leads to critical thinking and the ability to accommodate a diversity of perspectives. Over the course of the last decade, the university has made remarkable progress in fulfilling that vision."*

A total of 497 students including 309 in undergraduate and 188 in postgraduate were given certificates at the 6th convocation. A few graduates gushed about the immense joy they were feeling and simultaneously said how much they were going to miss their campus where they had spent four cherished years and had made countless memories and numerous close friends. For the parents, it was a proud moment to see their

children walk up to the stage, amidst loud cheers from their peers and much adulation from their mentors, to receive their degrees from the honorable Vice Chancellor.

Architecture Update

Mary Robinson visits reconstruction project at Syamnagar

Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland visited the reconstruction work of the BRAC University / BRAC project climate resilient habitat at Padmapukur cluster village of Syamnagar, Shatkhira that has been suffering the after effects of cyclone Aila for long. She was accompanied by Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson of Department of Architecture and Director of Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management, Dr. Mahbub Hossain, Executive Director of BRAC, Dr. Babar Kabir, Director of BRAC WASH and DECC and Dr Tania Zaman, Director, Chairperson's Office. This project is funded by UNDP and implemented by BRAC. Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management and Department of Architecture of BRAC University are providing the technical support. A brief of the visit narrated by Mary Robinson can be found in the BRAC website at <http://www.brac.net/node/834>. It may be mentioned that Mary Robinson is engaged in various initiatives concerning human rights; her latest venture has been launching of "Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice".



ANGAN Travel Sketch

On February 22, 2011, Senior lecturer Sajid-Bin-Doza discussed and shared his experiences in Venice in ANGAN Travel Sketch. He was selected by the Scientific Committee of an International Conference, organized by the University of Venice IUAV, Italy. The two days International Conference (November 11-12, 2010) and three days workshop explore the opportunities of Color and Light in Architecture through different disciplines and resources with innovative research works. Mr. Doza stated his experience about Venice city and its significance through colorful images.

BBS Update

BRAC program visit by the BBS faculties

On 26th February 2011, 21 faculties from BRAC Business School along with the Pro-VC Dr. Md Golam Samdani Fakir sir had a tour in the Manikgonj to observe the activities of different programs initiated by BRAC.

A total of eight BRAC programs were visited. The excursion started with the visit in BRAC microfinance program where the teachers observed the income generating activities and had a talk with the members of the program. The following tour was to observe the health program activities specially to check community health education forum, activities of the health volunteer and health worker, observe DOTS for TB control program and reading glass program. Then there was a visit in BRAC primary school where the teachers shared their views with primary school teachers and students. The session concluded with the visit in a Polli Somaj and observes a Human Rights and Legal Education Class.

After the lunch, the teachers had their visit in Ayesha Abed Foundation (a handicraft production and training center) and two other enterprises (Sanitary Napkin production center and Horticulture Nursery) which gave them a glimpse about the commercial project initiated by BRAC.

The tour was very effective, encouraging and refreshing and the enthusiastic participation of the faculties was appreciated.

Pro-VC Meets the EMBA Faculties

The EMBA Program organized a meeting of the EMBA faculties to discuss on various issues related to the program. The meeting was held on the 12th of February, 2011; and was attended by the Honorable Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, faculty members of the EMBA Program, and the coordinator of the EMBA Program. The Pro-VC shared in detail why the university decided to go ahead with the Executive MBA program and what the expectations of the University are from such a program and the people involved with it. The Pro-VC emphasized on the need to maintain quality in providing education and pointed out that the five year work experience requirement along with the residential weekend offered in the program differentiates it from the rest of the EMBA programs that are offered elsewhere in the country. He also requested the faculty members to provide the business school with timely and relevant feedbacks so that there is a continuous evolution in the standard and quality of the program. The EMBA faculties also shared their views and expressed their satisfaction with the level of performance and seriousness of the existing EMBA students in general. They emphasized on the need to maintain a high quality standard in the admission procedure and to follow a disciplined and rule bound system. The Pro-VC thanked the faculty members for their participation and valuable feedback

MBA Forum Updates

Indoor Games Competition 2011

MBA Forum has organized "Indoor Games Competition 2011" from 13-20 February, 2011. Students of MBA have participated in Carom, Table Tennis and Chess competition. The program was open to both male and female students and interestingly, female participants were very much active in the game. Mr. Anup Chowdhury, advisor, MBA

program was present in the inauguration session. Mr. Jabir Al Mursalin, Mr. Intisar and Mr. Saif from BRAC Business School were also present on those days and played the role of Judge. MBA Forum is appreciating their kind contribution. The prize giving ceremony will be held on March 10, 2011 at 6:00pm in UB 0521. Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, PhD, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, has kindly agreed to grace the occasion



as chief guest and Professor Mojib U Ahmed, PhD, Director, MBA Program and Patron of the Forum will also be there as special guest.

Inter University Football Competition

MBA Forum also has participated in the Inter University Football Competition organized by Football Club of BRAC University. The competition was held in early

February of 2011. MBA Forum has won two games and lost one, however, due to lower number of goals it could not played in the quarter final round. Professor Mojib U Ahmed, PhD, Director, MBA Program, Mr. Anup Chowdhury, Advisor, MBA Forum, Mr. Saytajit Modak, DCO, MBA Program and Mr. Mamun, Office Assistant, MBA Program were present during the games held at Cantonment Stadium.

BDI Update

Annual Global Network of MDP Programs Summit

Professor Syed M. Hashemi and Dr. Ferdous Jahan attended the Third Annual Global Network of MDP Programs Summit in Costa Rica from 22 - 25 February, 2011. The summit was held to consolidate the shared MDP vision throughout the Global Network of MDP programs and its agenda included reviewing and identifying priority areas for supporting the MDP Programs, identifying priorities for collaboration and common standards across the MDP network, sharing pedagogical best practices, including web-based technologies, providing networking opportunities for MDP faculty leaders and

university leaders and discussing how to best support MDP graduates with career placement opportunities.

Climate Change Dialogue

Professor Ainun Nishat, Professor Syed M. Hashemi and Dr Ferdous Jahan attended a policy exchange dialogue titled 'Climate Change and Bangladesh: Challenges and Solutions for the Urban Poor' at the Khulna Circuit House in Khulna on the 19th of February, 2011. The dialogue was held with government officials, members of the civil society and academics based in Khulna to discuss the problems faced by the urban poor due to climate change, the steps being taken to alleviate these problems, the role of different organizations in providing these solutions and the steps that can be taken by government and non-government organizations to address these issues.

World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development Visits BDI



The World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development Network, Ms. Inger Andersen visited BDI during her five day trip to Dhaka in February. During her visit, Ms. Andersen met with Professor Ainun Nishat, Professor Syed M. Hashemi, Dr Ferdous Jahan and Hossain Zillur Rahman to discuss BDI's MLARR project: what has been accomplished so far both in terms of the academic program and policy dialogue and future plans or

what's next as regards policy dialogue.

MDMP Field Trip

BDI organized a field trip to Rangpur for their Masters in Development Management and Practice (MDMP) students from 11 - 16 February, 2011. A total of 14 students including 5 exchange students from the University of Ottawa were accompanied, among others, by Professor Syed M. Hashemi, Director, BDI and John Sinclair, Senior Fellow at the School of International Development and Global Studies (SIDGS) in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa on the 12th and 13th of February. During the trip the students visited various projects such as the Microfinance Project, Share Cropper Project, TUP of BRAC, Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction Project (UPPRP), an agricultural project titled "Effect of Household Waste on Vegetable Production in the Monga Area" and an RDRS project which works for the rehabilitation of women affected by domestic violence. As part of a historical excursion, BDI also took the students to Tajhat Rajbari and the birthplace of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain.

Urban Poverty Baseline Surveys Completed

The Urban Poverty research wing at BDI has completed quantitative surveys, data entry, cleaning and editing at slums in Tongi and Dinajpur during the month of February. In order to finalize their intervention plan and working strategy for the Khulna slum, Bayazid Hasan, BDI met with teams from Water Aid and UPPR in Khulna on the 10th of February. UPPR also arranged a Community Action Plan (CAP) at Kodomtola Slum in Khulna in the last week of February.

Presentation of First Chapter of Cultural History Book

On 14 February, 2011, Firdous Azim, Lead Researcher, and Perween Hasan, Co-Lead, of the Cultural History of Bengali Muslim Women Project at the Pathways Programme, gave a presentation on the introductory and first chapter of the proposed book that will be published from this research. This internal presentation enabled an exchange of views and suggestions that will help refine the form of these chapters and plan ahead accordingly.

Interviews with Cultural Personalities

The Cultural History of Bengali Muslim Women team has been busy throughout the month of February conducting in-depth interviews of cultural personalities who were active in the decades between the 50s and 70s. The team has so far interviewed Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, founder of BAFA, Ferdousi Rahman, singer, and Nurjahan Begum, publisher of Begum magazine, and plans to conduct more interviews in the coming months.

Cultural Transformations Conference Announcement

The bi-annual conference of the Inter Asia Cultural Studies Society (IACSS), which is engaged in exploring new ways to re-imagine the idea of Asia in the new century, will be held in Dhaka on 17th and 18th December, 2011. The conference will be hosted by BRAC University and is being organized by the Department of English and Humanities and BRAC Development Institute. A student conference that addresses the topics of the main conference will be held on 15th December, 2011, to present the works of students from public and private universities in Dhaka. The 'Call for Proposals' for the Cultural Transformations Conference has been sent to various networks seeking paper and panel proposal submissions. More information about the conference can be found at: <http://www.bracu.ac.bd/event/culturaltransformations/>

Preparations for Stories4Change Book Launch

Researchers have been busy with preparation for the launching of the book produced from the Stories4Change project titled Ogni o Jol. The book cover and credits were being finalized, and manuscript proof-read. A contract was signed with the publishers Mowla Brothers who have been working closely towards the completion of the book. The book launch is scheduled for 12 March 2011.

Signing Booklet Distribution Contract with Pathak Shamabesh

BDI is entering into a contract with book-seller Pathak Shamabesh to distribute its set of six booklets titled "Narir Khomotayon: Poriborthoner Jotipoth". The booklets will be launched along with the book Ogni o Jol on 12 March, 2011. The write-ups in the booklets are written in an accessible language and are geared towards students and general readership. Having the books distributed at Aziz Super Market is important as a means of reaching a diverse audience.

Women in the 'Right'? research team update

The "Women in the 'Right'? Women Organising in Religious Groups and Its Impact" team has been busy developing the questionnaire for interview for their research. Interviews will commence in March. The concept note of the research was also translated into Bangla so that it is more accessible to various stakeholders. The team is engaged in literature review to form a conceptual framework for their research.

Presentation of Mobilizing Resources Research findings at Government Workshop

Maheen Sultan, Coordinator of the Pathways Programme at BDI, shared the findings of the Mobilizing Resources for Women's Rights research at the Local Consultative Group (LCG) Meeting on 28 February, 2011 at the Shishu Academy. She shared the impact of changes in donor funding policies on the women's rights organizations and suggested what steps can be taken given the current scenario. Donor representatives who work on gender and concerned government ministries were present at the meeting, including the Secretary of the Ministry of Women's Affairs. The sharing of the research findings stimulated a lot of discussions among donors and government officials on the impact of aid on the goals of gender equity.

Finalization of Mobilizing Resources Workshop Report

The final report of the research on Mobilizing for Women's Rights that was carried out in Bangladesh by the Pathways Programme at BDI is due to be published in March. After many last-minute feedbacks from different donor agencies, the contents of the report have at last been finalized and the design laid out for printing. This report has been prepared for distribution at the annual management meeting of the research partners, due to be held in Amsterdam in March 2011.

Finalizing South Asia Hub Synthesis Report

The synthesis report of the South Asia Hub of the Pathways Programme is in the final stages of completion. A draft of the report had been provided for comments and feedback. Changes were suggested regarding the layout of the texts and pictures, and more detailed captions were provided for the pictures. A detailed bibliography listing all the outputs of the Pathways Programme at BDI was also compiled for inclusion in the report.

CfL Update

CfL organizes potluck lunch party



CfL organized a potluck lunch party on 5th March, 2011, Saturday. With various types of Snacks as theme and joyful music in a cheerful atmosphere CfL had a wonderful gathering where all the members from Mohakhali and Savar Campus got a platform to join together and give a warm welcome to the newly joined faculty members.

Fulbright Senior Consultant visits CfL



Elizabeth Platt, a Senior Fulbright Consultant from Florida State University, visited the Centre for Languages (CfL) to review the English curriculum, from pre-university to advanced level credit courses, of the Centre. She worked at CfL for approximately four weeks from January till February, and will return for an additional two weeks in early May to help complete the full review process. She expressed her satisfaction over the quality of the Centre's work, the dedication of the teachers, and the commitment to excellence as well as a dedication to inculcate students with a strong moral conscience. The

major insight she suggested was to present the curriculum in a format such that people outside the institute can grasp the uniqueness of the Centre's work with the English programs. During her stay, she also facilitated workshops on a paradigm shift in Foreign Language/Second Language Teaching, major theories in second language learning and their implications for teaching.

CfL faculties attend NELTA Conference in Nepal

Nine faculty members from Centre for Languages (CfL) participated in the 16th International NELTA Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal from February 18 to February 20,



2011. The theme of the conference was 'English in Multilingual and Cross-cultural Context: Exploring Opportunities and Meeting Challenges.' Following the thematic trajectory of the conference, members of this delegation successfully presented various research papers and conducted workshops for the international participants. They also exchanged views on the dynamics of teaching learning English in multicultural contexts with other participants from the different corners of the world. The presenters and their papers are follows- Ms. Liza Reshmin -"Introducing Critical Thinking in EFL Classrooms in English Medium Universities of Bangladesh", Mahmuda Yasmin Shaila & Pankaj Paul - "Integrating Literature into the EFL Classroom", Samina Nasrin Chowdhury -"Hearing the Voice of the Learners", Sanjoy Banerjee- "Learner Autonomy in Multi-cultural EFL Classrooms: Probabilities and Prospects", Sadia Nasrin Banerjee "Read, Write and Think in Multi-Cultural Context", Tahmina Anwar -"Contextual Teaching and Learning Practices in the Theoretical Courses for TESOL", Edward Leffew and Quazi Mosiur Rahman "Critical Thinking for Academic Success" and Sunjida Afrin Khan "Implication of Power in the Language Education Policy of Bangladesh.

ENH Update

Guest Lecturer

Guest Lecturer, Quamrul Hassan, Senior Sub-Editor, The Daily Sun came to the English for Print Media class on 3rd February. He shared his professional experience as a journalist and gave tips on editing news reports with the class. The students edited raw news reports with the guest lecturer and discussed the important elements of a good report, and shared their own view points on writing news. Hassan has worked at the Daily Star as a Sub- Editor from May 2006-2010. His collection of Haikus entitled Spring Moon came out in the Ekushey Book Fair.



Saraswati Puja Celebration

ENH students of Eng 102: English Composition-I went to observe the Saraswati Puja celebration at Jagannath Hall, University of Dhaka on 8th February. A task of writing a comparative report of this celebration both at BRAC University and University of Dhaka was part of their learning.

Boimela Tour

Students of Eng 115: English Prose and Eng 102: English Composition-I went to the Ekushey Boimela on 12th February 2011 with Sabreena Ahmed, Lecturer and Mushira Habib, Teaching Assistant of ENH. It was part of ENH's annual visit where students are inspired to read more books and observe the latest trends of publishing industry in Bangladesh. They submitted a paper on visiting Boimela as an outcome of the trip.



BRAC School Visit

Students of ENG 439: Teaching Practicum visited one of the BRAC Schools in Manikgonj on 26th February 2011 under the supervision of the course Lecturer, Ms. Asifa Sultana. The visit was conducted with a view to expose the students to the dominant teaching practices in ESL classrooms. Since BRAC schools use a variety of participatory teaching techniques and activities, students of English language teaching always get wonderful opportunities to observe and learn from these classrooms. As a follow-up activity, students will need to write observation reports where they are expected to present an analysis of the lesson observed.



ESS Update

Seminars/Workshop/Conferences attended by ESS Faculty

Hydory Akbar Ahmed, Lecturer of Economics at BRAC University presented his paper titled, 'Private Credit and Export Performance in Bangladesh: an ARDL Approach' in the National Conference on Contemporary Issues in Economics 2011 organized by the Department of Economics at Shah Jalal University of Science & Technology on the 24th February 2011.

IED Update

Course on School Readiness and Play & Creativity for the Faculties of Royal University Bhutan



6 credit course on Play and Creativity and School Readiness was offered to the Faculties of Royal University Bhutan by the Early Childhood Development Resource Centre of IED-BRAC University from January 25th to February 16 at the BRAC Centre Inn. The MSc program in ECD offered by the Institute was initiated by a joint Collaboration between Open Society Institute UK, Columbia University, USA and IED-BRAC University. Open Society Institute is interested to provide similar kind of support to the Royal University Bhutan. In 2010 the Head of Early Child Hood Development Resource Centre of IED, Ms Mahmuda Akhter was invited to Bhutan to share our collaboration with Open Society Institute. Through this visit the Vice Chancellor of Royal University of Bhutan was interested to send faculties from Bhutan to attend courses at the IED-BRAC University. From this discussion the Director from Royal University Bhutan Dr. Rinchen Dorji communicated with the IED about sending faculties to IED for this two courses as they will be also designing a similar kind of courses in Bhutan.

10 faculties of two teacher training colleges under Royal University Bhutan have participated in this 20 day course. Along with them 3 staff from IED and 1 staff from BRAC joined this course. The course participants found the course very interesting and relevant in terms of their country context. They showed interest to participate in the regular MSc course. At the end of the course The Vice Chancellor of BRAC University

Prof. Ainun Nishat has handed the certificates among the participants. In this session the Director of IED Dr. Erum Marium, the Senior Advisor Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Head of ECDRC Ms. Mahmuda Akhter and all the faculties of IED were present.

IGS Update

Training for the Assistant Commissioners of Customs and VAT

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region based at the Institute conducted a day-long training on social accountability with a focus on Citizen Report Card for 28 Assistant Commissioners of Customs and VAT. The training was held in Chittagong on 13 February, 2011 at the Customs and VAT training academy. This sensitization workshop was the third of a series of workshops held for entry to mid-level civil servants in Bangladesh. This workshop explored the possibility of civil servants institutionalizing social accountability tools such as Citizen's report Card to enhance their accountability.

Public Discussion on "Language of FM Radio"

The Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organized a public discussion on "Language of Advertisement" on 9 February 2011 at the JATRI conference room. Mr. Ameen Al Rashid, Senior Reporter & News Presenter of ABC Radio was present as guest speaker. Radio jokies, reporters and producers of different radio stations, representatives of Bangla Academy and Bangladesh Betar participated in the discussion. Mr. Rashid said that the main objective of language is to communicate with others, so it is important to fix the standard of that communication. The guest speaker's speech was followed by an interactive question & answer session. The programme was moderated by Chief of JATRI Mr. Jamil Ahmed.

Public Discussion on "Language of Advertisement"

JATRI organized a public Lecture on "Language of Advertisement" on 28 February 2011. Mr. Afzal Hossain, famous actor and Managing Partner of MATTRA, attended the programme as a key speaker. Fifty journalists from different print and electronic media attended the discussion. In his lecture Mr. Hossain mentioned that the main objective of an advertisement is to attract others attention. Power of advertisement lies in its novelty and language of advertisements should not hurt anybody. The discussion ended with a question-answer session.

JATRI Fellowship Awarded

Eight journalists were awarded JATRI Fellowship in the first cohort for their work on investigative journalism. The fellows were selected from different newspapers, radios, television channels and online news agencies. Each fellow would produce three investigative reports during their tenure. Three such reports have already been published in their respective news papers. JATRI formed a Fellowship Management Team to supervise selection of journalists under the second batch of the fellowship program. In order to uphold a transparent selection process, a three member jury board has also been created. Initial screening for selection of journalists has been done in February 2011. JATRI received thirty six applications for consideration in its second batch of the fellowship program.

Training on Ethics and Standards of Journalism

JATRI organized a four-day training for twenty five journalists on 'Ethics and Standards of Journalism' on 12-15 February 2011 in JATRI Training Room. The purpose of the training was to enhance the knowledge of the participants about ethics and standards of

journalism. The contents of the training focused on both the theoretical and practical sides of ethics and standards of journalism. Apart from training staff members of JATRI, Mr. Nayeemul Islam Khan, Editor of The Daily Amader Shomoy and Mr. Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department, University of Dhaka conducted sessions of the training as resource persons.

JATRI also organized the same course for the second batch consisting of twenty journalists on 27 February to 02 March 2011. Mr. Muzzammil Husain, Senior Journalist; Ms. Sheepa Hafiza, Director, Gender, Justice & Diversity and Advocacy, BRAC and Ms. Munni Saha, Head of News, ATN News conducted sessions of the training as resource persons.

MNS Update

World Wetlands Day

Dr. Aparna Islam of Biotechnology Programme at BRAC University, attended the World Wetlands Day organized jointly by Ministry of Environment and Forests, GoB and IUCN, Bangladesh Country Office on 2 February 2011 at CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. The theme for this year was "Forests for water and wetlands". On this occasion, speakers elaborated the initiatives taken for sustainable livelihood of the Haor area people and also to conserve the Ramsar site and ecologically critical area (ECA), Tanguar Haor. A book "In focus Tanguar Haor" was launched on the occasion.

Meeting with Vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP)

Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad was invited to BUP to discuss BUP's proposal for post graduate programme of MS in Nuclear Science and Engineering. Apart from other members representing BUP, the meeting was also attended by Dr. Farid Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) and Professor Zahid Hasan Mahmood of the Department of Applied Physics, Electronics and Communications Engineering, University of Dhaka. The meeting was presided over by Major General Shafiqul Islam, Vice-chancellor of BUP. The meeting discussed in detail the proposed curriculum for MS in Nuclear Science and Engineering. After a threadbare discussion, the syllabus for the post graduate course was finalised.

Dr. Aparna Islam Elected as a Joint Secretary of the Executive Committee of the BAPTC&B

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of Biotechnology Programme, MNS Department of BRAC University, has been elected as Joint Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Association of Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology (BAPTC&B). Established in 1989, the Association is the Bangladesh focal point of International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Delhi, India. Every year the Association organizes various trainings, workshops along with national/ international seminars on plant biotechnology and molecular biology. In 1999 Dr. Islam became a member of this Association and since then has been associated with various endeavors of this prestigious institute. She is committed to spread her passion for biotechnology among youngsters to improve their understanding of this fascinating world, thus conveying the enthusiasm to the future generations.

National Seminar on Applications of TRIGA Reactor, AERE, Savar

Khandker Md. Mahmudul Hassan, Lecturer, Muhammad Lutfor Rahman and Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud, Teaching Assistants of Physics, participated in the National Seminar on "Applications of TRIGA Reactor for Research and Services in the Area of Materials Sciences, Industry, Environment and Health" held at the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE), Savar on February 8, 2011. The event took place at the

Auditorium, INST, AERE. The seminar was organized by Dr. Sk Md Yunus, the Project Director of "Strengthening the Utilization of TRIGA Mark-II Research Reactor". The prime objective of the seminar was to introduce delegates and representatives from various industries, universities, research organisations, and experts to diversified scopes of utilisation of the research reactor which is the only one of its kind in the country. BAEC Chairman Dr. Farid Uddin Ahmed presided over the function. Dr. Sk Md Yunus, the Project Director, presented the keynote paper while Mr. ASM Firoz, Director General, AERE and Dr. R Berliner, President, Instrumentation Associate, NL, USA also spoke on the occasion. They said that the neutron scattering, neutron activation analysis and neutron radiography facilities at the research reactor have been expanded and modernised to a great extent and the researchers in the country now have access to world class laboratory facilities for research using the neutron beam from the reactor. A high performance neutron powder diffractometer has been set up at the reactor to enhance the R&D facilities using neutron scattering. Structural studies of materials are being done by this technique to characterize materials crystallographically and magnetically. The speakers said this technique was unique for understanding the magnetic behavior in magnetic materials. Ceramic, steel, electronic and electric industries can be benefited from this facility for improving their products and fabrication processes.

National Conference on Physics for Development

Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad chaired the Plenary Session of the above-mentioned conference organised by Bangladesh Physical Society. The conference was held at the Central Auditorium of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) from 10 to 11 February, 2011.

Dr. Farid Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), gave his talk titled - "Nuclear Power Program in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges." He stressed on the need for adopting nuclear power as one of the options from the different energy-mix choices. He elaborated on the plans of BAEC for future nuclear energy programme in Bangladesh.

Professor F. Bary Malik of Southern Illinois University of Carbondale, Illinois, USA, presented the second plenary talk on "Incompressibility of Neutron Stars and Brown Dwarfs and Nuclear Reactions." This work was done in collaboration with Professor A. K. Basak and Dr. A. S. B. Tariq of Rajshahi University, Dr. S. Hossain of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Sylhet. Professor F. Bary Malik also dwelt upon some of the problems of current interest for research which could be taken up by physicists working in different universities and R/D organisations of Bangladesh.

MS Degree in Biotechnology Conferred

Ms. Salma Mir, Ms. Sadequa Sultana, Mr. Farzana Alam, Mr. Debashish Paul and Mr. Md. Jahedul Islam received their MS degree in Biotechnology during the 6th Convocation of BRAC University held on 07 February 2011. Among them Ms. Sadequa Sultana is pursuing her PhD degree with scholarship at Universite Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, France in nanobiology and nanobiotechnology. Ms. Farzana Alam has joined the vaccine plant of Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Mr. Debashish Paul joined BIRDEM Research Wing. Ms. Salma Mir has started her teaching profession at the Scholastica School, Dhaka. Mr. Jahedul Islam has joined University of Science and Technology, Chittagong.

BS Degree in Physics Conferred

Mr. Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud and Mr. Nakib Haider Protik received their BS degree in Physics during the 6th Convocation of BRAC University. Both were placed in the Highest Distinction Category. Mr. Nakib Haider Protik also received the Vice-chancellor's Medal. Both are currently working as teaching assistants of Physics in the MNS

Department.

Among the double major recipients were Mr. Khondker Mohammed Sakib and Mr. Risalat Amir Khan. Both of them received their BS degrees with Double Major in ECE and Physics. Ms. Farzaha Zahid received her BS degree with Double Major in Physics and Economics.

MS Biotechnology Student Received PhD Fellowship at McMaster University, Canada

Ms. Nadia Iftekharuddin has been accepted for undertaking PhD programme at the McMaster University, Canada. She will start her PhD programme in April, 2011. Nadia has completed all the courses of MS biotechnology and about to complete her MS dissertation in mid April before her departure for Canada. She is working for her Masters thesis at the ICDDR,B under the joint supervision of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, MNS Department and Tasnim Azim. Nadia participated in the 2nd HOPE Nobel Laureates Meeting in June 2009 at Hakone, Japan, and presented a poster on Rotavirus Strain Diversity and Vaccine Development published in the Proceedings of 2nd HOPE Meeting held in Hakone, Japan, August 2009.

SECS Update

IEEE BRAC University Student Chapter

IEEE also known as Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, it is a globally recognized organization that brings together talented engineers from all over the world and works with them.

BRAC University has a Student Branch of IEEE, the purpose of which is to help the students gain knowledge about anything and everything from across the globe. This membership allows them to interact with engineering graduates from other universities, gives them access to international journals and papers that prove immensely helpful during thesis and other research work. This membership enables students to participate in many competitions and attend international conferences and seminars.

The IEEE BRACU Student Branch has entered a new working year from 2011. The previous Executive Body consisted of Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan as the Chairperson, Eftakhairul Islam as the Vice-Chair, Rabbi as the Secretary and Adnan-al-Moshi as the Treasurer.



Shiblee introducing the new EB for 2011



The new EB (from left): Rumman, Jonayet, Oyon & Syedur at the 1st GBM for 2011 IEEE

On the 23rd of February, the first General Body Meeting (GBM) took place, conducted by both the new and old EB members. There were many new student members who also attended the meeting. The prime focus of the GBM was to give new students an idea about IEEE and introduce the new EB. The new EB consists of Rumman Huq as the Chairperson, Jonayet Hossain as the vice-chair, Mahamudul Hasan Oyon as the secretary and Syedur Rahman Sakir as the treasurer. This new EB talked about their goals and

objectives for the upcoming year, laid out plans such as visits to power generating companies, seminars by distinguished personnel, etc.

This first GBM was mainly an introductory meeting for the new Student Body members. Nabila Naushin, faculty from the SECS department, ex-IEEE BU SB Member also attended the meeting, shared her insight and gave helpful suggestions and tips. The meeting was rounded up with the hope of having a great, busy and active year ahead.

CARG Updates

CARG is proud to inform you that the "Automatic Solar Hot Water Heater" project is at its final development stage. We have already connected the water heater to the Executive floor as well as the kitchen of the university's cafeteria. The system will commence providing hot water to the places as soon as some further testing is conducted.

Alongside, Southern Biomedical Engineering Conference 2011 has accepted a paper titled "Design and development of Microcontroller based ECG Simulator." This paper show the development of a cheap microcontroller based ECG simulator which can generate the basic ECG wave with variable BPM and arrhythmia waves using lookup table. The signals can be used for testing, servicing, calibration, and development of the ECG monitoring instruments.

RS Update

BRAC Orientation

A session on BRAC was held on February 02, 2011 at 6:00 pm at Markuli Hall, Savar Residential Semester. Mr. Abdur Rahman, Senior Faculty Member from BRAC Training Division facilitated the session which continued till 7:40 pm. All the students and staff of RS attended the session.

At the beginning of the session, a short documentary on BRAC named "New Horizon" was screened which introduced BRAC very comprehensibly within twenty one minutes. Soon after that the speaker started the session showing the picture of Sir Abed mentioning that how a man's vision can bring about a revolutionary change in Bangladesh and in many other countries of the world. This time the session was very participatory where the students could ask questions to the speaker in every few minutes. Many students came up with very good questions which helped other students understand BRAC clearly. During the question-answer session, the Campus Super, along with the speaker of the session, also took part and clarified some the obscurities of the students.

BRAC Program Orientation



A sessions on BRAC program orientation was held on February 03 at 2:00 pm at Residential semester. Resource persons from various program facilitated the orientation sessions.

At the beginning of the sessions the program people introduced themselves and then they gave a short but comprehensive briefing about

their respective programs. The students asked many questions about their specific program during the question-answer session and prepared a check list with the help of the resource person so that they can collect most of the information they need. The Campus Super, along with the speaker of the session, also took part and clarified some of the obscurities of the students. The Director of CfL was present on the program orientation and took interest to visit the sessions.

Public Health

The seminar on Public Health was held on 5th February at 9:30 am at BRAC University Savar Campus which was facilitated by faculty members from School of Public Health. In the morning combined session titled 'General and Mental Health' took place at Markuli Hall which was facilitated by Mrs Nuzhat. All the students were present in the session. Immediately after that another session on Yoga was conducted by Mr. Mamun-ur Rashid. Many students showed their interest to join Yoga classes if organized by the university.

After tea break all the boys went to watch a documentary named 'Chinese food binding' which was held at SB Class rooms. While the documentary was going with the boys at SB classrooms, all the girls were attending another session on Sexual Reproductive Health "SRH" at Markuli Hall by Dr. Sabina Rashid which continued until 12:30 pm. The students

went to lunch at 1:30 pm.

Afternoon session started at 2:30 and this time the girls went to watch



the documentary named 'Naho Mata Naho Konna' while the boys attended the session on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH). In both the sessions there was a question answer part after the discussion (SRH) where Dr. Jannatul Ferdous, a guest doctor (Gynecologist), among others, was present and answered the questions that came up from the students.

The students enjoyed the sessions and both the sessions were highly participatory and informative. All the faculty members, staff were present and took part in managing the sessions. Also, two counselors from Mohakhali attended the sessions.

At 4:00 pm, the seminar ended and the facilitators from School of Public Health departed from Savar to Mohakhali.

Parents Day

The final parents' day at Savar campus was observed on February 04, 2011. Parents of 147 students (Total parents 327) came to visit the campus and spend their time with

their wards. All the staff and faculties were present on that day and accompanied many parents. Our honorable Vice chancellor also visited and talked to some of the parents during the day.



RS Drama

As part of extended learning activity under ethics and culture course, we have arranged a drama "Socrateser Jobanbondi". It was performed by Drishwapat theater group. The drama was started at 06:45pm and end at 8:30pm on 5th February, 2011. Before staging the drama, Mr. Ahammad Ullah, Lecturer, Ethics & Culturer, explained the objective of staging this drama and the relation of it with ethics course. Most of the Students along with faculty members, staff of BRACU, BRAC and BRAC trainees enjoyed the show to the fullest. At the end of the drama the course teacher invited some students to share their reflection about the drama and some of them shared their positive reflection. To give our students a real taste of theater like "Muktomoncho" we arranged the drama in Murchona.



1st Social Learning Lab, Museum Visit Observed & BRAC Visit

Social-Lab Exercises

The first phase of Social-Lab of the Residential Semester was conducted on February 12, 2011. In the first phase 56 students took part in this unique exercise. The students took over the whole TARC official responsibilities and as such all staff members starting from the Campus Superintendent down to cleaners and laundry persons were on leave on that day. The exercise created a lot of enthusiasm among the students and ended up successfully.

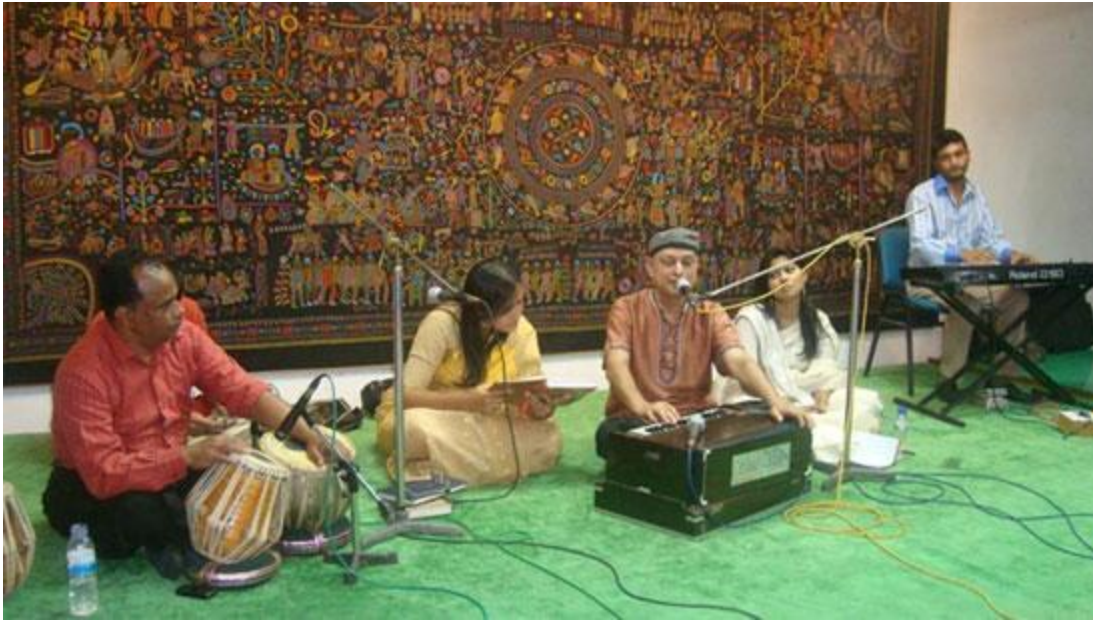
Museum Visits

82 Residential Semester students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) and Bangladesh: History, Culture visited Bangladesh Muktijoddho Jadughar (Liberation War Museum) and APON (Addiction Rehabilitation Center) on February 12, 2011. Students visited different galleries of the museums and took part in a quiz competition organized by Liberation War Museum. Six students were awarded prizes. Course Instructor of Bangladesh Studies and the staff of RS accompanied the students during the visit.

BRAC Visit

80 students of RS went on BRAC Project visits on February 12, 2011. The students were divided in seven sub groups. They were assigned one subject to look into and later submit a report or give a presentation. The subjects were BRAC Micro-Credit Program, BRAC Health Program, BRAC Education Program, Legal and Human Rights Program, BRAC enterprise, Wash Program and BRAC Social development program.

Art & Music



Dr. Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty, Singer and Professor of Music and Theatre Department, University of Dhaka gave a lecture on Bangla Music for the students as a part of Bangladesh Studies course on 23rd February at Markuli Hall. Dr. Chakrabarty and other singers rendered Bangla songs and captivated the audience.

Ekushey February

In line with the spirit of Amar Ekushey, TARC management observed Shaheed Day and International Mother Language Day. Staff of BRACU and TARC management and participants took part in Probhat Ferry (Morning Procession) at 7:30 am and placed floral wreaths at the Shaheed Minar on February 21, 2011.

2nd RS Monthly meeting: 2nd RS monthly meeting was held on February 26, 2011. All the Faculty members, staff and campus super was present in the meeting. Director Cfl chaired the meeting.

Midterm Exam: Midterm exam was held on 27 and 28th February. Students sat at Markuli hall and classrooms for exam according to their section.

CSO Update

CSO organized the first signing ceremony with Robi

As Robi plans to sign internship agreement with the leading universities as part of its campus branding and activation program, Career Services Office, BRAC University (BRACU) has organized the first signing ceremony at BRACU campus.

Matiul Islam Nowshad, Chief Human Resources Officer of Robi and Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury Registrar of BRACU inked the agreement on February 06, 2011.

Speaking on the occasion, Matiul Islam Nowshad, Chief Human Resources Officer of Robi said, "This initiative will give the young talents the opportunity to have the first glimpse of corporate world. Robi is taking all possible steps to develop its next line of leadership and this internship program is part of that."

"Robi is trying to build a world class working environment to match its work place transformation initiative. Our group company, Axiata Berhad, is working for talent

development for Asia. As part of that Robi is developing its talents for Bangladesh." he also added.

This agreement with top private and public business schools of the country will accommodate their students in the company for internship. The company believes this initiative will build talent pool for the organization.

Robi will offer different types of internships for undergraduate students to enhance employability in the corporate world. The company also believes that internship opportunity in Robi will give the students necessary tools and preparation to function in the sphere of multinational organizations. The interns will get opportunity to work within their field of study.

The event was also attended by VP- HR Operations- Farhad Mahbub and GM Resourcing- Sharmin Sultan of Robi and Prof. Md Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-vice Chancellor of BRACU, Prof. Sayeed Salam, Chairperson of Department of Electrical and Electronics, Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge of Career Services Office along with other officials.

Workshop on "Exploring The Doer's World"



BRAC University Career Services Office (CSO) and CFL Jointly organized a day long workshop on "Exploring the Doer's World". The workshop took place in GLDN Conference room at BRAC University on Thursday, February 10, 2011. The main focus of the workshop was to develop skill exploration, positive perception, Communication and skills related to career management and career satisfaction/success. This workshop was facilitated by Ms. Farida Akter, consultant of BRAC University. Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-charge, Career Services Office ,

Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Junior lecturer CFL, Mr. Shami Suhrid, counselor, also present at the workshop as a co-facilitator. In the beginning of the session, the facilitator discuss about the importance of energize and self evaluation, The special guests of the workshop was Mr. Sowrav Kumar Saha, Sr. HR Officer, BRAC, Mr. Md. Rajib Hasan, Coordinator - Human Resources - Bangladesh, Cemex, Mr. Ivan Shafaat Bari, Academic Coordinator, Center For languages, BRACU. They focus of the session by guests were role play and discussion on interview expectation of an interviewer. Later on the session there were story analysis and group work on self exploration. At the end of the session the facilitator discuss about the importance of emotional intelligence and essential skills which specially required for professional life. The workshop was wrapped up by the closing comments followed by creative and constructive feedbacks from the In-charge of Career Services Office, Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, as well as from the participants.

Job Update February 2011

Md. Sirajus Salekin, BBS |British American Tobacco Bangladesh

Md. Najmus Shakib, BBS |DBL Group

Asif Faisal Romy, BBS |ACI

Imtiaz Saadruddin Mahmood, BBS |Eastern Bank Limited

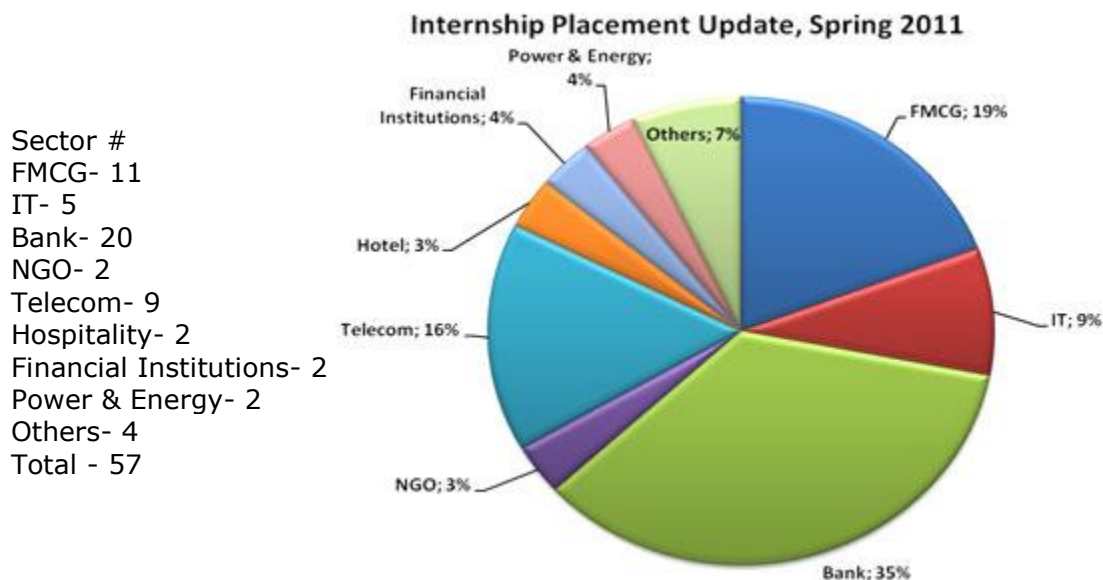
Kazi Anower Sadat, BBS |Grameenphone

Gazi Shariar Mahin, BBS |Bangladesh-American Center (BAC)

Adite Tarafder, BBS |BRAC

Md. Jobair Alam, BBS |Sustain Consultancy
 Tafhim Ahmed, BBS |HSBC
 Mosfika Nahar, BBS |United Commercial Bank Ltd.
 Tamanna Sharmin, ESS | BRAC
 George A Das, ESS |BRAC
 SM Reza E Rabbi, BBS | BRAC
 Nahid Tahrima Rashid, ESS | BRAC

Sector-wise Internship Placement Spring 2011



Sector #
 FMCG- 11
 IT- 5
 Bank- 20
 NGO- 2
 Telecom- 9
 Hospitality- 2
 Financial Institutions- 2
 Power & Energy- 2
 Others- 4
 Total - 57

BBA Intern Placement Spring 2011

Name ; Organization	Name ; Organization
Truman Linus Guda -Aarong	Moutushi Mahreen -Greenline IT
Md. Maruf Hossain -ACI Limited	Sroboni Shoeb -HSBC
Sariat Rafa Khan -ACI Limited	Muqit-Al-Rahman -IDLC Finance Limited, Bangladesh
A. S. M. Riazul Haider -Apex	Adiba Jihan Marsha -IFIC Bank Limited
Abir Hassan -Barcode Automation (BD) Ltd.	Amit Kumar Dey -IFIC Bank Limited
Md. Asaduzzaman -Barcode Automation (BD) Ltd.	Farida Amir Ali -Jamuna Bank Ltd.
S.M. Rasel Akram -Barcode Automation (BD) Ltd.	Tasmiat Hossain -Marfi Electronics Industries Ltd.
Talukdar Mohammad Shabbir -Barcode Automation (BD) Ltd.	Moumita Nath -Mercantile Bank Limited
Sadia Naureen Huq -Beximco Pharmaceuticals	Syeda Sabira Sanam -Mobil, BD
Iffat Rabbani Ovi -BRAC Bank Limited	Sumaiya Zaman Chowdhury -Mutual Trust Bank Limited
Jakeul Hasan Justice -BRAC Bank Limited	Shenjuti Tapader -National Bank Limited
Sabrina Binte Ahmed -BRAC Bank Limited	Quazi Mofakkar Hossain -NCC Bank Ltd.
SAIMA AFREEN -BRAC Bank Limited	Shamminaz Polen -Nestle Bagladesh Limited
Shahrin Bashar Aurin -BRAC Bank Limited	Memtaz Jahan Benozir -Nestle Bangladesh Limited
Zobaida Mahbub Zefry -BRAC Bank Limited	Razia Sultana -Nestle Bangladesh Limited
Faysal Ahmed -BRAC Bank Limited	Shamma Majid -Nestle Bangladesh Limited
Rhidita Tasnim -British American Tobacco, Bangladesh	Timothy Sarker -Ogilvy & Mather
Hajra Sana -Care Bangladesh	Arafat Mizan -People Scape
Avrina Akhter Sonia -Dhaka Stock	

Exchange
Shahed Zaman Setu -Gano Milan
Foundation
Abida Noor -Grameenphone Limited
Afsir Al Mahmood Shishir -Grameenphone
Limited
Farzana Amin -Grameenphone Limited
Maria Mostafizar -Grameenphone Limited
Sabera Zohra Abonty -Grameenphone
Limited
Shifat Ferdous -Grameenphone Limited
Subrina Nowshin -Grameenphone Limited
Tasnuva Rubaiyat -Grameenphone Limited

Ismat Jerin -Prime Bank Limited
S. M. Miftahuzzaman -Prime Bank
Limited
Sintheya Rahman -Robi Axiata Limited
Md. Arif-UI Islam -Saif Powertec Ltd.
Abdullah Al Masud Talukdar -Seagull
Hotel Ltd.
Meherunnesha -Standard Chartered
Bank
Md. Masudur Rahman -Star Computer
System Limited
Rubbaba Noori Prithee -The City Bank
Ltd.
Samina Alam -TNT Express
Chowdhury Urvana Hossain -Trust Bank
Limited
Sani Podder -Westin

Placed By Statistics Spring 2011

Placed By Statistics Spring 2011

Placed By # %
Self- 21 37%
CSO- 36 63%
Total- 57 100%

