

THE TIMES

Vol. 1 No. 5 Pages 8 May 2011 The Ravenshaw Times The Monthly Newsletter of Ravenshaw University

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Fourth Annual Convocation-2011



Standing (from left to right): Dean (Administration) Prof. Nachiketa Das, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Hon'ble Chancellor and Governor of Orissa Sri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Sri Devdas Chhotray and University Registrar Dr. Smarapriya Mishra.

The Fourth Annual Convocation of the University was held on April 16 at the open-air auditorium to celebrate its academic accomplishment while recognizing the continual search for knowledge. Chancellor and Orissa Governor MC Bhandare presided over the function and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Govt of India, Montek Singh Ahluwalia graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia attended the function as the Chief Guest and delivered the convocation address. Speaking at the convocation, Ahluwalia encouraged students to make use of the present growth scenario as the current growth rate of eight per cent and decrease in the rate of population growth had created an amiable environment for students to pursue bright careers.

He said that the aims and objectives of the 12th Five Year Plan have been accomplished to a significant extent and there has been an increase in the per capita income of the country. Appealing students to be part of the country's development as they have a major role to play in this regard, he said that the present situa-

tion is highly conducive to the students of the current generation in grabbing greater job opportunities. He lauded Orissa's growth rate and urged the planners to ensure that the growth becomes inclusive and help poor to come of poverty. Students of Orissa must capitalise on building a strong equity for the state to help boost the growth rate, he advised. He said that the students of present generation were exposed to different facilities and should take advantage of technological advancement.

I had heard of Ravenshaw from my friends, alumni of this institution, who have scaled heights in various fields. I found the building impressive and it was wonderful to be at the institute with a legacy of great traditions in academics, he remarked.

On the occasion, the University Vice-Chancellor read out the annual report and wished good luck to the young graduates. Chancellor of the University and Orissa Governor Sri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare presided over the function.

The university awarded honorary degrees to eminent personalities such as legal expert Indira Jaising, academician Prabhat Nalini Das, former state chief secretary Lalat Indu Parija, writer Manoj Das, theatre personality Girish Karnad, radiologist Mukund Sadashiv Joshi and ophthalmologist Taraprasad Das. The Vice-Chancellor and Governor handed over honorary doctorates to the eminent personalities and awarded gold medals to 56 students including 46 girls. Besides the batch toppers of 2010, winners of the prestigious Borasambar Senapati Debate of 2010 were also awarded gold medals.



Reviews

Distinguished Recipients of *Honoris Causa* Degrees**Indira Jaising**

Well-known Leftist Indian lawyer. First woman to reach the post of Additional Solicitor General of India in 2009. A champion of human rights, rights of women and the poor.

**Prabhat Nalini Das**

Renowned academician. Involved with women's studies and empowerment across the country for the past 40 years. Held several prestigious positions in her illustrious career.

**Lalat Indu Parija**

Probably the oldest living sportsperson in Orissa. Over 40 years of bureaucratic experience. Sportsperson and an all-rounder par excellence with lot of distinctions.

**Manoj Das**

One of the ablest interpreters of India's literary and cultural heritage, and successful bi-lingual writers in the country. Recipient of several prestigious awards for his writings.

**Montek Singh Ahluwalia**

A key figure in India's economic reforms as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, India. Spearheaded the neo-liberal economic policies in India.

**Girish Karnad**

Celebrated contemporary writer, playwright, actor and movie director. Redefined Indian theatre. Earned huge acclaim and won several international awards.

**Mukund Sadashiv Joshi**

Renowned radiologist with significant contribution to medical education and sciences. Member of Expert Working Group of the IX Plan of the Planning Commission.

**Taraprasad Das**

World famous ophthalmologist and eye surgeon. Director of LV Prasad Eye Institute, Bhubaneswar. Written 24 book chapters and 124 papers, authored and edited five books.

The Ravenshaw Times is the monthly newsletter of Ravenshaw University. Your comments and contributions are always welcome. Please send them to the Editor at ravenshawtimes@gmail.com.

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**Mailbox**

Please send in contributions, ideas for the content, and ways we can improve this publication to ravenshawtimes@gmail.com

Web edition

Dear Sir,

I am a former student of Ravenshaw, now based in London. I regularly visit the university website and recently saw a new web page for the monthly newsletter, The Ravenshaw Times. I saw all the four editions published so far in PDF format. But this is to bring to your notice that the text visibility has depreciated dramatically in the latest edition (April 2011) and it is really difficult to read. Is it possible to get that fixed and upload a better copy at the earliest so that others do not face the same problem? Please ensure that it is of a suitable standard, I mean, it should be clear enough to read.

I've another suggestion to make. I feel that it is absolutely necessary to renovate the Ravenshaw website as it lacks modern formatting and regular maintenance. The website is the face of Ravenshaw to the outside world. It's my sincere request to the concerned persons to take care of this.

--Vimal Kumar Patnaik (Sent via e-mail)

Former Principals

Dear Sir,

I will be grateful if you kindly provide me with a list of Ravenshaw College Principals. My grandfather, Shri Sachidananda Ray was one of them and so I am interested. I am presently settled in the United States. I am happy to learn that Ravenshaw is in the process of immortalizing past principals and famous alumni. I belong to the 1973 batch and my father and uncles have also gone through the portals of Ravenshaw College. I will collect more details of my grandfather from my uncle here in Canada as my father and other uncles have passed away. My grandfather did his graduation from Oxford University about the time of the First World War. After his stint as Principal of Ravenshaw College from 1945-48, he went on to be the DPI (Director of Public Instruction). He was a contemporary and a close friend of Dr. Pranakrushna Parija. My grandmother, Smt. Preety Ray was also a very distinguished and fairly well known lady in Cuttack in those days.

May I suggest something? Please upload the list of Principals on to the Ravenshaw website so that it can be accessed by all. I remember I had fished out the list several years ago from the net. But I can't find it now.

--Sanjib Ray (Sent via e-mail)

Subscription

Dear Sir,

I am a student of Ravenshaw. I want to subscribe to the The Ravenshaw Times regularly. From where can I get it every month? Is it readily available to students?

--Shashwat Sinha (Sent via e-mail)

Quote Unquote

Educational institutions need not preach any specific political doctrine. If they shape man capable of analysis and critical thought and train them in social attitudes and behaviour, that is sufficient. Imagination is more important than knowledge, as it leads to curiosity and unlocking of more and more secrets of nature.

--Albert Einstein

THE RAVENSHAW TIMES

The Ravenshaw Times

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SPIRIT OF DOCUMENTATION

Ravenshaw is in the 15th decade of its existence, but very little of its history and heritage is properly documented. Ravenshaw has been the sole theatre of modernity in Orissa for the larger part of a century, and yet records of events and evidences of happenings are not traceable.

Two major sources of Ravenshaw's history could have been the books, reports and journals in the Kanika Library and records and files in the Ravenshaw College record room. Unfortunately, these were languishing in the absence of competent folio management. For the larger part of last 50 years, these areas have been untouched by the new tools and techniques of scientific conservation.

After Ravenshaw became a University we have taken measures with our available resources for comprehensive renovation of Kanika Library as well as Ravenshaw College archive of records. Another attempt to preserve the heritage of Ravenshaw through documentation is to create huge database of oral history by video recording the reminiscences of senior and eminent Ravenshawians. Besides, the university has commissioned the writing of the history of Ravenshaw College, from the years 1868 to 2006 AD, till the time Ravenshaw became a University.

We, the contemporaries of Ravenshaw campus, have a significant obligation to inculcate this spirit of documentation, and integrate it with our academic and co-curricular activities.

Ravenshaw is a veritable museum of many things old and archaic, from furniture to books, papers and photographs, and defunct utilities. The old departments, particularly in the science blocks, should be a rich store house of such memorabilia, which can lend a very useful sense of history.

It should therefore be the duty of the departmental Heads, and particularly the new faculty, to scout out such objects with a sharp eye, to create their database in computer, and maintain them.

The spirit in the department should be that each visitor is photographed, and his visit documented through video and audio recordings. Similarly all functions of the Schools and of the university should be comprehensively documented. Each department should zealously guard every opportunity for documentation of contemporary events, which will be the building blocks of current history in Ravenshaw.

--Vice Chancellor

Be yourself, be natural

Devdas Chhotray



In the Ravenshaw of our times, we were taught 'Waste Land' by T.S. Eliot. I am sure it is taught even now. That epic poem begins with a famous one liner, 'April is the cruellest month'. We always wondered what it could possibly mean. Why should April be cruel, unless Eliot was thinking of those dreadful annual examinations that always arrive in this month with some wicked regularity?

April is truly dubious. It can spoil the party by scorching our short lived spring. It does not matter though, as Ravenshaw is a long distance runner, and in its marathon of 143 years, it has gone through the cycle of all seasons.

The long distance runner goes on running. The dust and grime of rough patches have not diminished its élan. In fact, in recent years it has changed track, gathered pace, and is getting ready, like a seasoned warrior, to cope with the new mores of a fast changing time. In its incarnation as a university, it now holds within the promise of a new vision, the 'knowledge city'. It is wonderful ideas that will make Ravenshaw go global.

The convocation is a celebration of graduates. It is their rite of passage. And the moment is full of bewildering thoughts. This predicament is not new, and certainly not without some thrill. Graduates do overcome such systolic murmurs. Let me tell you the story of the first Oriya graduate, who graduated in 1870 from Calcutta University. He was none other than the redoubtable Madhusudan Das, a maker of modern Orissa, whose statue along with that of Pandit Gopobandhu Das, we have recently installed in our entrance porch. Madhu Babu was the Law Lecturer in Ravenshaw College in 1884.

But he grew up to be much more than that, and this is what he said about himself: 'I am the first MA of the Oriya race, the first Oriya Vakil and now the first Oriya advocate, the first Oriya visitor to Europe, the first Oriya member of the Provincial and Viceroy Legislative Councils, the first Oriya Minister and the first Indian Minister to re-

sign office. My race is the most backward, and yet the first graduate of no race in India did all I have done. The first graduate of Bengal died a pensioned Deputy Magistrate'.

Let's not underestimate the power of graduates. Mark Zuckerberg, a twenty-one year old Harvard graduate who seized by a modern ambition invented Facebook. From a campus activity, Facebook has now become a 25 billion company with 600 million active members. And Mark Zuckerberg is the youngest billionaire in the world.

We have talked about the sparks, let's look at the anvil. The hammer of the blacksmith knows where to strike. The human-smiths in educational institutions do not know, as some one jokingly said, whether they are turning asses to horses or horses to asses.

Without engineering, and with very little IT and management infrastructure, Ravenshaw still draws the best in the available student in the state. It gets students from the neighboring states; and there is a small component of international students as ICCR scholars. Ravenshaw has now totally recast its faculty, and a good number from abroad, from central universities and IITs, have chosen to relocate themselves.

The new faculty and the new age students require matching infrastructure. This is where we are still limping due to lack of resources. The state government support has been unflinching but limited. We have to look for resources in some

major alumni intervention and of course in the PPT, which is the new way to grow.

Sam Pitroda visited Ravenshaw last year and told us that the learning methodology has completely changed. Information technology is forcing us learn things differently. A few decades earlier the teachers were responsible for creating and delivering content. Today the content is created on the internet. Who has decided that it should take four years to get a degree? Why should it be so expensive to study? These questions have agitated our mind, and we are seriously thinking about it.

The old Ravenshaw College had a single campus. The state government, with amazing foresight, has given 150 acres of prime land in this city, to build Ravenshaw 2. Sam Pitroda has advised us to develop it as a 'Knowledge City' in the PPP mode. It shall be a city within a city, for the knowledge workers and their socio-cultural accessories. It will attract global customers for research, which in turn will produce not idle knowledge but wealth for the community.

I am sure the graduates of today shall come back and visit their beloved Ravenshaw from time to time, as the criminals return to the place of crime, or if they do not like the expression, then as brahmacharis look back at their old monasteries. They will soon find the first campus fully renovated and the second campus growing tall with skyscrapers on the bank of Mahanadi. Wherever they go in life, they shall be the ambassadors of Ravenshaw forever.

Good luck graduates. May you do better than all of us have. Be yourself. Be natural. Do not be afraid of making mistakes. You are young, and there is nothing like a wise young person. If there is one, then he or she is a pretender, living someone else's life. Life has many definitions. The one I like best is this. Life is defined by how much you improve the lives of others. God bless you.

--Vice Chancellor's report
at the Fourth Annual
Convocation.

Faculty Page

Ravenshaw's 140-year-old campus spread over 100 acres of land is resplendent with greenery. The beauty of the campus is a feast for the eyes and can be enjoyed right from the time one enters the campus. You are greeted by its well manicured green lawn with wrought iron chairs and night lamps, majestically guarded by massive, ancient trees. The luxuriant plant life in the campus offers an excellent opportunity for scholarly pursuit in plant diversity.

The flora on Ravenshaw campus are divergent enough starting from gymnosperms to angiosperms, small grasses, climbers to big trees, from hydrophytes to xerophytes, from ornamental to economically important plants, from plants for fruits and vegetables to plants for flowers. Though the campus of Ravenshaw is rich in its variety of plant species from lower to higher plants, the scope of this article limits itself to the tree species only.

Trees of various species are found all over the campus--well distributed over individual blocks and departments, along the roadside, around playgrounds, hostel campus and staff residential quarters of which, the Department of Botany has the greatest variety of plants. The tree species of Ravenshaw include many common plants that we come across in our day-to-day life, plants that are generally found in dense forests, as well as many rare species that are not seen in Odisha or even in India. Some of these trees are more than 100 years old. However, many have been planted in the more recent past, more so after the 1999 super cyclone that had devastated the campus and destroyed many rare avenue trees, thanks to the noble efforts of the last regular Principal of erstwhile Ravenshaw College, Professor of Botany and nature lover, Late Dr. Rama Krushna Kar, who passed away recently.

More than a hundred species of the trees that are available on the campus can be categorized mainly into two types based upon the frequency of their occurrence. The first

Floral wealth of Ravenshaw

Elsa Marric



A small step at individual level for the conservation and preservation of greenery can go a long way to help our mother earth survive.

group includes the trees we come across most commonly around our localities, the economically important or timber yielding plants that are present in moderate to high frequency in the campus. The second group comprises the rare plants of Odisha and India which are fewer in number and are thinly distributed inside the campus.

This first group includes different varieties of trees like timber yielding trees, plants for fruits and vegetables, plants grown for flowers, medicinal plants, ornamental plants, economically important plants, etc. There are more than ninety tree species under this category. *Madkuca indica* (Mahua), *Madhuka latifolia* (Mahula), *Dalbergia sissoo* (Siso), *Shorea robusta* (Sal), *Pterocarpus marsupium* (Piasal), *Bombax malabaricum* (Simili), *Terminalia belarica* (Bahada), *Sesbania sesban* (Khairi), *Ailanthus excelsa* (Mahala), *Tectona grandis* (Saguan or teak) are some of the species among the economic and timber yielding plants.

The campus is rich in fruit, vegetable and berry plants. There are many varieties

(around 10-15) of *Mangifera indica* (mango) trees. Among other fruit and berry trees *Mimusops elengi* (Baula koli), *Cocos nucifera* (Nadia, coconut), *Aegle marmelos* (Bela), *Psidium guajava* (Pijuli), *Dillenia indica* (Ouu), *Zyziphus jujuba* (Barakoli), *Moringa oleifera* (Sajana), *Averrhoa carambola* (Karamanga), *Pithecellobium dulce* (Bilati kainya), *Terminalia catapa* (Badam, Indian almond), *Tamarindus indica* (Kainya), *Artocarpus integrifolia* (Panasa) are common in the campus.

Trees for flowers include *Michelia champaca* (Champa), *Plamienia optusifolia* (Katha champa), *Plumeria rubra* (Nalikatha champa), *Artabotrys hexapetalous* (Chini champa), *Saraka asoca* (Ashoka), *Nyctanthes arbour-tristis* (Gangasiuli), *Muraya paniculata* (Kamini), many species of *Bougainvillea* (Kagajaphula), *Magnolia pumila* (Chhota parijata), *Bauhinia viriegata* (Kanchan white), *Bauhinia purpurea* (Kanchan purple) and *Anthocephalus cadamba* (Kadamba).

Among the other tree spe-

cies found, *Polyalthia longifolia* (Devdaru), *Peltophorum pherigianum* (copper pot), *Samanea saman* (Chakunda), *Jacarandra mimusifolia* (Radhachuda), *Azadirachta indica* (Neem), *Crateva religiosa* (Varuna), *Alstonia scholaris*, *Cassia fistula* (Sunari), *Prosopis caldenia*, *Callistemon citrinus* (Bottle brush tree), *Guazuma tomentosa* (Giringa), *Murraya koenigi* (Bhrusanga), *Delonix (Poinciana) regia* (Krushnachuda), *Ficus bengalensis* (Bara), *Ficus religiosa* (Osta), *Ficus glomerata*, *Eucalyptus*, *Peltophorum pterocarpum*, *Spathodea campanulata*, *Anogeissus leiocarpus*, *Streblus asper* (Shahada), *Litsea polyantha* (Patra raj), *Sesbania grandiflora* (Agasti), *Phyllostachys* (Bamboo), *Premna latifolia* (Gandhana), *Careya arborea*, *Kentia belmoriana*, *Ravenala madagascariensis*, *Casuarina*, *Cycas* and different varieties of palm trees are common.

The Ravenshaw campus boasts of many rare tree species like *Taxodium mucronatum*, *Sterculia alata*,

Magnolia grandiflora, *Pterocarpus santalinus* (Rakta chandan), *Santalum album* (Chandan), *Cinamomum camphora* (Karpoor), *Couroupita guianensis* (Naga champa), *Bixa orellana*, *Memecylon umbellatum* (Anjan), *Garcinia elegans* (Asati aamba), *Kigelia pinnata* and *Swietenia macrophylla* (Mahogany) that are generally not found in Odisha or rare in India. Out of these rare trees six are present in the Department of Botany campus.

The authorities of erstwhile Ravenshaw College and present Ravenshaw University have taken every possible step to maintain the greenery of the campus. But some of the species like *Pterospermum acerifolium* (Muchukunda) and *Feronia elephantum* (Kaitha)--which are extinct from the campus--need to be planted again at suitable sites. Some of the tree species have name plates with their botanical name and taxonomic position, while most of the trees don't have any. If all the tree species on the campus get name plates with their taxonomic positions and status, irrespective of these being rare species or not, students and visitors to the campus would get an opportunity to identify various tree species that they would otherwise get to read about only in books. Though nowadays, trees are generally not cut down inside the campus, identification plates and proper enumeration would provide an extra protection for the trees, as one would think twice before cutting a tree with a name plate. This may appear to be a small step towards conservation of plants in the changing climatic scenario. However, any success in conservation of plants and biodiversity on Ravenshaw campus could make one think of doing the same for the city of Cuttack at large. A small step at individual level for the conservation and preservation of greenery can go a long way to help our mother earth survive.

--The writer is Guest Faculty, Biotechnology Wing, Department of Botany. She can be reached at elsambio@gmail.com

Vice Chancellor's Scholars

Scheme for Recruitment of Gold Medalists as Guest Faculty

The Ravenshaw University has decided to recruit its students, who have stood first class first in postgraduate examinations in respective subjects, as guest faculty for one year after the publication of results.

Such candidates are obviously the toppers and gold medalists in their respective subjects.

The tenure of such guest faculty shall be of one year for the obvious reason that the toppers of the next year's class shall lay claim to such positions.

During their tenure, the guest faculties shall teach, examine and do all necessary curricular and co-curricular activities expected of any regular fac-

ulty, subject to the superintendence of the departmental head.

As the scheme has been initiated by the Vice Chancellor, this group of guest faculties will

tants and shall do such duties that are assigned to them.

The scheme has been designed to promote deserving scholars, who look for a work station in the university at least for one year, before they move out for higher studies or employment.

The CCD shall be the leader of this group of Vice Chancellor's scholars working as guest faculties and look after their academic needs and facilities so as to give them a fair share of the university's academic and co-curricular infrastructure.

Since the tenure is of one year duration, it shall be incumbent on the CCD to screen them from time to time to facilitate replacement.



be known as the "Vice Chancellor's Scholars" during their tenure. Apart from teaching, they are expected to work a certain part of their time in the VC's office as Executive Assis-

Congratulations to Gold Medalists of 2010

POSTGRADUATES

Sheikh Ansar Alli (History)
 Renu Giri (Botany)
 Kavita Santuka (English)
 Annapurna Kar (English)
 Pritiprava Sarangi (Oriya)
 Sabnam Sultana (Mathematics)
 Sankshipata Beura (Psychology)
 Priyabrata Satapathy (Economics)
 Gautam Mitra (Physics)
 Smita Khandanga (Chemistry)
 Sabnam Parvin (Zoology)
 Avishek Bhunia (Applied Geography)
 Ramesh Chandra Das (Commerce)
 Bhagyalaxmi Behera (Education)
 Pratima Sharma (Hindi)
 Divya Prakash Sahoo (Business Administration)
 Suprava Barik (Philosophy)
 Soudamini Behera (Political Science)
 Sonia Sarkar (Sociology)
 Smrutiti Jena (Biotechnology)
 Rajeswari Meher (ITM)
 Shobhana Mishra (JMC)
 Pooja Agarwal (Computer Science)
 Mukti Prada Mohapatra (MCA)

UNDERGRADUATES

Smita Baithalu (Botany)
 Akshaya Kumar Das (Chemistry)
 Shikha Mahawar (Accounting)
 Pragati Sahoo (Management)
 Pragyasmita Panda (Computer Science)
 Subhasmita Rana (Economics)
 Rasmi Rekha Dash (Education)
 Sampad Pattnaik (English)
 Devjani Bhuyan (Geography)
 Ananya Divyadarshini (Geology)
 Nasika Mohapatra (Hindi)
 Priyanka Das (History)
 Shilpa Bansal (Mathematics)
 Sonali Mishra (Oriya)
 Jayashree Pradhan (Philosophy)
 Sujit Kumar (Physics)
 Kirtimayee Routray (Political Science)
 Srujanwita Mohapatra (Psychology)
 Smrutirekha Sahoo (Sanskrit)
 Nalini Prava Behera (Statistics)
 Shilpismita Panda (Sociology)
 Sarbani Ashe (Zoology)
 Smita Manjal Sahu (BBA-Finance)
 Mousumi Mohanty (BBA-Marketing)
 Ramesh Kumar Kar (IST)
 Aliya Akhtar (ITM-Software Design)
 Swati Dutta (ITM-Networking)
 University Gold Medal for Best Graduate (Traditional) of 2010
 Shilpa Bansal (Mathematics)
 University Gold Medal for Best Graduate (Professional) of 2010
 Swati Dutta (ITM)
 Chancellor's Gold Medal for Borasambar Debate-2010 (First)
 Swayamshree Mishra (Sociology)
 Sampad Pattnaik (English)
 Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal for Borasambar Debate-2010 (Second)
 Devmitra Sen (Mathematics)
 Krishna Kasturika (Commerce)

POETRY POST

Two Poems

Krishna Kasturika

Love me like a prayer

Love me not out of passion
 For it might fade away.
 Love me not being charmed
 For it might be an illusion.
 Love me not for sake of commitment
 For it might be a burden.
 Love me not out of innocence
 For you might be wrong.
 Love me not out of reverence
 For it might turn to despondence.
 Love me like a prayer--
 Pure and soulful, timeless,
 With the fragrance of eternity.

Free me

Let me fly up to the zenith unscaled
 Let me delve into the depths unfathomed
 Let me look beyond the millions of horizons
 Let me reach the lands yet undiscovered
 Where time has stopped,
 Where soul has awakened,
 Bind me not--
 Free me.

--B.Com. IIIrd Yr

Losing my Religion

Tanaya Mohanty

Faith is a varnish,
 I paint on my skin,
 To hide the scars,
 Of failures I have been.

Love is a music,
 I drown myself in,
 To lid all the,
 Silence within.

Battles I win,
 Over the sanctity of time,
 Lesions I hide,
 Underneath my wings,
 To lose is a crime.

I plunge and lance,
 Myself in the deed,
 I wait now,
 For the true colours to bleed.

In the girth of this world,
 Lies the seed,
 Of lust, of just,
 Of need, of greed.

Gaps and voids,
 Now trouble my core,
 It cuts, it hurts,
 Like never before.

So, I soil and spoil,
 And sell my soul,
 Losing my religion,
 I lose it all.

--B.A. IInd Yr

Activities

Learning the digital way

Ravenshaw Knowledge Centre (RKC) supports study and teaching at the University by building and creating information resources and providing services that enhance their usefulness, accessibility, and availability over time. The RKC portal, consisting of thousands of e-books, journals, articles, dissertations, publications and heritage collections, has now been uplinked on the main server of the University. Faculty members and students can now easily access the portal at their departments.



Realizes the increasing importance of digital resources, RKC aims to facilitate creation, discovery and use of these resources and ensure long-term preservation, availability and access to these resources.

RKC has ambitious plans to subscribe to reputed databases like EBSCO, Science Direct, Emerald, JSTOR, Proquest, Springer-link, Wiley-Interscience, Cambridge Online, etc to enhance learning.

Ravenshaw University has been selected for UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium. The Consortium provides access to selected scholarly electronic journals and databases in different disciplines.

It subscribes to 19 full-text e-resources and 10 bibliographic databases from 23 publishers and aggregators. The Government of India has approved the implementation of the high-speed information network called National Knowledge Network (NKN) which will connect all major institutions of higher learning across the country. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been appointed as the implementing agency for the network.

It is a matter of great pride that Ravenshaw University is one among the institutions of higher learning selected for NKN connectivity. NKN will encourage and enable the use of specialized applications which allow sharing of high-performing computing facilities, e-libraries, virtual classrooms and large databases.

The Digital Book and Music Library is the first of its kind in the whole country. The mammoth collection of e-books and music files is now being explored by the students and faculty members.

--Report by
Mr. Chandrasekhariah
Ramaswamy, Director,
Ravenshaw Knowledge Centre

Alumni Meet

The Botany Alumni Association celebrated the 22nd Foundation Day of BARC recently. As a part of routine activities, BARC organized various competitions among the PG and UG students of the State Universities and Colleges and awarded prizes to the winners. Various memorial awards instituted by the revered members of BARC were also given to the meritorious students. Renu Giri won the Gopinath Sahu Memorial Trophy and Award for securing 1st position in M.Sc. Botany. Smita Baithalu got the Bimala Mitra Memorial Trophy and Award for securing 1st position in Botany (Hons.). Suranjana Sen Memorial Trophy and Award was given to Smrutiti Jena for securing 1st position in M.Sc. Biotechnology. Noted alumni of the department, Dr. NK Sen, Dr. SK Rout, Dr. PK Kanungo, Dr. Santosh Kumar Mohanty, Dr. (Mrs.) Sampashree Das and Sri Sujitav Satapathy were also felicitated on the occasion for their outstanding contribution to plant sciences.

President of BARC Dr. Pramod Kumar Kanungo, Vice-presidents Dr. (Mrs.) Bharati Behera and HOD Botany Dr. Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra, Secretary Dr. Padan Kumar Jena and all alumni members and faculty were present.



Prof. Bishnu Mohapatra, former programme officer in charge of local and global governance, The Ford Foundation, New Delhi and presently professor of politics, Singapore National University, visited our University on April 7 and had an insightful discussion with the faculty members. He urged social scientists to address contemporary problems afflicting the society and engage in meaningful research on various unexplored aspects of public life, and thus expand the frontier of social sciences making it truly inter-disciplinary. He stressed that we should not follow the western theories blindly and rather develop our own concepts, theories and paradigms on basis of our own experiences and observations. The way we are following the western concepts and theories while analyzing our own issues and problems is but imperialism of ideas, he pointed out. CCD Prof. Chandi Prasad Nanda presided over the meeting. (Report by Dr. Netajee Abhinandan)

Visiting Fellow

Chairman, Council of Deans and HOD History, **Prof. Chandi Prasad Nanda** was invited to deliver the Valedictory Address at a national seminar on "Women: Education, Health and Medicine" organised by the Department of History, University of Burdwan recently. He was also invited as a Visiting Fellow to the department.



New Administrative Block



Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor inaugurating the New Administrative Block of the University built at a cost of Rs. 3 crore. The three-storied building will house the administrative departments, computer centre and other offices.

Ravenshaw Radio goes on air



Ravenshaw Radio 90.4 MHz, Orissa's first campus community radio station (CRS) went on air on April 14 coinciding with the auspicious Bisuv Sankranti and Oriya New Year. Vice-Chancellor Devdas Chhotray inaugurated the radio station. The station is now broadcasting various programmes for six hours everyday with regular and repeat transmission from 4 pm to 7 pm and 7 pm to 10 pm respectively. Programme schedule for the whole week with names of the participants will be displayed in advance on all notice boards and University website.

Achievements

Economics bulletin 'Arthatathya' released

The Department of Economics celebrated its Annual Function on April 13 in the department seminar hall. Smt. Manorama Mohapatra, former editor of The Samaja graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. Radhamohan Mallik, former Professor of Economics, Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development

Studies addressed the students and the faculty as the Guest of Honour. Dr. Kumar B. Das, Professor of Economics, Utkal University delivered his speech as the Chief Speaker.

The guests successfully ignited the young minds with their thoughtful and motivational vocalizations. Prof. Das highlighted the uniqueness of Economics as a discipline, which is a perfect blend of Arts and Science. It should not be confined merely to be a gateway for job markets, rather it should find its end in the pro-

cess of transformation of lives and not congestion of minds, he said. Prof. Mallik drew attention to the adverse effects



of globalization on rural livelihood and agitated the young minds. Mrs. Mohapatra narrated the pangs of her own struggling life and encouraged the students to face divergent ordeals in life with strong will power and perseverance. She also depicted the contemporary economic crisis in her own charismatic poetic style.

The major point of attraction of the function was the release of the 'Arthatathya', the annual seminar bulletin published for the first time from the department. The 'Arthatathya'

candidly compiles the strengths, achievements and vision of the department along with brief research articles from faculty members as well as students.

Dr. Mamata Swain, Professor and Head of the Department, presided over the meeting. Dr. Sudhakar Patra, Seminar Advisor delivered the welcome address and highlighted the milestones achieved by the department. On this occasion, Prof. Baidyanath Misra Gold Medal was awarded to Priyabrata Satpathy for securing First Class First position in M.A. Economics for the academic year 2010. Finally certificates of merits and prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions and seminar paper presentations held in the department. The ceremony ended with the extension of vote of thanks by Debadutta Mahakud, seminar secretary of P.G. IInd year students.

--Bikash Ranjan Mishra

'Water bodies should have scientific revival plans'

Dean (Administration) and HOD Geology, Prof. Nachiketa Das delivered a lecture as the Chief Speaker at a function organised by the State Forest Department at the Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar on the occasion of 41st International Earth Day.

In view of depleting green cover and rising temperature, Prof. Das underscored the need to make Bhubaneswar more water-friendly and urged the civic authorities to concentrate on measures to ensure retention of water and revival of water bodies such as lakes, ponds and wetlands.

He said that large water bodies such as Bindusagar, Laxmisagar, Haaja Pokhari and other large water bodies in and around the city should have scientific revival plan in consultation with geologists, as it



Dr. Nachiketa Das flanked by scientists from Japan. (File Photo)

would also help recharge the ground water table. He also said that by building small dams on the hill slopes around the city, water retention capacity of the hills could be enhanced which would also lead to the growth of thick vegetation on the hills. He stressed that all buildings especially educational and government institutions should have compulsory rainwater-harvesting structures.

Internship, study tour

Saubhagya Ranjan Mohapatra and Sushil Kumar Sahu of M.Sc Geology (1st year) are going to spend two weeks from 15 May during the summer vacation as trainee geologists at Sesa-Goa iron mines of Vedanta PLC under an internship programme. Moreover, 15 M.Sc. (1st Year) students of the same department participated in a national level seminar organised by Central Ground Water Board recently. HOD Prof. Nachiketa Das was invited to the seminar as the Guest of Honour. Later, the students went on a study tour of the laboratory facilities of the Central Ground Water Board. All the students also went on a study tour to the Facor Charge Chrome plant at Bhadrak and acquainted themselves with the ore mining, metallurgical process, electric arc furnace and the production technology of charge-chrome.

Scholar extraordinary



Congratulations to Dr. Ganeswar Nath, the first ever candidate to earn the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from Ravenshaw University. He completed his Ph.D in Physics under the able guidance of Dr. Rita Paikray. The title of his dissertation is 'Study of Interaction of acetone and di-isopropyl ether with polar and non-polar liquids using ultrasonic technique at variable frequencies.'

OBITUARY

A luminary and a visionary

The Last Journey



Dr. Bijoy Kumar Misra

Prof. Rama Krushna Kar was last regular Principal of the erstwhile Ravenshaw Autonomous College. His love, dream and conviction to convert the old college into a leading educational institution of the country is a laudable achievement. His introduction of several self-financing, job-oriented courses like ITM, IST, BBA and JMC under PPP mode proved a boon for the students as they could successfully compete with students of engineering, management and other professional courses in the job market. He had only one mission in his life—to uplift the status of Ravenshaw. It was his untiring efforts which metamorphosed Ravenshaw into a University. He was also an academician and a scientist par excellence. He was an administrator of astute skills and a true lover and admirer of nature. He

had also written many textbooks, reference books and research articles published in prestigious science journals at the international level. Under his expert supervision and able guidance, many research scholars have been awarded Ph.D. in Botany. He was a great leader and during his tenure Ravenshaw has witnessed significant transformations and achievements. He led a very active and intellectual life for 62 years till his last breath. His mortal coil is no more but he will always remain immortal in our hearts as an infallible source of inspiration. Ravenshaw will continue to bear testimony to this great luminary and visionary. I salute him again and again. May the Almighty rest his soul in peace!

--The writer is former Warden and Professor, Department of Applied Geography

Renaissance

All the world's a stage in Ravenshaw

This is the very first time that the prestigious National Convention of SPIC MACAY is being held in Orissa at Ravenshaw University.

Ravenshaw University is going to host the 26th National Convention (Natcon) of the Society for Promotion of Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY) from May 23-29. This is the very first time that this prestigious event is being held in Orissa. As part of a curtain raiser programme ahead of the National Convention, renowned Dhurpad singer of the Darbhanga gharana Pt. Abhay Narayan Mallick and Pt. Sanjay Kumar Mallick performed at the Heritage Hall of the University on April 26.

Natcon is the annual meet of SPIC MACAY, which brings youth from the entire country on a common platform where they exchange ideas, share experiences and provide a way forward for SPIC MACAY for realizing its objectives. The 26th Natcon of SPIC MACAY, a first-time event in the state, will lead to congregation of more than 2,000 delegates from India and abroad. This year's convention is dedicated to the memory of Late Guru Gangadhar Pradhan and Late Pandit Bhimsen Joshi. The event also commemorates the birth centenary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore (150th birth anniversary), Swami Vivekananda, Pt. Mallikarjun Mansur, Poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz and Mother Teresa.

Many esteemed performers and artists, who belong to the glorious tradition of Indian classical music, dance and art, will perform for seven days. On the penultimate evening, performances will continue for the whole night. Pandit Birju Maharaj, Vidushi Girija Devi, Vidushi Sunanda Patnaik, Pandir Rajan Mishra and Sajan Mishra, Ustad Bahauddin Dagar, Vidushi Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande, Shyam Benegal and many eminent musicians will be performing.

Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Sri Ajay Maken will inaugurate the prestigious convention. Chief Minister of Orissa, Sri Naveen Patnaik, Orissa Governor Sri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, Ravenshaw University Vice Chancellor Sri Devdas Chhotray, Coordinator, SPIC MACAY, Orissa Chapter Sri Dhanada Mishra and several dignitaries will also grace the occasion.

The idea of SPIC MACAY germinated in the year 1972 in the Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York in the mind of Dr. Kiran Seth, an ardent follower of the Indian culture. By the year 1977, it gained momentum and a definite direction in India, until the year 1979 when a group of mechanical engineering final year students of IIT Delhi organised a two-day programme in which this movement got a name and was launched by them as SPIC MACAY.

It has been three decades since this movement originated and today it is on its way to reach the zenith of success in achieving its objective with the active participation of hundreds of schools and colleges across the country and abroad. Over 2,000 programmes are held around the year in over 300 chapters of the organization which bring young minds face-to-face with very best of our heritage, and inculcates not only a sense of appreciation, but also a feeling for our roots. SPIC MACAY's pioneering work in promoting art, culture and heritage among the student community has gained immense recognition across the globe. The week-long convention is the annual gathering of about 1,500 students, teachers and others associated with SPIC MACAY who get a rare opportunity to know more about our rich tradition, culture and heritage directly from the masters.



Proposed Programme

23rd May 2011

6:30 PM onwards

Inauguration by President of India*/
HE Governor of Odisha/ Chief Minister/
Sri Ajay Maken, Union Minister of
State for Sports and Youth Affairs
Vidushi Girija Devi (Hindustani Vocal)
Pandit Birju Maharaj (Kathak)

24th May 2011

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Talk by Padma Vibhushan Sitakanta
Mahapatra

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Dr. Madan Gopal Singh (Sufi)

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Charan Das Chor by Naya Theatre

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Vidushi Sujata Mohapatra (Odissi)
Pt. Venkatesh Kumar (Hindustani Vocal)

25th May 2011

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Creative Chhau by Padmashri Ileana
Citaristi

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Ottan Thullal by Sri Kalamandalam
Mohanakrishnan and Group (Kerala)

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Vidushi Methil Devika (Mohiniattam)

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Guru (Prof.) C. V. Chandrasekhar
(Bharatanatyam)
Vidwan T. V. Sankaranarayanan
(Carnatic Vocal)

26th May 2011

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Talk by Sri Gadadhar Mohapatra on
Gita Govinda

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Gotipua (Konark Nrutya Mandap)

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Throne of Blood by Akira Kurosawa

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Ustad Bahauddin Dagar (Rudra Veena)
Pt. Rajan Mishra and Pt. Sajan Mishra
(Hindustani Vocal)

27th May 2011

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Talk by Padmashri (Dr.) D. P. Patnaik

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Mayurbhanj Chhau

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

The Making of the Mahatma
with Shyam Benegal

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Ustad Nasiruddin Sami (Hindustani Vocal)
Vidushi Kapila Venu (Kootiyattam)

28th May 2011

12:00 Noon – 2:30 PM

Presentation

8:30 PM – 6:30 AM (Overnight)

Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar (Hindustani Vocal)
Vidwan U. Srinivas (Carnatic Mandolin)
Vidushi Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande
(Hindustani Vocal)
Ustad Asad Ali Khan (Rudra Veena)
Vidushi Sunanda Patnaik (Hindustani Vocal)

29th May 2011

10:00 AM

Heritage Tour

**Special Attraction: Crafts Village with
20 Master Craftsmen from all over India**
Daily Events

4 AM – 7 AM: Hatha Yoga/ Nada Yoga

9 AM – 12 Noon: Intensives (Workshops)