



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF POST GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

NEWSLETTER 2023-24

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE OFFICE BEARERS

President

Swapan Kumar Datta

Vice-Presidents

Ila Choudhury

Rita Kundu

General Secretary

Asok Kumar Biswas

Jt. Secretaries

Swapan Bhattacharyya

Madan Mohan Bhattacharjee

Surekha Kundu

Treasurer

Sudipta Roy

Editor

Moushumi Roy

Council Members

Animesh Ghorai

Pranab Kumar Bandyopadhyay

Sushanta Kumar Ghosh

Biswanath Chakraborty

Prabir Kumar Ganguly

Shyamal Kumar Chakraborty

Debabrata Maiti

Maumita Bandyopadhyay

Soumitra Paul

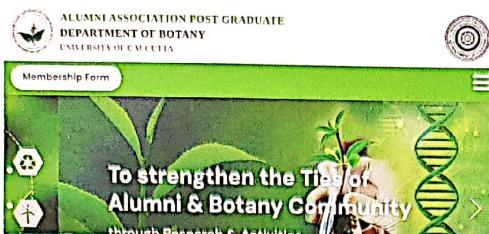
Parimal Nag (Co-opted)

Subrata Biswas (Co-opted)

Somnath Matilal (Co-opted)

Kutubuddin Mollah (Co-opted)

Arabinda Pramanik (Co-opted)



Log on to <https://alumnipgbotcu.in/>

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



Respected members and friends,

I am glad to convey my best regards, wishes and greetings to my fellow colleagues, friends, teachers, students and well wisher of the Botany Department on the occasion of the 53rd Annual General meeting of the Alumni Association of the Post Graduate Department of Botany, University of Calcutta to be held on 11th September 2024 at Botany Department, Science College

Campus, Ballygunge.

I would like to thank all the EC members along with other members for supporting the annual activities of the Association particularly achieving the successful Conference remembering the Birth Centenary celebration of Prof. A.K. Sharma, Founder President of the Association where eminent scientists Dr H Pathak (DG, ICAR), Dr R Varshney, FRS (Australia), and Dr A Bandyopadhyay (ICRISAT, Mexico) delivered exciting lectures along with others on Structural and Functional Genomics of Plants in the context of Climate Change and to ensure Food security. More than 200 participants from all over India attended the conference.

Dr Asok Biswas, Secretary of the Association would cover the other activities including the Reunion of the Department of Botany, Plantation etc, over the year with pleasure, responsibility and enthusiasm.

My great appreciation and thank you note for the Head of the Department, Prof. Rita Kundu for the support and help in perusing the activities of the Association needs a special mention. I am grateful to all other EC members particularly Dr Ila Chaudhury, Dr Swapan Bhattacharya, Dr Sudipta Roy, Dr Moumita Bandyopadhyay and Dr Soumitra Pal for their all kinds of help.

September 11, 2024

Professor Swapan Kumar Datta
President, Alumni Association



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Celebration of Prof. A.K.Sharma's Birth Centenary and International Symposium

To celebrate the birth centenary year of this iconic personality, the Alumni Association of Department of Botany, University of Calcutta and the Department of Botany, CU had organized an International Symposium on STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS IN PLANTS on 3 June at Archana Sharma Memorial Hall of the Department of Botany. Dr. Himansu Pathak, DG, ICAR inaugurated the event. Prof. Rajeev Varshney took part from Australia. Dr. Anindya Bandyopadhyay from Mexico was the other speaker. There was a Panel Discussion on Prospects and Progress with Plant Sciences. A lively exchange took place between the students- scholars and the experts who were chosen from academia as well as research.



Inaugural session of the symposium on 3 June 2024



Part of audience on 3 June 2024



Panelists in the Symposium dt. 3 June 2024



Symposium coverage in Anandabazar Patrika

Inauguration of Prof. A. K. Sharma Memorial Museum

The erstwhile office of our Sir, Prof. Arun Kumar Sharma has been curated and converted to a museum on 31 December, 2023 which was the 99th birthday of Sir. It was a long-standing dream which got fulfilled by the endeavor of Head of the Department Prof. Rita Kundu and all other faculty members. The university authorities and particularly the acting VC Prof. Shanta De Dutta took all measures to curate this room from where Prof. Sharma brought out all his important works. The museum was inaugurated by Prof. Datta, the acting VC. The acting Registrar and dignitaries from Engineering and Estate department of the University were also present. The awards of Sir, most of his books and also the instruments that he worked with are kept here. On the same day the new room for the Alumni Association was inaugurated by our senior-most EC member Dr. Ila Chowdhury.



VC, University of Calcutta signing the visitor's book in AKS Museum



Floor decoration on 31 Dec, 2023 the 99th birthday of Prof. Sharma

74 th Reunion

Fera 2024, the 74th Reunion of the Department was held on 28 January 2024. Dr. R. N. Mukherjee was the Chief Guest. The programme was hosted in the garden area of our campus. About 300 members of alumni from different batches took this opportunity to re assemble at our alma mater. Cultural programmes were presented by past and present students.



The dignitaries in the stage



Reunion 2024



Newspaper coverage of Museum dedicated to AKS.

Professor A. K. Chandra Memorial Lecture 2023

A memorial lecture is arranged every year to commemorate the legacy of Prof. Asish Kumar Chandra who died prematurely in 1992 while serving this department. Last year the lecture was delivered by Dr. Wridhiman Ghosh, Associate Professor, Geomicrobiology Lab, Bose Institute and he spoke on Life in Physicochemical Extremes. Staff, students and scholars from this and other institutions attended the lecture.



Prof. A. K. Chandra
Memorial Lecture 2023

Part of the audience in
A. K. Chandra Memorial Lecture

Alumni Adda 2023

The annual get together of members of alumni for the first time took place in 2017 and since then we are observing 12 January each year as Alumni Adda day. The get together was held at the Guest House in the campus and more than 50 participants were there. The whole day assembly was served with breakfast, lunch and coffee.



Alumni Adda

Lunch at Alumni Adda on 12 Jan, 2024

Briksharopon 2024

Every year the association makes an effort to add to the greenery of Taraknath Palit Camus by organizing a Planting of trees festival in the monsoon season. This year the programme was organized on 7 August 2024 and four saplings were planted in the garden area. Dr. Arabindo Pramanick and Dr. Somnath Matilal took major initiatives in procuring and planting the saplings. Head of the Department and other teachers were present along with other members of alumni.

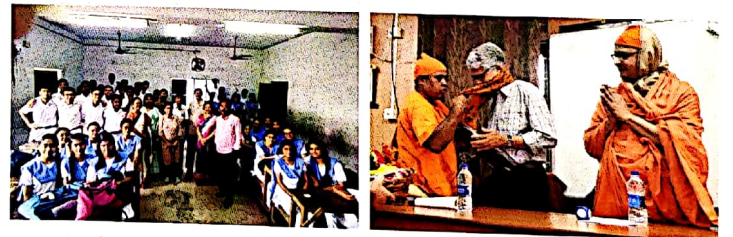


Briksharopon

Outreach Programmes

On 8 June 2024 Dr. Shyamal Kumar Chakraborty along with the Secretary Prof. A. K. Biswas along with three of our ex students namely, Dr. Sabarni Biswas, Dr. Paramita Chatterjee, Sri Sourav Sengupta discussed and demonstrated some essential Plant Physiology practicals and organized a doubt clearing session with XI and XII students of Jadavpur Vidyapith. About 70 students took part in the programme.

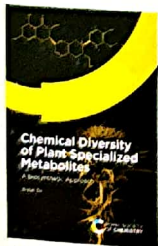
Dr. Swapan Bhattacharyya delivered the orientation speech to new class XI entrants in RKM Vidyalaya, Narendrapur on 21 March 2024.



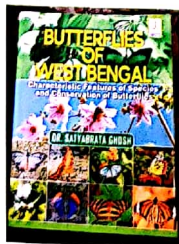
Alumni members in
Outreach programme
at Jadavpur Vidyapith

Dr. Swapan Bhattacharyya
being facilitated at RKM,
Narendrapur during
Outreach Programme

Books from members of Alumni



Prof. Bratati De's
Book Cover



Dr. Satyabrata
Ghosh's
Book Cover



WB Book Board
Textbook in Bengali

Prof. Bratati De's book was published by Royal Society of Chemistry and the details can be accessed at <https://books.rsc.org/books/edited-volume/2074/Chemical-Diversity-of-Plant-Specialized?searchresult=1>

Dr. Satyabrata Ghosh's book on BUTTERFLIES OF WEST BENGAL was published posthumously and an excellent example in monographing and conservation.

The West Bengal State Book Board took initiatives in publishing Honours Level Texts in Botany. First volume was contributed by Dr. Swapan Bhattacharyya, Dr. Sushanta Kumar Ghosh and Dr. Arup Kumar Mitra. The series is edited by Dr. Shyamal Kumar Chakraborty.



Inauguration of Alumni Office on 31 Dec 2023

HONOURS AND ACCOLADES

Professor Swapan Kumar Datta (Batch 1974), President of the Association, has been awarded with INSA Honorary Scientist position by Indian National Science Academy. He will be engaged with Department of Botany, University of Calcutta.

Professor Bishwanath Chakraborty (Batch 1976), Member of the Executive Committee, received Life Time Achievement Award from CAS Department of Botany, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, on 16 February 2024. He is also the recipient of Prof. A. Mahadevan Endowment Lecture Award from CAS Department of Botany, University of Madras.

Professor Usha Chakraborty (Menon), an alumnus of 1976 batch received Outstanding Woman Scientist Award from Indian Phytopathological Society at Assam Agricultural University on December 22, 2023. She was invited to deliver the 4th Prof. A.K.Sinha Memorial Lecture at Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya on March 27, 2024.

Dr. Kutubuddin Mollah of 2008 batch has won the African Research Network (ARN) Hackathon 2023 by American society of Plant Biologists –ARN, MD, USA.

Dr. Soumitra Paul, an alumnus of 2005 batch has been selected as a member of NASI in 2023 and has also been honoured with a membership of Plant Tissue Culture Association of India or PTCA (I) in 2024

Dr. Riddhi Datta (2011) has been selected as member of INYAS, (Indian National Young Academy of Science), 2023

Ms. Swarnali Dey (2019) got Raman Charpak and Fulbright Scholarship in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

ADIEU FRIENDS



Dr. T. Krishnan
(1955-2024)



Dr. Satyabrata Ghosh
(1953-2024)

Dr. Triveni Krishnan (1977 batch) had graduated from Bethune College and pursued her research under Prof. A. K. Chandra on bacterial enzymes. She was appointed as a Scientist at NICED, Kolkata and retired as a Deputy Director. Her pioneering research in Adult Group B rotavirus infections were the first of its kind to be reported outside China in 1999. Triveni died on 21 November 2023 at a premature age of 68.

Dr. Satyabrata Ghosh (1976 batch) had graduated from City College and pursued his research on bacterial amylase before joining Pingla Mahavidyalaya in Midnapore. Later, he shifted to SriChaitanya College, Habra and retired from there in 2014. His passion for wildlife was awe inspiring. His observations and records on butterflies of Bengal are now posthumously published as BUTTERFLIES OF WEST BENGAL (Purushottam Publishers, 2024). He was an excellent actor and perhaps reunion plays without him would never be the same again. He died on 19 July 2024.

Nothing can fill the void created by passing away of these two golden souls so suddenly. Rest in peace dear friends.

Published by: Prof. Asok Biswas, Secretary, Alumni Association of P G Department of Botany, CU

Edited by: Swapan Bhattacharyya

Designed & Printed by: LASERWORLD, (Contact: 98311 61961, Email: laserworld92@gmail.com)

