



**Office
of External
Affairs**

THE BRIDGE

The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

ISSUE 17 | JAN-FEB '21

Editor's Message

A very warm welcome to the 17th edition of the Bridge, the official newsletter of the Office of External Affairs (OEA). We are delighted to report that the OEA is actively involved with our partner universities through the production of weekly Information Sessions. Do drop by the Facebook page of the OEA to learn more and to join the conversation <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU>. On that note, the number of our partners continues to expand and now exceeds 160 (<http://institutions.northsouth.edu/oea/international-affairs/partnership/list-of-mous/>), thanks to your hard work and interest in supporting the Vice Chancellor's effort toward internationalization. If you would like to share updates about any activities with our partner institutions, we would love to feature you in any future issue of the Bridge. Happy reading and happy Spring!

Editor

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NSU Initiates Outreach to National and International NGOs in Bangladesh

North South University (NSU) has a renewed emphasis on research, so we are exploring all avenues and making a concerted effort to accelerate the pace of research. **Our Honorable Chairman, Mr. M. A. Kashem, Board of Trustees and the Honorable Vice-Chancellor have been enthusiastic about research activities. At present, research activity is the number one priority on the work list of NSU.** As such the NSU Research Foci Booklet includes specific information about NSU's faculty research interests by department. The Office of External Affairs (OEA) has made it easy for potential interested researchers anywhere to find and contact our researchers for the possibility of joint collaboration.

For the first time, **as part of that effort, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA** has taken an initiative, carried out by **Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA** to send the NSU Research Foci Booklet to government-registered local NGOs for potential research collaboration, joint publications, training programs, and internship opportunities through possible MoUs. As we have international collaborations with numerous renowned universities around the world, one of the things that is of interest to researchers is to come to Bangladesh. By sharing that we have relationships with NGOs, it catches their interest. So, there is an opportunity for research work with international researchers in Bangladesh through NSU and the NGO network. International researchers become excited about the idea – whether as graduate students working on their PhDs or already established researchers. They know that Bangladesh is a suitable place for research work – considering its rapid development. For this, they want to come to Bangladesh and meet with the NGOs to do research work with them jointly.

For this purpose, the OEA started reaching out to government-registered local NGOs by sending the NSU Research Foci Booklet starting in October 2020. By the end of 2020, the OEA had sent out 155 NSU Research Foci Booklets resulting in one new MoU between Syed Nuruddin Ahmed Development (SNAD) Foundation and NSU on 05 January 2021. By the end of February 2021, the OEA had sent out another 195 Research Foci Booklets resulting in a second new MOU between the Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development (BASD) and NSU and there is a possibility to sign a third MoU with Voluntary Association for Family Welfare and Social Development (VAFWSD) which is in under process.

To make this initiative successful, the OEA will invite the Director, Research, Research Coordinators, Department Heads, and Expert Faculty Members of NSU to meetings with NGOs to explore possible collaborations and research projects in the future.

For your kind knowledge and information, the OEA works like a bridge between NSU and government-registered NGOs for possible joint research collaboration and publications, training programs, and internship opportunities. We need your kind support to do this work. The following table shows the current progress from this effort:

Sl.	Meeting Date	NGO Name	Contact Person	Website link/Remarks
01.	14 October 2020	Lighthouse NGO	Mr. Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, CEO	www.lighthousebd.org Met to discuss MoU renewal

Sl.	Meeting Date	NGO Name	Contact Person	Website link/Remarks
03.	25 November 2020	Center for Services and information on Disability (CSID)	Mr. Khandaker Jahurul Alam, Executive Director	www.csid-bd.com
04.	01 December 2020	ABALAMBAN	Mr. Sadequl Islam Golap, Chairperson	www.abalamban-gaibandha.org
05.	17 December 2020	Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS)	Prof. Ishrat Shamim, President	www.cwcsbd.org
06.	30 December 2020	SNAD Foundation Bangladesh (SNADF)	Mr. Syed Nuruddin Ahmed, Chairman	www.snadfoundation.org MOU established
07.	05 January 2021	Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development (BASD)	Mr. Boniface Subrata Gomes, Executive Director	https://basd-bd.org/ MOU established
08.	11 January 2021	Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB)	Dr. Shamsul Bari, Chairman	www.rib-bangladesh.org
09.	17 January 2021	Voices for Interactive Choice & Empowerment (VOICE)	Mr. Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, Executive Director	www.voicebd.org
10.	08 February 2021	Tauri Foundation	Mr. Ashfaque-UL-Kabir, Executive Director	http://taurifoundation.org.bd/index.html 2nd meeting pending
11.	14 February 2021	Voluntary Association for Family Welfare and Social Development (VAFWSD)	Dr. Abdul Kayyum Laskar, Founder and Chief Executive	www.vafwsd.org
12.	18 February 2021	Badabon Sangho	Ms. Lipi Rahman, Executive Director	www.badabonsangho.org
13.	01 March 2021	Voluntary Association for Family Welfare and Social Development (VAFWSD)	Dr. Abdul Kayyum Laskar, Founder and Chief Executive	www.vafwsd.org 2nd meeting held in with Director, NGH & CRI and, Director, OEA, NSU for joint research proposal
14.	07 March 2021	Bihanga Mohila Sangstha (BMS)	Ms. Sajeda Mohiuddin, Executive Director	https://www.bms-bd.org/
15.	11 March 2021	International Centre for Climate Change and Development	Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director	www.icccad.net
16.	14 March 2021	Committee for Rural & Urban Development (CRUD)	Dr. Md. Akhter Uddin Murad, Chief Executive Director	https://crudbd.com/
17.	18 March 2021	Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation (CCEC)	Mr. Mowdudur Rahman, Director	https://www.ccec-bd.org/

For more information about this effort, please reach out to Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon Officer, Office of External Affairs at mehedi.sumon@northsouth.edu

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 16



The sixteenth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on 03 January 2021 having a distinguished alumnus from the BBA batch '93 of North South University, Mr. Shah Al-Mamun Tareq, as the guest. A special thing about Mr. Tareq is that he was the very first registered student of NSU, according to NSU enrollment history – Roll 001!

The talk show started with a brief discussion about Mr. Tareq's career and professional life. Mr. Tareq developed his career in finance oriented sectors from the very beginning of his professional journey. After being associated with the banking sector for a long time, he shifted his career path towards financial analysis and the tech management sector. Currently, Mr. Tareq is working as the Commercial Financial Manager in Imerys, which is a French mining company. He supports the sales team of the company with financial

analysis and market research. From his experience of working with diverse international companies, Mr. Tareq pointed out that his current workplace has a slightly different office culture than general in USA or UK based companies.

As a person of versatile experience in the finance sector, Mr. Tareq shared some ideas and suggestions about how to ace the financial sector. In this context, he emphasized having a good working knowledge of Excel. Another unique thing that Mr. Tareq mentioned to be important in career development is having proper mentorship or guidance. But most importantly, he mentioned that in order to perform well in the finance sector, a candidate must love numbers, and be a numbers person!

In the later portion of the event, Mr. Tareq was requested to share some of his cherished memories from his student years at NSU. He shared an interesting story about the decision of choosing NSU to do his undergraduate degree and how he ended up becoming the first registered student of this reputed educational institute.

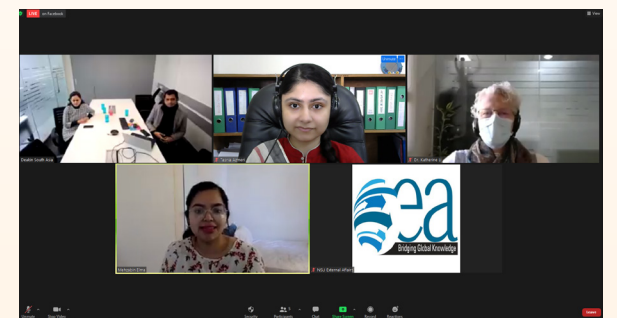
Throughout the event, Mr. Tareq mentioned the importance of a strong and elaborate alumni base several times. From his experience and observation, he has perceived that a well-connected and maintained alumni base is a treasure for any institution and helps an institution to grow in a very disciplined way. Mr. Tareq wrapped up his speech by advising the current students and recent graduates of NSU to stay connected with their institution, faculties and batch mates and to maintain their work ethic strictly no matter in which sector they decide to work in.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/161677878649274>

Information Session with Deakin University, Australia

North South University OEA organized a web information session with Deakin University, Australia on 06 January 2021. Mr. Basat, Senior Manager, International Marketing and Recruitment, Deakin University and Ms. Priyanka Singh, Regional Head, Recruitment and Business Development – South Asia, Deakin University were present in the webinar as guests and speakers. The interactive session was conducted on Zoom and was shared on Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.



Throughout the session, the speakers focused on the educational facilities of a number of world-class Australian universities especially Deakin University and what it has to offer to international students. Australia is a country of cultural diversity. People from almost every continent of the world gather in Australia for various reasons which makes the country a creative hub for research activities and newer inventions. Many top-ranked universities of the world are located in Australia which increases the practice of research and creativity there. This diversity has evolved a friendly environment in the country that attracts students from all over the world to choose Australia for their higher studies.

Among several world-class universities of Australia, Deakin University has been one of the top choices of international students who aim to pursue higher studies in Australia. Around 227,000 international students from over 170 countries are currently studying at the university. One of the top qualities of the university is its student-friendly administrative and curriculum structure. The interest of the students is always taken into account by the university authority. Deakin University offers versatile faculties and diverse study areas for the students studying there. Moreover, the university facilitates its students with internship openings, research projects and other workplace learning opportunities. The university already preserves and is tirelessly working towards expanding national-international accreditations and industry links which enlarge the job opportunities for Deakin graduates to a great extent. One of the extraordinary features of the university is its well-built and organized support services setup for adjustment of new international students. Such arrangements help newly admitted international students to get along with both the culture and system easily and make their experience smoother. Deakin University offers scholarship opportunities, credit transfer and study abroad for one semester especially for the international students.

The guests of the session mentioned that a good number of Bangladeshi students are currently studying at Deakin University, Australia. One such student, Mehzabin Elma joined us during the session and shared her experience of pursuing higher studies at Deakin University.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/416521826348228>

Information Session with RMIT Global, Australia



North South University OEA arranged a virtual information session with RMIT Global, Australia on 11 January 2021. The event was hosted by Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA and as the guest, we had Mr. Abhishek Tulsian, Head of Recruitment and Institution Engagement, South Asia Region, RMIT Global. The interactive event was conducted through Zoom and streamed on Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a brief introduction about RMIT Global. RMIT is a reputed global university of technology, design and enterprise. It has a worldwide reputation for practical education and outcome-oriented research. The institute has three campuses in Australia (Melbourne), Vietnam and Barcelona, Spain (research center).

RMIT Global has been one of the top choices of international students who want to pursue higher studies in Australia. According to QS ranking, the university is one of the top 1% of the world. Among the total number of 90,000 current students of the university, over 20% are international students coming from over 197 countries all around the world. RMIT Global is currently closely working with Bangladesh. One of the prominent unique features of the university is its flexibility in the learning process for students. It facilitates its students with a large variety of course offerings or programs under different colleges. RMIT Global has built and has been closely preserving a strong alumni network and industry connection considering the profitability of its students in long run.

The employability rate of RMIT graduates is quite high. Besides the aforementioned opportunities, the university avails its students with diversified research programs and convenient work permit access during study and after graduation. The guest of the event – Mr. Abhishek also discussed the tuition fees and accommodation facilities that RMIT Global generally offers to international students.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/399868841090116>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 17

The seventeenth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on 19 January 2021. The guest for this episode was Ms. Taufica Erfan, a distinguished alumna from North South University BBA batch 97. Ms. Taufica majored in Human Resources Management and is currently working as the Director of Human Resources at DHL Express Bangladesh.

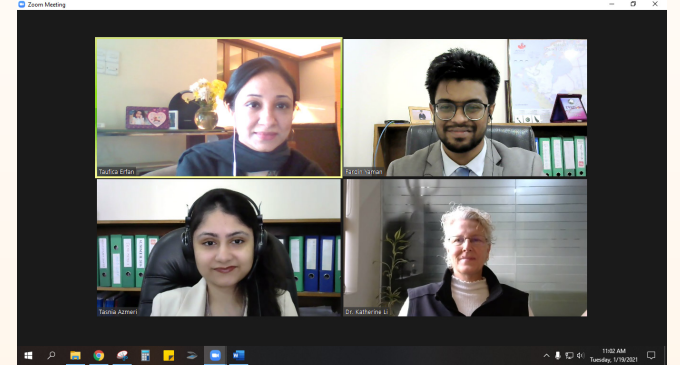
The event started with a brief discussion about the academic and professional journey of our guest. Ms. Taufica shared the incidents and flow of her academic and career journey. As she is a Human Resource specialist and has been working in this field with renowned domestic and multinational companies for a long time, she briefly described the current HR trends of the industry. She discussed the importance and impact of human resources management for the betterment and growth of companies. Following this context, she also explained how the management process of human resources, recruitment, etc. works and added interesting tips regarding ways of acing corporate interviews for fresh graduates.

Ms. Taufica also shared some cherished memories and incidents from her NSU campus life. Nostalgia hit her hard while remembering the golden times she spent on the NSU campus. An interesting fact about Ms. Taufica is that she started her academic journey in engineering and later on, she shifted to business studies. According to her, the most amazing feature of North South University's teaching culture is the cooperativeness and helpfulness of faculty members.

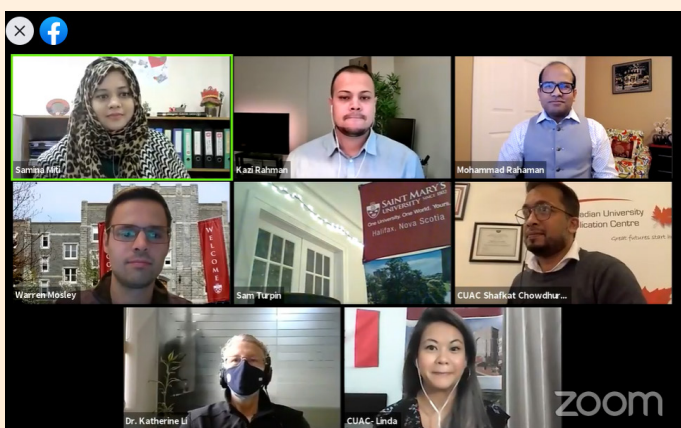
The event ended with some precious advice for the current students and recent graduates of NSU from Ms. Taufica. She especially emphasized determining ones goal and being focused. She also advised to always keep the enthusiasm up in every aspect of life, no matter whether it is academic, professional, career or personal.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1819767554843975>



Information Session with Saint Mary's University, Canada



North South University OEA organized an online information session with Saint Mary's University, Canada on 21 January 2021. The event was attended by a number of distinguish guests representing both Saint Mary's University delegation team and Canadian University Application Center. The guests included Dr. Mohammad Rahaman, Associate Dean, Strategic Partnership and Community Engagement, Sobey School of Business; Linda Te, Director and Regional Manager, CUAC Global Marketing; Samuel Turpin, Student Recruitment Officer, Saint Mary's University; Kazi Rahman, Senior Recruitment Officer, Saint Mary's University; Warren Mosley, Senior Recruitment Officer, Saint Mary's University; and Shafkat Chowdhury, Director, Global Logistics and Bangladesh Office, CUAC Bangladesh Office.

The event started with a brief speech from Ms. Linda about the history of the strong connection between Canadian University Application Center and North South University. She mentioned that although CUAC is functioning in several other countries of the world now, the very first office of the organization was established in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1997. In fact, their very first school connection was with North South University and the Director of Global Logistics of Bangladesh Office Mr. Shafkat is an alumnus of NSU.

Next, Mr. Kazi and Mr. Turpin coordinated a detailed presentation informing the audience about Saint Mary's University - its history, education structure and facilities. Mr. Kazi mentioned that Saint Mary's is in one of the oldest universities in Canada. The university is located in Halifax, Canada. The university's business school is one of the top business schools in Canada. However, other than the Bachelor in Business, the university also offers Bachelor in Arts, Bachelor of Science, Engineering, and degrees with an environmental focus under the School of Environment with multiple majors under these faculties. Another fascinating fact mentioned about Saint Mary's University is that it is the second largest research university in Canada. A good number top researchers of the world have worked with the university and many are still associated with the research activities there.

Saint Mary's university has been one of the top choices of international students who target pursuing their higher studies in Canada. Around 1/3 of the total students of the university come from outside the country. To be more precise, Mr. Samuel mentioned that last year, about 32% of the students were international students coming from over 115 countries of the world. During the presentation, the guests also presented a brief overview about student life there and campus facilities offered by Saint Mary's University. Moreover, admission requirements for transfer students, scholarship schemes, tuition fees etc. were discussed elaborately during the session.

During the latter part of the session, Mr. Warren briefed about the Sobey School of Business and Sobey Graduate Programs, which are under the Saint Mary's Business School.

The guests expressed interest about student, faculty and researcher exchange programs and wanted to actualize the process of exchange as early as possible. The event ended with a brief remark by Dr. Rahaman, the Associate Dean of Sobey School of Business.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/198430711993181>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 18

The eighteenth episode of NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on 27 January 2021 having Mr. Miran Hossain, a distinguish alumnus from the BBA batch 2004 of North South University. Having a dual major in finance and economics, Mr. Miran has always been professionally associated with the finance sector. After working with industry for quite a while, he shifted his career to the academic sector and is currently working as an Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Basically his core interest in research drove him towards the teaching profession. Mr. Miran mentioned that the thing he cherishes most about teaching is the never-ending chance of learning and development opportunities.

As Mr. Miran has been associated with the finance sector throughout his entire career, he informed us about the current situations and trends of this particular sector. He also mentioned the effects, challenges, impacts of COVID-19 and coping strategies being implemented regarding maintaining financial balance in the industry.

The session ended with sharing some interesting memories of NSU campus life from Mr. Miran. As he had been deeply involved and very active with student club activities at NSU, he shared his valuable experiences of club activities as well. He mentioned the tremendous effects of NSU in developing both his interpersonal and professional life over and over again. The thing that Mr. Miran emphasized several times throughout the session was the importance of soft skills. Along with sharing his personal experiences and observations about practicing soft skills, he advised the young graduates and current students to concentrate on self-development.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3767187889986450>



NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 19



The nineteenth episode of NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on 03 February 2021. We had Dr. M S Raunak, one of the most remarkable students of the very first batch of North South University was with us as guest. Dr. Raunak enrolled in NSU in the year 1993 and graduated from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering in 1996. In fact, he was the first valedictorian of the first convocation of NSU. Currently, Dr. Raunak is working with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, USA (NIST) as a Computer Scientist.

The discussion session with Dr. Raunak started with a brief overview of his current professional life and recent work and projects. He also discussed the activities and working pattern of his current workplace - NIST. As a computer scientist, his responsibility in the organization is to work on ensuring and improving computer security.

Dr. Raunak has experience working in diverse fields and sectors, starting from entrepreneurship to academia. In 2000, he, along with some of his allies, launched a website named 'Bangla2000.com'. While sharing the experience of developing and conducting the venture, Dr. Raunak stated that, "Although the venture ended up to be unsuccessful and couldn't sustain in the market, I still do not regret working on it as the experience and lessons I acquired from this initiative are priceless." The guest also mentioned that academia had always attracted him, thus he had been associated with teaching and research activities in universities. He added that, as a research institute, NIST can provide him with a proper academic and research-oriented environment.

As Dr. Raunak has the experience of being associated with several universities both here in Bangladesh and abroad, he mentioned the similarities and dissimilarities between the education system and structure of domestic and international universities. In this context, he mentioned that as NSU introduced and had always followed the North American education structure in Bangladesh, NSUers have an advantage in coping with the academic system and teaching style in international universities while pursuing higher studies abroad.

The event ended with a nostalgic touch as our guest share some interesting incidents and treasured memories from his student days at NSU. According to him, a bunch of culturally enthusiastic students got admitted to NSU and were groomed under some extraordinary teachers during his time. For the young graduates and current students of NSU, Dr. Raunak's suggestion was to set priorities, explore and do everything it takes to pursue dreams.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/119418383405278>

Information Session with the University of Maryland, USA

North South University OEA arranged a webinar with the University of Maryland, USA on 03 February 2021. The primary objective of the interactive information session was to provide the students with information regarding curriculum, academic structure, admission process and scholarship opportunities offered by the University of Maryland. We had Ms. Jody Heckman – Bose, the Associate Director of International Student Service and Ms. Megan Van Son, Manager of Graduate Admissions of the Graduate School of the university with us as guests and speakers. The event was conducted through Zoom and streamed on Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.



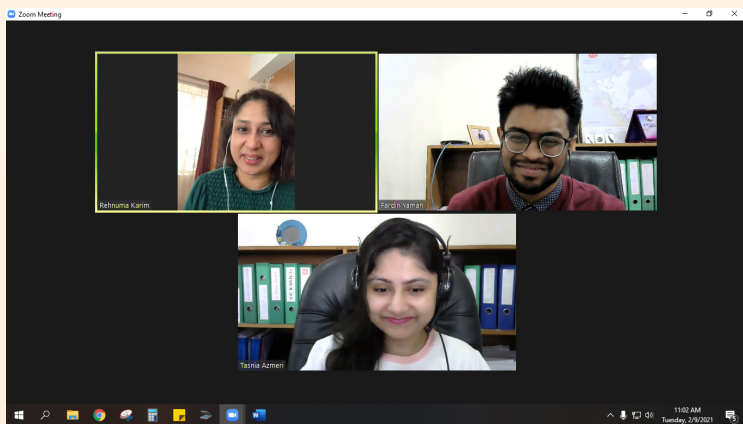
The first speaker of the session, Ms. Megan started her presentation with a comprehensive introduction of the University of Maryland. She mentioned that the University of Maryland is one of the flagship universities in the US. The university offers plentiful research opportunities for the students and is highly ranked among the public research universities in the US. The University of Maryland offers diverse courses and programs for both local and international students of graduate, post-graduate and doctoral levels. Students from over 100 countries around the world get admitted to the university for their higher studies. Ms. Megan also discussed about several types of funding and scholarships schemes that the university offers international students.

During the session, the guests also elaborately discussed the requirements of applying for admission and the application procedure of the University of Maryland. The English proficiency requirements for admission and the transfer process were also mentioned during the discussion. As for having a collaboration with NSU, the students of NSU can have exposure to some extra benefits and opportunities which were mentioned during the event as well.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/158988009174758>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 20



The twentieth episode of NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on 09 February 2021, having Dr. Rehnuma Karim, a distinguished alumna of the Department of Economics from batch '93, the very first batch of North South University. Dr. Rehnuma has chosen teaching as her profession and is currently working as an Adjunct Faculty at the State University of New York at Brockport. Apart from that, she is working in versatile fields with diverse innovative projects. Dr. Rehnuma is the founder and current president of a non-profit youth development organization called 'Heroes for All'. The foundation of this organization has an interesting backstory; according to Dr. Rehnuma, her involvement with the teaching profession inspired her to start the organization. The main purpose of 'Heroes for All' is to help young students to identify their true potential and passion and then help them to decide on their career paths. Ms. Rehnuma operates this organization with the help of her students. Another interesting and inspiring project of Dr. Rehnuma which is currently in progress is 'Becoming Me'. This project works with acid attack survivors and intends to bring out the inspiring stories of their fights and struggles.

As the event proceeded, the discussion topic shifted from career path and professional life towards nostalgia and memory sharing. For a while, Ms. Rehnuma went back to her student years at NSU and reminisced about her cherished memories from that time. She shared the story of her joining NSU. One of the interesting facts that Dr. Rehnuma mentioned is, she initially started her under-graduate degree in engineering, later she shifted to economics and the rest as we know has built her career in this sector. While sharing memories about her NSU campus life, Dr. Rehnuma especially mentioned the extra-curricular and co-curricular activity scopes that NSU offered to them and how those helped them to grow as communicative and cooperative individuals.

Throughout the session, Dr. Rehnuma emphasized authenticity as the most important trait and when it comes to leaving some advice for the current students and recent graduates of NSU, she repeated the same saying 'No matter what, be true to yourself and be authentic'.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/867000257427661>

Information Session with MacEwan University, Canada

North South University OEA organized an online information session with MacEwan University, Canada on 10 February 2021. The event was attended by a delegation team from MacEwan University which included Mr. Erin Wight, RCIC, Director of MacEwan International, Ms. Veronique Khamly, RISIA, International Recruitment Specialist, Dr. Hugh Mckenzie, Chair of the Department of Anthropology, Economics and Political Science and Dr. Shahidul Islam, Associate Professor of Economics. Ms. Samina Alam Miti, the International Affairs Officer, North South University OEA hosted the interactive webinar. The session was conducted through Zoom and streamed live on Facebook from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a brief introduction of the objectives, academic structure and opportunities of MacEwan University. Ms. Veronique mentioned that the specialty of the university is that it tries to ensure multicultural experiences for the students on their campus. According to recent data, around more than a thousand international students are studying at MacEwan University at the present time.

MacEwan University offers diverse programs and courses divided under the faculties of arts and science, fine arts and communications, health and community studies, nursing, school of business etc. for the students. The application procedure for undergraduate, graduate, credit transfer, PhD and research programs were discussed in detail during the session. Ms. Veronique mentioned the requirements for admission to MacEwan University while explaining the application and admission process. Required costs, fees, insurances along with scholarship opportunities available for international students in MacEwan were also discussed thoroughly during the event.

In the later segment of the event, Dr. Shahidul explained the international student-friendly system, culture and environment of MacEwan University by sharing his own observation and experiences with the audience. He mentioned that the university offers programs like academic advising, cultural integration, immigration advising etc. for the international students. Moreover, the university has clubs and student unions for better grooming and development of soft skills along with academic skills of the students.

MacEwan University also offers research opportunities for both students and faculties in different fields. The university structures its academic curriculum, programs and other opportunities intending the better grooming of the students which results in achieving a higher employment rate among the graduates of the university.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/836034143920638>



NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 21



The twenty-first episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on 15 February 2021. In this episode, we had Dr. Barnaly Rashid, a distinguished alumna from the ETE department batch 2006 of North South University as the guest. The session started with a brief introduction of Dr. Barnaly. After graduating from NSU, she completed her Masters' and PhD degrees from the University of New Mexico in Biomedical Engineering. She is currently associated with Harvard University as a Research Fellow. While discussing her current role as Research Fellow, Dr. Barnaly mentioned that Harvard Medical School is affiliated with several teaching and research hospitals and she is working under the Neurology Department of Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Barnaly's research area is early detection of aging-related diseases. Her prime task is to collect and analyze both structural and functional MRI data and to conduct clinical trials.

As Dr. Barnaly has the rare opportunity and experience of working at Harvard University, one of the best universities in the world, she shared her feelings and observations about the working and teaching culture of Harvard University. From her perspective, the research environment of her working space is both competitive and collaborative at the same time. She finds the research system and strategy of Harvard University very interdisciplinary. Another matter that Dr. Barnaly highlighted during the session was the similarity she noticed in curriculum, grading policy and education quality of North South University and the North American universities.

The discussion gradually led towards reminiscing about NSU campus life memories of Dr. Barnaly. She shared the treasured memories of her student years, from academic pressure to extra-curricular activities; about favorite faculties and about university friends. During the last portion of the session, Dr. Barnaly shared some important suggestions for the current students and recent graduates of NSU. For the students who want to pursue higher studies abroad, she suggested to start preparing as early possible. For any higher studies related help and advice, she encouraged the audience to contact the alumni of NSU, and advised them to use LinkedIn for reaching out and communication. Dr. Barnaly assured that any alumni of the institute would be more than glad to help their fellow juniors in every possible way.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/758311894819724>

Information Session with the University of Hull, UK

North South University OEA arranged a virtual information session with the University of Hull, UK on 16 February 2021. The event was hosted by Ms. Samina Alam Miti, the International Affairs Officer, OEA. As guest, Ms. Emma Payne, International Recruitment Manager, Global Engagements joined us during the informative session. The session was conducted through Zoom and streamed live on Facebook from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The purpose of the event was to inform the interested students of North South University about the higher studies opportunities in the UK, especially at the University of Hull. The event started with a detailed presentation introducing the University of Hull in brief and highlighting the education structure and offered programs of the university to the students. While introducing the university, Ms. Emma mentioned the foundation, location and infrastructure of the university campus.

Being one of the oldest universities of the United Kingdom, the University of Hull preserves a history of excellence and heritage of quality education. Since its foundation in 1927, the university has been maintaining a respectable rank in case of education and research both in national and international scales. According to the latest QS ranking, the University of Hull is positioned within the top 601 – 650 universities of the world. One of many interesting facts about the university is that it has been one of the key sponsors of the British Olympic Team – Team GB for a long time.

Among the total of 15,000 current students at the University of Hull, around 1,000 are international students. The administration of the university ensures adequate, affordable and comfortable accommodations and other campus facilities for both the national and international students. It has a very well-endowed library and several student unions, societies and clubs which help students to both socialize and develop skills. Moreover, the university offers several scholarship schemes and transfer programs for international students. Another specialty of the University of Hull is their specialized and well-organized support teams for international students, visa and immigration, career advices, etc.

The University of Hull offers undergraduate programs in almost all the conventional subjects along with some unique topics. All the programs and departments of the university are divided under four faculties which are the Faculty of Art, Culture and Education; Faculty of Business, Law and Politics; Faculty of Health Science; and the Faculty of Science and Engineering. The university is well recognized both locally and globally for its research activities and opportunities. Environmental and waste management oriented research are one of the main research areas of the university.

The presentation ended with an overview of the current condition of the campus and mention of COVID-19 coping strategies applied by the university authority. Ms. Emma mentioned that their campus is only partially open for students and administrative bodies due to COVID-19 pandemic.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1748613408640793>



Information Session with Texas A&M International University, USA



North South University OEA organized an online information session with Texas A&M International University, USA on 23 February 2021. We had Ms. Diana Carolina Valdez, Director of Office of International Engagement and Ms. Jessica Chandaris, International Student Advisor, Office of International Engagement with us as guests and speakers at the event. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed live on Facebook from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a brief introduction of Texas A&M International University from the guests of the event. The university is one of the oldest universities in the USA having the second largest student body of the country. The academic structure and education system is well built and diverse. Texas A&M International University offers programs and courses in several languages for students to choose from according to their preferences and convenience. As students from different regions and countries of the world come to Texas A&M International University for higher studies, the university preserves a unique blend of cultures on the campus.

For the convenience of students who are interested to apply to Texas A&M International University for higher studies, the guests mentioned the admission requirements and application procedure of the university in detail during the session. Along with other information, they mentioned the CGPA requirements, language requirements etc. for both admission applicants and transfer students. Information regarding tuition fees, insurance and other costs were also discussed during the event. A unique venture offered by Texas A&M International University is their 'International Student Mentor Program', a program especially developed for helping international students to adapt to the system and culture of the university. Such cooperative systems and cultures of the university are factors that makes the university preferable to international students.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1138648436583722>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 22

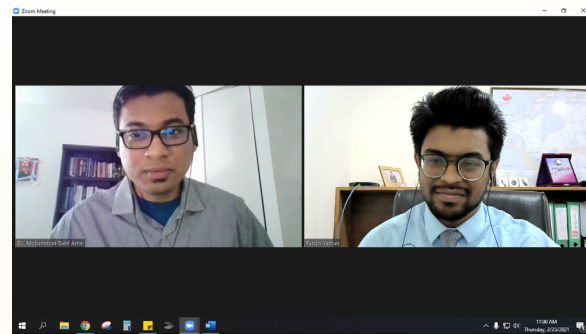
The twenty-second episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on 25 February 2021 having Dr. Mohammad Sakif Amin, a distinguished alumnus of NSU BBA batch 2005 as its guest. Dr. Sakif is currently associated with Western Michigan University – Haworth College of Business as an Assistant Professor. Although Dr. Sakif has been working in the academic sector for quite a while now, he didn't start his career initially in this same sector; his professional journey began in the banking sector. Later, he found himself more interested in research-related activities, thus he shifted his career towards academia. While discussing his professional life, Dr. Sakif mentioned that the thing he finds the most fascinating about the teaching profession is that it avails him opportunities to influence so many young lives. Moreover, the research opportunities, freedom and flexibility of academia suit him better than the corporate life.

As Dr. Sakif has expertise and experience working in both the national and international finance sector, he highlighted some prospects and features of current financial trends and digital sales during the session. He remarked that the recent technological dependency and advancement due to COVID-19 pandemic and analyzed how it has influenced global financial activities and how the post-COVID financial trends might turn out.

At the latter part of the session, the discussion proceeded toward reminiscing about the memories from Dr. Sakif's NSU student years. He felt nostalgic while sharing the treasured memories from his campus life of NSU. According to Dr. Sakif, what makes one's student life meaningful is the learning attitude and mindset. As an experienced and successful alumnus of North South University, Dr. Sakif shared some valuable suggestions with the current students and recent graduates of the university. He emphasized acquiring and practicing soft skills alongside academic knowledge and excellence. For ensuring higher studies opportunities in renowned universities of the world, Dr. Sakif suggested to concentrate on developing an excellent SoP (Statement of Purpose).

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/498183754907776>



International Faculty Feature



Dr. Surajit Bag is presently working as an Associate Professor in the Department of Marketing and International Business at the School of Business and Economics, NSU. Previously, he was an Associate Professor of Practice for one year, and then as a Visiting Professor with the College of Business and Economics, Department of Transport and Supply Chain Management, University of Johannesburg, South Africa (QS World University Rankings 2021: 439). Prior to joining academia, Dr. Surajit served manufacturing industries of repute for eleven years in various senior positions that included Section Head: Supply Chain Department at Tega Industries, South Africa plant.

Educationally, Dr. Surajit earned his second PhD from the Postgraduate School of Engineering Management, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, and holds his first PhD in Management from the School of Business, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, India. Dr. Surajit scored an MBA in Marketing Management (major) and Human Resource Management (minor) from MAKAUT (formerly West Bengal University of Technology), India.

Dr. Surajit has published research work in ABDC-A and A ranked journals (Industrial Marketing Management, International Journal of Production Economics, Technological Forecasting and Social Change, Annals of Operations Research, International Journal of Logistics Management, Information Systems Frontiers, Production Planning & Control, Journal of Enterprise Information Management, International Journal of Manpower and Computers and Industrial Engineering). His substantive areas of research interest comprise of Industry 4.0, industrial marketing management, digital supply chain management and circular economy. Dr. Surajit is the proud recipient of "AIMS-IRMA Young Management Researcher Award 2016" for his significant contribution towards management research, and his scientific research has attracted more than 1100 citations.*

Editorially, Dr. Surajit is an Associate Editor of International Journal of Applied Logistics (IGJ Global). He features on the Editorial board of journals like International Journal of Sustainable Engineering (T&F), International Journal of Logistics Economics and Globalization (Inderscience), Journal of Operations and Strategic Planning (SAGE) and International Journal of Technology and Human Interaction (IGJ Global). He is also International Advisory Board Member of International Journal of Social Ecology and Sustainable Development and International Journal of E-Entrepreneurship and Innovation (IGJ Global).

Dr. Surajit has edited special issues under International Journal of Social Ecology and Sustainable Development, International Journal of E-Entrepreneurship and Innovation and International Journal of Business Analytics (IGJ Global). His on-going special issue assignments covers International Journal of Manpower (ABDC-A) (Emerald); Journal of Enterprise Information Management (ABDC-A) (Emerald); The TQM Journal (ABDC-B), (Emerald); International Journal of Logistics Research and Applications (ABDC-B) (T&F); International Journal of Technology and Human Interaction (ABDC-C), (IGJ Global) and International Journal of Logistics Economics and Globalization (ABDC-C). Dr. Surajit is also present in the international scientific committee of 1st Business and Entrepreneurship international conference 2021, jointly organized by Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport and Modern College of Business and Science.

Interviewer: You have switched your career from industry to the academic sector. What inspired you to choose teaching as a profession over all other career options?

Dr. Surajit Bag: I started my professional life way back in 2008, when I joined industry and started solving daily challenges, preparing budgets,

training subordinates and interacting with new supply chain partners. I could gather practical knowledge and develop competencies, which helped me to train business management students and shape them as per industry requirements. Looking at my interest and capabilities to teach, I received a part-time teaching assignment at the Asian Council of Logistics Management in 2012 from my supervisor (Prof. Dubey), wherein I learnt the art of teaching. However, I shaped myself as an educator during my last assignment at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. My intension is to return something valuable to the society by creating quality students and that is the only reason I opted for this noble profession. I have always enjoyed supervising, writing papers and extending editorial work for various journals. I believe that teaching is one of the professions that never becomes obsolete with the passage of time and continues to allow one to gather wisdom.

Interviewer: As you have experience working with industry, academia and research-oriented sectors, what similarities and dissimilarities have you noticed between them?

Dr. Surajit Bag: Good question, firstly I would like to share a few dissimilarities between these sectors. Some of the key deliverables, for instance, in academia are teaching/lecturing, research, editing, coordination with students/other faculty members; whereas, in industry it involves achieving targets, reduction of expenses, developing collaborative relationships, risk management, increasing market shares and satisfying customers. Hence, the role of an academician and executive are totally different.

Nonetheless, there exist some similarities between industry and academia such as training, supervising of subordinates and students. Also, collaboration with supply chain partners is equivalent to building collaborative relationships for research in academia.

Interviewer: From your bio, we came to know that you have interest and achievements in research activities. What are the research areas or fields that interest you?

Dr. Surajit Bag: I keenly explore leveraging 4IR technologies to enhance industrial marketing management performance. I seek to examine the ethical and societal aspects related to application of advanced technologies on B2B marketing.

Interviewer: What are your future plans regarding research activities?

Dr. Surajit Bag: A major portion of my research activities involve publication of articles/papers. I have extensively published in high impact factor and ABDC/ABS/CNRS ranked journals. However, in the future, I aim to publish my research work in the Journal of Business Ethics (FT 50).

Interviewer: You have written a substantial number of publications on your subject-related topics. What motivates you to write/publish journals?

Dr. Surajit Bag: The motivating factor is my appetite for knowledge. I did a second PhD to advance my research skills. I don't want to stop learning and writing. I want to thoroughly understand existing organizational theories and further develop new theories for business growth and sustainability. The purpose of my research is to develop some meaningful research models that have a connection with the business environment and society.

In 2016, I received AIMS-IRMA Young Management Researcher Award (<http://aims-international.org/Awards/winners2016.pdf>) for my significant contribution towards research in business management. To date I have 99 publications, and my citations have touched 1135, h-index: 19 and i-10 index: 33, which clearly indicates my achievements as an emerging researcher globally.

Interviewer: How do you feel about being at North South University as a faculty member? Please share your experience of teaching at NSU with us.

Dr. Surajit Bag: Honestly, I am enjoying teaching at NSU. This university has good infrastructure, a credible resource pool and good students. My colleagues at the MIB department have really helped me to settle into this country.

Interviewer: As you have recently shifted to Dhaka, how do you like it in here? What similarities – dissimilarities do you find between Dhaka and your home country?

Dr. Surajit Bag : This is my first experience to be in this city/country. To my surprise, when I arrived to Dhaka, I completely forgot that this was another country. It is very much the same as Kolkata-busy roads, delicious street food, friendly people and a lot of rickshaws. Only difference is that there is no tram in this city-Ha! Ha!

Interviewer: What would be your advice and suggestions for the current and future students of NSU?

Dr. Surajit Bag: My only suggestion is to “Develop a Competitive Edge”. From my 11.7 years of industry experience I can say that when a student appears in an interview, he/she must have some extra set of skills. This attitude will surely differentiate him/her from rest of the candidates. It is important to gain industry oriented expertise such as effective communication skills, expert hands on SAP/ERP/Oracle systems, data analytics and certification programs from Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply/APICS SCM.

Alumni Feature

Rahi Khondker is a peak performance strategist, high productivity coach, and an international speaker. He helps individuals and teams to enhance their growth mindset exponentially and guarantees that his clients achieve great results. He helps them to dream big and believe in their big dreams. He skillfully helps to strategize actions and ensures those big dreams become reality a lot faster with minimum challenges.

Rahi is very passionate about transforming individuals metaphysically. He strongly believes that this makes individuals transform their physical world, the teams and clients that they serve, people they lead, and the lives they design for themselves and others. He assists people to start their journeys of self-discovery and growth, which quickly brings exceptional productivity to their work and family lives.

In the past, Rahi spent 20 years as a business analyst and project manager for large organizations. He has spent more than 12 years with the Australian Government and implemented large scale business improvement projects for various Government agencies. He holds a Masters research degree on why large projects fail from Monash University, Australia. In the last 5 years, Rahi has been actively implementing the transformational factors behind human performance enhancement. Rahi has been mentored by visionary industry leaders. Some of his direct mentors are Tony Robbins, Scott Harris, Dr. John Demartini, Robert Kiyosaki and Jay Abraham who individually transformed millions of lives and added billions of dollars to top companies. Rahi uses his industry skills and knowledge of the psychology of human growth to achieve mega successes for his individual clients, businesses and organizations.

Rahi lives by and leaves his clients with a simple but very powerful philosophy – “Get Stuff Done”. He coaches executives and entrepreneurs on how to Get Stuff Done, especially the very important stuff that transforms their lives, businesses and impacts a large number of people. With this philosophy and his unique coaching methodology, Rahi has taken many individual’s and teams’ performances to their peaks and ensured that their high performances have kept on accelerating.

Interviewer: When and how did you discover your passion to inspire and motivate other people and to help them with their personal development? In what specific ways do you practice what you preach?

Mr. Rahi Khondker: What I believe in the core, in the deepest part of everyone’s heart there is a strong desire to help others. Everyone wants to inspire others and transform themselves and I believe this is deeply rooted in all of us. In most cases, the outside noises and the voices of people we are exposed to are so loud that we don’t listen to the inner voice. In most cases, this voice is crying out to be heard – by self and others. Like most, I was living that similar life - busy with my career, not listening to my inner voice, till one day I suffered from a health injury.

An incident left me with dysesthesia, severe hypersensitivity and paraesthesia on the right side of my face. In layman’s terms – I was and still am in excruciating burning pain and feel all sorts of weird sensations on one side of my face. The pain was so unbearable and it had such an adverse psychological effect that for a few years – I was drugged up with antipsychotic, anti-epileptic, anti-convulsion, anti-schizophrenics, high doses of antidepressant and nerve pain killers. This went on for 3 years and at the pinnacle of my ‘I can’t take it anymore episode’ – one day I loudly heard my inner voice when I met a great human who was giving a lecture on personal development. I realized I could come out of my issues/ pain helping others to move forward. I realised not only can I get my life back, again but I have the power to help others who are going through some version or flavour of challenges in their own life. To keep the story short – the next 2 years were a severe uphill battle to ‘fix’ myself and learning the tricks of personal development and reprogramming my brain. The transformation of my thinking was a point that not only I saw the world more positively and abundantly, but also I reprogrammed my brain not to feel the physical pain that crippled me. Now I run events and seminars and talk in public to show how people can quickly overcome their challenges - mental, physical, career, relationship and in business.



Interviewer: You are known for your multiple ventures such as 'Get Stuff Done', 'Development Center', '7W Consulting' etc. We would like to know a little bit about these ventures of yours.

Mr. Rahi Khondker: I run two organizations. I am also in strategic partnerships with some of the largest speaking, coaching and business development platforms. I and with my strategic partners, we run many personal development and transformation events and trainings.

My coaching company, Get Stuff Done Coaching, helps individuals and teams to achieve great success in the quickest possible time. I coach them to lead fulfilled and productive lives. The other organization, 7W Consulting, helps businesses and corporates to grow fast using effective and market-oriented business strategies, joint ventures, project funding, growth strategies and productivity trainings.

Interviewer: You have been affiliated with Tony Robbins: a visionary advisor, entrepreneur, bestselling author, and philanthropist as strategic partner. Please tell us about the work you do with him and the experience of working with him. Tell us firsthand what it feels like to be in his presence.

Mr. Rahi Khondker: When I realized I wanted to transform myself and start a new path I needed help. I wanted to start a venture where I could help others, so I started attending many personal development events. One day I dared to buy a VIP ticket to Tony Robbins 4-day UPW event. To date, I still feel that money-wise, this was one of the best investments I made. Because the return is too big. Not only did I see how Tony made the whole personal development journey so exciting and fun, but I saw how empowering someone's self-believe, values, getting rid of unproductive thoughts can create awesome impacts in their materialistic world-business, study, work, relationships, health you name it.

Being around Tony is an unparalleled experience, the way he can influence people, get the best out of them and destroy all limiting beliefs is phenomenal.

I went back over the next 4 years and also attended some of his smaller events. I started working as a crew member/volunteer for the company that organizes Tony's events and became close to the management and CEO of the company. At one point I again dared to ask the CEO if I could become their strategic partner and promote Tony Robbins work, especially to Bangladesh and they agreed. They made me an ambassador, and now I officially promote Tony Robbin's events in Bangladesh and internationally.

Interviewer: During this time of the pandemic, when the whole world is taking a hit, in terms of health, economics, social perspectives, people are losing faith and confidence. What do you do to keep yourself motivated during this time of uncertainty and what do you advise other people to do?

Mr. Rahi Khondker: It is an unprecedented challenging time for sure. One way I kept my motivation up and still keep myself inspired is by the many things I have learned in my personal development journey. The first one is to keep mobile, in other words not spending too much time sitting in one place. I know it's hard to move around during restrictions but regular exercising is an important part of mental health. Have a healthy and productive routine and making sure to follow that. Also, have accountability partners. With this I mean that you report to someone for the important actions that you need to do. Spend time or talk to those people who are looking for solutions more than those people who are complaining about the current situation more. Regularly listen to (podcast, YouTube....) people who made great changes in others' lives, businesses, services, environment.... (Make sure you don't listen to those motivational speakers - who just speak but have nothing to show for it).

Interviewer: You are also the President of the Melbourne NSUers Alumni Association. Tell us about the alumni activities that have been going on in the recent times. Also, how is the NSU community doing over there in Melbourne currently?

Mr. Rahi Khondker: It is so awesome to have more than 300+ members in our Melbourne NSUers group. And many other ex-NSUers are there but not part of the group; but when we have events they come and join the fun. We have and continue to organize many events including big gala nights, cultural events, career events, sporting events and competitions. We also host VC night when our NSU Board of Trustees and the Vice-Chancellor come to Melbourne. We organize these events to keep the alumni stay connected. Also, the alumni connection plays a very vital role in assisting job seekers especially when our fellow NSUers are new to town or freshly graduated from the university.

Interviewer: As an NSUer, what do you advise to the future generations of NSUers regarding higher education, career, and life?

Mr. Rahi Khondker: We have been taught to think in some sort of first education > career > life in that order. I know there are some valid reasons and history behind why we are taught that way.

But if we take time to ponder and develop the courage to see the world in reverse order say life > career> education, then I think the shift in thinking will have a major impact on our happiness and achievement. Simply put we need to spend more time thinking about what we want from life than just following some pre-set very generalised success-path we have access to. I think once we can find our purpose and know what we desire from life, then we can get more success from our education, career and life. Will there be challenges and problems along the way? Of course, there will be, however, if we pursue a path we desire and we are naturally attracted to, we will be more driven to solve those problems and move forward.

International Student Feature



I am Shafie Ali Adan, from Somalia, I am a student at North South University, in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. I completed my primary and secondary education in my country particularly my hometown Galkayo in Central Somalia. I love playing soccer, which I started as a child. I have been working with educational organizations, especially in the education sector. I became the vice chairman of Galmudug Students Association and two years later I became Chairman, Association.

Interviewer: What inspired you to choose Bangladesh and North South University for your Bachelor's degree?

Shafie Ali Adan: The reason I chose Bangladesh is because it was a good place for education especially the department in which I study. I applied for admission to a university in the country and then I got it. When I arrived in the country I was not satisfied with the university that accepted me. I then researched the top universities in the country and I chose North South University.

Interviewer: What inspired you to pursue your Bachelor's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering?

Shafie Ali Adan: I was motivated to pursue my degree as my country is now in a better position and in need of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Moreover, my parents and siblings were also involved in motivating me to complete my degree.

Interviewer: From your bio, we can see that you have a rich experience working in leadership positions with diverse student associations. Please share your experience of working with such organizations and do you have any future plan to work with such organizations?

Shafie Ali Adan: I started working as an educator in middle school at the time and became the student leader of my school. I later joined the largest student body in the region, the Galmudug Student Association, until I became chairman. I would like to work for educational organizations and all social organizations and I have plan to work them, if God willing.

Interviewer: What are your future plans for your higher studies as well as career once you complete your Bachelor's degree?

Shafie Ali Adan: I hope to start mastering the next semester, if God willing, now my biggest plan is that there is also plan B and C.

Interviewer: What do you think about the virtual academic continuation of NSU to cope with the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic? Please share your experience of online classes with us.

Shafie Ali Adan: I hope the university will continue the online process until it reduces the risk of COVID-19. every time a new approach comes the experience is gained. In the online course of teaching since the advent of COVID-19, I have gained a wealth of experience about online instruction.

Interviewer: You have been staying in Bangladesh for a while now. What is your opinion and your observations about the people and culture of Bangladesh? How do you like it here?


Shafie Ali Adan: That's right, I've been living in Bangladesh for awhile. There are not many challenges now, people's culture and way of life are normal and similar to my country although there are a few things that make us different.


Interviewer: Anything you want to share with or suggest to the future applicants of NSU?

Shafie Ali Adan: I suggest to future applicants. NSU is a great university if you are aspiring to get a good quality education. The students are exposed to high-quality teachers, receive a high-quality education, and enjoy many top-quality education facilities.



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