

AUGUST 2025



JADAVPUR UNIVERSITYALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO NEWSLETTER

President's message

Dear JUAn Community,

I'm delighted to introduce our very first JUAn Toronto Quarterly Newsletter—a new initiative to strengthen communication, share updates, and celebrate the vibrant spirit of our alumni network. Through this newsletter, we hope to keep you informed about past and upcoming events, community highlights, and opportunities to get involved. This platform belongs to all of us, and we warmly welcome your contributions, ideas, and stories. Let's stay connected and keep the JU spirit alive—together.

Warm regards
Dr. Kaushik Sarkar
President, JUAn Toronto

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Update: Approved By-law Amendments Incorporated

We are pleased to inform you that the modifications to the JUAn Toronto by-laws, as proposed and unanimously approved at the 2025 Annual General Meeting, have now been formally incorporated into the governing document.

A copy of the updated by-laws will be shared with all members via email shortly for your reference.

We thank you for your continued engagement and support in strengthening the governance of our organization.



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JUAn Board members



Kaushik Sarkar - President

Kaushik graduated from Jadavpur University with a B.ChE in 2007, before switching gears into Computer Science. He went on to earn a Master's from the Indian Statistical Institute and a PhD from Arizona State University. He now works as a Software Engineer at Google Canada, leading a team building LLM-based applications for Internet Telephony. Kaushik has been part of the JUAn Toronto community since 2018 and joined the Board in 2023. He currently serves as President, beginning his term in 2024. Outside of work, he's busy navigating life with his curious and energetic 19-month-old - an adventure far more unpredictable than any wall he's ever climbed as an amateur rock climber.



Sanjukta Das- General Secretary, Newsletter Editor

A proud alumna of the English Department of Jadavpur University, Sanjukta completed both her graduation and post-graduation there, earning her master's degree in 1985. She migrated to Canada in her forties and is now a published author of two nonfiction books, currently working on her third. In Toronto, she teaches at Humber College and thrives in her role as a Placement Advisor, guiding students through their career development journeys. Sanjukta is also a certified life coach, an Art of Living meditation teacher, and the founder of WINGS—a non-profit supporting immigrant women. A lover of poetry and music, she finds deep joy in writing prose and poetry and singing Tagore songs.



Shikha Kundu - Treasurer

An Economics postgraduate from Jadavpur University, Class of 1978, Shikha holds deep affection for her alma mater. Her five years in the JU hostel made the campus not just a place of study, but a second home—filled with memories, friendships, and lifelong connections. She has been closely associated with the Jadavpur University Alumni Association of Toronto (JUAn) since 2011, actively contributing in various roles over the years. Currently, she serves as Treasurer, continuing her heartfelt commitment to the JU alumni community and its legacy.

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Sanjukta Chakraborty - VP Cultural

Sanjukta Chakraborty, a 1991 postgraduate in Comparative Literature from Jadavpur University, cherishes the deep intellectual and cultural roots her alma mater gave her. Now a Montessori educator, she brings creativity and care to her work—values nurtured during her JU years. A lifelong lover of music, Sanjukta finds inspiration in melodies that mirror the poetry and passion of her academic journey. As an active member of the Jadavpur University Alumni Association of Toronto (JUAn), she remains deeply connected to the JU spirit and community.



Madhuparna Debnath - VP Membership Outreach

Madhuparna graduated from Jadavpur University with a B.Arch in 1989 and earned a Gold Medal in her M.Arch in 1991. She later completed a Master's in Urban Design from the University of Toronto in 2006. She currently leads the Urban Design section at the Town of Caledon, reviewing and approving all development projects. An active supporter of JUAn since around 2010, Madhuparna officially joins the Board in 2025. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, creating memories with family, and spending time with her furry companion, Luca. She hopes to bring joy and fresh connections to the JUAn community.



Dipanjana Basu - University contact

Ph.D., P.Eng., F.ASCE, CEng, FIE(I)

Professor | Licensed Engineer | Consultant | Researcher | Mediator

A globally recognized expert in Geomechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, Dr. Dipanjana Basu brings over 25 years of experience across energy, renewables, mining, sustainability, and disaster resilience. He heads the GEO-SEMM Lab at the University of Waterloo, where his work integrates advanced numerical modeling (FEM, AI/ML) with innovative experimental research on soil and rock behavior.

A multi-award-winning teacher and researcher, Dr. Basu combines a life-cycle based design approach with a passion for environmental impact and reliability. Off campus, he is a happy father and devoted follower of His Holiness Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.



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Gouri Mukherjee - Outreach program contact



A former Bioscience student at Calcutta University, she went on to complete her postgraduation in Microbiology at Calcutta University. Inspired by a course in Food Technology and Biochemical Engineering, she returned to JU to pursue her PhD. This led her to Japan, where she spent over a decade researching bioremediation—a chapter she looks back on fondly, despite the famously long work hours. After moving to Canada, she shifted focus to human genetics due to limited opportunities in bioremediation. She later joined a pharmacogenetics startup, and currently works in marketing at a U.S.-based molecular biology company with headquarters in Japan. She has been an active member of JUAn since settling in Toronto nearly twenty years ago.

Chirasree Sen-Varma - Newsletter designing and publishing



Chirasree earned her Ph.D. in Science (Biophysics) from Jadavpur University, where she also taught first-year Engineering Physics during her post-doctoral research. The PG Science building was her academic home for nine meaningful years before she moved to the Seychelles Islands and later to Canada. She holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Professional Studies in Education & Training from the University of Surrey, UK, and completed both the e-Learning Developer and Adult & Staff Training programs at Seneca College in Toronto. With over 30 years of experience in education, she now serves as a high school educator and guidance counsellor, supporting neurodiverse teens in Toronto. A longtime member of JUAn Toronto, Chirasree joined the board this year. She enjoys music, arts and crafts, nature, wildlife, and outdoor adventures—embracing life's transitions with humour, creativity, and grace.

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Calendar of Events



Summer Picnic

Date: Sunday, September 7, 2025

Join us at Lakefront Promenade Park for a relaxed afternoon of sunshine, great food, games, and adda by the lake with fellow alumni and their families.



Bijoya Sanmelani

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025 (tentative)

An evening of celebration and shared heritage, beautifully reflecting the spirit of unity and nostalgia



Holiday Party (Fundraiser)

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2025 (tentative)

An event that blends joy with purpose. Help us raise funds for humanitarian cause and enjoy a cozy holiday party with the JUAn community.



Professional Development

Date: February 2026 (date to be announced)

A platform to support our members' professional growth. Panel discussions, networking sessions, and expert guidance—stay tuned for details.



Basanta Utsav

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026 (tentative)

Welcome spring with music, dance, poetry, and color as we celebrate Basanta Utsav in true JU spirit.

We look forward to your participation in these events and to building an even stronger JUAn community in the coming year!

— JUAn Toronto Committee



JU Alumni Reunion Shines Bright in Toronto

It was a reunion to remember. The Jadavpur University (JU) Alumni Meet, held on Sunday, July 6th, 2025, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, brought together Juites from Toronto, Ottawa, and across the United States in a celebration of memories, music, and enduring friendship. The energy in the room was unmistakable; the laughter, the stories, the spark of recognition between long-lost classmates. It was Jadavpur University in its truest form: warm, vibrant, and soulfully connected.

The event began with a heartfelt welcome by Madhuparna Debnath, followed by a brief and moving address from Kaushik Sarkar, President of the JU Alumni Association Toronto Chapter. What unfolded next was a lively session of storytelling, as alumni shared treasured moments from their university days—campus addas, classroom mischief, late-night debates, cultural programs, and friendships that had stood the test of time.

A standout moment of the afternoon was a parody performance, written by one of our own, to the tune of Manna Dey's timeless "Coffee Houser Adda Ta Aaj Aar Nei." The rendition—brought to life by Sanjukta Chakraborty, Mitali Nandy, Sujata Campana, Shikha Kundu, Kaushik Sarkar, and Sotabdo Debnath - was met with applause, smiles, and a few misty eyes, as it beautifully captured the spirit of JU's iconic coffee house gatherings.

The reunion wrapped up with group photos and refreshments from Second Cup, leaving everyone with full hearts and warm cups in hand. JU had once again proven that distance and time could never dim its light.

This unforgettable gathering was part of the broader celebration of the North American Bengali Conference (NABC) 2025, hosted in Toronto from July 4-6. NABC is a landmark annual event that brings together the Bengali diaspora across North America to celebrate cultural heritage, artistic expression, intellectual exchange, and community networking. With thousands in attendance, the JU reunion added a deeply personal and nostalgic note to an already rich cultural tapestry.

Together, JU and NABC created magic in Toronto. In the heart of Toronto, surrounded by the energy of NABC, JU once again stood tall, celebrating not just an institution, but a legacy, celebrating not only where we come from, but who we continue to be. Here's to many more reunions where time bends, hearts meet, and the Coffee House never quite closes.

**Join!
Now!**

Are you or your family member a JU Alumni?

Send an email to become a member

jualumni.to@gmail.com

Annual Membership fee \$25



PHOTO GALLERY

NABC Toronto Jadavpur University Reunion



*Thanks for reading!
Stay connected,
and
don't forget to share your thoughts with us.
See you in the next issue!*

