



Newsletter

July 2026 Volume 1

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI TORONTO

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Newsletter

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI TORONTO

July 2026 Volume 1

JUAN
TORONTO
ALUMNI. CONNECTION. COMMUNITY.

VIRTUAL SOCIAL

REAL CONNECTIONS. VIRTUAL VIBES.

DO YOU WANT TO
MAKE NEW FRIENDS
IN THE JU COMMUNITY?

FANCY A QUICK CHAT
FROM THE COMFORT
OF YOUR HOME?

JOIN US!

DATE: 23rd July
TIME: 8:00 pm

DIFFERENT PATHS. ONE COMMUNITY.
STAY CONNECTED. STAY JUAN.



13 September



*JUAN 2026

Picnic

LAKEFRONT PROMENADE PARK
800, LAKEFRONT PROMENADE
PICNIC AREA B, MISSISSUAGA
ON L5E 0A1

\$30 per head
Free entry for
children below 5
years



Please e-transfer to jualumni.to@gmail.com
by Wednesday, September 9, 2026.





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President's message



Dear Fellow Alumni,

It is a privilege to write to you for the first time as the new President of the Jadavpur University Alumni Association, Toronto. I am deeply honored to serve a community united by the enduring friendships, shared experiences, and values that connect us to our beloved alma mater.

As we look ahead to the coming year, our committee's vision is to build a stronger and more vibrant alumni community through meaningful networking opportunities and mentorship programs, with a dynamic mix of in-person and virtual events.

A cornerstone of our initiatives is the launch of a mentorship program that will connect alumni seeking professional guidance, career advancement, or practical advice on adapting and thriving in a new country with those who have successfully navigated similar journeys.

We also plan to introduce a series of webinars on topics of interest to our members, with future sessions shaped by your feedback and suggestions.

Another key priority for the coming year is membership growth. We aim to welcome younger alumni through proactive outreach while continuing to value and strengthen our connections with long-standing members.

In addition, we are exploring opportunities to collaborate with other like-minded organizations to expand professional networks and support community integration within the broader Canadian landscape. We are particularly excited about developing joint events and initiatives with IIT Alumni in Canada (IITAC).

I warmly invite you to stay engaged with the Association, participate in upcoming events, and share your ideas with us. Thank you for your continued support in carrying forward the spirit of excellence and social responsibility that defines the JU community.

We look forward to meeting many of you and shaping this next chapter together.

Yours sincerely,

Raka Mukherjee Pisharoty

On behalf of the Executive Committee, JUAn Toronto



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Past President's message



I would like to share a few reflections from my year on the Board.

One lesson I learned is that the success of an organization like JUAn depends as much on relationships as it does on plans, policies, or events. We are all volunteers, united by a shared commitment to our community. Building strong personal connections among Board members is therefore essential.

My advice to the incoming President is simple: early in your term, take the time to speak individually with every Board member. Learn about their backgrounds, motivations, ideas, and aspirations for JUAn. These conversations build trust, strengthen communication, and make collaboration much easier throughout the year.

I also found it valuable to develop a rough annual program plan. While plans inevitably change, having a roadmap helps with prioritization, budgeting, resource allocation, membership engagement, and maintaining momentum. I encourage future Boards to continue this practice.

At its core, an alumni association exists to foster connection—to our alma mater, to one another, and to future generations.

For those of us living far from campus, JUAn provides a valuable sense of community and belonging.

At the same time, we must continue to evolve. New generations of alumni bring new perspectives and expectations. To remain relevant and vibrant, JUAn should stay open to new ideas, programs, and ways of engaging members while remaining true to its mission.

I am optimistic about JUAn Toronto's future. Over the past year, we have seen strong participation, launched new initiatives such as the newsletter, strengthened governance, and continued our tradition of service. These achievements belong to all of us.

Thank you to my fellow Board members for their friendship, support, and dedication. Thank you to our members for your trust and participation. It has been an honor to serve this community.

I wish the incoming Board every success and look forward to supporting JUAn Toronto in the years ahead.

Thank you

Dr Kaushik Sarkar



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JUAn 2026-2027 Board Members

Raka Mukherjee Pisharoty - President

I graduated in Architecture from Jadavpur University in 1995, an institution that continues to hold a special place in my heart. I later completed a Master's degree in Building Engineering & Management from the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, in 1997.

Since moving to Toronto in 1999, I have been privileged to contribute to the city's thriving construction industry. It has been extremely rewarding to serve as lead architect on numerous mixed-use, high-rise condominium and housing developments, including the prestigious Regent Park revitalization and Bloor/Islington Terrace in Toronto.



I have also designed and remodelled several high-end custom residences in the Kingsway area, as well as luxury cottages in Muskoka.

Alongside my work in architecture, I currently co-manage a real estate and investment company with my husband, overseeing a diverse portfolio of holdings across Canada and the United States.

I joined the JUAn Executive Committee in 2021 and served as the General Secretary in 2023.

A proud mother of two young adult sons, I also enjoy travelling, reading, writing, and dabbling in all things creative.

Fun fact : It has been my privilege to help shape of some of this skyline !





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JUAn 2026-2027 Board Members

Madhuparna Debnath - General Secretary



I graduated from Jadavpur University with a Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) in 1989 and earned a Gold Medal for my Master of Architecture (M.Arch) in 1991. I later completed a Master's in Urban Design from the University of Toronto in 2006. I currently lead the Urban Design section at the Town of Caledon, where I review and approve development projects.

I have been an active supporter of JUAn since around 2010 and officially joined the Board in 2025. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, creating memories with my family, and spending time with my furry companion, Luca. I look forward to bringing joy and fostering new connections within the JUAn community.

Shikha Kundu - Treasurer

I am an Economics postgraduate from Jadavpur University, Class of 1978, and I hold a deep affection for my alma mater. My five years in the JU hostel made the campus much more than a place of study—it became my second home, filled with cherished memories, lasting friendships, and lifelong connections.

Since 2011, I have been closely associated with the Jadavpur University Alumni Association of Toronto (JUAn), contributing actively in various capacities over the years. I currently serve as Treasurer and remain deeply committed to supporting the JU alumni community and preserving the rich legacy of our beloved university.



Are you or your family member a JU Alumni?

Send an email to jualumni.to@gmail.com

Annual Membership fee \$25





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JUAn 2026-2027 Board Members

Sanjukta Chakraborty - Cultural Director



I am a 1991 postgraduate in Comparative Literature from Jadavpur University, and I deeply cherish the intellectual and cultural foundations my alma mater provided. Now working as a Montessori educator, I bring creativity and care to my profession—values that were nurtured during my years at JU. As a lifelong lover of music, I find inspiration in melodies that reflect the poetry and passion of my academic journey. As an active member of the Jadavpur University Alumni Association of Toronto (JUAn), I remain deeply connected to the spirit, traditions, and vibrant community of Jadavpur University.

Chirasree Sen-Varma - Communications and Outreach Director

I completed my Ph.D. in Biophysics from Jadavpur University, where I spent nine formative years, including postdoctoral research, before moving to the Seychelles and later to Canada. I also hold a Postgraduate Certificate in Education and Training from University of Surrey, UK, and have completed professional training in e-learning development, adult education, and staff training through Seneca College.

My professional journey began in scientific research before transitioning to education, where I taught Advanced Level students. After moving to Canada, I broadened my educational experience across diverse learning environments. I currently serve as a high school educator and guidance counsellor in Toronto, supporting neurodiverse adolescents in achieving their academic and personal goals.

I have been a longstanding member of JUAn Toronto and joined its Board last year.

In my free time, I enjoy music, handmade arts and crafts, nature, wildlife, and outdoor adventures—anything biophilic.





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Gouri Mukerjee - Communications and Outreach Director

As a bioscience student specializing in Microbiology at Calcutta University, we did some courses at the Dept of Food Tech & Biochemical Engg. I found one of the Profs inspiring and decided to do my PhD there.

Then, moved on to Japan where I spent more than a decade studying bioremediation. The move to Canada put a damper on my 'green' credentials (hardly any funding for bioremediation studies here), so, switched gears to studying human genetics.

I was in a StartUp working on Pharmacogenetics for several years before moving to my current position in Marketing in a Molecular Biology company located in the US with headquarters in Japan.

I have been a member of JUAn since I moved to Toronto, two decades ago.

Fun Fact: Am a Japanophile through and through - loved my time there, except for those long working hours!



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Now**

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Sreyoshi Bose Datta - Assistant Secretary

Born and raised in Kolkata, India, I attended Ballygunge Shiksha Sadan before earning both my Bachelor's (2000) and Master's (2002) degrees in English Language and Literature from Jadavpur University. In 2002, I moved to Canada to pursue a second Master's degree in English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Windsor.

Since the beginning of my career, I have worked in the language services industry as a professional copy editor, translator, and interpreter. I am passionate about language and communication and enjoy helping ideas and stories find their clearest and most effective expression.

An avid reader and writer, I love word games, creating art, taking long walks, and watching the ever-changing sky. I would be delighted to connect with fellow readers, writers, word enthusiasts, skygazers, and cloudwatchers.

Feel free to connect with me on Facebook or by email (sreyoshi.b@gmail.com).



Sreyoshi's webpage

c-j.ca/শ্রেয়সী-বোস-দত্ত/

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JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI TORONTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS



July 23 2026: Virtual Social

A relaxed online gathering to meet new members, reconnect with familiar faces, and stay engaged with the community from wherever you are.



September 13 2026: Summer Picnic

A wonderful day of reconnecting, reminiscing, and creating new memories along with delicious food, prizes and fun activities!



October 9 2026: Webinar- Academic pathways for High school students in Ontario

An informative & interactive session designed to explain the basics of post-secondary options to help high school students make informed course selections within the Ontario high school system.



November 14 2026: Alokmanjari

A luminous evening of music, dance & drama- for and by families of the JUAN community



December 2026 (tbd): Holiday food Bank Donation Drive

Continuing the wonderful tradition from last year, an endeavour to spread warmth and generosity in the community by supporting local food banks.



March 2027 (tbd): Webinar- Navigating the GTA Real Estate Market

An expert-led practical and informative session covering the fundamentals of homeownership, strategies for downsizing or upgrading, and an outlook on local housing market trends.



April 2027 (tbd): Nabeen/ Prabeen Bichitra Anushthan

Welcoming the Bengali New Year with an intergenerational showcase bringing together the old and the young! Featuring medley performances by senior-junior partners and parent-child teams, highlighting the joy of traditions, talent and togetherness across generations.



May 2027 (tbd): Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Review of the year's activities, suggestions for future initiatives, and participation in shaping the direction of the association.



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*Together, we honor the
past, embrace the present,
and inspire the future*



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