

CONNECT

SITM's Corporate Newsletter

Corporate Connect

Alumni Connect

Faculty Connect

Student Connect

Social Connect



SYMBIOSIS INSTITUTE OF TELECOM MANAGEMENT

(Constituent of Symbiosis International University)

Re-accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

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CORPORATE CONNECT

International Telecom Seminar: Communiqué-16



Inauguration of Communiqué-16 by lighting a lamp

Communiqué'16 was held on 17th and 18th September 2016 at SIU auditorium, Lavale campus.

Prof. Sunil Patil addressed the flagship event of SITM, Communiqué'16 by giving insights on the current trends in ICT along with the year's topics. Thereafter Mr. Vikas Grover, CIO & Technology Planning head of Vodafone India, the esteemed Chief Guest for the occasion delivered a very interesting dialogue which started from invention of mobile communication in India in its early days to the latest initiative by Government of India called Digital India.

Guest of Honour, Mr. Chandan Kumar, Director-Marketing Business & Network Consulting, Huawei talked about the growth of mobile

phone usage and internet by using some basic statistics and figures.

Mr. Ashutosh Vasant, Chief Project Manager Railwire, Railtel opened Pandora's Box by explaining how Railtel has the most extensive optical fibre coverage in India.

It was followed by a panel discussion on virtual currency. The panellists discussed the cash dependency of Indian economy and also how virtual currency could be a global standard which could make transactions easy worldwide.

The second-panel discussion of the day was on the 5G Millennium. The discussion was very much in the groove as the diverse panel gave different outlooks towards 5G which was indeed a treat for all the audience.



From left to right- Mr.Ankur Ahuja, Mr.Praveen Dahiya, Mr.Suhas Desai, Mr.Nitin Bhandari, Mr.Abhishant Pant, Mr.Gurdeep Chabra, Mr.Neelesh Bam, Mr.Ashutosh Kumar, speaking on Virtual Currency

The second day of the event started with an address by Guest of Honour, Mr.Robin Kaushik, Head of Solutions, Ericsson who talked about digital disruption and the change in business it has caused in all the industries. Mr. Laszlo Posset, MD, T-Systems ICT India Ltd who talked about entry of T-Mobile Corp in India through T-Systems and also the German way of doing business.

The first Panel Discussion of the day was based on the topic of Reshaping Organisations for Future. The focus of this discussion was on changing HR strategies with change in technology .There was also a deep discussion on how agile start-ups have become in terms of hiring talent and how organisational structures are changing rapidly.

Mr. Jay Simha, CTO, ABIBA Systems, gave a keynote on Big Data. He touched the delicate points of handling and structuring the massive volume of data. The security issues surrounding the big data were also pointed out during the speech. He emphasized how the quality of data

is more important than the quantity and the value creation from it.

The final panel discussion of the magnanimous event was itself on Big Data Management. Big data is one of the most trending topics in ICT domain. Speakers from different companies had their opinions on how to manage big data efficiently. The tools to process and analyse the big data play a crucial role and each speaker had their preference in tools for the same.

The last keynote address of the glorious event was delivered by Mr. Gaurav Sharma, Partner, EY.

The two-day event saw a participation of more than 500 people which consisted of a great deal of under studies from different undergrad schools across Pune. Communique'16 made its nearness felt via web-based networking media stages like Facebook and Twitter too with the hash labels like ITS and Communique being broadly used among the general population.



Star Alumni-Mr.Arvind Saxena addressing the audience

Star Alumni Award

Mr Arvind Saxena, Ms Farheen Quadri, Mr **Abhijit Dutta** and Mr **Amit Goel**, Alumni of Batch 2004 were presented with the most celebrated award of SITM, The **Star Alumni Award**. The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks from **Ms. Bhakti Vyawahare**, Co-Convenor, Communicue'16.

There was a final valedictory address by the Chief Student Coordinator of Communicue'16, **Mr Karan Marwah** who thanked the entire team which toiled hard to make the event a big success.

A summary of topics and the respective speakers:

'Virtual currency: A reality or a farfetched dream'

Capt. Praveen Dahiya, Director Forensic Investigation and Security, Netrika Consulting India Pvt.Ltd; **Mr.Ankur Raheja**, Associate Director ITPA, PwC; Mr.Nitin Bhandari, Country Director , Western Union; **Mr. Suhas Desai**, VP-Digital Security Aujas; **Mr.Abhilash Pant**, Director–New Channels and Prepaid , VISA; **Mr.Gurdeep Chabbra**, VP-New Business, Oxigen Services India Pvt.Ltd.; **Mr.Neelesh Bam**, Co-Founder & Chief Business Officer , MOMOE ; **Mr.Ashutosh Kumar** , CMO of Himachal Pradesh Circle, Reliance Jio.

The 5G Millennium:

Honouring the Past, Treasuring the present And Shaping the Future



Mr. Robin Kaushik delivering a keynote speech

Mr. Amit Gupta, Associate Director-TMT , KPMG; **Ms. Swati Kamat**, HUB CTO, North & West Zone, Bharti Airtel Ltd; **Mr. Aniruddha Basu**, VP, Idea Cellular Ltd; **Mr. Saurav Mitra**, Lead Digital Consulting & Platforms, Tech Mahindra; **Mr. Ashutosh Kumar**, CMO of Himachal Pradesh Circle, Reliance Jio; **Mr. Srinivasan Jayaraman**, Executive VP, Virtusa Polaris

**Reshaping Organizations for the future:
Emerging Challenges of Transforming Economy.**

Mr. Sumit Gurjar, DGM Business HR, Vodafone India and **Mr. Suyog Bhandekar**, Campus Recruiting Lead , TCS; **Mr. Sachin Sharma**, Head –Talent Acquisition, Lava International; **Mr. Aashish Singh**, Global -HR Leader, Aricent; **Mr. Krishnan Mittal**, Founder & CEO , Unfurl Technologies;

Big Data Management: Exploiting the Unexploited.

Mr. Achyuth Sathyagiri, Director SDN/NFV, Cognizant; **Mr. Gunendra Patil**, VP-Retail and Travel Industry, Happiest Minds; **Mr. Indranil Dutta**, Insights Director, IMRB; **Mr. Tejus Shah**, Director , Capgemini; **Mr. Gaurav Dua**, Global Senior VP, Frost & Sullivan; **Mr. Ritin Mathur**, Sr. Principal , Analytics & Data Science, HP; **Mr. Senthil Nathan**, Practice Head B1, Data Science & Big Data, Marlabs Inc;

Key-Note Speakers

Mr. Jay Simha, CTO, ABIBA Systems; **Mr. Gaurav Sharma**, Partner, EY; **Robin Kaushik**, Head of Solutioning, Ericsson; **Mr. Laszlo Posset**, MD, T-systems India Pvt. Ltd; **Mr. Srinivasan Jayaraman**, Executive VP, Virtusa Polaris; **Mr. Ashutosh Vasant**, Chief Project Manager Railwaire, Railtel .

CORPORATE INTERVIEW



Mr. Venkatkrishnan Iyer

Vice President - Insights and Data, Capgemini

Q. How can client engagement be made effective and how was it beneficial for "Insights and Data"?

In today's digital-heavy environment, customers have now become more powerful than ever. With the changing landscape, the success of any engagement lies in realizing the business value. Capgemini's Insights & Data (I&D) is a global practice within the Capgemini Group. We bring together leading technology experts, business and industry sector expertise to ensure clients are not only able to derive better value from data and analytics, but also putting insights at the heart of the enterprise.

Q. What is the role of enterprise global solutions for clients in multiple domains including Retail, manufacturing, telecom etc. and was this process used in "Insights and Data"?

Our comprehensive expertise across different functional domains, our association with key technology partners and the global network of innovation labs ensures that we bring in the best-in class business expertise and are able to build solutions that are re-usable. For instance, the LEAP Data Transformation Framework is a game-changing solution that industrializes our

expertise in migrating complex BI and reporting environment to big data landscapes.

Another example is the NextGen Business Insights Service Center framework that uses a combination of business drivers, sponsorship and alignment levers, with business architecture to help users consume insights services by selecting from a "catalog" of services, that is easy and rapid to deploy.

Both of these are applicable to multiple industries. Our domain analytics on top of these help in "Sectorizing" to ensure we are able to address the specific needs of each sector.

Q. How is your role different in providing Insights to customer, strategy and service centres?

As a global practice leader for Insights & Data, my focus is to ensure our clients are future-ready by realizing the potential of data through "insights at the point of action" and forging the path to gain big insights from big data. I have extensive experience working with enterprise global solutions across industry verticals for clients in North America, Europe, Australia and Asia Pacific. I interact with clients to understand their challenges, both business and IT, and then help guide them through a journey to insights.

Q. What are the innovations by your company in Business Intelligence and which are the other enterprises that use it?

We have a formal Board-led IP development process. What this means is that we have a stream of innovation-based solutions in the pipeline. We work jointly with our technology partners and clients to develop such solutions. Our engagement with start-up organizations and our global innovation labs (AIE) is another example of this initiative.

Q. How would you suggest SITM students enhance their skills? How can they be more innovative?

"Stay hungry, stay foolish" – words by Steve Jobs at one of the Stanford Commencement speeches.

It is good to be focused on creating solutions that have a positive impact on the business and organization, but it is the ability to follow your heart and intuition that will foster innovation, bring in excitement in everything that you do and also grow your careers.

Q. How did you implement MDM (mobile device management), real-time, mobility solutions for clients in your company?

Data volumes are expanding rapidly from increasing use of smartphones, clickstream data, signalling data from apps and M2M devices - all aided by better connectivity and faster networks. Finding the right information strategy across the complex data landscape of the Telecom industry is central to harnessing the data to drive the analysis, insights and ultimately the actions one needs to take that will drive profitability and revenue growth. Our

deep expertise in both the telecom sector, and big data and analytics technology and implementation, helps develop the right strategy for our clients. We are able to apply this expertise in harnessing big data technology through our Data Optimization for the Enterprise and Business Data Lake solutions to optimize investment, improve insights and find new value-generation opportunities for the telco.

Reducing churn for telcos through real-time targeted marketing campaigns; improving insight into network usage and identifying new commercial opportunities through big data transformation are just some examples of the benefits that some of the global telcos have seen through Capgemini.

Q. Apart from your hectic and exhaustive schedule, what are your hobbies?

Insights and Data are kind of my hobby now, besides work, I am a travel buff and love to travel extensively making the most of my work travel as well in seeing places, experiencing new cultures and making friends. I have a German shepherd who is my buddy and you can catch me walking him in the mornings if you are in Powai, Mumbai.

CORPORATE INTERVIEW



Mr. Prashant Ranjalkar

Principal Consultant & Managing Partner,
NetCo Consulting LLP

Q. What are the key differences in your opinion between Indian and African telecom tower sector?

I have been to 16 African countries and in my opinion, India and African countries have geographic, demographic and economic differences. The status of roads, availability of power and other infrastructure facilities are poor. The cost of setting-up and maintaining towers is high in Africa when compared with India. The basic cost of deployment is at least 30% higher than in India. Most of the African countries are landlocked and hence do not have the option of sea routes. Also, finding skilled manpower is a challenge in Africa since they do not have the necessary training and educational institutes. The cost to train manpower is also high. Only selected parts of Africa like South Africa, Kenya and to some extent Nigeria have manufacturing facilities for telecom infrastructure and hence most of the inventory is imported from Asia or Europe.

Q. How important is it to judiciously plan towers for telecom operators these days, keeping in mind the high set-up cost and also differentiating them from the competition?

Infrastructure sharing is done for cost optimization. A certain part of telecom infrastructure can be shared and certain cannot be shared. Telcos are looking to reduce the costs to overcome competitive pressure to reduce prices and do not mind sharing the infrastructure. The challenge lies in the fact that there is a limited spectrum in each band and there are more than 3-4 bands to operate. So the coverage and capacity requirement of each operator differs from others location to location. The average tenancy in India is 2 which should have been 3 or more.

Companies, in fact, are micro controlling the costs and are trying to negotiate best deals in terms of both capitals as well as operational expenditure. That is how they can survive the competitive price pressure.

Q. How important is the role of telcos in smart cities setup? How, according to you, they can benefit the whole project?

The primary aim of smart cities is to provide basic utilities and facilities to each and every citizen 24 hours, 7 days a week on demand. What telcos can do, is to provide high bandwidth pipes, mobile connectivity etc. to collect data and transmit data from various points in the city generated by sensors. The connectivity and network management solutions telcos can provide help in making a city smart.

Q. Do you see a serious consolidation in tower or telecom-infrastructure industry like it is happening with telcos?

It is already happening out there. American Tower took a major equity in VIOM networks. Brookfield is buying Reliance Infratel. Bharti Infratel has invited bids to sell major equity stake. These companies are emerging as possible consolidators for rest of the small tower companies. The consolidation will lead to 2 or 3 tower companies in the market.

Q. We understand you are also part of Pegasus Fininvest Advisory Pvt. Ltd. How this is helping start-up companies and how is it different from other such initiatives providing "Series A" funding?

Pegasus Fininvest Advisory Pvt. Ltd has floated a 'Series A' fund. The key focus of fund is investments in technologically powered financial inclusion, education and holistic healthcare companies. Fund will invest only when the proof of concept has been established and company need growth capital. The core idea is to invest and mentor entrepreneurs who are creating socially relevant companies, which focus on making people's lives better. For e.g. a start-up which gives a solution for mobile payments through feature phones by the use of USSID codes is the type of company, the fund would be interested in.

Q. Sir, Could you give a kind word of advice to the students of SITM, who wish to become one of the best professionals in telecom industry? How should they prepare themselves for the same?

Telecom has 3 key layers, infrastructure, technology & application and customer service. Students need to examine each part of this and find a niche by looking at it from an analytical perspective. They need to identify their strengths and work for those companies offering work profiles which suit their aptitude. Upcoming changes in technology are something where they will always find opportunities. They need to keep themselves updated with latest technology and happenings in the industry.



Photographed by Amitanshu Anupam: 1st year Marketing and Finance

***"Bloom
wherever you are
planted."***

ALUMNI CONNECT

VISIONARY

Mr. Basavaraj Biradar

MD & CEO

Eduwize

(Batch 1997-1999)

I always had the spark of doing something different, something of my own. Doing a 9-5 job was never my cup of tea. I used to discuss various ideas among my friends, which I thought could be really worked upon. I was never interested in appraisals. All I had always looked for was job satisfaction and a sense of pride at my workplace. I used to look around and discuss with various people what problems they face in real life. I always believed that a successful business idea is the one which could cater to the needs of their customer, and this was the base of my business plan as well.

It started when I had to visit my father-in-law's school at Karnataka. Being the principal of the school he was facing some problems with the manual operations like fee depositing, registrations, admissions etc. They used to send letters to the parents instead of messaging or writing them emails. This raised a question in my mind that why they can't use some software to help solve all this clutter. After returning home, I met some 15-16 other people in different education departments and none of them used or had any software. Hence, I realized that there is a huge potential in the education sector.

This all happened while I was working with Tata Sky from 2008 to 2012. In April 2012, I, along with a batch-mate of mine, started this company which aimed at providing ease and convenience in educational administration. To provide software solutions, in the education sector, one doesn't require any domain knowledge. So we tried coming up with a

product that would cover various aspects of admission, fees collection, pending fees report, certificate printing etc., initially for my father-in-law's school. Another task lined up for us was to teach people how to use our software.

We then started with the deployment of our solution at other colleges and universities as well. After our eighth customer, we recruited an engineer. This marked the growth of our product and functioning. We successfully closed the first year with 20 customers, which according to us was a great achievement. We started updating our services to ERP and inventory management. Even after all this, we are currently a team of eight, managing a customer base of 90.

The biggest challenge we faced was the little amount of money received from our customers. The first two years were really tough. It was a big challenge to train staff who didn't even know how to use a computer. The plus point was that I did not have any competition. This year we are expecting to touch 100 customers.

I find success a very philosophical word. Even though payment is very less in the education sector, I am enjoying my job. Success, according to me is being able to pay my employees on time and making my customers happy. If I can keep everyone happy, I would consider myself successful.

I exclusively work in the education sector. Our product is very robust now; from school to colleges, now, I'm looking for big universities. We have a 100% growth rate every year and are planning to grow 5-6 times in the next few years. Currently, I am not looking to expand Pan India and all my customers are restricted to Karnataka. Having created more than 100 IT jobs until now, I am looking forward to creating 300-400 more of such jobs in the coming years.

My advice to budding entrepreneurs would be to start small. They must do a prototype, test the market and keep the costs low. They should know their customers and understand the market. Problem definition has to be very precise - like mine was to shift workload from manual to automation.

SITM is the number one institute in telecom management. It has helped me a lot in all of my telecom experiences and journeys so far. Back in 1998-99, it was a very specific set of knowledge and skills for us. It gave me all the

domain knowledge and prepared me for my telecom career. I'll always be grateful to SITM for doing so. I am more than content with everything that I have achieved so far. I am enjoying my work. We get a lot of holidays here and some days the working hours are lesser than even 10 to 4. Every customer calls me for their annual functions. They felicitate me with shawls and flowers which are a matter of pride for me. I hope someday in the future, I can come back to SITM and get some talent which will eventually add value to my organization.

ALUMNI SPEAK



Mr. Sagar Darbari

Executive Director
KPMG India
(Batch 1997-1999)

Q. Working for a Telecom company, Aircel, to a Big Four auditor, KPMG. Can you please brief us about your career journey?

I have worked with Aircel, Tata Teleservices and later joined Airtel – first in India and then I shifted my base to Africa. I finally joined KPMG, India last year.

Q. One thing you learned at SITM that you will never forget?

The love for telecom - the power of telecom to change the lives of ordinary people across all types & continents - is immense. There is no other industry that has the same sort of multiplier effect.

Q. What advice would you give to yourself nineteen years ago?

Do what works for you and never get influenced

by those around you. This generally happens at every college, you get influenced by your surroundings easily. But I believe that you should have a strong mindset and do only that what makes you happy and works the best for you.

Q. What is the best business decision taken in your entire life?

My decision of moving to Africa for 5 years. There, I got a chance to understand more about cultures. It helped me understand different markets, and working of a complex environment.

Q. What gets you out of bed every day (your motivation for work)?

The chance to make a difference!

Q. What keeps you happy apart from work?

We are so occupied with your professional commitments that we hardly find time for ourselves. I face a challenge to keep pace with the way my daughter is growing up. I am always short on time when it comes to spending time with her.

Q. If you were not into your current profession, what would you be an alternate career choice?

Definitely Armed forces! I always had the passion for getting into Indian Army. I feel a sense of pride whenever I see any person in that uniform. Unfortunately, I couldn't qualify for it since I am colour-blind.

Q. Being a proud Alumnus, what do you expect from the Alumni Committee?

I feel the Alumni Committee needs greater visibility around executive education programs.

Q. Any advice for the young brigade of professionals passing out from SITM?

Believe in yourselves!

ALUMNI SPEAK



Mr. Vikas Thanvi

AD - Sales

Huawei Telecommunications

(Batch 2002-2004)

Q. One thing you learned in SITM that you will never forget?

Those sleepless nights before exams, presentations, etc. are something I'll never forget.

Q. What advice would you give to yourself ten years ago?

There's nothing that I didn't do which I should've done. I have done everything that I wanted to do.

Q. What is the best business decision taken in your entire life?

It was shifting me from cost to profit centric. Even though it was tough doing this after 3

years of experience, but it gave me time to think about myself. The wrong decisions have taught and helped me more than the right ones.

Q. What gets you out of bed every day (your motivation for work)?

My health and overall fitness. I strongly believe that if I am fit, I will do well in work and life. I go to my office in a cheerful mood and as a result, my team also feels happy and refreshed.

Q. What keeps you happy apart from work?

Nature, music, interacting with people. I love interacting with people and can do it as much as possible. I will interact with an 8-year-old child with the same intensity.

Q. If you were not into your current profession, what would you be (alternate career choice)?

I wanted to be a singer. I wish my son becomes a music director.

Q. Being a proud Alumnus, what do you expect from the Alumni Committee?

You have a lot of pearls and should focus on tying the thread stronger. Connections between the batches are very important. Give importance to the value which you can bring into the system. The Alumni Portal is an excellent initiative taken by the Alumni Committee.

Q. Any advice for the young brigade of professionals passing out from SITM?

There are a few things here that I would like to tell the students. Firstly, Prevision gives brilliant insights into the telecom domain. It's a

wonderful work done by the students and every student should read and know all these insights. Secondly, you should focus on becoming a domain expert. And lastly, Enjoy! Don't stress out a lot, enjoy this time. Things will follow.

THE MESSAGE BOARD



Mr. Anurag Khode

Business Development Executive –
North America Region
Hughes Systique Corporation
Batch (2014-2016)

I still remember the day, 14th February 2014, 'The Valentine's Day', the day on which I had my PI for getting into SITM. It was my first visit to this beautiful campus and it was that moment itself when I made my mind to spend my two precious years of MBA at the 'Symbiosis Knowledge Village' Campus. Today when I look back, I feel that it was the best decision of pursuing MBA from such a scenic campus and the memories will always be cherished.

For someone like me who had earlier worked in Mumbai, loved spending time at the Marine Drive, traveling to the Mumbai suburban and of course my journey in the BEST buses, I always thought Pune is not comparable to Mumbai. But it was after I joined SITM and shifted to Pune, I started loving this city. I was always mesmerized by the weather, various food junctions, and the life there. I really feel that there would be hardly an IT hub like Pune, at least in India, where you have such a cool climate which makes it a perfect place to live. The 2 years spent at SITM completely changed my perspective towards this city, and now, I am always ready to travel to Pune and visit my Alma Mater.

I joined SITM 2 weeks after the start of the academic session and getting into student life again, after completing 2 years of corporate job, was a challenge in all and slowly, I got used to this schedule. Transforming from a corporate to a student was a bit fun as well. I still remember the moment, when I went up to Agnes Mam's cabin on my first day for some official work and directly addressed her as "Agnes" (by calling her first name). But then, I suddenly realized that I was no more a part of the corporate world, but rather an MBA student.

My MBA and SITM life revolved around my friends, batch mates, short trips from college campus to the places nearby, watching movies at E-Square and Symbi Auditorium, travelling to and fro Pune in Symbus, NFC's food, Kolad outbound trip, walks down the Lavale campus lanes, lectures, assignments, preparing syndicate presentations at Recree, playing TT, Cricket, Volleyball, talks at the lunch and dinner tables and much more.

SITM life would be incomplete if I do not make mention of SITM faculties and the time spent in the Placement activities. The Management skills and Telecom knowledge of the faculties have transformed us into Techno-Managers. THANKYOU all, for guiding us at each step of the MBA Life. The PCIT team was one of the best teams that I have ever worked with. A big thank You to Bhakti Vyawahare Ma'am, Rahul Gupta, Shreya Adhikari, Prashant Mishra, Sunu Sunny, Nitish Vats, Anil Lade and Udit Pandey for being such a wonderful team to work with. Being the face of SITM during interactions with corporates, have taught me a lot in my professional life.

I will always be thankful to SITM for bringing me one step closer to my dreams & goals and for giving me all the wonderful moments that I can cherish for Lifetime.

THANK YOU SITM !

THE MESSAGE BOARD



Ms. Harmanpreet Pall

Consultant

EY

Batch (2014-2016)

The year 2014 ushered in an era of bewildering experiences that transformed me into a complete professional with a never-say-die attitude. The journey commenced with the hope of attaining a launch pad for a bright future mingled with loads of apprehensions as I was a greenhorn in a sea of talented and experienced professionals. The serene and mesmerizing campus was a source of joy. My explorations with the to-be seniors prior to my arrival enabled me to find my feet in an environment full of opportunities for growth in every possible sphere. I was more than ever determined to explore and work towards a future where I could carve a niche for myself at SITM.

Being from defence background, my ability to relate myself to one and all helped me make friends easily. Despite the hectic schedule, the bonding grew and this new world felt like home. It was this bonding which provided me my taste of success in the form of selection as the Class Representative for Systems and Finance Batch, which for me was my very first achievement.

Academics were my comfort zone but my desire was to venture into all the other activities for an

all-round growth. Selection as an Ad-hoc member for E-CELL Committee provided me the much-needed platform for testing my abilities in the co-curricular field. Hard work and persistence paid dividends and my ability to plan and organize events were recognized, thereby, setting the stage for me becoming a key member in organizing the conduct of TEDx, an enviable achievement. Despite a roller coaster ride, constant interaction with the students, staff, and professionals in various fields not only widened my horizon but also projected my abilities. With the passage of time, the environment recognized and reposed faith in my capabilities and I got an opportunity to test my oratory skills as the MoC for important events.

Each passing day enhanced my hunger to achieve more. I tried my hand in the field of Games and represented the college in Squash and Badminton. The cheering crowd was certainly a boost for my ego and encouraged me to carry on despite many sleepless nights and little time for myself. The learning was stimulating and made me a better person with improved abilities to understand people and grow as a better human being. Somewhere along this journey money lost relevance and being a more accomplished individual became my sole aim.

The journey continued and the second year gave me ample opportunities to inculcate positive changes so that the alien world became friendlier. I realized that there is no substitute for hard work and that if one worked diligently results were bound to be positive. A challenging commencement with Happiest Minds for my internship ended up on a high note. My adventures of the previous year made me a blue eyed girl with the faculty and peer and also earned me the position of Chief Coordinator for events, a feat not so common for a girl. I certainly was a much more confident and better-groomed individual with Almighty's grace and goodwill of seniors and peers.

As is with all students, the litmus test was to be in the form of placement opportunities provided and like everyone else my nerves too were on an edge. Competing in an environment where experience mattered a lot did give me goose bumps. To my joy, my hard work and two-year effort bore fruit and I got picked up by one of the BIG 4's, which was a dream come true and a befitting end to my journey. The "All

Rounder student of the Batch" award in itself was a recognition and appreciation of all the hard work and dedication that I put in these 2 years for which I am truly grateful to almighty, faculty, staff, all my peers, my family and finally SITM. Thank you SITM, you have made me a better person. All in all, I can say with conviction "There is no substitute for handwork and faith".

SPRING BOARD TO SUCCESS -

An Alumni Book



Unveiling of Spring Board to Success-An Alumni Book by SITM Faculty and guest of honour: Mr Chandan Kumar

SITM proudly completes two decades of its glorious existence and to commemorate this 20 years of journey, we thought of a pertinent idea of bringing out a volume on the life and career graphs of 20 illustrious alumni, narrating their accounts on two counts: Studentship while at SITM and thereafter. This initiative – SITM Springboard to Success, takes us through the perception of 20 brilliant minds on the

pedagogical delivery at SITM and how it has been helping them down the line in their respective professional life. This alumni book is the result of a hard-core job done by 50+ students for 8 months under the guidance of our faculty members. The book was unveiled by the esteemed dignitaries during the flagship event of SITM, Communique'16, 6th International Telecom Seminar.

ALUMNI MEET -

Executive MBA



Cake cutting ceremony with MBA (Executive) Alumni and Prof. Trupti Dhote

Some memories are unforgettable, remaining ever vivid and heart-warming and one such memory was created on 26th of November 2016 when the **1st Alumni Meet for the MBA-Executive** program of SITM was organized at Trikaya Hotel, Pune. The event was a collaborative effort of E-cell and Alumni team of SITM under the guidance of Dr. Trupti Dhote – Faculty in charge, MBA- Executive. The evening was graced by the presence of our esteemed alumni from various batches where both the

stories of laughter and nostalgia were shared by them.

We at SITM, always give utmost priority to our alumni and this meet was an addition to that. The meet was an aim to highlight 6 years of tremendous success of MBA- Executive program. After a hearty, interactive and friendly session, the cake cutting was done. With this, the time came to bid adieu with a promise to organize more such interactions.

RECONNECT'16 -

Delhi Chapter



Cake cutting ceremony and unveiling of Connect Magazine with Prof. Sunil Patil

Every year SITM adds new feathers of pride and glory to its wings, making them fervent and stronger with time. With this mission, the Alumni Relations Team hosted a successful reunion on the 3rd of September at The Bristol Hotel, Gurgaon.

It was a cheerful, fun filled get together of our treasured Alumnus, right from the first batch to the current one. Along with our team, Prof. Sunil Patil and Faculty Head Mr.Chintan Vadgama graced the occasion with their presence. The event started with the Director Sir's Welcome Note. He spoke about how SITM has grown with technology and boosted its rank in the past 20 years. This was followed by an introduction to the latest events and happenings at our college. We shared with the audience, the new initiatives taken up by the

Alumni Relations Team this year which included "Coffee Tales", "Ask an Alum" and the "Alumni Portal" which was going to be launched this December. Later, there was a speech by Prof. Vadgama and Chief Student Coordinator, Alumni Relations Team, Nilesh Bamotriya. All of this was followed by the Cake Cutting Ceremony which our Alumni very actively and happily participated in. We took this occasion as an opportunity to unveil the 3rd edition of Connect Magazine. Post this, the meet was declared open by Director Sir. The efforts put in by the institute and the Alumni Relations Team was highly appreciated by all present at the occasion. After an enthusiastic interactive session and a splendid dinner, the meet ended happily with presents, wishes, and promises to meet next year.

RECONNECT'16 -

Mumbai Chapter



Glimpses from the glamorous evening of Mumbai Alumni Meet

Inscribing a few more pages in the memory book of life, Alumni Relations Team hosted a successful reunion on the 17th of December, at The Beatle Hotel, Hiranandani, Powai, Mumbai. It turned out to be an event of memories, nostalgia and merry. Along with our alumni relation team, Deputy Director Prof. Abhijeet Chirputkar, Prof. Chintan Vadgama, Prof. Yatin Jog, Prof. Giri Hallur, and Prof. Sandeep Prabhu venerated the occasion with their presence. The event started with the Deputy Director Sir's Welcome Note. He talked about the remarkable recruitments that SITM had undergone for the current batch. Along with this he also mentioned about Analytics and Finance, the new branch that is going to start in the coming academic year in SITM. The team shared with the audience, the new initiatives taken up by

the Alumni Relations Team this year and also briefed about the latest events and happenings at SITM. Alumni Portal which is dedicated to the registration of alumni and building their network was also launched in the meet. A special invitation was extended to all the alumni for the E-Summit to be organized by the institute. Faculty Head of Alumni Relations Team, Prof. Chintan Sir and Chief Student Coordinator, Nilesh Bamotriya also addressed the gathering. Marking the 20th Anniversary of SITM, cake cutting was done. After a hearty interactive session, a dainty dinner was served to all. The guests were bid adieu with good bye presents and wishes. With a hope to see them next year again, the meet came to a happy ending.

13th CONVOCATION

Ceremony



Graduation isn't the end of a tough journey; it is the beginning of a beautiful one

The 13th convocation ceremony of Symbiosis International University was organized on 1st October 2016 at the Lavale campus. All the fresh graduates of 2016 batch from different colleges of Symbiosis were present to receive their graduation and post-graduation degrees. The ceremony was witnessed by the presence

of Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honourable Minister of Human Resource Development to felicitate the young graduates. It was very proud and special moment for SITM to welcome the polished stars of the professional world and wish them luck for their brighter future. Warm greetings were exchanged and the event was a grand celebration.



Rejoicing with friends one last time before bidding adieu to our Alma-Mater

SITM MAVERICK -

Anil Lade



Mr. Anil Lade

Founder-Marketyard Agrisolutions
Batch (2014-16)

Q. Can you please brief us about your experience at SITM?

Since SITM is a student driven college, I was a part of Placement and Corporate Interface team here. Though I was not much inclined to the academics yet I always focused more on practical learning. Being a part of the committee, I had the responsibility of the placement of my batch and I always walked an extra mile to do my part of work. Meanwhile, I got much outside exposure and learning. Working in the committee improved my communication skills, nurtured in me the sense of being a team player and inculcated a never-say-die attitude.

Q. What ignited the spark in you to start a new business venture? How did the idea for your business come about?

I belong to agriculture background family. We have large farms of pomegranate. Since childhood, I've seen my father struggling to get good business out of these fruits. The hard work the farmers put to grow everything is overlooked by the traders and as a result,

farmers end up dealing with the middlemen. In this whole process, there is so much of time delay that more than half of the products decay or rot moreover it is the middlemen who eat away the profits of the farmers. So I decided to start of something which could be of some help to the farmers.

Q. When did you "charter" the business? What was your mission at the outset?

When I was doing my summer internship I decided to work on my own and out of some business plans that I made, I found this one feasible. I registered for "Market yard Agrisolutions" in the month of Sept 2015 with an initial investment of INR24000. After one year in Oct 2016, my project became live. At the outset, my aim was to remove the middlemen from the agro-business. Also, I focused on designing a trusted platform for farmers, traders, retailers and everyone connected to agriculture thus facilitating the workflow.

Q. Where did your organization funding/capital come from and how did you obtain investors for your venture?

Till date, I've not got any investor. For now, I'm investing whatever I earned during the 4-5 months of my job along with some financial help from my family. I got help from my friends who did the software designing part for free and they did it so well that in the last few months there have been 77 cyber-attacks and still we stand firm.

Q. If you had the chance to start your career over again, what would you do differently?

Honestly I would not have opted for Engineering, if I had a chance to redo it all. Instead, I would have chosen to be a Pilot.

Q. What sacrifices have you had to make to be an entrepreneur? Has being an entrepreneur affected your family life?

The biggest sacrifice that I had to make was to resign from my job. I had been working on my project since I was doing my MBA, I had to do away with the much needed weekends. I had to simultaneously manage my academics and project. So I was used to burn the midnight oil. I had a deep passion for badminton and volleyball; I had to give upon that as well to make my project go live. I had to miss upon my friends and college life as well.

I won't say that my decision to be an entrepreneur affected by family life. When I opened up to my parents about my passion, at first they hesitated a bit on the thought of me giving up my job and start on something that I was myself not much sure will yield something. The decision was delayed by a bit. But finally, I managed to convince them.

Q. Do you believe there is some sort of pattern or formula to becoming a successful entrepreneur?

Absolutely not. To be a successful entrepreneur one needs to act as if there is no other option but to follow what you are passionate about.

Q. What is your favourite aspect of being an entrepreneur?

I take my own decisions, although I listen to all suggestions as well. I don't have any protocols to follow and thus there is no time delay to put my decisions into execution.

Q. How do you define success? To what/whom do you attribute your success to?

I would define success as satisfaction and a process that produces some positive results. For me my family and society's happiness is success. I would give credit for my success to my family and friends who motivated me and helped me morally as well as financially.

Q. What are your hobbies? What do you do in your non-work time?

I like photography, playing chess and traveling. Though now I hardly get time for any of these.

Q. What three pieces of advice would you give to college students who want to become entrepreneurs?

First- Don't share your business idea with anyone. Second- Make trustworthy partners, who don't only focus on profit. Third- Give your 100% to the project. Remember this isn't any side business. Either go for it wholeheartedly or just drop it.

Q. How has SITM empowered you to follow your passion?

SITM has helped me gain a lot of outside exposure and practical knowledge. I actively participated in different interaction programs which inculcated a lot of skills in me to convince people and deal with real time scenario. This all has made my path easier to follow my passion.





Photographed by Ankit Wankhade: 1st year Marketing and Finance

*"The heart of autumn
must have broken here &
poured its treasure
out upon this leaf."*

FACULTY CONNECT

Faculty Message



Prof. Vijaylakshmi Chetlapalli

Adjunct Faculty, SITM

As SITM leaps forward into its third decade of presence, the institute's role in shaping telecommunication business professionals for the country gets stronger from 2017 with Analytics specialization added to its portfolio. The role of analytics in the telecom sector cannot be understated. With the Government granting infrastructure status to the sector in 2013, the size of business in the sector is bound to surge in the coming years.

There are at least three dimensions of the telecom sector that can exploit the potential of data analytics. The first dimension is Network Analytics. With the expansion in coverage and capacity of communication networks, monitoring the network for optimum performance as well as individual network elements for fault-free operation is proving to be a challenge to the telecom operators. Network analytics involves continuous tracking of the performance of network and its elements to predict congestion and failures. Timely prediction of these network snags will help the operators in ensuring delivery of promised Quality of Experience to the end customer.

The second dimension of utility for telecom operators is in Business and Marketing Strategy Analytics. The Indian telecom market is one of the largest and most highly competitive markets in the world. Market segmentation today is more complex as multiple services like mobile TV, IP TV, video and music on demand, IoT are offered by the operators, apart from conventional voice and data services. Sizing these market segments needs innovative analytical approaches. Also, strategic business decisions on investing in new technologies, confronting competition and designing advertising campaigns for new services need well quantified data to support the decisions. Critical analysis of the market and competitive conditions will need formal predictive analytics tools and techniques.

Customer usage Analytics is the third dimension from which the operator can benefit from. The revenue to the operator is directly proportional to usage of the network. In other words, the Average Revenue per Minute (ARPM) of network usage determines the operator's net revenue. Network usage patterns vary greatly from customer to customer as well as across various services. Predicting network usage pattern is therefore very challenging, though not impossible with analytics at rescue. Analysing network usage also helps in understanding preferred services and building better customer relationship thereby reducing churn.

SITM continues to strive towards excellence and mould good data scientists for the telecom industry in the coming years.

FACULTY INTERVIEW



Mr. Ramamurthy Venkatesh
International Adjunct Faculty, SITM

Q. What are the key challenges for Telcos in 2017 and beyond?

Apparent from many industry analysis and news reports, telcos world over are facing the problem of choosing the right mix of VAS and OTT services to boost their falling revenue streams. While customer numbers may be increasing, the gap between revenue growth and customer growth is also increasing. Let's look at a recent report from Teyf Research and Consulting. Truly, telcos need to climb the 4th revenue curve for VAS and OTT as other three curves of voice, messaging and access (broadband) will soon decline faster. Reports predict that future is trending to telcos morphing into something as 'Digital Lifecycle providers'.

Q. How are the new Telco business models around VAS/OTT trending?

Current trends implies the importance of 3Cs of Digital Business models – Connectivity, Customer base and Content. In other words, what is needed is an intelligent combination of widespread connectivity with dominant customer base and aggregated and marketable content. Telcos now need to either reach out for wider customer base and content or take the M&A route to be taken over. Some recent examples are Verizon (Connectivity) buying Comcast(Content)and Yahoo(customer base). Or even the combined strength of Microsoft, Nokia and LinkedIn. In India too, things are shaping up similarly, with consolidating Telco market such as Reliance buying Aircel and MTS while Jio scouting for leading content players. More such mergers and consolidations will lead to melting difference between Telco's and OTT players. Other Cs are commoditization, collaboration and consolidation within the ecosystem. Adopting to mix of technologies such as Voice over Wi-Fi, Dual carrier 3G networks, FTTH and mobile combos, Wi-Fi offloading, self-optimizing 4G networks are also on the cards, along with synergizing impact of cloud and big data opportunities.

Q. How are the marketing teams in Telcos reacting or need to react?

Globally, it is loud and clear that content is just not just a retention tool for telcos. Marketing teams at telcos, especially with Indian players, need to come out with innovative revenue opportunities by smart bundling of content, directly or in collaboration with OTT/VAS players. Firstly, understanding customer vs users of content is important. Customers may pay, but the Users are the real consumers of content. So bundling the user preferences are the key. Also, Enterprise customers need to be

focussed with solutions like cross-carrier bundling to compete with OTT players. Second, telcos must leverage fixed broadband and other technologies such as Wi-Fi to optimize spectrum usage. This will create additional opportunities for cross-selling products and services by Telco marketing teams. Thirdly, privacy and security concerns of customer shall be shaped into competitive advantage. Telco's are mostly MNOs with fixed network capabilities and they are the best choice for customers who can help them with security and privacy concerns than the pure OTT/VAS players.

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Photographed by Rahul Jadhav: 1st year Systems and Finance

*"Mother's love for her child
knows no laws, no pity.
It dares all things & crushes
down remorselessly
all that stands in
its path."*

STUDENT CONNECT

STUDENT'S SPEAK



Nikhil Harve

2nd Year, Systems & Finance

When I stepped into the lush green campus of Symbiosis International University, I felt as if I'm entering into a complete different world full of hopes and dreams. With academics to extracurricular activities it offers best environment for personality development. It was my first experience of hostel life and I can say it could not have been better. The experience I got here has not only enriched my mind but more importantly has enriched my soul.

The humongous ICT domain and its amazing growth rate hold a plethora of opportunities to grow and flourish. It was SITM that made me aware about the avenues to grow into this field. Having the knowledge of both technology and the way to market the solution has groomed me to become a techno manager. Providing an edge amongst my peers, SITM has helped me accomplish a transformational journey for which I would be indebted for my lifetime.



Rahul Singh Bhadauria

2nd Year, Systems & Finance



Satyam Singh

2nd Year, Systems & Finance

A journey from an undergraduate to a postgraduate lasted just for two years. But the learning I experienced and memories I captured will last for a lifetime. The cocurricular and extra- curricular activities along with academics gave me an overall development in terms of personality. The interaction with friends having work experience also helped me get in acquaintance with the professionalism and corporate culture which was crucial for me being a fresher. Doing assignments, brainstorming before presentations and finally bringing our ideas on the table was a wonderful experience which would be cherished by me forever. Thank you SITM!



Tashi Angmo

2nd Year, Systems & Finance

The journey of those ebullient days at SITM is about to end and I have bagged innumerable experiences and memories to cherish all my life. From late night exam preparations, committee work and 'MNC ki Chai' to interaction with international students during various events and auspicious festive occasions I have explored the varied culture not only of India but the world. Bewildered by the astonishing beauty of the campus and the magical bonds that I have created here, I wish if this could have been a never ending journey. Cheers to Life at SITM!

Working in Alumni Relations Team and Prevision has rendered some really important learning. It has imbibed a sense of discipline, patience and versatility, which I feel is extremely useful in corporate life. Those sleepless nights of extensive research, wearing the director's hat while making Alumni videos, late night brainstorming sessions with teammates, scoring well in academics, every little experience I've had here has gradually made me a better person and a manager.



Shivam

2nd Year, Systems & Finance

COMMITTEE EXPERIENCES



Raja Abhishek Singh
Chief Coordinator, CIT.

It has been indeed one of the best experiences of my life. I feel privileged to work with some of the best minds and human beings I have ever met. The journey was a roller coaster in its own, with highs and lows of emotions at times. Being a chief has helped me explore my own capabilities and hone numerous skills like leadership qualities, time management, meeting real time deadlines, conducting guest lectures and panel discussions round the year. It will be a feeling of life time of being a part of a team which achieved the unexpected, took every challenge daringly and enjoyed every bit of it.

It seems like just few days back I entered into this mesmerizing campus with lots of questions playing in my head. As a person, I find myself challenging, perseverant and multitasked –the reason I chose to be a part of Branding Committee of SITM. Initially, I tried to fit in to the limits and work culture of the committee but honestly wasn't enjoying the ride. Fortunately having all cooperative and supportive seniors, I was encouraged to go beyond the existing boundaries and be versatile and volatile when it comes to result oriented tasks. Certainly, this committee known as 'BrandCom' has given me many experiences from being a failure to being a successful event coordinator, helping to develop my persona. Many instances and memories with friends, colleagues, seniors, juniors, faculties and staff is something that I'll cherish throughout my life.



Shweta Tandon
Coordinator,
Branding Committee.



Nilesh Bamotriya
Chief Student Coordinator
Alumni Relations Team.

It has been almost two Years in SITM, a short stint but the most valuable experience of my life. The experience in college has given me a chance to sharpen my skills in my field of choice. Be it rigorous classes or working with students, everything has helped me to learn and grow. Working with alumni relations team is one of its own kind of experience, catering to a base of 2000+ alumni has infused in me a sense of responsibility and inspired me to work hard and impact the world in every good way possible. I really enjoyed working for alumni relations team with a bunch of likeminded people who are good at what they do and in the process, I learned the art of effective communication, multi-tasking and team work.



Senthil Kumar

Coordinator, Web n Tech.

Committees make you realize how much of a participant you are in a team, which defines your managerial ability. Being a member of Web n Tech made me realize that the committee is not only a creative backbone of all other committees but also an event management team by itself with proper planning, testing and execution. It brought the best out of me and everyone else in the team.

My journey as a member of Entrepreneurship Cell has been full of challenges and learning. The best thing about this committee was the diverse set of tasks that I was always exposed to. Having acted as the head under the Communications vertical did not limit me to explore my skills under other verticals such as the Sponsorship vertical or the Branding vertical, such was the beauty of working for E-cell. Be it Aarambh - the cultural event of SITM, E-SUMMIT - The entrepreneurial focused event or TEDx, each event gave me a different perspective to learn and grow along with my team members. Be it honing my management skills, social skills, or improving my personality or social network, this committee gave me an opportunity to experience all. And last but not the least with all this came a bunch of talented, hardworking, fun to be with team mates without whom the events I was a part of till date, would not have been a success. This committee imbibed in me the culture and I'm glad that for these 2 years I along with my team could showcase and add value to my institute in whichever way possible which indirectly has helped me in shaping my life for the future ahead.



Eheena Gaur

Coordinator, E-CELL



Prathamesh Pande

Chief Student Co-ordinator,
S.P.A.R.S.H

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. Such is the sense of S.P.A.R.S.H, SITM's social responsibility arm. We believe that young minds value and respect the society, and sweat droplets to create a pond of sweet water for the thirsty and needy! Being a part of this ignited, self-motivated team, will always be my most memorable experience. As a leader of this team, it was so good to see encouragement, enthusiasm, and volunteerism from the entire SITM fraternity which made my task easy. Also, personally I learned management skills, negotiations skills, enhanced my problem-solving skills, expanded my network, discovered new talent and got recognized timely. It all contributes to making me a better person than ever and dream of a better tomorrow! In the end I want to echo my team motto. "We work for a cause, not for Applause!!!"



Karan Marwah
Chief Student Co-ordinator,
ITS

It was an honour to be the chief coordinator of the flagship event of SITM. The memories and the experiences I have gained will be cherished forever. I always thought that seminars run like clockwork with all events flowing smoothly according to the schedule. But soon I realized that it requires much groundwork of extensive planning and preparation to develop the holistic atmosphere. I will always be indebted to SITM for providing me with such an opportunity that has instilled me with so many skills. I truly have lived each and every moment in SITM.

As I recollect it was this day when I was facing the admission process of SITM with mixed feelings of being a bit scared, amazed and puzzled for obvious reason of attending a GE-PIWAT that is totally managed by students. More than being worried on my performance, I was anxious to talk to those students and know how they manage such a large crowd so smoothly for 5-6 days. Today, being a part of the same academics committee I feel complacent. Moreover, internal committee being a horizontal committee gave many chances to work in various events like SPARSH, Sports events, competitions etc. that surely has given lot of memories for lifetime. Lastly, I believe that every profit we make in a business has some part of social responsibility that needs to be taken care of.



Salman Hamdulay
Coordinator, Acads Team

SymConnect -

Finding the best connection



SymConnect Delhi team connecting with the aspirants

Confusion arises when there are plenty of options on the table. Such is the case these days, when, at first, there is a plethora of career opportunities available for the young minds to choose from and then the second hurdle of choosing the right institute from a large pool of institutes operating in the country makes the aspirants confused. To avoid such confusion and provide them with a transparent and an informal medium to clear their inhibitions about the college, SITM came up with SymConnect in the year 2014. It has been a powerful medium each year, as it provides the aspirants with an easier and first-hand interaction with the senior batch of SITM.

SymConnect this year also effectively transcended the legacy set three years ago with the aim of familiarizing the young aspiring minds with the career opportunities associated in the field of Telecom and ICT domain after joining SITM. It also gave some insight into the GE-PIWAT process

starting mid-February 2017. SymConnect was organized in most of the top Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities of the country including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Bhopal and the response from each city was overwhelming.

This initiative enabled SITM aspirants get acquainted about the college, curriculum and career opportunities from the current batch and esteemed alumni of SITM. The aspirants were assured that at SITM, the main objective is to make the students learn about the business aspects of the Telecom and ICT sector and to build techno-managers of tomorrow. They were also reminded of the role technology plays and will continue to play in the near future and being able to understand both the technical as well as the business aspect of things would help differentiate an SITM graduate from a general B-School graduate. These sessions ensured a casual and

comfortable atmosphere for the aspirants to interact with the SITM students. The alumni of SITM also shared their experiences in the form of story-telling ranging from their very own inhibitions before joining a B-School to their SITM experience, about the events at SITM and their learning from them, their stay at the beautiful and scenic Symbiosis Campus and adhered to every query that the aspirants had for them. The aspirants admired the efforts taken by the college for organizing such an event than just sending mails or text messages with advertisements boasting about the college. This event, like every year, is expected to result in attracting the best of MBA aspirants and in the process, scales SITM to greater heights.

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SymConnect Pune team with SITM Alumni

SPORTS CONNECT



Sports do not build character, they reveal it!!

It is always said that - Good players inspire themselves, great players inspire others. To promote this, SITM was privileged to organize the Inter- Institute Volleyball Tournament in collaboration with the University sports Board at Lavale, Pune. The tournament was marked by the presence of all the premiere institutes of Symbiosis wherein both men and women players shed their sweat to take the winning

titles. The Finals in Men was won by SIMS defeating SIIB and in women, SSLA snatched the victory from SIT. The tournament was filled with lots of nail biting moments where players proved their tenacity to outplay their opponents. In the end of the tournament, SITM Sports Committee was praised by all for managing the event smoothly and for the successful completion of the tournament.

STUDENT AWARDS



1st year students **Dhaval Kumar Rabadiya** and **Kasti Joshi** (Marketing & Finance) won First Prize for the competition 'Prayaas: the big social idea contest' at Institute of Management, Nirma University, Ahmedabad.

1st year student **Kashti Joshi** (Marketing & Finance)

- Won First Prize for the competition 'Ideas of Tomorrow'
- Runners -Up Prize for the 'Zeal-2017 Best Manager'

Both held at IBS, Pune.



1st year student **Bharat Bhushan** (Marketing & Finance) won the 'Director's Debut Award' at Communique'16, SITM.

SITM students find success at ICBAI-16



From left to right : Aalok Jassal, Shubhi Sharma, Sunil Subramaniam, Shreyas Khase, Prof. Vijayalakshmi Chetlapalli, Prof. Abhijeet Chirputkar, Dr. KSS Iyer

4th International Conference on Business Analytics and Intelligence (ICBAI-16) was organized by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru from 19th-21st December 2016. It got an overwhelming participation of 462 abstracts from professionals from different verticals of industry as well as top management B-schools such as IISc, IIM Bengaluru, SPJIMR, IIT Madras, SCMHRD, IIFT Delhi, SIBM Bengaluru. Four students from SITM also participated in the event. There were a total of 3 rounds including abstract submission, full paper presentation and final presentation. Abstract submissions by SITM students were

based on the students' research project under the guidance of Prof. Vijayalakshmi and Dr. K.S.S. Iyer. Sunil Subrahmanyam and Shreyas Khase submitted the paper on 'Prediction of Telecom Technology Churn using Survey based Hidden Markov Modelling' and the title of the paper submitted by Aalok Jassal and Shubhi Sharma was 'Markov Chain Method of Forecasting Acceptance of New Technologies'. Despite immense competition, both papers submitted by SITM students, successfully made it to the final presentation round at the conference.



Photographed by Aniket Chavan, 1st year Systems and Finance

*"Green Grass, Red Sky
and Bright Lights: That's
SymbiLife"*

SOCIAL CONNECT

Ngo Visit- Old Age Home



S.P.A.R.S.H team present a souvenir to Mr.Vikas Dedge

It has always been said, "If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way". SITM has always kept itself occupied in various ISR activities throughout the year. To serve the purpose of moral obligation to help others, SPARSH committee members of SITM visited **Ashirwad** Vridhashram, an old age home in Dhayari, Pune on 7th September, 2016 to offer certain commodities that would be of use to the residents. The NGO comprised of a total of 18 elderly members with two adopted children aged between 12-16 yrs. The SPARSH team headed by Prof. Sunil Patil received a warm welcome by NGO's founder Mr.Vikas Dedge.

This was followed by a small introduction of life experiences being shared by the residents. The team also organized a solo singing round where both the residents and the team enjoyed the program to the fullest. The team had spent quality time with the residents and their effort was appreciated for bringing smiles on the faces of the elderly. The day ended with the team installing a water purifier in the home and also presented them with a souvenir of Lord Ganesha. Such small initiatives help SITM imbibe moral values in its students and inspire to be in touch with the society.

SCHOOL VISIT BY S.P.A.R.S.H.



S.P.A.R.S.H volunteers relishing their time with bright young minds at Z.P School, Sus Gaon

The school visit was organised by the ISR arm of SITM, SPARSH, to serve the belief that we owe a social responsibility and a moral obligation to help others. The visit was organized in a small school of Sus village where the volunteers met 20-30 students of 6th standard and had a great time with them. They played games, distributed some goodies, had a GK quiz and a lot more. The team who went with the motive of teaching these students was amazed by the fact that these small kids had a lot of knowledge in varied fields including technology, GK and current affairs. Spending time with them, getting to

know their vivid aspirations from life and sharing their experiences and imbibing hopes in them was blissful. The moment was perfect to be captured and cherished for long. After the day well spent it was time to part ways and so with a heavy heart the team bid adieu with a promise of visiting them in near future and an assurance of our presence in all pricks and throes of life. This day added golden memories in our lives and touched the strings of our soul. And hence a few more precious people were added to the symbiosis family for years to stay.

The Man In The Shadows



When one has the opportunity to take an interview of a man who has been there since 20 years working with the college, whose presence just cannot be seen but felt, whose actions speaks louder than his words, interviewing Sunil kaka was one such inspiring event. His duty starts at 9 in the morning and stretches up to 5 in the evening, working with the lab team, checking all desktops, rushing to banks and the

main branch office whenever required he has to be on toes all the time. When asked further he said that his work becomes more hectic during the placement and admission season. During the flagship event and other college events due to heavy workload he has to come to the college even on Sunday and render his help from morning till night in managing the work. He ensures that the college resources are optimally utilized and always acts as a facilitator for the students while organizing any event. On being asked about his interaction with faculty and other staff he smiled and said that the faculty has been amazing and helpful all the time, other staff members are also very good, and the college has been progressing very well. He also expressed that he gets extreme happiness when students get placed and seeing their smiling faces makes his day. He feels that year after year students treat him with similar respect. Talking about his personal life he said that he belongs to Raigad and has a family of 5 members. Kaka has been a part of SITM since its very inception and has seen it go through all the ups and downs. We can all just thank him for his sheer dedication and untiring efforts to help us day in and day out.

PAW PRINTS



After a tiring day, when one reaches home, one feels wanted and to be loved and dogs are great stressbusters. With this thought Symbiosis did the cutest thing ever! The hostel adopted Labrador puppies to make the students feel more at home. Dollar and Pound; small and cuddly creature with tiny paws and fur. When the puppies arrived, they were welcomed with garlands. They were three months young when

I first met them. They used to bounce with eyes flashing and ears flopping. Sometimes they used to yelp just to let me know that it was their territory. Chewing everything in sight was their passion. When I scolded them, they just put their head down and looked at me with those innocent eyes as if to say "I'm sorry, but I'll do it again as soon as you are not watching." After long tiring day at college, when I used to return to hostel in the evening they would be waiting for me with tails wagging just to say "Welcome back. I missed you." They never asked anything from anyone except to pat on their back. There was a lot of good energy flowing, the atmosphere had become chirpy and positive. It had been just six months with them when the overwhelmingly crushing grief followed. A scorpion bite caused death of Pound. I remember him being taken to the graveyard, his little face framed by tangles of flax coloured hair were all I could see. The eyes in the face were half open, but glassy and unseeing. I had to part from my four legged friend of fur and paws. The loyal, kind and loving friend left paw prints on everyone's heart. Devastated with this incident Dollar was grief stuck for weeks on the demise of his dear friend. The management there after got another pup similar to Pound to give Dollar some company. At the end all we can do is cherish the memories of our departed friend who in its own unique way gave us reasons to smile.

Faculty Mentors



Prof. Abhijit Chirputkar
Interim Director, SITM



Ms. Bhakti Vyavhare
Corporate Interface Officer, SITM

Senior Team



Top Row Left to Right : Prakshi Bajaj, Kunal Kumar, Nilesh Bamotriya, Sai Nayana Bangi
Bottom Row Left to Right : Shagun Khosla, Umang Saigal, Dhruvika Solanki

Junior Team



Top row Left to Right – Sakshum V. Gupta, Akshay Bakre, Kshitij Roshan, Paurush Verma,
Akshar Gohel, Abhishek Tambulwadkar
Bottom row Left to Right-Shalini Singh, Prachi Gupta, Ayantika Biswas, Swati Prusty, Purvi Chugh.



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