VESIT Connect

V.E.S.
Since 1962

Contents

Bidding Adieu

-by Padmaja Borwankar, Gayatri Belapurkar, Akshara Sarfare

It is said that "Time flies when you are having fun". As you approach the end of your time in college is a feeling hard to express. This feeling profoundly expresses the hearts of the entire Batch of 2018. Farewell ceremony is the final social gathering where one comes together and celebrate with one's batch mates for the last time, travelling down memory lane - a moment to cherish forever. It goes without saying that it has to be special for each student. This year each department conducted its own farewell for its final year students.

The Third year students organized farewells for their respective seniors on April 18 -19, 2018.

Department of Electronics
The ETRX farewell kicked off with a few farewell numbers presented by the juniors, Manali Jambavalikar(D11), Swastika Mazoomdar, Suraj Bathija and Arnab Chowdhary (D6). The farewell was hosted by Manali Jambavalikar (D11), Takshan Shetty (D11B) and Vikrant Indi (D6A). The organizing team included Manali Jambavalikar (D11A), Gandhali Kulkarni(D11A), Rhuta Patki(D11A), Sai Anukt(D11A), Hemant Wachkure(D11A), Dhaval(D11A) and Vasantraj Govindan(D11A).
While Supriya Khatri (D6A) showcased her dancing skills, the ETRX juniors took the liberty of making hilarious memes of their seniors and displaying them on the screen. Ex-Music Secretary, Viraj Bapat (D16) sang 'Man mera', the song for which he is notably known all over the college. Thereafter, a few BEs were called on stage where they sang and danced away, capturing precious moments which they hope to preserve for their entire lives. BEs were also awarded trophies as gifts. The event was followed by a hearty lunch.

Department of CMPN
The CMPN Department had its farewell on 19th April, 2018. It was hosted in the college auditorium from 11 a.m. onwards. The opening act was a stand-up comedy performed by two juniors students. Mohit Bhatia and Sumi Neogi were the hosts of the entire event. The organizing team included Sanjay Udasi, Sumit Gagnani, Mayur Tekwani, Harsha Tolani and Manohar Jethani.
In the first session, there were many activities like playing games, tongue twisters, dancing and singing. Chocolates were given to all those who performed well. All the teachers of the Department too, attended the event. The Head of Department Mrs. Nupur Giri and deputy HOD Mrs. Gresha Bhatia gave inspiring speeches and motivated the students to always work hard and have the never give up attiude.
In the next session, 3 cakes were brought which were baked in the shape of A, B and C. They were cut by the CRs of the respective classes. It was distributed to all the students and teachers. The prize distribution ceremony was conducted, in which prizes were given to the winners of Technology Day. At the end, students were escorted upstairs into the amphitheatre where delicious food was served.
Says Snehal Bhagat from D17A "The speeches by Nupur ma'am and Gresha ma'am were inspiring. While Nupur ma'am motivated us to fly high like a phoenix, Gresha ma'am reminded us to not forget our roots while doing so."

CMPN BE Farewell

Department of Instrumentation
The BE farewell for the Department of Instrumentation was held on 19th of April. Chaitanya Kulkarni (D13) and Shivam Mahadeshwar (D13) had not only organized but also hosted the event. Instead of giving traditional speeches, this year each student felicitated his or her favorite teacher and said a few lines about them. The same teachers expressed their feelings towards D18, BE Instrumentation Class of 2018.
Many special performances and games were organized. Vidya Mehetre (D18) dedicated a special song. Chaitanya Kulkarni (D13) presented a mimicry show. Rahul Ghorpade (D8) and Sujeet Sharma (D8) presented a stand-up comedy on Engineering. A fun meme game "If you don't love me at my…, you don't deserve me at my…" was arranged. A special prize distribution ceremony was held wherein prizes including Fitness freak, Best Rattebaz, Best Couple were distributed.
After the function, a small cake cutting ceremony was held. It was followed by delicious food being served.

Department of Electronics and Telecommunication
The EXTC Department farewell was held on 18th April. The event was organized by the cultural representatives and the class representatives of all the three TE classes (D14A, D14B, and D14C). The Head of the Department Prof Shobha Krishnan, said a few lines to motivate the students. Amongst the faculty, Nadir Charniya sir sang a melodious song. Mrugendra Vasmatkar Sir recited a poetry.
Each of the three BE batches delivered a speech and gave a performance. Rohit Sreedhar (D19A), Om Raheja, (D19B), Mohit ahuja (D19B), Rajiv Yadhav (D19C), each gave heart rendering speechs. Ajit Krishnamoorthy (D19A) played the flute. Kiran Parte (D19B) and Srishti Bhatia (D19B) sang songs. A dance and singing performance was presented by students from D19C. Ayush Shambhuwani (D19) sang a duet with the music secretary Chinmay Warang (D14A) and Ritesh Malaney (BE prior batch). A feedback form was given to the whole class a day before the farewell. Everyone had to answer questions like Chatterbox of the class, RichieRrich of the class, One who doesn't study but gets full marks and similar questions. Accordingly the winners were decided and were given chocolates. Photo Frames were given as memento to passing out student. In the end, delicious food was served.

Department of Information Technology

The INFT department juniors organized a farewell for their seniors in room number 523. The entire faculty of the INFT department was invited. The event was hosted by Vipul Kithani (D15) and Jenika Dhawan (D15). A cake was cut heralding the occasion. This was followed by dance performances by Anchal Lalwani(D15) and Jenika Dhawan and a solo dance performance by Vipul Kithani.

The juniors had also organised a game wherein the BEs had to describe their entire 4 year journey with each other in VESIT. This was indeed a well thought-out game and brought back a lot of memories. Two second year students, Milan Hazra and Rajpreet Singh Bhengura performed an entertaining stand-up comedy. There was a prize distribution ceremony which had titles such as Best Dancer, Best Actor, Best Coder, Best Singer and All Rounder, to name a few. The prizes also included funny and light-hearted titles such as Class Clown, Proxy Pro, Notes Maker, Best Couple, Teacher's Favourite and Fitness Freak. Delicious snacks were distributed shortly after prize distribution.

Information Technology BE Farewell

Department of MCA

This year, the MCA Department did not have a farewell function for its students. One of their final year students, Mukesh Arethiya from MCA 3B met with a serious accident at the Palm Beach Highway and was in a critical condition. He was rushed to the nearest hospital in an ambulance. The treatment for one of his legs was not satisfactory, which put him in a state of coma for 15 days. He was transferred to the Lilavati Hospital in Mumbai and treated by a team of six expert doctors. After gaining consciousness, his legs were successfully operated and now, he is recovering.

As he was recuperating in hospital, President Sunil Sahu, Prof. Sunny Nahar and many of Mukesh's friends visited him. His friends collected huge amounts of funds from his classmates to support his family towards meeting the cost of the surgery. The MCA Department unanimously decided to contribute all the money collected for the farewell towards meeting the hospital expenses of one of their own. Says Mukesh with gratitude, "My bond with my friends is really strong. That encouraged me to recover faster. We help each other in every aspects. I feel very blessed that I got such supporting friends and family. Their prayers saved my life and gave me a second chance to live. I don't know how I can repay them as they sacrificed their farewell for me" VESIT connect wishes Mukesh a very safe and speedy recovery!

> "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."
>
> -Dr. Seuss

Smart India Hackathon 2018

-by Anisha Kaul

Our Honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, envisaged a Digital India to bridge the digital divide in our country and further promote digital literacy in order to make development a comprehensive mass movement and put governance within everyone's reach in India. In order to work towards our PM's vision, MHRD, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Inter Institutional Inclusive Innovation Center (i4C), and Persistent Systems organized the Smart India Hackathon.

Smart India Hackathon was first started in the year 2017 and is the World's biggest Coding Competition. It was held on 30th and 31st March this year at 28 nodal centers. And to say that VESIT made a splash would be an understatement. A total of 30 solutions to the various problem statements (provided by the government-identical to real life problems it is facing) were sent from our college. And of the thousands of entries which were sent in from all over the country, 6 were selected from just our college! The selected teams each contained 5-6 members and a mentor teacher to guide them. The 6 teams were:

1) Team Agronomists: Won The 1st Prize
Branch: Computer Department
Nodal centre: Pune
Mentor:
- Mrs. Manisha Gahirwal
- Mrs. Abha Tiwari

Members:
- Sanket Paratkar (Leader)
- Deepa Narayanan
- Akash Birari
- Pankaj Ahuja
- Devendra Chaudhary
- Nikhil Dalvi

Team Agronomists

Team MSD-Sparks

2) Team MSD-Sparks: Came Second at their center and won 75,000 and an additional 25,000 from sponsors
Branch: Information Technology Department
Nodal centre: Bhubaneshwar
Mentor:
- Mr. Amit Singh
- Mr. Parth Chandrana

Members:
- Bhavika Shahani (Leader)
- Murlidhar Sharma
- Sagar Ganiga
- Shravan Jain
- Mishall Swain
- Nikhil Dalvi
- Ujala Jha

3) Team Sudos: Came A Close 4Th In Their Centre
Branch: MCA Department
Nodal centre: Delhi
Members:
- Simran Bhojwani (Leader)
- Harsh Jain
- Vishal Israni
- Nausheen Sayed
- Abid Inamdar
- Riya Karia

4) Team VESIT_31:
Branch: Computer Department
Nodal centre: Noida
Mentor:
- Mrs. Priya R.L
- Mrs.Vidya Zope
Members:
- Hemangi Mungad
- Shradha Agrawal
- Sunmay Agharkar
- Nishant Shankar
- Nitin Aswal
- Dhanashri Asai

5) Team Kaizen:
Branch: MCA Department
Nodal centre: Kolkata
Mentor:
- Mrs. Mona Deshmukh
- Mrs.Rohini Temkar
Members:
- Kapil Kumar Trivedi (Leader)
- Vaidika Narkar
- Afshan Khan
- Sharan Iyengar
- Pradyumna Kale
- Komal Shah

Team Kaizen

Team VESIT_1

6) Team VESIT_1:
Branch: Information Technology Department
Nodal centre: Pondicherry
Mentor:
- Mr. Amit Singh
- Mr. Parth Chandrana
Members:
- Heena Dawani (Leader)
- Saish Mohare
- Varun Rathi
- Om Uparkar
- Vijay Sahani
- Raaj Raisinghani

All the teams prepared for the D-day rigorously. Talking about the preparations involved, Deepa Narayanan from the Team Agronomists which won in Pune, said, "We got the mail for selection around 1 month prior to the competition. We were given concessions from regular lectures and just asked to attend the labs, so enough time could be devoted into making of this application.(So yes, you get to miss lectures, she winks!)". But it is also hard work!

After fun journeys to their respective nodal centers, the teams were in for a huge challenge. Deepa continues, " We came prepared with our app, ready to implement it when, we realized on the event day that only 30 percent of the entire application met their requirements and the Judges from that particular Ministry had added their own new required functionalities. We were scared and wondered how things would pan out." But slowly and gradually they believed in themselves, their ideas. It definitely was an herculean task. They had "No sleep during those 36 hours which is very surprising!". They managed to build their app from scratch! What made their app (which was an app for farmers so that they get easy information about various crops and are able to sell their crops through this portal) so unique was that they made the app keeping in mind the background of a farmer and it was thus made as very user friendly. Their speech to text converter was the star of the show. Summing up the whole event Deepa adds, "The experience was indeed remarkable as we got to know how important it is to work as a team than at an individual level, as it required both, moral as well as physical support in the 36 hour journey. I believe, it was the coordination and the understanding between the team members which helped us come this long. Last but not the least, our mentor was more than just a guide for us, as she was there even when we were dealing with a tensed phase and for rejoicing. It was more like a casual bond that we developed with her, so we could openly share our worries and doubts to her and she made sure to answer each one of them."

Elsewhere in Bhubaneshwar, Ujala Jha, the youngest member to be a part of these teams from our college, and a member of Team MSD-Sparks which came second at their center, talks about her experience, "Being a part of SIH 2018 was an overwhelming experience for me and my team, apart from getting a hands on exposure to various tools and technologies used in our project we also got to interact with the best teams, mentors, industrialists, Ministers and bureaucrats thus getting an insight to the blend of tech and innovation at a national platform. One of the most memorable thing was the opportunity when few of my team members got to interact live with our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, where he shared his views and tips on the project. Winning the event was icing on the cake for us because being a part of such major initiative is achievement itself. For students who aim for upcoming editions of SIH my only advice would be to emphasize on the idea because besides the skill set you are using for developing your prototype, the other important parameters for judgement includes feasibility, need and innovation of your Ideas." In fact Deepa echoes the same sentiment, "You don't need to be a high level coder to take part in SIH, you just need to have the right ideas and be able to learn the skills to implement the idea!"

Overall, the entire Hackathon was a huge morale booster for all students of the college who now believe that they can be part of such competitions. In fact, even the teachers and the mentors of the teams couldn't hide their excitement over the success of the teams. Armed with the hugest smile and proud eyes, they were a clear indicator of how amazing the entire experience was. We from VESITConnect congratulate all the participants and hope that this encourages other students to try their hand at such competitions!
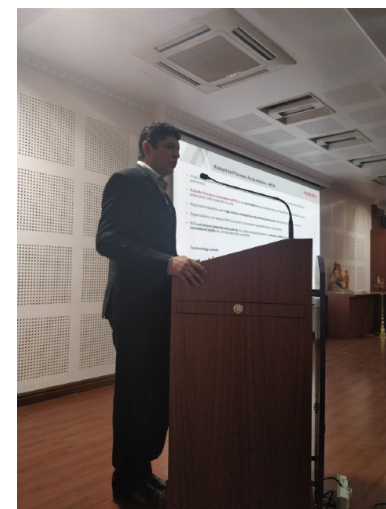
Nomura Technical Session

-by Nidhi Mishra

Nomura's Technical Session about FinTech program was held on 18 April 2018 in the auditorium by Gaurav, Member of HR team in Nomura. He began the session with Nomura's Corporate Slogan "Delivery to a Better Tomorrow". He then went on to explain the expectations of Nomura from an employee viz. Leadership quality, Teamwork and Integrity.

After a brief introduction by Gaurav, the session took off with Mr Rajesh Demalo, Executive director of Nomura-Powai, explaining the Evolution of Nomura over the years. Nomura Holdings, Inc. is a Japanese financial holding company having headquarter in Asia and a principal member of the Nomura Group. It has 28887 employees across 30 countries & 21000 professionals in Asia pacific. Nomura was first established in 1925 & market share in Japan is close to 50%. Four major verticals of Nomura are Corporate Technology Services(CTS), Enterprise Infrastructure Service(ETS), Global Markets(GMIT) & Risk Technology Group.

Mr. Rajesh Demalo

He then illuminated about FinTech (Financial Technology) which is a dynamic segment at intersection of financial services & technology sectors. Departments in Nomura are Global Market, IT, Investment Banking. They majorly work on Application Development, Production Services & Quality Assurance. Technologies adopted by Nomura are Robotic Process Automation(RPA), Artificial Intelligence(AI), Big Data, Natural Language Processing(NLP) & Natural Language Generation(NLG). Nomura's FinTech Initiatives in India are Voyager, Nomura Innovators, RPA, NICe.
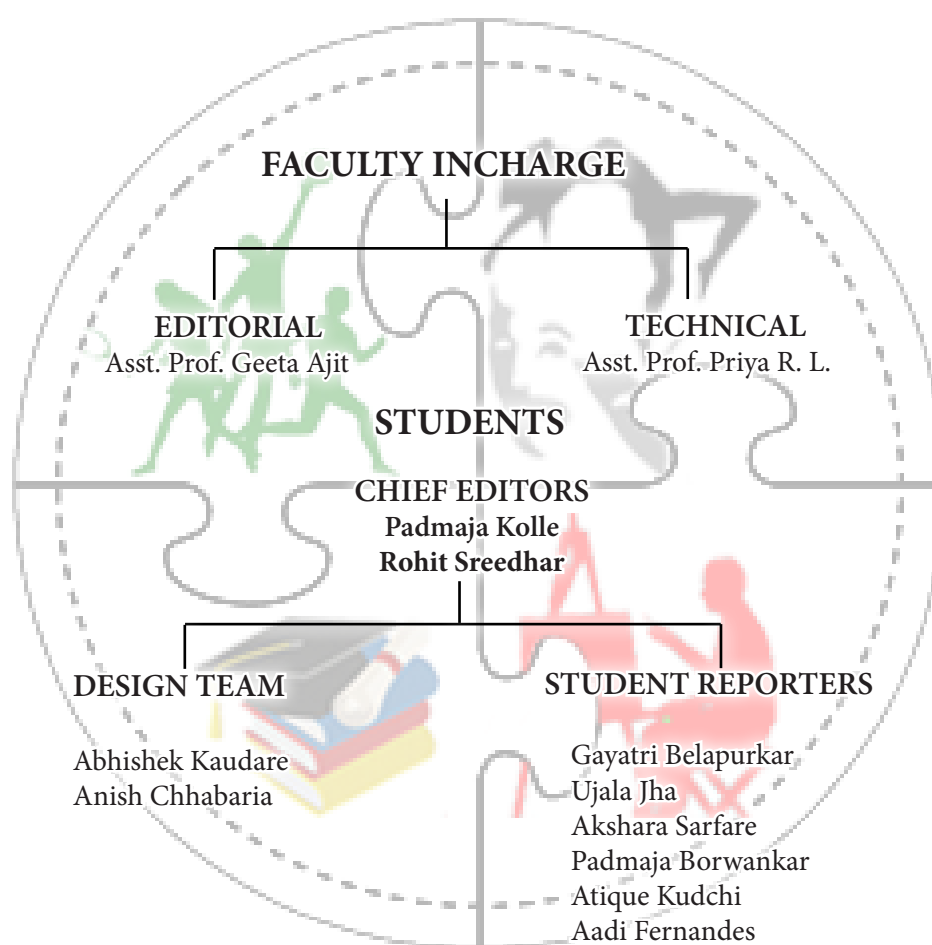
Mr. Gaurav giving introduction

Mr Gaurav then explained insights of KakushIN contest that around 20 teams will be shortlisted for this contest having 2-3 teams from each campus. He explained the terms like Internal Job Posting & Short Term Assignment. The session concluded with all queries of students being cleared by the Nomura team.

VESIT Voice

-by Rohit Sreedhar

Hello Vesitians! As we bring to you the April issue of Vesit Connect, we couldn't help but bring to notice the new heights our students are clinching. Vesit has always been known for its good academics but now we have students who not only excel in academics but are here to redefine the boundaries of being a strong student. This issue is all about the inspiring testimonies of students who have proudly represented our college at various forums. Smart India Hackathon is one such excellent example of this new emerging reform. Proposing out of the box solutions to problem statements, our students achieved some amazing feats at the massive competition. Read about the phenomenal performance by a VESITian at the GATE 2018, proving that hard work surpasses every regular tradition. VESIT bid goodbye to yet another batch of BEs. 4 years of a journey and a day full of nostalgia, do find such heartfelt experiences in our farwell article! There can be nothing more satisfying for a writer when he/ she receives an appreciation from the person they look up to. Read through the take of our ex student on Shashi Tharoor's much acclaimed book, which brought in a special mention from the man himself! We sincerely hope this read brings as much joy to you as much as it did to us, while putting it together. Happy reading!

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Societies

A Melange Of Formal and Fiesta

-by Atique Kudchi

The VESIT student branch of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) held their symposium, Melange, on the 2 April 2018. It is held every year to acknowledgd the activities of the society throughout the year, and to felicitate the winners of the events which were held in that subsequent period. It is also a time of celebration and farewell, to make this a memorable day for all the members and to show what IEEE is really about, to potential members.

It kicked off with the Membership and Publicity Officers Dhaval Potdar (D11A) and Shazmeen Shaikh (D14B) introducing IEEE and Melange. They talked about the functions of IEEE as a society, their scope and appreciated and thanked all the members for showing massive amounts of enthusiasm.

Cryptocurrency was the theme this year for the Society's Annual Magazine, named 'Innovation', which is a platform offered by IEEE for budding writers to showcase their talent. This theme was very apt, suitable and rightly picked, as it had garnered enormous amounts of attention worldwide recently, when the most world famous cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, rocketed in market shares and value, making its investors wealthy overnight. It was revealed after the introduction by the MPOs and the editorial team head, Madhu Raut (D17B), introduced it. She thanked her seniors for guiding her and the rest of the team for helping her with special mention to her fellow editors and to Suraj Bathija (D6A) for designing the magazine.

This year's magazine consists of thriller stories and articles, revolving around the right and wrong use of cryptocurrency and also explains in detail about the 'Blockchain' and cryptocurrency itself. Anyone who reads this magazine will have an upper hand in knowing what it is, that is for sure! The IEEE website (ieeevesit.org) was then revealed by the tech team, who talked about the challenges they faced while making it, how they thought of it and expressed their happiness at the successful launch. They are headed by Abhishek Kuvar (D17A) who appeared ecstatic.

The Quizzards Event

Then came the introduction of the events held throughout the year. One of the most exciting aspects of being in IEEE are its events, which are extremely educational and even more fun. Even the titles are made so as to attract audiences, while doing justice to the gist of the game. This year included events like the Fantasy Vesit Cricket League, Article Writing, MUN Spacetech, Android workshop (open to all societies by IEEE), Image Processing workshop (open to all societies by ISTE), Virtual Reality workshop (in association with ISA), Clash Of Conquerors (a strategy based card game), What Do You Meme? (the name gives it away) and the exciting list is never ending. Check all of them out at ieevesit.org!

The staff in-charge, Dr. Gresha Bhatia, then spoke a few words about the amazing team under her and how they had co-operated throughout the year with her to make it as successful as it has been! She was grateful to have worked with all the members as each of them was very enthusiastic and passionate. The winners of all the numerous events were felicitated with certificates and gifts, and ofcourse, memories to carry forever.

The Senior Council members Narayan Mundhara (Chairperson-D17A), Mihir Joshi (Vice Chairperson-D17A), Harshal Talele (CEO-D19B) and Clive D'Souza (CEO-D16A), then closed off the ceremony with really heart touching speeches, sharing their experiences in this society that had so warmly welcomed and treated them. All the attendees received a bunch of IEEE goodies, which included a Melange embossed laptop sleeve, an IEEE pouch and a folder along with a bunch of small very useful electronics. There were also stand-up performances by Harish Muthalagan (D9A), Vikrant Indi (D6A) and Omkar Nerurkar (D9A), followed by Clive D'souza (D16A) and Keyur Prabhu (D17A) that left everyone in splits.

No event is complete without food, which was arranged in the amphitheatre and was scrumptious with burgers, shewarmas, icecreams and brownies! "First of all, without getting banned or burning up the fuse, we finally managed to conduct the perfect Melange '18", mused Shazmeen Shaikh, MPO. "IEEE was the perfect composition of fun and technical events, with lecture series the cherry on the cake. Melange is a dope experience for those who attend as there is always something new you would find. Hope to see you guys next year!" she said, signing off with a warm invite to the FEs.

All one had to do now is to be part of Melange '19, and to join the society and wait for the activities to begin! Find them at ieeevesit.org to find details of their activities, events and all the fun that happens in between. You can follow their online presence on Instagram, Facebook, Youtube and even Snapchat @ieeevesit everywhere!

VESIT student cracks GATE

-by Gayatri Belapurkar

GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering) is a national level qualifying examination for admissions to post-graduate programs (e.g., M.E., M.Tech, direct Ph.D.) in Indian institutes of higher education with financial assistance provided by MHRD and other Government oagencies. GATE scores may also be used by Public and Private Sector. The exam tests the comprehensive understanding of candidate in various undergraduate subjects including Engineering/ Technology/Architecture and post-graduate level subjects in Science.

It was a truly glorious moment when Mahak Pancholi (D17B) secured an All-India rank 22 with a score as high as 929 in this competitive exam. When asked about her studying methods, she mentions that she started studying for GATE in her third year. Her preparation was divided in 3 phases. The first 6 months were devoted towards understanding all the subjects deeply. She made sure that she read all standard textbooks and solved their exercises. In the next three months, she focused on topics that were difficult and required deeper study. In the last three months her time was equally divided between revision and giving numerous tests.

Being hell-bent on cracking GATE, it was a huge relief for Mahak when the results came out. Pancholi's experience in her own words would be:
"I would like to stress on importance of good education. It is imperative that we as Computer Engineers must

Mehak Pancholi

know our subjects well. Studying for GATE allows us to understand in and out of core computer subjects. Through GATE you can get a chance to experience premium universities, interact with the best people and in the end have a better understanding of your own self. This is an opportunity worth all your efforts. The possibility of getting accepted at IISc or IIT-B was what kept me going. The kind of work that is currently being done at these universities was an incentive enough for me to study." Centuries ago, battles were fought with swords and shields. Today, battles are fought with knowledge and degrees. VESIT Connect congratulates Mahak and wish her good luck and success in all her future ventures!

A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work.
-Colin Powell

Dr. Shashi Tharoor replies to VESITian

-by Rohit Sreedhar

Mr. Shashi Tharoor's 'Why I am a Hindu' has influenced many minds with it's awakening premise of the true essence of Hinduism and how that needs to be restored. One such mind was of **Salil Shahane**, an alumni of VESIT and also the previous Chief editor of our 'Vesit Connect', who draws absolute relevance and ground in his opinion about the book. A writer himself, Salil's simplicity and deep thoughts reflect as he meticulously stitches his experiences with a strong content. We proudly present to you Salil's take on the book which received a heart warming appreciation from Mr. Shashi Tharoor himself on Twitter

In Salil's own words ....

Dear Mr. Tharoor,

I have been and continue to be, like many others in this country and abroad alike, great admirer of your felicitous and eloquent oratory. Your elaborate and pedagogic elucidations regarding any topic you wish to offer your opinion upon vouchsafe for your clarity in thoughts and a convinced mind hard to sway. Such articulation of thoughts into words is an envious trait, indeed!

Dr. Shashi Tharoor's appriciation tweet on Salil's blog.

The reason I began writing this letter to you is because I was goaded into it by my father. I recently read your new book 'Why I am a Hindu' and shared my views on this book with him who also happens to be a devout Hindu just like your father. We discussed it at length and concluded that we took cognizance in most of the opinions you have chosen to offer in this book and at few points we disagreed. He then insisted me to share this commentary on the book with you and congratulate you for taking up this rather incendiary topic of 'Religion' and beautifully weaving it into a thought-provoking novel of about 300 pages.

Now, that the reason for writing this letter is established let me tell you few things about myself so that I don't come out too alien to you. I'm a 22 year old boy from Mumbai. I completed my graduation in Engineering from Mumbai University last June. Thereafter, through campus placement I got into an MNC and I continue to work there as an associate software engineer. I'm a Brahmin, something I choose not to align/reckon my identity with but in this context I think it is essential to point that out. I come from a fairly religious family. The family goes on at least one pilgrimage on annual basis (It is never binding on me or anyone in the house to embark on one) and we have got a nice quaint marble alcove in the kitchen where idols of different gods nestle cheek-by-jowl. We aren't atheists for sure and look up to some divine power not only for consolation in times of distress but also to express gratitude in times of happiness. My family is a vegetarian, a habit I chose not to solemnly abide by. I savor meat though it has never been cooked in our kitchen and given my mother's dislike towards it, will never be in future too but my parents cut me some slack and allow me to have it on our lunch/dinner outings. Thus we are a well-educated, forgiving, broad-minded, religious quintessential Hindu family who takes pride in belonging to this religion and practice it on the lines which, to quote from your book, 'Distances itself from dogma and holy writ, that is minimally prescriptive and yet offers an abundance of options, spiritual and philosophical texts and social and cultural practices to choose from.'

I always predetermine a book I want to read before buying it but 'Why I am a Hindu' was a fortunate accident. I tumbled upon this book inadvertently. Though I have seen numerous videos of your speeches and have religiously followed your twitter handle, this is the first book of yours that I have read out of the many you have written till date. Some acquaintance of mine casually mentioned this book to me while we were discussing and the title itself intrigued me and the next consequential thing that followed was me placing an order on Amazon. I was excited and skeptical at the same time before taking this up for reading. Excited because the title hinted at a bold monologue of a 21st century intellectual tearing apart the shackles of facetious dogmatic principles that eclipse the underlying transcendental wisdom this great Hindu faith has to offer and skeptical because what if this turns out to be another archetypal diatribe against the conservatives by a liberal.

To begin with the part one of the book, you have extensively dealt with the subtle nuances of this faith and have aptly substantiated your opinions with expansive case studies. It truly reinforced my belief in this faith and gripped my attention. For the next few pages it was difficult to put the book down. The citations from Vedas and Upanishads and not to forget the pertinent quotes from Swami Vivekananda gave the analysis a wholesome touch and a new sense of veneration for this tolerant and accepting faith arose in me. The amount of efforts you must have put in to gather and impeccably compile these observations is truly commendable. As a youth with limited experience and material aspirations, I could find solace in this philosophically spiritual writing and revelation which mystically, if pondered upon with the correct intent, offers to answer all the questions causing insecurities in our daily lives. The 'Adwaita Vedanta' philosophy, in particular, which sees the 'Atman' or the 'Self' in no difference to the 'Brahman' or 'Cosmos' is awe inspiring.

Being an apolitical person myself, I chose not to look at the second part of the book through the same glasses as you may have donned while writing it. Perhaps, owing not to the inexperience or limited exposure and knowledge in the socio-political sphere or conscious obliviousness towards political strides but the nonchalance towards the polemic references you intend to offer against a particular group and my impartiality towards any political party/ political ideology grants me the merit of putting forward blatantly my views as someone like me would perceive it. This part of the book, remarkably, came out to me as a harangue by an ardent party-man who is bound by a moral duty to reiterate his loyalty towards a particular party only by launching tirades against the rival party wherever possible. Your extensive citations definitely are laudable and definitely buttress the purpose of maligning the wrongs (tangible and intangible alike) but yet seemed to me as cherry-picked. The sardonic references do no good (This I speak only for a limited audience and hence should not be misconstrued as a generic response) to people like me who are least bothered about a particular party's decision to impose a particular ideology/ faith on a minority group of people or who are least affected by the blanket bans on consumption of certain food products probably because I belong to the majority and anyway I don't consume the banned food product. Given your background, you too fall in the majority and are not directly affected by the bans per se but because you are a prominent figure in the socio-political province who owes an allegiance to particular political ideology, you are duty bound to criticize and raise questions. However, having said that it is also possible that you may counter this with saying you have just taken a humanitarian stand which is quite logical and sane and want to make the 'bhakts' realize the repercussions of their 'draconian' initiatives. But to me this construes as a destructive criticism which will further elicit hatred and will lead to prolong inconsequential argument with trite remarks and futile debates. Asking questions and raising concerns are the intrinsic characteristics of democracy but I think providing solutions and acknowledging achievements are imperative to sustain one.

In the third part of the book you wonderfully espoused what a 21st century religion should be like and how a religion without fundamentals stands a

chance to outweigh any other contender in the race. Another and probably the most important and central takeaway from this book for me was how revival of Indian Nationalism instead of Hindu Nationalism is the only way forward that will lead us, as you aptly concluded, from ignorance to truth, from darkness to light and from death to immortality.

To conclude, I would say the book is a delectable journey through the realms of philosophical insights thoroughly substantiated with pragmatic case studies backed by sanctified spiritual prudence juxtaposed to glimpses of parochial and prosaic remarks but eventually imparting conventional wisdom in the most contemporary form. I hope you take this commentary in good spirit as was my intent and forgive me for my apparent bold statements at certain places. I am a common middle class boy who wished to convey his views on the book as objectively as possible. I hope I have done my job to the best of my abilities and wish to hear back from you soon.

Yours truly,

Salil V. Shahane

Depression: Let's Talk

-by Atique Kudchi

It was a remarkable day in the history of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1948 in Geneva, Switzerland. The recently formed World Health Assembly, consisting of 54 member states, was going to meet for the first time. A lot of important work was supposed to be carried out like reviewing the budget and the approval of the WHO work programme. But it was on this day that it was decided that the 9th of April would be recognized as World

Health Day with affect from 1950, as a means to raise awareness to as many health problems as possible that are most relevant/ prevalent/ appropriate to give exposure and raise awareness about every year.

Every year, the WHO decides a theme to work upon for World Health Day, which is some health matter that requires urgent looking into or requires more awareness. For example, the theme for 2016 was 'Halt the rise: Beat Diabetes' for Diabetes awareness, prevention and care, 2017 had 'Depression: Let's Talk' as the topic had gained traction during that time, and this year was 'Universal Health Coverage', which provides access to health services to the citizens of a country without encountering financial hardships. The United Nations members have thus agreed to work towards worldwide universal health coverage by 2030!

**World Health Assembly
Palace of Nations, Geneva**

Other than these, Road Safety, Safe Motherhood, Global Polio Eradication are a few of the numerous themes picked up by WHO over the years. World Health Day is acknowledged by various governments and non-governmental organizations with interests in public health issues, who also organize activities and highlight their support in media reports. World Health is one of eight official global health campaigns by WHO, with others like World Tuberculosis Day, World Immunisation Week, World Malaria Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Blood Donor Day and World Hepatitis Day.

"Health Is Wealth" This slogan showcases the importance of health in our lives. But to what extent do we actually consider it a wealth. A person should have sound health in order to live a happy life. In our frantic desk-bound lives, it becomes difficult for us to care for our health. The quality of life of human beings is degrading day by day. This has become a serious issue for those organisations that are engaged in the eradication of serious health problems. On this World Health Day, WHO draws everyone's attention towards the importance of global health. This day focuses on promoting healthy living habits among the people around the world. The ultimate focus of the organisation is to make people aware of their deteriorating health conditions.

By involving everyone in this celebration, WHO is making good efforts to wipe out the evils of health from our planet so that each one of us can live a long and healthy life.

Students Speak

No Plastic Is Fantastic!

-by Anandalakshmi R Kumar, D6A

Most of us are aware of the recent developments in Maharashtra with the government announcing its ambitious ban on plastic bags, water bottles and other disposable plastic items in the state. The government laid down this strict plastic ban on 23rd March, 2018 after the state civic body started facing serious problems on garbage disposal and management.

This has sent many of us in a tizzy as we face hardships while shopping. However, if we look at this ban from another angle, it has many positives to it. To put things into perspective, with the rampant deforestation in Maharashtra, we need 24 crore trees to compensate for the pollution caused by plastic!

Maharashtra tops in plastic waste on beaches. From flotsam in the Arabian sea to microplastics in the guts of fishes, the menace of marine debris is widespread and has begun impacting livelihood of coastal communities. Due to incorrect sewage treatment techniques, the microplastics end up being consumed by marine life. For instance, the autopsy report of a dead whale which washed up near the shore of the Mumbai coast confirmed the cause of death due to ingestion of plastic. Nowadays, fishermen report more plastics than fish in the sea. A study conducted by an independent body shows that the drinking water supply to Mumbai and Delhi contains microplastics!

Recycling of plastic has not proved to be efficient. Plastic bags are said to present a significant challenge in terms of recycling. Recycling facilities do not have the capacity to recycle plastic bags and thus do not accept them. Therefore, the actual recycling rate of plastic bags is around 5%. Reusing plastic bags does not affect the fact that they will still be dumped into the environment and end up either in landfills or oceans. Therefore, these recycled plastic bags will have the same effect as non-recycled bags.

Banning plastic and its manufacturing is an appropriate solution. It will make our cities and water bodies cleaner. With such a ban, the society would be required to produce more sophisticated bags and a great manpower will be required by the manufacturing factories so that they can make eco-friendly

and greener materials. Through the banning of plastic, cities can begin to focus on bigger waste diversion challenges. "No plastic is fantastic" as it will greatly reduce the environmental mess in Mumbai. Lastly, if implemented with a proper waste management system, banning plastic could prove to be a significant solution.

VESIT Diaries

-Gayatri Belapurkar

Shreyas Sali is a working professional having more than seven years industry experience. An alumnus of VESIT batch 2008, Department of Computer Engineering, he is currently working as a Product Manager at Elastic Path in Vancouver, Canada. He shares his views about different aspects of engineering and life with us.

1. Tell us something about your college life at VESIT.

Becoming a part of VESIT, is one of the best things that happened in my life. I clearly remember my first day when I visited VESIT with my dad after my 12th to take admission in July 2004. I did not have any emotions or thoughts about VESIT at that time. Today when I reflect VESIT days, I cherish all the memories and moments created at VESIT, and they feel as fresh as new. I still cannot believe I graduated almost ten years back. It was a thrill to complete assignments outside the library in the hallway and work with friends during exam period in VESIT library. I still clearly remember freshers party and my dance as Gabbar (I cannot believe I did that), Praxis, Spurthi, Utsav, and last but very close to my heart CSI Symposium IMPACT. I was part of CSI. It was fun doing all activities to plan for an event. I feel I learned life lessons from the Society Culture at VESIT. It was an exciting time. Today, whenever I think about VESIT, I believe VESIT provided me a platform to build myself for real world.

Mr. Shreyas Sali

2. Share a glimpse of your personal life.

I live in Vancouver, Canada today and recently moved here from San Francisco, Bay Area. My wife, Sneha is still in Bay Area finishing her grad school. I usually spend after work hours reading, hiking, running or talking to family as my whole family is spread across US, Canada, and India. Other than that I regularly post product management blogs on my site.

3. Let's talk about your professional life.

After VESIT, I worked in TCS for one year and then completed my Masters in Computer Science. While working at Cerner in Phoenix, Arizona, I completed MBA from Arizona State University and I currently work as a Product Manager at Elastic Path. I work on E-commerce platform to build various B2B and B2C commerce capabilities. Other than that, I recently founded a company called App-Stack, Inc. The goal for APP-Stack is to provide an opportunity to students to gain real-time industry experience before they finish their BE. As a part of this group, I am working with a group of students from VESIT and University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

4. Is it necessary to have a full proof plan for your career from the beginning?

You can have one but it is not mandatory and it is entirely okay to not have one. I never knew I would become a Product Manager when I was in VESIT. I never had any full proof plan. However, I always focus on one thing - what I want to do next? If you have ever driven in fog or travel in an airplane; you might have noticed, you cannot see anything beyond certain distance because of fog or cloud. Life is exactly like that. Focus on a small thing or nearest thing and continue to focus on that with 100% efforts. You will not realize how far you have come after 10-15 years.

5. Today the world is advancing at a rapid pace, can you throw some light upon activities that students can do from the beginning which will help them get an edge.

Keep building real industry knowledge, learn from experienced folks and think about how you can gain experience from them. Today, everyone is ready to help and share their expertise. Try to seek for a mentor in whichever area you want to grow. For example, if you're going to learn about mobile applications, using social media find someone who is working on mobile applications and ready to help you. Invest early in learning; it will reap a continuous benefit to you later part of your life.

6. What do you think is the importance of extracurricular activities in a student's life and how to manage them?

In the real world, soft skills play a significant role, and I think extracurricular activities provide a platform to hone one's soft skills. Everyone will get a job. However, after that, you will seek for a better salary or higher position or recognition. That stage, you will find many other candidates with same background and skill sets. However, what will make you different is your attitude, mindset, communication and many more soft skills. Extracurricular activities provide an opportunity to tune one's communication skills, negotiation skills and people management skills.
How to manage them - It is a hard one as I am no one to tell you how to manage them. I ultimately believe everyone has to find their own way to manage them. However, I will say always seek for an opportunity to participate as a part of extracurricular activities, and eventually you will learn your way to manage it.

7. As a professional, what can you say the companies are looking for, in freshers?

Considering you know basic concepts from your field; companies usually focus on candidate's ability to work on project task independently. They typically check how well you work with other team members, do you have the right attitude to talk to people and do you ask for help when it is required.

8. Any message for the new generation at VESIT?

These are few things helped me to always move forward in my life:
- Being curious and asking questions
- Developing a learning mindset
- Sharing my knowledge with others

But, the essential thing which enriched me was focusing on positive mindset. I genuinely believe, positive mindset is the only thing which will allow you to handle every situation in life successfully.

> "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."
>
> -Winston Churchill
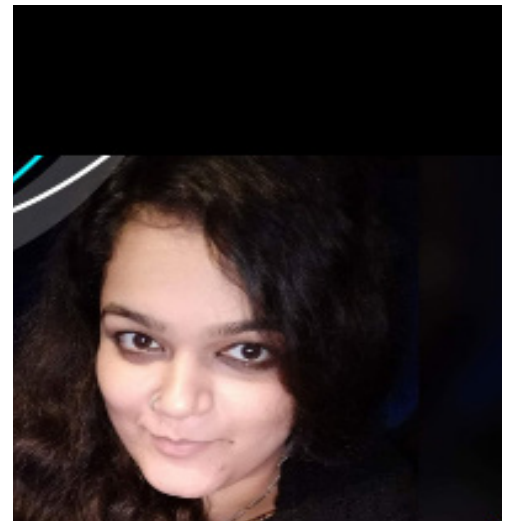
VESIT Diaries

-Ujala Jha

Ms. Deepika Singh Arora is a VESIT alumnus belonging to the batch of 2016 from Department of Computer Engineering. She has been a Research Intern at Apple, a Collaborator at Facebook App Platform and IBM and a co-founder of AppAve. During her college days she was a member of college annual magazine team, Vishwakarma. Below are the excerpt from our interview with her.

1. Tell us something about your college life at VESIT.

The years I spent at VESIT have been superbly instrumental in channelizing my prospects after graduation. Being in the computer engineering department was not by chance but by choice, given my childhood fetish for tech. The first 2 years went by quickly as I was the Class representative for two consecutive years and enjoyed being the medium of communication between my classmates and teachers. This is where I learnt multitasking - a prerequisite to being an entrepreneur. At the end of the second year, I was fortunately chosen to be a part of the college magazine team, Vishwakarma and put my heart and soul into knowing my college through every department, every activity and discovering newer facets of the work carried out in VESIT. The third year begun with a bang given that our LBS project on Ergonomics was selected by Texas Instruments. After a busy third year, I did three industrial projects for the BMC, CIDCO and Institute of population sciences as my final year project. During the summer and winter vacations I have interned at Aptech, Videocon, Oracle, Provogue thereby making my pre-graduation experience close to 12 months. The atmosphere at college boosted my morale thereby prepping me up on my journey ahead.

2. Share a glimpse of your personal life.

Deepika Singh Arora

Since childhood I have been classified by my peers and elders as an extrovert however I would like to believe that I am a situational extrovert - sometimes being the life of the party ,the other times enjoying my solitude. My mother has been an entrepreneur since 30 years and hence the genes work here and I would credit my parents and Grandma for every ounce of confidence in me. I have a close circle of friends that have been my best supporters and worst critiques. To take a break from my routine I usually end up in the organizing team of entertainment events thus giving me a breather and also hand me a new takeaway. I also have a habit of imbibing qualities from my favourite performing artists - be it Harvey Specter in Suits or the entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley.

3. Having worked with multi-nationals, what do you feel are the qualities that help us be the one in many to be selected?

The tech stalwarts that I have collaborated with have one thing in common - they never stopped evolving and seized every opportunity that came their way however big, problematic or insignificant. This is the essence of standing out .In the course of time, once you go beyond a certain level - talent is the most useless virtue to possess .It is your ability to find a work around to every challenge put your way ,pull some strings ,do not be afraid to fail and make mistakes and get the ball rolling. In fact in these companies in particular do not look for employees, they look for entrepreneurs (employees who are entrepreneurial in their approach) .While I began with IBM where I learnt how to sustain, fate quickly took me to collaborate with Facebook app platform where innovation was the key, while my stint as a Google Cloud Partner taught me to relentlessly pursue for perfection in every line of code or every pitch to my customer. The groundwork for instilling these qualities needs to begin early (during college activities) to utilize them for competing and winning the race.

4. Today the world is advancing at a rapid pace, can you throw some light upon activities that students can do from the beginning which will help them get an edge.

Break your barriers, explore and keep learning a new skill or a sub skill every single day. Rather than taxing your head over on figuring out what to do ,it is better to figure out what not to do which would only come by experiencing various roles through student volunteer or internships. Believe you me, the lessons that I have learnt on my internships in few days cannot be replaced even if I read a thousand blogs online and thus experience is the key. To be specific, I would suggest the readers to join various meet up groups on social networking websites, attend events, interact and ask questions. For the students wanting to move to their core subjects, the students can get in touch with various nonprofits, startups, government departments and undertake pro bono projects to sharpen their skills. No doubt the world's moving at a faster place but there also has been an exponential rise in the variety of opportunities in every domain.

5. During your college days, you've been a part of few councils. What do you think is the importance of extracurricular activities in a student's life and how to manage them?

While academics and co-curricular help build up your skillset, extracurricular help shape up your attitude, perspective and the way one handles various situations. Being a part of the founding team of the entrepreneurship cell bought in a lot of challenges and opportunities alike .It was then that we understood what crowd management was, how to market an event to gain maximum footfalls with limited resources. In addition to the above, one also learns working with a team, coordinating and improving their people skills which is imperative when you start leading a corporate life.

6. VESIT has a lot of budding entrepreneurs, can you tell us about some crucial steps which needs to be taken care of while converting an idea into practical purpose.

An entrepreneur needs to be a perfect blend of a realist and a dreamer. Being more practical clouds your imagination prowess while being a dreamer sets you away from reality .Thus once you have your product idea in place ,try every possible trick in the book to find loopholes in the same .This would not only help one find their weak points but also give a simulation of the thinking capability of your competitors . Secondly do not be afraid to ask for help / feedback from your productive peers and research extensively. Do concentrate on the quality of your products and services and never try to get away by

fooling your client - the Startup world is indeed a small place and word spreads out quickly. In addition to this accept the fact that you won't be the boss at least in the initial stages. I know that's hard to digest however it's the harsh reality.

7. Failures since ages has been the reluctance causing factor in life, what do you recommend on dealing with them?

No doubt failure gives a setback and changes the route that you had planned for yourself but it also leaves you with a new perspective. It's human to regret few steps or think I could have done this better - but never blame your surroundings for the same .Be accountable and ready to accept it (this comes with time, I know). However don't be afraid to try the same thing again a different way and believe that your eureka moment isn't far away. Also be a realist by changing your method to achieve your goals- every door, every window is important.

8. Could you tell us about some interpersonal some skills we should have outside academics and how to manage them with technical abilities?
No doubt an entrepreneur is supposed to be a confident speaker however one should be a good listener too, in fact a very active one. If one is too self-consumed, one spells their own doom. Share your views and opinions and be ready to take brickbats as well, sportingly. It is imperative to be empathetic towards every stakeholder you interact with - to understand and intercept what they want from you. Also never make friends with the people you work with - it is then that we become vulnerable , complacent and stop having our guards on . Be comfortable in taking tough decisions fast, since they have a huge impact in every path you follow.

9. Any message for the next generation at VESIT!?

Ideally my intent here should be to motivate you, to give you hope or recite all the adages -Follow your passion , excellence would follow ,money is not worth it ,so on and so forth. On the contrary, I am here to define why the law of averages applies to every average person like you and me. The averages of success, the average of failure, the averages of finding your way out be what the puddle in front of you. To state an instance half of the initial team I begun with didn't synergize with me which did instil a sense of doubt that have my fears of workplace discrimination come true. Are they chauvinists. The answer was Nope- I was chauvinistic. No one can stop you from doing anything, but you. Once you stop believing in yourself does the world start discriminating you out. On a takeaway note, if you don't fit in, sew your way around, alter it and jump off the cliff only if you sure of crafting the plane your way down and off course get insurance for your self-esteem.
We wish Ms. Deepika all the best for her future endeavors and thank her for sharing her amazing experience with us.

"The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience."

-Eleanor Roosevelt