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VisionUVCE
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SAMPADA

Your window to UVCE



Edition
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EDITORIAL

When we were discussing about the theme for this edition of Sampada, there was a suggestion about making it more on the lines of the latest topic of discussion - "Building Alumni Community". Since we have got involved with creating a platform - "UVCE Graduates Association", we thought it would be good to discuss our learnings from VisionUVCE experience in the past 10 years in this edition along with hearing from others about the importance of alumni community. So, this Editorial is essential the gist of our discussion - Harsha, Lomesh and myself (Satish)

With our limited experience, when we started VisionUVCE in 2009, we had no idea about Trust/ Association etc. But, the Trust was registered in 2012 and we gained some understanding on how it is operated. The idea was the same - getting alumni together and giving back to UVCE. After 10 years, it is even more relevant today -where a unified, strong voice of the alumni will be able to make an impact on the future of our alma-mater. As Lomesh said, "With great power comes great responsibility. We have to evolve the community into a stronger one so that the responsibilities could be dealt with in an apt manner".

Personally, I also want to add that building the alumni community is not only beneficial for UVCE, but also the individuals, in its own way. A community can thrive when there is involvement from many people and has a way to mutually benefit each other. Harsha mentioned that " At VisionUVCE, the focus was always about the institution and giving back, rather than the individuals. So, at UVCE Graduates Association, we will need to change the goal - make sure every member feels that they are important in the community and they are rewarded in different ways, apart from the satisfaction of contributing towards betterment of the alma-mater". When, we spoke to different people about their experiences being part of different alumni communities, they all express the same thoughts, a few of which we have published in this edition.



During the discussion, one other observation was made - One year of UVCE Payana ! Centenary Celebrations organized by our end where around 600 alumni had gathered. Nothing else happened at official capacity to celebrate this milestone. We were glad that we could at least do a bit from our end. But, it also felt that the momentum was not properly utilized. Similar to the MegaReunion that happened in 2011, it was a one-time affair and not a continuous activity. We agreed that more initiatives which can keep the attention of alumni, involve more of them are needed to build the momentum again. For this to happen, we need more active members in the Association. The membership drive for the UVCE Graduates Association has started and you can become member via online too - <https://uvcega.org/content/info/membership>. If you are interested but need other options to join the Association, we will be glad to help you.

With this background, this edition of Sampada tries to bring into limelight—"Why the alumni community is important?". We have featured few write-ups from alumni sharing their thoughts and experiences in this matter. We have also featured an interview of Dr R Jagadish, who is monitoring the progress of renovation of the college building. You can get many information about the plans in this article. The newspaper articles highlighting the future prospects of UVCE (expert committee recommendations), which are really worrying are included inside. There are few more updates about UVCE, alumni, students as well, making Sampada "Your Window to UVCE" as we have always claimed. Feel free to share your thoughts, opinions and memories with us. If you are interested to be a "Guest Editor" for the upcoming editions, we will be glad to accommodate you.

- Satish A G, Team VisionUVCE

ALUMNI THOUGHTS

One of my concerns have always been that our college alumni do not have a formal opportunity to meet and contact each other under normal circumstances after graduation. It is very rare that they have proper get-together or form groups whereas if they was an opportunity to be a part of an association, then it would be act as a platform for providing interaction with their batchmates, juniors and seniors.

We have found this to be quite evident during events like UVCE Mega Reunion in 2011 and UVCE Payana in 2018. As such, it is the responsibility of the suitable organization to conduct such events and gather the alumni. Such events provide an opportunity to interact not only amongst themselves, but also connect the families and children, making the community stronger. This community can help each other in various ways as seen in many other associations. Be it from a profession/business point of view or on sharing a common interest, alumni benefit at an individual level as well being a part of the community. The institution will benefit greatly when the alumni fraternity is working as a unit.

- Maj Gen Neelakantappa, Batch of 1962-63

Due to my involvement with pro-active alumni since our batch's golden jubilee meet in 2016, I could re-connect with fellow employees of organizations where I served. I also got to know more about various organizations and fellow UVCEians. The experience was unforgettable. I came to realize that though one spends few years at the college as a student, The relationship with the Alma Mater is a lifelong one. You will cross paths with your fellow batchmates classmates in all at various points. The goal of UVCE Graduates Association is to strengthen that relationship providing a common ground. There's an unforgettable line in the famous song 'Hotel California' - You can leave at anytime you want but you can't! Since my participation with the UVCE's Graduate Association, I feel the experience has been exhilarating.

For benefit of my fellow UVCEians, here is a list of opportunities available for the members of an alumni association:

1. Great scope for interaction with wide spectrum of alumni for furthering/updating knowledge in technology related fields.
2. Give valuable information (from one's experience gained in academy/industry/administration) and share with fellow alumni. This can be in the form of lectures or videos either live or recorded.
3. Helping as mentors to junior alumni for their advancement in select fields.
4. Widening one's scope for overall benefit by interaction with other alumni.
5. Provide concrete suggestions for enhancing academic standards of UVCE.
6. Be a link as an endless chain of alumni.

- Dwarakanath Rangaswamy, Batch of 1965-66

A LOOK BACK

Time flies and it been One Year since we organized the Centenary Celebrations of namma UVCE at “Payana—100 and Beyond”. Months of efforts and work went into the event but all that turned worthwhile with the response and participation that was witnessed at the event (Check the videos). Our earnest efforts since have to been bring out better and more worthy initiatives in honor of our Alma Mater. Here’s to celebrating more UVCEian-ness!



Independent UVCE is the way forward

A Unitary University, instead of going to BU or BCU: Experts

While the Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) is yet to submit a report to the State Higher Education Department on the ownership of 102-year-old University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, experts suggest that the college, located in KR Circle, should be independent and turned into a Unitary University in the State or at least given an autonomous status.

UVCE, which has a rich heritage and renowned alumni to its credit has now been stuck in a bitter fight between Bengaluru Central University (BCU) & Bengaluru University (BU). After BU's trifurcation, BCU was created two years ago and according to its jurisdiction laws UVCE should fall under it. But, UVCE still remains a constituent college of BU till date.

BU says that UVCE is theirs as five departments (Computer Science, Information Science, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics and Electrical department) are in KR Circle campus and two departments (Civil Engineering and Architecture) are in the Jnanabharathi campus, BU's headquarters. BU is claiming its stake as it cannot break the college into two halves. An expert said, "UVCE has a National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) A grade attached to BU. It has 4,000 students and a faculty strength of 93 currently. It also has 12B and 2F status granted by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Moreover, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has given it permission under BU to run the courses for the academic year 2019-20."

"Whereas, BCU can claim it only because it comes under its jurisdiction. Also, as a new university, BCU needs time to handle UVCE. When that is the case, we suggest that the college becomes an independent institution," added the expert.

National Institute of Engineering Science (Kolkata) has 125 years of history and is an independent institution now, Cochin University of Science and Technology is also an independent institution and Roorkee was a university, but was later converted to an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). Experts suggested that UVCE should also follow suit and be made an independent university or given autonomy immediately.

Officials in the higher education department said that if UVCE has to be made autonomous, the college needs to strive and earn it. "If the higher education department frees UVCE from both the university and allows it to stand separately, this institution will either set a mark or never flourish," added the expert. Within a week the KSHEC will submit the report that will then decide the ownership of the college. It is being kept confidential until the process is completed.

- Bangalore Mirror, June 28th

'Split UVCE departments among rival claimants'

An expert committee looking into the contentious issue of who has to administer the century-old University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) has recommended that the responsibility be split between Bangalore University (BU) and the newly-carved out Bengaluru Central University (BCU).

The two universities had been staking a claim to UVCE, and the panel has sought to resolve the dispute by dividing various departments between them. Sources in the Higher Education Department said that the committee had recommended transfer of the departments in the K.R. Circle campus to BCU while those functioning in Jnanabharathi campus would be with BU.

An earlier report submitted to the Department of Higher Education had stated that UVCE should come under the purview of BU and all the department should be shifted to the Jnanabharathi campus. This was opposed by many persons, including prominent alumni of UVCE.

On the question of which university will award the degrees, the panel has suggested that the responsibility rest with BU for the next four years. In the long run, however, the committee has recommended that UVCE function as an independent college with a board of governors to look into the day-to-day administration.

Move draws flak

The recommendation has not gone down well with the faculty & students. “By splitting UVCE between two varsities, fighting for funds & faculty members will continue. Students will suffer,” said a faculty member, hoping that the Govt would not accept the recommendation. Former Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University M.S. Thimmappa said that the move is not at all academically viable. “No college can have dual control by two universities,” he said.

- The Hindu, June 29th

Idea to split UVCE has left academia fuming

After a long wait, a panel of experts have submitted a recommendation report to the State Department of Higher Education about the ownership of the century-old engineering college University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE). According to sources, the report says that UVCE will be bifurcated. It also says the State Government can give the college independent or unitary status whenever the government feels so.

Experts, alumni and teachers are fuming over this decision, calling it a regressive decision for UVCE. An alumnus of UVCE and IIT spoke about this recommendation. “How can experts say that the college can be divided into two? How will All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) agree to this? A college that has such a big heritage is struggling to move moving along with the times and the State Government is not bothered about this,” he said.

Sources said that the five departments (Computer Science, Information Science, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics and Electrical department) that are situated in an iconic building at KR Circle will be handled by the Bengaluru Central University (BCU) and the two other departments (Civil Engineering and Architecture) that are situated in Jnanabharathi campus will be handled by Bangalore University (BU), which has its headquarters there.

Experts had earlier said that there should not be any kind of bifurcation of UVCE because it has a status as a renowned institution. A source said, “In the interest of students the committee has recommended that Bangalore University should continue to give degrees to students of UVCE for next four years and later BCU can start giving degrees.” However, the committee has also recommended that UVCE should be given independent status or made unitary university by the State Government. Bangalore Mirror had reported that UVCE should go independent and that is the way forward for the college according to experts from the industry.

Sources said that, this recommendation of making the college independent has also been suggested but it is left in the hands of the State Government to decide when to give it the independent status. A senior official from the higher education department said, “Dividing UVCE will be a disastrous move and it will spoil the image of Karnataka in front of other States. UVCE should be made an independent institution like the ones in other cities. But, this report is not the final decision, the government has to issue a notification to put these recommendations into force.”

- Bangalore Mirror, June 30th

ಯುವಿಸಿಇ ವಿಭಜನೆಗೆ ತಜ್ಞರ ಸಮಿತಿ ಶಿಫಾರಸು

ನಗರದ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಕಾಲೇಜನ್ನು (ಯುವಿಸಿಇ) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ನಡುವೆ ವಿಭಜಿಸಲು ತಜ್ಞರ ಸಮಿತಿ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ. ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಎಸ್.ವಿ.ರಂಗನಾಥ್ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಸಮಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ರಚಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಸಮಿತಿ ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ ತನ್ನ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಎರಡೂ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಯುವಿಸಿಇಯ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೊಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಯುವಿಸಿಇಯ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಜ್ಞಾನಭಾರತಿ ಕ್ಯಾಂಪಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹಂಚಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಮುಂದಿನ 4 ವರ್ಷ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ, ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯವೇ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಸಮಿತಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಸದ್ಯ ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತದಲ್ಲಿ 4 ವಿಭಾಗಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಜ್ಞಾನಭಾರತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2 ವಿಭಾಗಗಳಿವೆ.

ಆದರೆ ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಯಾರು ಪ್ರವೇಶಾತಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದರ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ವಿಟಿಯು ಅಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಸೀಟು ಭರ್ತಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದೆ. 'ಯುವಿಸಿಇ ಅನ್ನು ಪುನೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್‌ನಂತೆ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಕಾಲೇಜನ್ನಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಬೇಕು' ಎಂದೂ ಸಮಿತಿ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಹೀಗೆ ಘೋಷಿಸುವುದು ಯಾವಾಗ ಎಂಬುದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ವಿಷಯ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ. ಯುವಿಸಿಇ ಅನ್ನು ವಿಭಜಿಸುವ ಶಿಫಾರಸಿಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು, ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸಿಡಿಮಿಡಿಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಾಲೇಜನ್ನು ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಒಂದು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಸುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಥವಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

- ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ, ಜೂನ್ ೨೦

THANK YOU!

Respected Sir,

This is Madhukumara C R, 2019 Mechanical Engineering Batch, UVCE. I received scholarship since four years from VISION UVCE team. Before receiving scholarship this year, I chose option 1. I used the scholarship amount for an academic project "Studies on Mechanical Properties of Aluminum Alloy 6061 carried through Friction Stir Welding" for which we are now preparing to publish a journal paper on that project and for 2019 industrial tour as part of our academics. According to that option, I successfully completed my graduation with overall aggregate of 77%, and got 83.6% in final semester. It is my duty to update what I did with scholarship amount and my academic reports. I performed very well in my academics, without any interruption because of your help. I would like to thank all Alumni and VISION UVCE team. I am currently in a job search and would be glad to receive any guidance with respect to that. After getting job I would also like to come back to UVCE and contribute to VISION UVCE team, give scholarship to so many students like me. Thanks a lot sir.

-Madhukumara C R, 2019 Mech

Moments like this where we receive such emails from students is when we feel we have made progress in our goal to extend support to the current UVCE students. And all this would have not been possible without the support of you Alumni who have come forward to believe in our initiatives and aide them financially. This is a gratitude note from one student, representative of hundreds of students who have been provided with scholarships to overcome their financial challenges in their course.

A big THANK YOU from again from Team VisionUVCE for all your belief and support. We intend to keep this initiative going stronger and reach more students each year and look forward to the continued support from you going ahead.

-Team VisionUVCE

UVCEIANS - BUILDING THE COMMUNITY

"Nobody is bothered about an institution more than its alumni."

- N. R. Narayana Murthy

This was the thought that came to my mind the moment I was asked to give a small write-up about why I think a good, strong and well-knit alumni network is necessary for our century old institution, the UVCE. Well, I am sure this is the kind of topic that does not need substantiation or arguments in favour, as most of us are be aware of its benefits. So, I thought I will use this opportunity to highlight the experiences I have had with other alumni associations that I am a part of and let those experiences make a point. what better way of convincing others than through an example, right?

I will just start by saying that I would not have been where I am today if it was not for the constant support of well-wishers and near and dear ones. Human beings, by nature, are social animals and like being among other people. Not only does it give us a sense of belongingness and security, it also , in a way becomes a vehicle to do things collectively and achieve what we would not be able to achieve as individuals, an alumni association is a manifestation of such urge to collectively achieve greater things

Coming to my personal experiences, I am lucky to be a part of two other very active alumni networks, one being that of my school (sainik school bijapur) and the other being that of my PG college (IIT Delhi). The first one is an example of how a strong alumni network can give back to alma mater and the other is how an alumni association can benefit its members. Our School alumni association is one of the strongest among those of all other Sainik schools in the country and takes pride in being so. Our school was established in 1963 and has produced many esteemed personalities till now. Capt G R Gopinath of Deccan Aviation, Capt Ravindranath of Kargil war fame, many IAS/IPS officers and so on. Now, under the guidance of such great leaders, our alumni network has set an example of being an exemplary organization. The association has given back to school financially, materially and emotionally. New sports facilities (indoor squash/badminton/basketball courts/hockey turf), better training facilities (provision of horses for horse riding course etc.), constantly monitoring progress of kids at school are some of the numerous ways in which the association has contributed to school's growth. Now, our school has one the best set of facilities among most other schools in the entire region. Apart from this, distinguished alumni are often called to school to guide students and keep them motivated. Now, for the part where alumni have benefitted from the association, I personally know people who have benefitted through career guidance, financial support and even jobs.

The other association, which has been immensely beneficial to me is the IIT Delhi alumni association (I completed my M.Tech in computer science from IITD). In 2018, when I was looking for a job after a 4 year break I had taken from IT industry to pursue IAS studies and no companies were ready to even call me for an interview, it is this organization that came to my rescue. A single post in a WhatsApp group of the organization gave me an interview call helped me land a job. I currently work as a Senior Software Engineer in a start-up owned by one of the alumni. It helped breathe life into my then dwindling career. The alumni is very active and keeps organizing many webinars for the benefit of its members. Recently there was also a plan of group medical insurance of all the members doing the rounds. Also, we are constantly kept updated about what happens at the organization. One network - so many benefits!

I hope the above two paragraphs have made a convincing case for an alumni network. Coming back to UVCE's alumni network, our alma mater is in need of such an organization and so are we. More so, at this time when the talk of moving UVCE out of the present campus is being heard repeatedly. We need a united front to fight and save UVCE. I am sure, most of you would agree that our college is not in the best of conditions - on the infrastructure front and on the faculty front. We need this network to restore the glory of this esteemed institution. The network will also strengthen the bonds between its members, new and the old alike and help us all achieve a better life while giving back to the alma mater.

- Pavan J Joshi, 2009 Batch Alumni

STRENGTHEN UVCE - LEARNING FROM EXAMPLES

India should study the U.S. experience to foster alumni participation and corporate support, and lower the cost of higher education and make it relevant

Back in the late 1990s, responding to a call from my alma mater, the University of Arizona, I reluctantly made a \$100 gift to the university. To my surprise, the dean of the business school left a voice message the next day thanking me, saying my gift quadrupled with corporate matching. He suggested that the gift be used to support students and improve the quality of education. That reluctant relationship blossomed – every year after that, I created a small endowment at the University of Arizona to support a needy student. There are two important issues in the above example: alumni engagement & corporate support in higher education, both important for Indian colleges going forward. They can lower the cost of education & fundamentally transform the educational experience for students.

Let us look at the cost side. The cost of attending higher education institutions in India is moving in the direction of the U.S. universities. Despite public outcry, tuition fees in most U.S. universities continue to increase each year. Among the state universities, one of the reasons for this is the declining government funding as a percentage of the university budgets. At my university, the state of Texas funded 85% of all educational costs in 1970. Today, the state pays around 13%.

The Indian government subsidized higher education in government institutions to the tune of 90 per cent in the 1990s, but has recently asked various institutions to become self-reliant. This is leading to dramatic increases in tuition fees at premier institutions and is expected to worsen. To offset this higher tuition fees, new educational loan programmes have been instituted through banks. These actions look a lot similar to those in the U.S.

Today, in the U.S., over 43 million students have borrowed a staggering \$1.3 trillion. Since 2006, the total debt has increased 300 per cent. The availability of student loans has unintended consequences. Access to loans makes it easy for colleges to increase tuition fees since students do not have much of a choice. That is why loan availability correlates heavily with higher tuition fees.

Mitch Daniels, the president of Purdue University, argues that there are broader societal consequences. “Home buying, marriage, child-rearing and even moving out of the family house are all now commonly delayed because of student debt,” he says. He argues that potential innovators seek traditional pay cheques to pay off loans rather than to pursue entrepreneurial lifestyle. Before the situation gets out of control, the government and various institutions need to explore ways to contain the cost of education and proactively engage alumni & corporations to avoid societal costs.

Alumni engagement

Most U.S. Universities now focus on engaging alumni both to raise funds and to improve the educational experience for students. At the University of Texas at Austin, the alumni association called Texas Exes gave \$3.45 million in scholarship to 641 students in 2015-16. This does not include alumni support to individual colleges on campus. The U.S. universities nurture the culture of pride and loyalty to their institutions. Alumni are emotionally committed to the success of their alma mater. There are both intrinsic - extrinsic motivations and rewards in supporting universities.

We frequently hear of capital campaigns from numerous universities to raise large amount of funds to support scholarship, faculty research, buildings, and so on. These funds are required to attract bright students, and advance knowledge, innovation, and teaching. The University of Texas just raised \$3.12 Billion in its campaign. Other major capital campaigns include Harvard University at \$6.5B, Stanford University at \$6.2B, Cornell University at \$4.75B, and Yale University at \$3.9B. Indian colleges may have to think similarly to advance opportunities and knowledge.

We are beginning to see college rankings include alumni giving-rate as one of the factors. This is an indirect way to measure how institutions are engaging their alumni and leveraging successes of those students to enhance their own educational mission. Alumni bring context and

practical relevance to what is being taught in the classroom. An incoming student is more likely to be influenced by a recent graduate than a professor on the relevance of topics to his or her career. Mid-career alumni can reinforce the aspects of schooling that impact their day-to-day life. Often they can relate to the students better than the faculty does.

Universities increasingly rely on industry projects or capstone classes to provide experiential learning. Often it is the alumni who help arrange projects for professors & assume a mentoring role. Alumni are a great resource during the recruiting process. They are brand ambassadors & advocates for students. Colleges that have a deeper engagement with alumni also have an easier time placing their students. Engaging alumni early on will help students find internships & firms can identify promising talent. Furthermore, alumni can help with mock interviews to prepare students to do well in the process of searching for jobs.

Corporate engagement

Corporate engagement not only brings financial resources, but also helps with recruitment efforts, change, and innovation in universities. The executives who represent corporations bring credibility and act as brand ambassadors. In the U.S., it is a matter of pride for executives to be part of universities and various programmes. Corporations have equal responsibility as, or even more than, the government in developing talent that benefits them and society. Corporations know their needs for talent and skills better than the government. Corporations must play a significant role in developing talent rather than just being consumers of the talent. They have to invest in the future.

Here's a case in point. I proposed a Master's programme in business analytics where there is significant shortage of talent in the U.S. A major retailer, whose chief financial officer is an alumnus of McCombs School of Business and a member of the McCombs Advisory Board, committed \$3,00,000 as seed money to jumpstart this programme. We were quick-ly able to assemble ten companies from different industries with similar need for talent to support our initiative. Many of these companies sponsored capstone projects where students apply their learning to solving real problems and gain practical experience in how to communicate with executives. As faculty, we were able to understand the need for different skills and types of problems industry is trying to solve. Industry has opportunities to seek advanced knowledge from faculty research.

Corporations can engage in allowing their employees to teach specialised classes. We have senior managers from Google and Dell teaching in our programmes. They bring practical knowledge and academic rigor to students that supplement the learning process. If universities and colleges in India need to prepare students for the 21st century, they have to engage their alumni and corporations actively. This engagement is a partnership that benefits all stakeholders.

(Borrowed from "The Hindu" - Prabhudev Konana is Distinguished Teaching Professor & William H. Seay Centennial Professor of Information Management, Department of Information, Risk & Operations Management, McCombs School of Business, Austin, Texas.)

OBITUARY

We deeply mourn the sad demise of our beloved Former Principal Prof C E G Justo on 22nd June 2019. He was the Principal of UVCE during 1992 - 1993. Prof C.E.G Justo was an eminent personality in Civil Engineering and known as "Father of Highway Engineering in Inida"

May his soul rest in peace.



IN CONVERSATION WITH DR. R JAGADISH

We had been requesting R Jagadish sir for an interview from a long time now. Along with learning from his journey, we wanted our readers to know about the plans and progress of the renovation work from the man incharge himself. An Alumnus of Civil Engg Batch of 1965, his achievements and professional journey is an inspiration to all. We are really grateful to him for making time and speaking to us, sharing his vision and challenges during this very important task of re-strengthening the heritage building.



TS: Could you please brief our readers a bit about yourself?

Dr.RJ: I graduated from UVCE with Bachelors in Civil Engineering in 1965 with First Rank. Post this, I completed my Master of Engineering from Indian Institute of Science in 1967 and my PhD from IIT Madras in 1982. Soon after my masters, I started working as a Lecturer in Civil Engineering in the year 1968 in UVCE, Bangalore and occupied the post of Professor and retired as Chairman Faculty of Engineering-Civil, UVCE, Bangalore University in 2002. I am currently the Managing Director of M/s. CONCONS Consultants Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore as well as a Technical Advisor for all Civil Engineering and Maintenance works to Bangalore University, Bangalore. I am a member of the Technical Monitoring Committee for Repairs, Renovations and Construction of New Mechanical Block, UVCE and JB campus, since 2017 and have been a member of various capacities in numerous Advisory Committees.

TS: What are your most fond memories of UVCE?

Dr.RJ: During our times, there were only 4 Engineering colleges and we had to apply individually to all colleges. There was no system like CET and I was lucky to get selected in UVCE. The first 3 years we had common subjects taught and the next 2 years were branch specific specialization. Ours was the first batch which had the Bangalore University affiliation.

I was not a very bright student. There were some very bright students in my batch and hence I decided to join Civil branch. Though many of my friends advised against it, I went ahead with and I am very glad that I did. I could even secure 1st Rank because of the decision I made.

The most memorable moment of my engineering days is the Survey Camps and Project Tours during 3 years of college. In our 3rd year, all 200 students went to Ghati for the Survey Camp. It was a very nice, memorable experience and helped us understand why working together is important. In our 4th year, we had a South India Tour for 15 days which was again very special and I have some fond memories. And finally, in the last year it was an All India Tour for almost 21 days with one bogie of train reserved for us. These Survey Camps and Educational Tours helped us to realize and understand in way just more than the theoretical knowledge and exposed us to real-world projects. This helped us greatly in the long run.

Most of the faculty who taught us were deputed from PWD until our batch. But, after our time, instead of deputation, proper faculty were appointed. Some of the faculty I recall is T N Suryakanth, B C Rajanna, BK Ramaiah, D B Narasimaiah and others. About DBN, we even today fondly recall his wonderful handwriting on the black board. He had a firm grip on the college affairs and everyone (including junior staff) would be afraid of him.

TS: As the person spearheading the renovation committee, Sir can you share with us some of the challenges that you faced in this renovation plan of UVCE?

Dr. RJ: The toughest challenge was to consider the renovation plan of 102 years old building. Under my supervision, renovation of SBM (now SBI) Main Building which is also very old was done. Some of the buildings at Central College and Good Shephard Chapel (also 100+ years old) were also done in which I was involved actively. I was honoured that I was involved in renovation of the heritage buildings which Sir MV himself had planned and executed during his time.

What was more vital is we had to make sure that nothing is disturbed – the roofs, the floors, the walls and for this, careful handling was necessary. We ensured that the renovation pans caused no part to be damaged. Along with this, the other important point was we had to maintain the original style and design for preserving its heritage status. We had to plan everything up to the minute detail in order to achieve this.

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BEST CLASS OF THE SEMESTER - A WRAP UP

Best Class UVCE 2019 was an initiative aimed at bringing a competitive and collaborative spirit amongst the students. It began as a brainchild of being inspired from Water Cup by Paani Foundation. What we understood is that to develop and grow, along with individual effort a community effort is important.

Over the years, UVCE has grown weak not just in terms of infrastructure but in terms of nurturing student spirit. With no proper forum for the students to be streamlined or unified at, students started growing to be apart. What we had seen in UVCE, what we experienced and incorporated during our time in UVCE was different. And our intention was to bring it back. Which is when we designed Best Class Competition.

A structure was sought in place, with UVCE Alumni as point of contacts and each classes having two class coordinators who communicated between the PoCs and the class. In an intriguing 12-week period, the classes were encouraged to conduct a range of activities centered around academics, soft skills, extra-curriculars and class dynamics. The Class Coordinators were asked to prepare a report every week on the activities and participation of the class in the course of the week and including the plans for the next week. The interesting part was, the reports were designed to ensure that the coordinators did not just compile a summary of their doings but reflected on how well they did it, how far they reached their intended goal, how better could it have been done, what is the right thing or the wrong thing they are doing. The Point of Contacts evaluated the class, coordinators' responses, and the reports in reference to the discussed plan of actions to score them every week. In addition to this, the organizing team of Best Class also provided a week-on-week scoring for each of the classes.

The process did face a few hiccups in terms of unbalanced class participations, coordinators late entries, coordinator-PoC miscommunication. This has led us from the organizing perspective to learn a lot of things, while the students also have had an opportunity to learn about managing and communicating.

To strengthen our learnings of organizing the competition, we took in feedback from both the PoCs and Student coordinators. We received a positive review that the competition overall helped students in developing creative activities with respect to academics or extra-curriculars, made them more involved with uvce, enhanced the UVCEian spirit in students, helped improve class coordination, gave the students a sense of enthusiasm and motivation to participate and interact in activities. The improvements that remain are in terms of more foolproof and streamlined conducting of the process. Working on all the pointers, we have decided to come back bigger and better for UVCE Best Class 2.0. The major target would to involve more classes and be able to inspire them more in to being involved with the college while nurturing their skillsets.

Some Stats of the Competition:

- 14 Classes (7 from 1st Year, 7 from 2nd Year)
- 28 Student Coordinators – 14 Alumni Point of Contacts – 12 Weeks – 3Months
- Over 50+activities conducted across cleanliness, academics, UVCE development, extra-curriculars, soft skills
- 85% Active participation (Only 25 out of 168 Reports Missed).
- 7 Classes (50% of the participation) performed extremely well and were perfectly consistent (Did not miss one single report)
- 50% of the classes -7 participating class scored higher than 60% of total marks

On June 30th, we had organized the “Prize Distribution” for the classes that won the competition at Century Club. We had invited the students and alumni to be part of the event and join us for the evening. Many students who joined us were representatives from their respective classes. Few of them had come in spite of having examinations and this showed their interest towards this initiative.

Winners List:

- **First Prize : 2nd Year ECE** - Awarded with 20K Cash Prize + Goodies (Mugs & Mementos)
- **Second Prize: 2nd year ARCH** - Awarded with 10K Cash Prize + Goodies (Mugs & Mementos)
- **Consistent Performers : 2nd year ISE & 1st year ARCH**—Awarded with goodies (T-shirts)
- **Selected Batch Co-Ordinators** : Awarded with Goodies (T-shirts) for their consistent involvement during this initiative and motivating their classmates to participate.

During the occasion, everyone was briefed about the entire concept and why it was organized - the major goal being to bring the change in mindset of the students, make them self-reliant, professional and improve their soft-skills. We requested the senior alumni to handover the prizes to the students and also share their views and experience with everyone. In this way, we tried to make sure the winners share their secrets with everyone, which can help them to plan during the next semester. After photo-shoot, everyone enjoyed the high-tea and spent some time discussing with each other.

Team VisionUVCE congratulates the winners and also all the participants. We promise to make this initiative even more interesting in the coming days.. Hope to see you all again !!



NAMMA UVCE COMMUNITY - THE URGE

Many of us have studied in other institutions in addition to UVCE, which have had a much stronger alumni network and we all have often felt the lack of such a network for UVCE alumni. While we all keep in touch with our batchmates and a few close friends across the batches, a formal and an active platform to bring together all alumni is definitely the need of the hour both to channel our efforts towards our alma mater as well as to build a better network amongst ourselves.

In a way, it seems fairly straightforward to be able to say that alumni or graduate associations help everyone involved - alumni, current students, institution - but it is good to illustrate with a few specific points.

As is evident, I feel the most important aspect of a strong and well connected alumni network is that it acts as a bridge between the institution - its management and current students - and the alumni and acts as eyes and ears to the real world. This is done by providing inputs to the institution regarding trends in technology evolution, industry needs, problems that need to be solved here and now, feedback on demand and supply situation in various skills etc. to thus helping the institution to stay nimble and relevant to the needs of the day. Such a feedback loop is vital for any institution and we know how impactful it can be if we see some of the better run institutions. It is not uncommon for some of the senior and prominent alumni to be part of the advisory committee or board of their alma mater and influence the general direction and vision of the institution.

Alumni network builds a safe and well knit community for the alumni themselves to benefit from one another in terms of learning, mentorship, partnership or even in career growth. Here again, what helps is a healthy and active alumni network and the common bonding and trust they have with the institution. This part is something often overlooked in the context of alumni network. While alumni get connected in the context of the institution, it is not uncommon for the network to come together for other causes and help one another. The common institutional loyalty they share automatically builds trust and breaks barriers of different organizations, nationalities etc.

- Shankar Shastry, Batch of 1992 CSE



UVCE GRADUATES ASSOCIATION

100/4, Bull Temple Road, Bangalore-19 | www.uvcega.org
Regn No: DRB2/SOR/18/2019-20



Why should I become member of this Association?

- Be part of the alumni community
- Leverage the platform for networking
- Opportunity to interact with batchmates
- Meet & greet senior alumni
- Relive the college days & memories
- Giving back to UVCE

You can register online and make the payment for the membership fee online -
<https://uvcega.org/content/info/membership>
If you want to submit the hard-copy of the membership application form, contact us :
Satish A G: +91- 9740111552 | Email: info@uvcega.org

TEAM: Akshatha (7th Sem), Hamsa, Niranjan, Sachin, Sanjana (5th Sem), Harsha S, Chitra S Reddy, Meghashree G, Satish A G & SriHarsha D V (VisionUVCE Team)