

Alumni Association  
of Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering

# CRCE ROOTS



May 2021

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# Introduction



The Alumni Association of Fr. CRCE has always aimed at creating fruitful, innovative, and true-to-life learning experiences for our students. With this maiden edition of the Alumni newsletter, we hope to take another step in that direction, to reach out to all our alums in the world and provide them with a pleasant refresher of not just those buried memories but also an introspective journey of the person they've come to be as a result.

We are sure all of you have equally enthralling and fascinating stories of your journeys since leaving these grounds and we at the Alumni Association want to bring these out to the world to inspire and educate the next generation of engineers.

In this first edition, aptly titled “Roots” we tell the stories and laugh at the anecdotes of some of our finest alumni all while taking the readers along on a journey of personal and professional growth. We hope that these tales of wisdom and the kind words of our faculty and mentors relate with each of you and mould you into your best possible selves.



## Foreword from Chairperson



# Dr. Sapna Prabhu

**Chairperson of Alumni Association  
HOD, Electronics and Computer Science**



Dear Friends,

I hope each one of you is safe, healthy and happy in these trying times and doing well in your respective careers.

It gives me immense pleasure to present to you the first Annual Alumni Newsletter “CRCE- Roots” launched from this year. The Newsletter hopes to reach out to all of you, keeping you informed about the happenings at CRCE and also about Alumni-related activities throughout the year. The Alumni Association of Fr CRCE has grown over the past 35 years into a huge community across the globe and the Core Alumni Committee along with the Student Alumni Committee is committed to strengthen the bond between the Alumni and the College.

It's a well-known fact that the undergraduate years are probably the most precious memories of any student's life as it is a carefree time where friendships are made for life. The rigours of an Engineering degree are made less arduous because of these experiences. I am sure each one of you has many good memories related to CRCE and would like to remain connected. We have been receiving a lot of support from our Alumni, whether in terms of Resource persons for Technical / Non-Technical talks, Mentoring students for career guidance, Financial help towards student projects and Scholarships. We recognise the immense potential that our Alumni Community possesses and would like students to benefit from this. Hoping for your cooperation always. Take care and Happy Reading!!

*“Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory”*

- Dr.Seuss





# College Report 2020-21



Greetings Everyone!

As we all know due to pandemic all the events that took place in the college during the academic year 2020-21 were online. We will be letting you all know of all the major events that took place at our college. It was indeed a virtual year for us.

The **Students' Council** had organized three events. "Fantasia" was held on 11th and 18th October 2020 to keep alive the tradition of the 'Friendship Day' with a theme of Mythical Creatures. "Crescendo" from 13th to 21st March 2021, both these events were intra college events. The annual Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate (CRMD) took place on 6th to 8th November 2020 with more than 30 teams participating, the event was as usual inter-college.

The **ACM-CRCE council** along with **CSI-CRCE** council organised Unscript Rookie's 2k20 - exclusively for Second Year students. More than 50 teams participated in three domains including Web Development, Android and Machine Learning respectively. Students got the opportunity to interact with the industry experts and push their limits to solve different real-life problem statements.



The **Mozilla Council** organised UnScript 2k20 (Mixed Hackathon) on 21st and 22nd November 2020, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Hackathon was held to provide student developers an opportunity to come together, work collaboratively, tackle problems and compete with creative minds. A total of 49 teams consisting of 3-4 members each participated in the hackathon.

The **Rotaract Club of CRCE** conducted its annual charity run: 'The Heart and Sole Run 4' on 13th and 14th March 2021. It was in the form of a virtual marathon with an initiative towards women empowerment, progress of underprivileged children and communities. The Club donated their profits to the Community Outreach Program (CORP) and Fr. Agnel Ashram. With over 450 participants from all over India.

The **TEDx CRCE** conducted its annual TED Talks on 7th November 2020 with more than 250 people in attendance, they then organized the internship expo 2021 on 6th March 2021, giving an internship opportunity to more than 300 students.





# College Report 2020-21



The technical teams in our college had a great virtual run this academic year.

**Team Robocon** was awarded first place as "National winners" and the category winners for "Best Circuit Design" in "Brain-Wreck" -a National Level Competition, organised by Team Invictus under their technical event Equilibrium 2021.

**Team CFR** secured 16th place in the Formula Bharat rulebook test, which is mandatory to clear, to qualify for the competition, and this was the best rank that the team had achieved, to date. The team participated in Formula Bharat virtuals 2021, held in January-February 2021, and managed to achieve 9th position in business plan presentation event, 24th rank in engineering design presentation and an overall rank of 19th all over India, which is the best rank the team has achieved in all its history.

**Team Vaayushastra** secured 9th position internationally among the top-ranked foreign universities, 9th in the design report stage and 10th in the Technical Presentation at the SAE Aero Design (East) competition in the advanced class held at Lakeland, FL USA in March 2020.

**Team Abadha** secured All India Rank (AIR) in the BAJA SAE 2020 was 1st in Sales Presentation, 4th in Design presentation, 5th in acceleration, 12th in sledge pull, 12th in cost presentation, 8th in endurance race with an overall rank of 5th in the year 2020.







# Alumni Association Annual Report 2020-21



The Alumni Association of Fr. CRCE is the body responsible for nurturing and fostering the Alumni network of Fr. CRCE. It aims to instil a feeling of fellowship and works towards the promotion of frequent interactions among the Alumni body of Fr. CRCE and the college.

The Alumni Association, in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, remained consistent in maintaining and increasing the alumni network of Fr. CRCE. We were able to achieve this by organizing various interactive, informative and fun activities on our platform in collaboration with alums from all over the world. We organised three webinars in the year 2020-21.

## Alumni Association Of Fr. CRCE

**SLAVVY COELHO**  
BE COMPUTERS' 18  
MS, Big Data, Data Science,  
Simon Fraser University,  
Data Scientist, HaulR Logistics Inc.

**ACHAL SHAH**  
BE PRODUCTION'13  
MBA, Northwestern University,  
Management Consultant, Deloitte

**MARIYA ALI**  
BE ELECTRONICS' 16  
MS, Electrical and Computer  
Engineering, Purdue University,  
Product Manager, IBM Security

**JANHAVI POWALE**  
BE IT' 10  
MS, Business Analytics,  
University of Illinois at  
Chicago

Panel Discussion Topic : How to equip yourself for further studies.

07 : 30 pm  
**NOV  
19TH**

## Studying Abroad: How to equip yourself for further studies

## Alumni Association Of Fr. CRCE

**PARAG DOSHI**  
BE ELECTRONICS' 92  
Director, Chenoa Information & Software  
Services Pvt. Ltd.

**GIRISH BATRA**  
BE ELECTRONICS' 93  
Co-Founder, JumpStrat  
Business Consulting

**SUBHASH BISHNOI**  
BE IT' 16  
Co-Founder at KitaBeli

**SAYLI POTDAR**  
BE ELECTRONICS' 12  
**MODERATOR**  
Founder, The Topsy Canvas.

Panel Discussion Topic- Explore the startup dream: Plan to Execution

07 : 30 pm  
**NOV  
20TH**

## Exploring your Start-up dream: Plan to Execution

Alumni Association Of  
Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering

Webinar on,

### GOAL - BASED FINANCIAL PLANNING AND INVESTMENT

**MR. GIRISH  
AIGANKAR**  
Chief Revenue Officer,  
Happyess Factory

DATE: March 20th, 2021  
TIME: 11:00 AM IST  
PLATFORM: Google Meet

EMAIL: ALUMNI@FRAGNEL.EDU.IN

+91 8077878961  
Cyril Varghese  
(Alumni Head)

+91 9130000547  
Palak Joseph  
(PR Head)

## Goal based Financial Planning and Investing



# Alumni Association Annual Report 2020-21



The Committee organised the 'Alumni Meet 2021', an annual Alumni reunion of Fr. CRCE. This year's Alumni Meet was conducted virtually on a grand scale, drawing the highest attendance in the last few years. For the very first time, alums from all over the globe attended the meet and enjoyed their day reminiscing the memories of their Alma Mater.

This year, the Batch of 1995 was felicitated as they celebrated their Silver Jubilee of graduation. The eventful evening comprised of several messages from former and current faculty as well as had performances comprising of popular tunes, mimicry and beatboxing from alums and current students of Fr. CRCE. The event was a great success in nurturing a feeling of nostalgia and created fond memories.

The Alumni Association aims to organise many such engagement programs and events in the future and strengthen the everlasting connection between the Alums and Fr. CRCE.







# Our Future Projects



## ***Our Vision***

To create a community of Alums which works towards the advancement of its Alma Mater.

## ***Our Mission***

To develop and strengthen ties between the Alumni, students and the Institute by providing tangible benefits including career services, networking opportunities, funding as well as the opportunity to connect with and inspire students and graduates.

# ***Our Roadmap***

To collaborate efficiently and make the most out of our Alumni Network...

## ***Making Students Industry ready***

We have opportunities for alums to contribute back to our student community through various avenues. As students ourselves we always looked out to our seniors for guidance and now it's your chance to pay it back to your juniors by mentoring them in any way you can:

1. Supporting Certification and Sponsorship
2. Tech and Non Tech Support to various Projects
3. Mentorship programs for promoting students Start-ups
4. Funding for projects and teams
5. Offering Placement opportunities, Internships and Career Counselling.

## ***Strengthening Alumni Network***

You can join our network and be a part of our community. Community activities and plans include:

1. Building strong Alumni Network by conducting Alumni Meets.
2. Stay updated about Alumni Progress through Almaconnect and our various Social media Platforms.
3. Connect with alums and ask them for job referrals - it is a proven fact that job referrals are more successful in landing jobs than regular avenues.
4. If you have a start-up or your organisation requires volunteers - go no further!
5. Leverage the current student base to assist you via internships or volunteering programs.
6. We will also share your experiences, stories through our various social platforms through our Alma spotlight.



## Our Future Project



# *International Chapter Initiative*

The Alumni Association of Fr. CRCE is currently planning on building an International Alumni Chapters for connecting the CRCEites spread all over the world to their ROOTS. The primary target of these International Chapters is to create a channel of contact between the alum and the institute, and among the alums themselves. These chapters will be a platform for the CRCEites moving abroad, where they can seek guidance and help from fellow alums.

For the smooth functioning of the International Chapters the Alumni Association has formulated a 6 point program:

1. Each chapter would be based on a particular geographical location.
2. The members of these chapters would be the alums living in those particular locations.
3. The members of a chapter will stay connected via a common group, created on any social networking app suitable to the members of the chapter.
4. Each chapter will have a Chapter Representative responsible for the functioning of his/her Chapter.
5. Each chapter will be a growing community of CRCE alums.
6. These chapters would be self-functional.
7. Each chapter will stay connected to the institute via the chapter representative.



**Help us to achieve our objectives by  
contributing to our corpus**





## Alumni Interview



# Sanket Jack

**Batch 2009, Information Technology**



*Can you tell us a bit about yourself?*

A PMP certified Project Professional, a young career of 9 years across early-stage funded startups and MNCs. A professional cartoonist for the last 9 years as well, with focus on political satire and sports. A full-time cricket fanatic, who eventually jumped into the cricket fantasy gaming space and started a co. of my own with some other like-minded fanatics.

*Tell us about your journey from being an Engineer to a Cartoonist!*

After my engineering in IT, I set out to pursue my Masters in IT. At that time, "MBA in IT" was a relatively new concept, but I just loved the course work offered and took that up. Post my MBA, I got placed into an IT MNC and that was an eye-opener for me. From college to corporate was not an easy transition for someone who thrived on "creativity". Since school I used to draw cartoons but never really took it up as a profession. As years went by, I used to draw now and then for myself and for my friends (especially my Engineering ones!) It was only when I found myself gasping for a breath of creativity that my girlfriend then (wife now), persuaded me to take up cartooning on editorial topics as I used to criticize and joke around on politics. I drew my first cartoon, published it on twitter and it immediately got recognized by a couple of online blogs. Reach on social used to be organic then, so got decent traction and that was the start! Slowly but surely I made it a habit of drawing a cartoon everyday post work and my colleagues and friends supported me a lot.



# Alumni Interview



***How were you able to convince your family when you were taking some of the major decisions of your life?***

I realized very early through experience that happiness is all that counts in life. I need to go to sleep at night being excited about the next day. I have had days when things looked all dark. My family has been open to most of my decisions. Leaving my MNC job for startups was not an easy one to explain but they supported me and looking back that was one of the best decisions I took. With these real experiences, I was able to convince them by claiming accountability for all my actions and my decisions.

***Who was or is your pillar of strength during the worst phase of your life that you had encountered?***

My wife. She basically gave me an identity of being a cartoonist which I would not have pursued otherwise. The internet may not know a Project manager named Sanket Jack, but the legacy of my cartoon brand Jackartoons shall stay on forever.

***After working for a company like TCS what made you move to work for a digital agency?***

I felt TCS gave me immense, practical experience on how processes should be and why processes are a must. To me, at that time, who had just passed out of college, this all seemed very "boxed" and I did not appreciate it. However, the majority of my career since then has been advising companies to follow processes. I thank TCS for that. In 2013-14, agencies were on the grow in Mumbai and they presented opportunities to grow faster, express creativity more explicitly and I wanted to explore internet buzzwords like SEO, Digital Ads, and how Client Servicing works.

***Was there a moment where you felt that you had failed? If so, how did you overcome that phase?***

Yes, there have been a few, during my professional journey thus far. Being part of startups, you should know you sign up for a lot of failures and less success; because you are in such an infant stage of a company. To overcome this, I strongly advocate knowing your career goals, aspirations and more importantly never letting go of your hobbies and passion. When times are dark, these hobbies and passions will always keep you mentally energized. Also, take failures as learning and a stepping stone towards a better tomorrow. I think lockdown and being stuck at home has been a challenge for the entire world! This has to be the greatest lull phase for many. Something which is not in our hands, unfortunately. Again, understanding what will keep you happy and focusing your energies towards it has helped me stay motivated for tasks at hand and stay mentally fresh.





## Alumni Interview



***Where do you see yourself in the upcoming years as you are an “Engineer by degree, Manager by profession, Cartoonist by passion”?***

My desire is to be a Business Consultant to young companies and help leaders realize their vision. Being on the other side of the table has helped me understand issues that can occur while running young businesses; so, as a Consultant I believe I can do justice and help leaders. I also desire to take up my Doctorate and then get into Research and Teaching young Engineers and management grads!

***What advice would you like to give the students of our college from your life?***

This is the best time of your life. Enjoy it to the fullest. Cherish every moment. You are an Engineer, and surely you have your personal magic formula which helps you sail through the barrage of assignments, exams, pranks by friends, vivas and what not. You can do anything once you go out in the world. Follow your heart, find your passion, don't let go of it, but also make use of your education to make a difference to people's lives! I am not someone who will tell you "Just leave all and follow passion"; many of us have financial responsibilities - respect that. Be creative, keep learning and the world is yours for the taking!

***How did you manage your time, your social life and even managed to follow your passion successfully along with pursuing Engineering?***

I suppose when you are passionate about something, you automatically will find time for it. If you are not passionate, you will find excuses to not do it.

Excerpt from,  
Sanket Jack



## Journey of our Alumni



# Shareen Kitterman

**Batch 1995, Computer Engineering**



Dear CRCEites,

I, am humbled and grateful to share my experiences. Becoming a U.S. Diplomat is a dream come true and I believe that my life is a rags to riches fairytale in every sense of the way and not just financial.

It all started with the excellent foundation from my school (OLGC) and CRCE. I grew up poor and an outcast since my parents separated in 1979 when I was not yet six. As a clerk's daughter, I was mocked for aspiring to become an engineer. CRCE was my first dream come true. I cannot thank Dr. Iyer and the entire staff - they not only educated us but also gave us opportunities to lead and excel. I was fortunate to be the first ladies representative in the student council and part of the founders of Euphoria - our first college festival.

My second dream that come true was moving to the US for grad school. I did not know anyone here but took the leap of faith and left India. I was able to get an assistantship which paid my tuition and living expenses so I graduated debt free. I used to complain about things that I had to 'ratta', but I applied the knowledge I had learned at CRCE and the Master's program was a breeze. I followed the typical path of becoming a programmer and I had to bid my time until I got my green card.

After grad school, I worked in the telecommunication sector as a programmer. I wanted to move into management but I did not have a green card (GC). After my GC, I joined a small company, as a Project Manager, building complex solutions for the health insurance sector. I grew the account by millions of dollars and my direct report team from 2 to 60. I was a young manager (early 30s) applying the teachings and leadership skills from CRCE. To increase profitability, I created a business plan to offshore work to India in 2004. I led the partnerships in India successfully and was promoted to a Director within 3 years of joining.





## Journey of our Alumni



The next phase of my life started with my marriage to Damon who was an immigration attorney and then became a U.S. diplomat. While he was posted in India, I worked for a joint venture of Dun & Bradstreet and TransUnion as a leader of PMO and marketing. I had no background in marketing other than the willingness to accept challenges and opportunities that came my way. When we returned to the US, I joined Dun and Bradstreet in a sales role in the US federal government sector without the benefit of sales or government experience. I managed to excel and got opportunities to speak at conferences, work with congressional staff and support government audits.

Interacting with Damon and his coworkers inspired me to pursue the Foreign Service. I had to learn US history, Civics and various things that one typically learns in school. When I first started this journey, I had no idea that I would fall in love with the history and the Constitution of the United States of America. And fall in love with the country itself and the concept and privilege of serving my country as a U.S. Diplomat - another dream come true.

It was not originally a dream since I was unaware that someone like me could ever be one. Great leaders are great learners – this belief has enabled me to succeed, and I continue to learn every day. My advice is never ever let your background or what people say hold you back - kuch to log kheenge... Be innovative and creative with the opportunities you get – there is a reason why 'jugaad' was added to the dictionary. Keep an open mind since many of my setbacks have actually ended up being opportunities in disguise. And just go for it!

With sincere wishes for your bright future,  
Shareen Crasta Kitterman



Scan me to watch the video!





# Achievements



## Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan

*Principal*

For being selected among the 20 Pragmatic Women Leaders in the education industry by “The Academic Insights”



## Mrs. Shareen Kitterman

*Batch 1995, Computer Engineering*

For being the first US Diplomat from our college



## Mr. Gaurav Sen

*Batch 2014, Computer Engineering*

For being selected in LinkedIn top 200 voices.



## Mr. Santosh Chiplunkar

*Batch 1995, Production Engineering*

For getting the ‘Above and Beyond’ award and ‘ITS Leadership’ award by “Freddie mac” and ‘CIO’ Award from “AARP” (American Association of Retired People).







# Alumni Appreciation



*Thank you for contributing and enagaging with our college  
Fr. CRCE and staying true to your roots!!*

1. Mrs. Shobana Chandramohan  
(Electronic Engineering, 1991)
2. Mr. Parag Doshi  
(Electronic Engineering, 1992)
3. Dr. Sapna Prabhu  
(Electronic Engineering, 1992)
4. Mr. Parag Doshi  
(Electronic Engineering, 1992)
5. Mr. Girish Batra  
(Electronic Engineering, 1993)
6. Mr. Girish Ajgaonkar  
(Electronic Engineering, 1995)
7. Mr. Deepal Dass  
(Electronic Engineering, 2002)
8. Mrs. Rupali Hirlekar  
(Electronic Engineering, 2003)
9. Mr. Swapnil Kshirsagar  
(Production Engineering, 2009)
10. Ms. Janhavi Powale  
(IT Engineering, 2010)
11. Mr. Farhan Shaikh  
(Electronic Engineering, 2011)
12. Mrs. Sayli Potdar  
(Electronic Engineering, 2012)
13. Mr. Nirmal Topiwala  
(Electronic Engineering, 2012)
14. Mr. Achal Shah  
(Production Engineering, 2013)
15. Mr. Ayush Jain  
(Electronic Engineering, 2013)
16. Mr. Gaurav Sen  
(Computer Engineering, 2014)
17. Mr. Rajendra Gangan  
(Production Engineering, 2015)
18. Ms. Mariya Ali  
(Electronic Engineering, 2016)
19. Mr. Subhash Bishnoi  
(IT Engineering, 2016)
20. Mr. Rajeev Karuvath  
(Electronic Engineering, 2017)
21. Mr. Rohit Date  
(Electronic Engineering, 2017)
22. Mr. Soumik Pathak  
(IT Engineering, 2017)
23. Ms. Slavvy Coelho  
(Computer Engineering, 2018)
24. Mr. Pranit Raje  
(Computer Engineering, 2018)
25. Mr. Immanuel Thomas  
(Production Engineering, 2018 )
26. Mr. Akash Palghadmal  
(Computer Engineering, 2019)
27. Mr. Edwin Clement  
(Computer Engineering, 2019)
28. Mr. Rathil Patel  
(Computer Engineering, 2019)
29. Ms. Aayushi Sehgal  
(Production Engineering, 2019)
30. Mr. Gopesh Rajderkar  
(Computer Engineering, 2019)
31. Ms. Christina Michael  
(Electronic Engineering, 2020)
32. Mr. Ryan D'silva  
(IT Engineering, 2020)
33. Mr. Sojan Chandy  
(IT Engineering, 2020)
34. Mr. Tanmay Rane  
(IT Engineering, 2020)
35. Mr. Yogendra Yatnalkar  
(IT Engineering, 2020)

We would especially like to thank Mr. Suresh Balakrishnan (Production Engineering, 1995) for his generosity. He offered a very generous amount for the scholarship through STULZ CHSPL foundation to 15 meritorious students of our college. We are really grateful to him.



## Alumni Association Team



### Core Committee



**Dr. Sapna Prabhu**  
Chairperson



**Prof. Prachi Patil**  
Secretary



**Prof. Parshavi Shah**  
Treasurer



**Prof. Archana Lopes**  
Faculty Representative Electronic Engg. Dept.



**Prof. Merly Thomas**  
Faculty Representative Computer Engg. Dept.



**Prof. Hitendra Vaishnav**  
Faculty Representative Production Engg. Dept.





# Alumni Association Team



## Core Committee



**Mr. Paresh Shetty**  
President, Sales at  
Cloud4C Services



**Mr. Suresh Balakrishnan**  
Joint Managing Director at  
STULZ-CHSP Pvt. Ltd.



**Mr. Farhan Shaikh**  
Manager at Capgemini



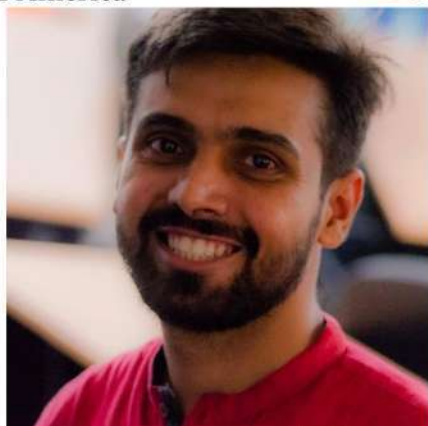
**Mr. Hardik Panchal**  
Project Analyst at  
Bank of America



**Mr. Aditya Pundir**  
Senior Manager at  
Morgan Stanley



**Mr. Subrai Pai**  
Senior Product Manager at  
Dexcom



**Mr. Omprakash Jha**  
Senior Manager at  
Rebel Foods



**Mr. Wayne Pereira**  
Associate Director, Digital & Marketing at  
Gemsons Precision Engg Pvt. Ltd.



## Alumni Association Team



# Student Committee



**Cyril Varghese**  
Alumni Head



**Marena Fernandes**  
Operations Head



**Mausam Yadav**  
Jr. Operations Head



**Palak Joseph**  
Jr. PR Head



**Vinay Shelke**  
Jr. Data & Tech Head



**Sahil Mahimkar**  
Jr. Data & Tech Head





# Ending Note



We at the Alumni Association wish to keep this tradition of exchange between the institute and its alumni alive and bridge the gap between present and past students of the institute through many more issues to come.

We would like to thank our entire Team of Students, Faculty, and especially our Alumni who shared their wisdom and experience with us for this edition of our newsletter. A special vote of thanks also goes out to the Student Alumni Committee and all their mentors who were instrumental in the conceptualizing and creation of this maiden issue of the newsletter. We also acknowledge the support and contribution of the College Management and all those individuals who have been vital to the functioning of our Institute for the past 37 years.

With that, we conclude this issue and bid you to always be bold and stay true to your “Roots”.





[frcrce.almaconnect.com](http://frcrce.almaconnect.com)



**Alumni Association of  
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