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## DEEPAK ZACHARIAH MATHEW (CLASS OF 1997)



When I think back to my years in ILS there are many incidents that come to mind—my witty and active classmates, the basketball games and many more, such as the moment, when I was told that I had won the first Flying High magazine cover competition.

After graduating from school in 1997, I did a Bachelor of Architecture degree at Hindustan Engineering College, which comes under Madras University. Though armed with a degree in architecture, I decided to pursue my interest in animation and enrolled in several animation courses. During this time, I created a few 2d animated short pieces. They were not very polished, but were good learning experiences, and in 2005, one of them managed to win me and my team a 1st place on a music channel (Southern Spice) Animated ID competition. The film was aired on the channel for a year. During the next 1 ½ years I through a couple of animation companies and then decided that I should try my luck outside India where the animation industry was more mature. I got admission, all the way at the other end of the globe, at the Vancouver Film

School, for a short and very intensive 6 month course. Here I graduated with Honours and created my first cg animated Short film, 'The Switch'. This was probably the turning point in my career, as 'The Switch' received recognition at two international animation shows in Germany and Japan and was put on you tube by VFS. The school gave me a scholarship and I stayed on in Canada for another six months. I then got a call from a French gaming company, Ubisoft. They said they were putting together a core team for their brand new studio at Singapore, and were interested in my work. I decided to take up their offer as Ubisoft is a veteran company in the industry and one of the world's largest animation companies. I figured I could further my learning, and Singapore being a mere five hours from India, was also an attractive prospect.

Presently I work as Associate Lead Animator of the company and the area I deal with is Cinematic Direction or what the French call 'Realization'. This involves directing the Animators to achieve the cinematic quality required for story telling in the Game. I have been with the company for over three years and I have had the privilege of shipping some great titles. I was animator for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (Xbox Arcade), Assassins Creed 2 and Raving Rabbids, and the Associate Lead Animator for Assassins Creed Brotherhood and Assassins Creed Revelations. At present I am working on an unannounced project. Game development is a difficult process depending heavily on teamwork. So far it has been a great experience. My wife Aseemta, who is in the same industry also works at Ubisoft.

I have come far since I won that Flying High Cover competition, but perhaps that was my first step of my career path in life. Congratulations ILS as you celebrate the 30th Anniversary.





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## ANDREA D'SOUZA (CLASS OF 1997)



My name is Andrea D'Souza, and I had the privilege to attend the Indian Language School between 1987 and 1995. I have some very fond memories about growing up in which ILS had a pivotal role to play. The many friendships I developed and the close bond I continue to maintain with classmates and friends from ILS is something I cherish the most.

In 1999, pursuant to my Bachelor of Commerce degree, I also received a diploma in Travel and Tourism from H.R. College of Commerce and Economics in Mumbai, India. After which, I completed a six month apprenticeship with Jet Airways, where I was exposed to the work ethic of one of India's most successful aviation companies. My experience at

Jet gave me great insight into the competitive nature of the airline industry, and the challenges faced in such an environment.

In 2001, I was fortunate to return to Lagos, and soon after started working for the British Deputy High Commission (BDHC). I continue to work for the BDHC and have spent the last twelve years working for a noteworthy foreign-service agency, which has continuously recognized and acknowledged my contributions. Although, it has not always been easy and sometimes it feels like a "roller-coaster" ride, I would not trade places with anybody else for any other job.

I began my career with the BDHC as a Locally Engaged administration officer, where I spent most of my time dealing with back-office and general inquiries about applications for United Kingdom visas. In 2008, I was promoted to Office Manager (Lagos) managing a team of 110 locally employed staff and from 2010 till date I hold the position of Regional Office Manager (West Africa). In the same year my work was further recognized; where I was the only locally employed staff member at the UK Border Agency to be nominated for the annual International Group "Recognizing the Best" awards. I am pleased to report that I was awarded "Manager of the Year."

Along the way, to help advance my career, I also completed several training courses. I am a registered "first aider" certified by the International Red Cross, and also handle harassment cases for the office; a subject area that requires extensive and specialized training. I have also been trained to be a competent interviewer by recently completing a course on interviewing selection skills provided by the foreign office which is important for my current position.

On a personal note, I married my husband, Raunaq D'Souza

(luckily, I didn't have to change my surname), in 2003, and we are recent parents to a 4-month baby boy, Reyhaan. Not surprisingly, he takes up a great deal of my time, but I remain a TV and movie addict and enjoy water sports and theme parks (I'm told I scream deafeningly on roller-coasters). I take great pleasure in entertaining family and friends and always relish a good meal out in good company.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate ILS on reaching this remarkable milestone; 30 years of providing a quality education to alumni like me. This is also the appropriate time to say a big thank you to all my wonderful teachers, my beloved principal Mrs. Kanwar, and all my fellow school mates. I owe much of my success to all of them; for what they taught me beyond what any school curriculum is designed to do. I can say confidently that ILS provided me with a superior education in a nurturing and supportive environment, and that has served as the foundation for my career, and defines the person I am today. I am also compelled and pleased to add that my mother, Mrs. Lita D'Souza, has served in the Finance Department at ILS from 1987.

I am indeed honored to have been given the opportunity to share my experiences with you, and wish all the students at ILS only the very best, regardless of where your bright future might take you. I am humbled by the company I keep, but stand proud to be one of you.







## AMITA MALLYA(SHENAI) (CLASS OF 1997)

I was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria and completed my pre-college education at the Indian Language School. Upon graduating from ILS I went to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst to pursue a degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. While in college, I met my husband (Vasanth Shenai) and got married a few months after graduation in November 2001. We moved to Bloomington, Indiana where I worked for two years at Baxter pharmaceuticals as a Regulatory Affairs associate. We then moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota where I had the opportunity to work as Regulatory Affairs specialist at Boston Scientific, a medical device company. While very successful in my career, I was not getting that direct patient care that I always craved for and hence the impetus to pursue my doctorate in pharmacy and become a pharmacist.

I got accepted into the University of Minnesota, College of Pharmacy program. I graduated last year in May 2011 with a Pharm D. degree and decided to do a general pharmacy practice residency at the Veteran Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Minneapolis. I will complete my residency in July 2012 and hope to take a full time job offer as a clinical pharmacist at a teaching hospital in Minneapolis. As a pharmacist, I will play a vital role in the delivery of patient care; working closely with an interdisciplinary team of physicians, nurses and other health care practitioners to ensure my patients receive the finest care.

While it has been some time since my ILS days, it was an experience that I will never forget. My experience at ILS played such an important role in my life. It was here that I was able to get a rich and rigorous education and make lifelong friends. I truly believe that my time at ILS has properly equipped me to overcome the challenges I have already faced and prepared me to achieve my goals of the future. Congratulations to ILS on their 30th anniversary and I wish you many more! Thank you for everything.







## SEEMA RAMCHANDANI (CLASS OF 1997)

### My memories of I.L.S

expatriate children living in Lagos!  
(excerpts from an article by Heer P. Kothari which appeared in the October-December 2011 issue of the 'The Sindhian' magazine.)

A singer, an educationalist and an actor, Seema Ajit Ramchandani loves to live her life on a different beat. Born and brought up in Lagos, Nigeria, Seema studied at the Indian Language School until Grade 10. At age 16, she moved to Poona where she concluded her Bachelor's Degree in Arts majoring in Psychology. She went on to complete a Post Graduate Diploma in School Psychology from the University of Pune. Between 2007 and 2009, Seema finished yet another Post Graduate Diploma, this time at the University of Hong Kong. She studied Education, majoring in teaching English as a Foreign Language to young learners. She is currently concluding a Masters of Education program at the Hong Kong University. Even today, Seema is working hard on a unique assignment in Hong Kong. Using her skills, Seema aims to use music as a medium to help kids connect better with their curriculum. "On the PGDE course, I researched the use of music in the EFL (English as a Foreign Language) classroom to teach aspects of pronunciation, more specifically, rhythm and stress in connected speech. Findings from this research fueled the ideas for my current research which is taking a closer look at the current practices in Hong Kong," adds Seema. Considering how rhythm and rhyme make learning effortless, Seema hopes to inculcate this technique on a routine basis.

#### A Divine Chant

Apart from education, Seema has been singing at satsangs since she was nine. She has been a teacher with the Art of Living organization since 2002 and been closely affiliated with the Sadhu Vaswani Mission since 1995. She has traveled extensively using a wide repertoire of music ranging from Gospel to Sufi to inspire the youth to turn to a more spiritual way of life.

Seema understands music from a very global perspective. "I have traveled to numerous places around the world, and have learned that a local element in any kind of music brings people from various nationalities, casts and creed, all on an even keel. This is precisely the reason why I prefer working with a local band if I am performing in a



**A** unique school-life brings about unique solidarity and friendship. Most people are surprised when I tell them I was born, raised and schooled in Lagos but little do they know that the depth of the relationships we form living in a place like Nigeria is what keeps us attached to it. I am grateful for friends that I've had since Kindergarten and am still in touch with. Thinking back through my singing career, if it weren't for Johnny Bhojwani, I would never have gotten up in front of the assembly as we waited for Sapna Mukherjee to make her appearance. School is where I fell in love with the harmonium. Watching my music teacher play it inspired me to give it a go when I saw one at my neighbour's house.

Despite being miles away from India, we were not denied the Indian culture. For this, it is my school, the Indian Language School, I thank. Performing in the ballet, playing keyboard recitals, singing at almost every event...all these experiences paved the way to get me where I am today. God bless ILS and may it continue to enrich the lives of many



different state or country." Being a part of a fusion band 'ReOrientate' in Hong Kong, they truly create magic with music.

#### Seemless!

ReOrientate is a band that creates music without borders. It is a perfect example of unity in diversity, as the members of the band come from diverse walks of life, and are of various nationalities. They have South East Asian, Flamenco, Indian, Latin, Arabic, and an assortment of various other cultures coming together to form this rich tapestry of notes and rhythm. "For example, flamenco conventions are full of call-response dialogues, and we extend this by doing a lot of call-response play between different musical traditions," explains Seema.

#### The Indian High!

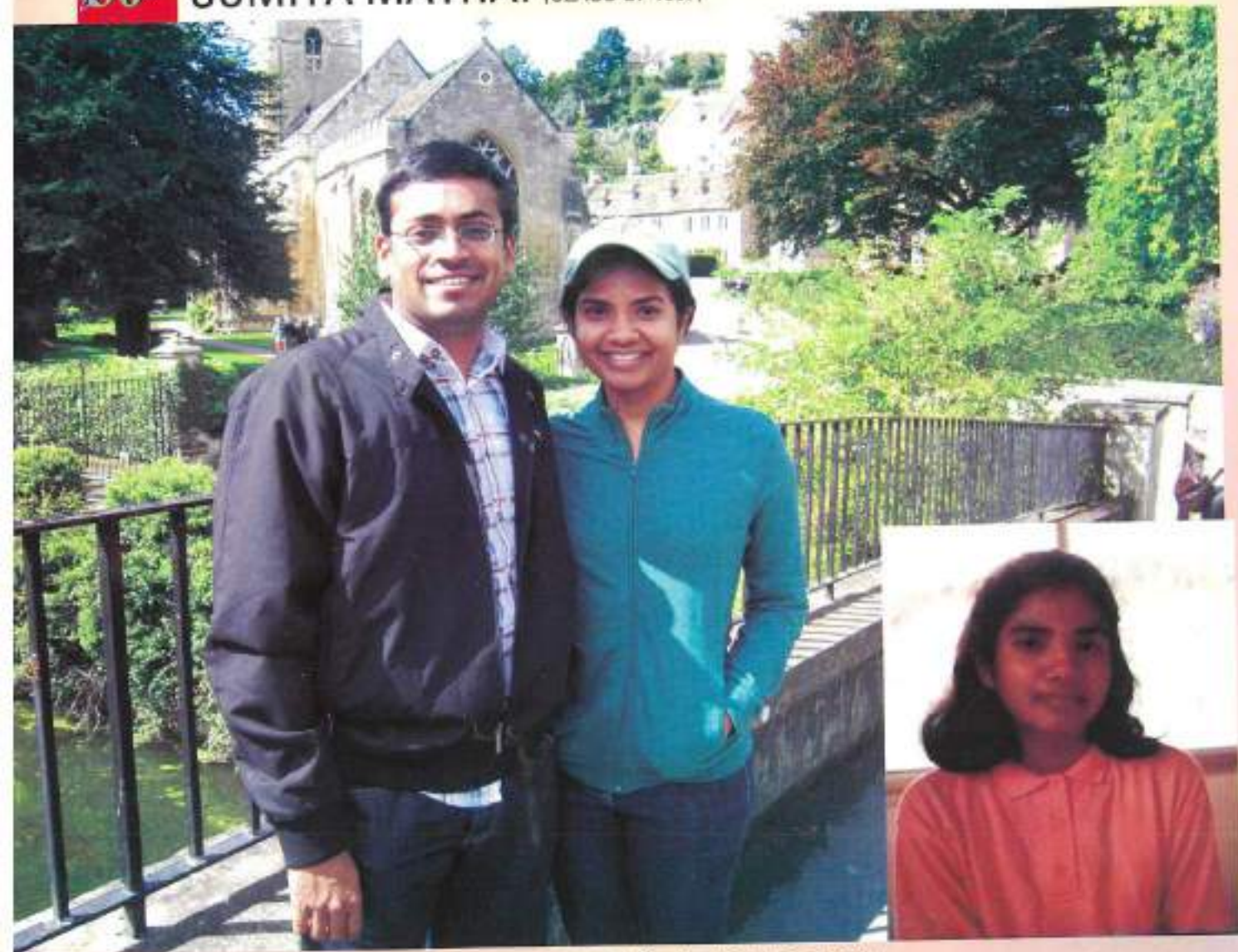
On a national level too, Seema has created waves. Her singing talents were explored on national television when a simple entry form changed her life. Seema Ramchandani was one of the five best singers in the country to have been a part of Viva, a pop music group. The group comprised of five young women, backed by the musical geniuses in the country. The birth of the band was a product of the first ever reality TV show hosted at a national level by Channel V. Immediately after the launch of the first album of the band, Seema parted ways to take on a new course. She spent an entire year traveling with the Art of Living organization, teaching courses and doing concerts. "As much as I wanted to get back into main stream teaching in India, I realized that the celebrity status attained had changed things a lot and this encouraged me to tread a new path. This is how Hong Kong happened.

Home-away from home  
The very first thing that comes to our mind when we think of Hong Kong is 'cosmopolitan'. A culture that absorbs every other culture and co exists in harmony. "Hong Kong has

been good to me. My life is full...work, study, meditation, salsa dancing, shows with ReOrientate and travel. I'm also fortunate enough to be near the best dive destinations in the world so I get to pursue my hobby of SCUBA diving too! I thank God every day for the opportunity to live in such a vibrant city!"







## CONGRATULATIONS ILS!

ILS – Indian Language School, my Alma Mater, always brings back fond memories from my school days. I can't believe that the school is nearly as old as I am (and I am not young).

I spent a good 15 yrs of my life at ILS. Looking back, those fundamental years have been vital building blocks in my life since. The basic values, virtues and friends are what many of us retain moving forward in life, and it's the same for me too.

Moving on from ILS, I continued my Pre-university education at Jyoti Nivas College and went on to do my Bachelors in Engineering in Electronics and Communication from R. V College, both of which were in Bangalore. I then progressed to undertake a Masters degree in Micro Electronics from the University of Southampton in UK.

I have been fortunate to be working with the same firm since passing out of my MSc. I work for a company called Synopsys, who are world leaders in fields of Electronic Design Automation (EDA). In simple terms, the company designs software and products to support the design and manufacture of Integrated Circuit Chips for Intel, AMD, Texas Instruments and other bespoke companies. As part of my job, I travel to many parts of the world and interact with people from many different culture and races. I would say this is one of the best aspects of the job. There have also been equal periods of long stressful work, but the experience is what counts.

I will take this opportunity to wish all you young and energetic bright sparks of ILS a wonderful and prosperous future. I am sure ILS will do for you what it did for me, i.e. instill a sense of direction, spirit and values and a good collection of friends, many of who remain with you for years to come.





## RINKU LALCHANDANI (CLASS OF 1997)

**A**fter graduating from ILS in 1996, I left Lagos to study in Mount Carmel College, located in the small and upcoming Indian “Silicone Valley” of Bangalore. Having been raised in Nigeria, it was strange and unnerving to be without the over protectiveness of the Lagos expatriate luxuries; however, I soon found my groove and began to enjoy college. With a rigorous science background in school, I found it refreshing to make a departure to the arts and humanities, where I had the pleasure of reading some amazing literature, enjoying extracurricular activities such as acting/drama, and even having a brief stint as the editor of the college newspaper.

In 1999, I completed my Bachelor's degree in English literature, Psychology and Journalism, with a strong sense of purpose, in pursuing a career in psychology. Not knowing any psychologists or having the faintest idea on how to become one, I undertook several volunteer positions working with children from disadvantaged backgrounds, victims of violence, and even manning the telephone lines of the suicide hotline to ascertain my interest in psychology. Thereafter, I followed my passion and pursued psychology with earnest. I sent my application to the Master's Program at New York University, where I was accepted to the Psychology department. NYU and my experiences in New York were life changing; it is where I truly learned about the foundations of psychology and conducting psychological research. While I found research stimulating and intellectual, I became aware of the “publish or perish” academic mentality. I wanted to work with people/real-life problems beyond research subjects. Thus, I continued to apply to other graduate schools and after another grueling process with applications, I was accepted into the PhD program at the California School of Professional Psychology (CSPP) in San Francisco, California. Thankfully, the Clinical Psychology program at CSPP followed a scholar-practitioner model, providing its students with skills to pursue either research or clinical work.

Now graduate school was all that they said it was going to be and more; endless classes, reports, mandatory 20-hour weeks of unpaid clinical work and not to forget the big “D” (Dissertation). I became highly interested and engrossed in Neuropsychology and completed my internship (5<sup>th</sup> year of PhD program) at a hospital working with brain-injured adults. Continuing on the same path, I moved to Southern California to complete a 2-year postdoctoral residency in Neuropsychology. In 2010, I took the licensing exams that would allow me to practice independently as a psychologist in California, and much to my relief, I passed. Presently, I am a licensed Clinical Psychologist in California hired by a psychology group to provide therapy and neuropsychological assessment to individuals with differing presenting issues.

Outside of work, I make time for leisure and fun, enjoying hobbies such as kayaking, hiking, and visiting the opera. It is important for me to maintain a healthy lifestyle, as you can imagine my job can be exacting if I don't manage my stress well. I make time for small activities everyday such as doing yoga, enjoying a meal with family or friends, or reading/hearing/seeing something beautiful.





## EKTA PRIMLANI(JAISINGHANI) (CLASS OF 1998)



My name is Ekta Primlani Jaisinghani; I have come to the United States by way of India, where I was born, and Nigeria, where I was raised. I was fortunate to have done my high school from the "Indian Language School" in Lagos. My time at ILS built an inner confidence in me that no matter what career path I chose, I knew I would have the will power and strength to succeed. It created the strong foundation for a larger goal. I first came to the United States in pursuit of an education, acquiring a Bachelors of Business Administration from James Madison University in 2001. An interest in both Fashion and Jewelry led me to pursue Fashion Merchandising and Jewelry design at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York. Shortly after school in 2004, I worked for "Art Karat". Art Karat is a Delhi based company that specializes in semi-precious stones. In 2007, I became a Management Associate at Iridesse, which was a subsidiary of Tiffany and Company. Iridesse offered a beautiful array of pearls which included Freshwater, Akoya and South Sea Pearls. While there, I acquired my AJP (Accredited Jewelry Professional) from the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). I joined the

Tiffany family in March of 2009 as the Assistant Store Manager. In 2011, shortly before I acquired my "Diamond Graduate" degree from GIA, I was promoted to Operations Manager where I now oversee four department including Merchandising, Financial Administration, Customer Service and Security. I have been married for nine years to a wonderful man, who is also an ILS alumnus. He presently works for JP Morgan as an Equity Trader. We were thrilled to welcome our baby daughter Jiya in the fall of 2009.





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## PIYA VIRMANI (CLASS OF 1998)



Piya did her Bachelors of Arts Degree in Economics(Honours) from Lady Shri Ram College in Delhi and a Post Graduation in Management from Indian school of Business , Hyderabad. She has since worked as Sales Executive with British Airways, as an Executive, Risk Advisory Services with KPMG and as Accounts Assistant , Projects with SE Aerospace One( a private air-charter provider) At present, she is AVP , Corporate Finance with GE Capital, Gurgaon. She is a National Level basketball player, President of the National Sports Organization, and an avid traveler.



## RUCHI KAPUR (CLASS OF 1999)



After completing her 12<sup>th</sup> grade from ILS, Ruchi did her MBBS at Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University , Pune and then went on to specialize in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Ramaiah Medical College, Bangalore. She then underwent FOGSI certified advanced training in infertility management and IVF at Sir Gangaram Hospital, Delhi. She then went on to work at Fortis La Femme, New Delhi, for two years. At present she is working at Kasturba Hospital, Daryaganj. Ruchi's special interest is hysteroscopy and infertility and says that her goal is to work towards empowerment of all women of all sections of society and to ensure that the best healthcare is available to them.





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## RAKHEE GANGWANI (CLASS OF 2000)

**M**y name is Rakhee Sethia and I am a proud alumna of Indian Language School batch of 2000. I studied at ILS for 13 wonderful years and then moved to the United States to pursue my Bachelors in Business Administration. I graduated with highest honours (Summa Cum Laude) in 2004 and was awarded for achieving the highest GPA in the Finance and Commercial Law department. Upon graduation, I pursued my Masters in Business Administration while working at Kellogg's Global Headquarters in Michigan. I graduated in 2006 with a perfect GPA of 4.0 in my MBA program and was promoted right after that. I met my husband Rishi Sethia at Kellogg's and we got married in 2008. During my free time, I enjoy shopping, meeting friends and exploring different countries with Rishi.

After our wedding, Rishi and I relocated to Kellogg's European Headquarters in Dublin, Ireland to gain exposure to the European side of the business. A few months later, I was promoted to Senior Financial Analyst responsible for the entire budgeting process of Kellogg Europe. During this time, I studied Chartered Accountancy through UK's Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and ranked first in Ireland. I was recently promoted to Finance Business Partner responsible for the Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and African division of Kellogg's European business. Throughout my career I have been recognised for my passion for simplicity, can do attitude and financial modelling skills that have helped drive tangible business results.

None of this would have been possible without the strong foundation given to me by Indian Language School. I will always remain truly and profoundly grateful to this great institution. Congratulations on 30 fantastic years and my best wishes for many more years of unlimited success!





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## GAURAV NAYAK (CLASS OF 2000)



I have some fabulous memories of studying in ILS and learning from all the wonderful teachers there. Kudos to each and every one of you, as you are one of the reasons why we are where we are today. As they say, "What a teacher writes on the blackboard of life can never be erased".

A very special thanks to all the Non-teaching staff as well.

After graduating from Grade 12 in 2000, I completed my Bachelors of Engineering from Mumbai and then came to the United States for my Masters in Computers with a 4.0 GPA. Since then I have been in the Philadelphia area where I currently reside with my wife Sapna.

Sapna and I graduated from the same class in school in 2000 as strangers. Little did we know that few years down the road we would be tying the nuptial knot.

We now run a successful business development company in the area.

Congrats once again. Here is to 30 more years of ILS.





## PIYUSH PANDEY (CLASS OF 2000)



I was born in Dewas (M.P), soon after moved to Punjab and then in 1992, to Nigeria where I joined ILS.I can still clearly recall my first day at the school. Emotions ran high; it was a day full of excitement, nervousness, curiosity and anticipation.

ILS helped my overall growth and development. The culturally diverse and friendly environment provided me with the exposure needed to grow as an individual. The selflessly devoted and approachable teachers helped me tread through various grades. Sports day and annual day celebration always ushered in joy .The 100% participation policy ensured everybody got the opportunity to show their talent and facilitated personality development. Various festival celebrations and fairs at school allowed me to stay connected to my roots and the rich Indian cultural heritage.ILS gave me friends that I cherish. Life at ILS was like being in India away from India. I graduated in 2000.School time was one of the best times of my life.

My first plane journey ever, which I took to Nigeria, was when I developed the fascination for aircrafts and aviation. I always wondered how these majestic machines take to the air, controlled from just a small cockpit at the nose of the aircraft. I remember, always requesting for the window seat near the engines and looking out of the window throughout the many journeys that we undertook from Nigeria. This fascination turned to passion and I decided to turn my passion into my profession .This would not have been possible without the support of my family and god's blessings

I obtained the Commercial Pilots License required to fly multi-pilot aircrafts. A Science stream with mathematics in higher secondary school was a prerequisite for CPL. It required clearing 5 exams(Technical-General & Specific, Air Navigation, Aviation Meteorology and Air regulation) conducted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and 250 hours of flying single engine aircrafts which I did from Ahmedabad Flying Club .It took about 2 years to complete the course.

Upon obtaining the licenses, I joined Jet airways in January 2005 on Boeing 737 fleet which I flew for 2.5 years, then got endorsed for their Boeing 777 fleet which I flew for 2.5 Years. I also obtained the Airline Transport Pilots License (ALTP) in 2010 which authorizes pilots to act as pilot-in-command of any aircraft.

I got married in November 2010 to Neha Gaur and live with my parents and wife in Noida (NCR).I have always loved travelling and I am blessed to have a profession that also allows me to fulfill my hobby. Currently, I am on Boeing 737 fleet and fly to various domestic and international destinations.

After having a fulfilling career with Jet airways I decided to make a big career move end of last year by applying for Emirates Airlines. Fortunately, I cleared the four day Emirates selection process. I am all set to move to Dubai with my family to join Emirates Airline on their Boeing 777 fleet in July 2012.





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## RESHMA MALLYA (CLASS OF 2000)



Twelve years - that's how long it has been since I graduated from ILS. As I look back, I have a lot to be happy about, proud of and thankful for, and I am glad I have been given this opportunity to share some of my experiences, achievements and future goals with you.

After I graduated from ILS, I went on to study at the University of California, Davis. I majored in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. My education at ILS proved to be extremely helpful at Davis, especially my first two years. Along with taking the required courses, I took a wide variety of classes that I never thought I would have the opportunity of taking such as art history, greek mythology, accounting, economics, comparative literature, sociology, etc. I wanted to explore all possible avenues of interest to make sure I had made the right decision in choosing the science track after 10th grade. I enjoyed every one of those classes but it confirmed my choice of a career in the sciences. By the 3rd year at Davis, I had volunteered at several clinics at the UC Davis, Medical School and I decided that pharmacy was the way to go for me. I graduated from UC Davis in 2004 with the highest honors, and was on my way to the University of California, San Francisco, School

of Pharmacy, one of the top ranked pharmacy schools in the nation.

Pharmacy school was an amazing experience. Besides taking the assigned classes, I volunteered for events in the community, which included teaching students at the local schools about importance for staying drug-free. I also organized/volunteered at health fairs in the low income areas so we could tests patients for high blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes and administer flu vaccines. I took up leadership positions in a variety of student organizations, including being the class vice-president. So at the end of my four years at UC San Francisco, not only did I graduate in the top 20% of my class with a Doctorate in Pharmacy, I also honed my interpersonal, professional and leadership skills.

The way that pharmacy is practiced here is quite revolutionary - as pharmacists, we are an integral part of the health care team giving valuable drug information to clinicians as well as educating patients on their medications. I currently work at a long term care pharmacy. We serve several nursing homes and our population is primarily geriatric. On a daily basis I monitor patient profiles for drug interactions, allergy screenings for all new medications prescribed and provide any drug information that the doctor requests. I also teach classes to the nursing staff giving them an overview of the medications they are administering to their patients. I have been in the work force for a little over three years now and I already see the need for increasing the role of pharmacists in patient care- And this is my long term goal as a clinical pharmacist, to make more hospitals and nursing homes realize that having a pharmacist on board their team is a win-win situation for everybody, including the doctors, nurses and patients.

On the personal front, I have been married for 4 years to my wonderful husband, Rohit Pai and we currently reside in New Jersey. I want to take this opportunity to thank all my teachers and non-teaching staff at ILS - I have some wonderful memories of school and am proud to have attended ILS. I wish all you ILS students the best in all your future endeavors - think big, set goals, explore all interests, work hard and don't forget to have fun while doing it all !! Make ILS proud !!





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## KIM D'SOUZA (CLASS OF 2000)



When I left ILS in 2000, I went to the United States to study environmental engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. Among the required courses in my first year was a humanities course, which introduced me to the wonderful world of the philosophy of science. Philosophy is the systematic study of fundamental aspects of reality (such as those connected with being, mind, will, reason and ethics) using rational argumentation. Once I turned my attention to the foundations of our ability to attain and refine knowledge in the natural sciences, I quickly discovered that – even though I was excelling academically in engineering – philosophy was the real discipline to which I wanted to dedicate my undergraduate education. When my family moved to Canada in 2001, I decided to move as well, and I transferred to McGill University in Montreal, which happens to be one of

the best places in the world to study philosophy.

One of the truly momentous things that happened during my brief but valuable sojourn at Georgia Tech was a deepening of my personal life of prayer and a greater appreciation for the rich intellectual tradition of my Catholic faith, an aspect of my life that was only augmented in Montreal. In this epicenter of global culture, I found many opportunities to familiarize myself with classical art, literature, architecture, music, and languages, and I remain an avid student of the history of civilization. During four very enjoyable years studying philosophy at McGill, I participated in numerous clubs and organizations, including a one-year term as the student environmental commissioner and a three-year long involvement with the weekly student newspaper – first as a reporter, then as news editor, and then finally as an op-ed columnist. I also worked part-time as a research assistant to two professors and as a lifeguard. In 2005, I was one of nine graduates to whom McGill's principal presented the Scarlet Key award for academic excellence and campus leadership, just prior to the convocation at which I was granted the Bachelor of Arts degree. Despite my original plans to become a lawyer, and in spite of being offered several grants to fund postgraduate studies, I followed a path that had been becoming increasingly clear throughout my years at McGill. Convinced that God was calling me to become a priest, I entered St. Augustine's in Toronto for further

discernment and formation. After a five-year period of training in theology, church history, counseling, psychology, and canon law, I was ordained a priest for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto in May 2010. Since then, I have been the associate pastor of a large suburban parish (containing seven Catholic elementary schools and two Catholic high schools), where I assist the parish priest as we serve the four thousand households registered at our church. As a priest, I coach individuals and communities to find the happiness that lasts through earthly joys as well as sorrows, by helping them focus in on their friendship with God as the deepest meaning of human life. The Catholic Church believes that Christ reveals the truth about God, humanity and the eternal destiny for which God created human beings. Caring for people's spiritual needs as they pursue that eternal destiny is very fulfilling, and in my priestly ministry I am confident that I have found the purpose and mission of my own life, where all of my passions and gifts are meant to contribute in perfect harmony.





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VISHAL TIWARI (CLASS OF 2001)



**A**fter passing a B.E. (Mechanical) from Mumbai University in 2006 I went on to pursue a course on Animation to satisfy my creative instincts. I worked as a freelance Animator for a while.

Throughout my education, I felt the need to extend learning beyond the textbooks (I recollect wondering why we were never taught History in form of a "Story or a Comic series"). I truly believe that every child is unique in his / her own way. Each one has their own way of learning and understanding. The one thing that all children have in common is the way they play and have fun. Every child loves to play with a toy. So why not combine the learning with an element of fun?

This ideology led to the formation of Curion Education Pvt. Ltd., an innovative solutions enterprise providing end-to-end educational solutions in the K-12 segment. Enabled by its extensive experience in understanding of education and learning, Curion offers services to schools to improve conceptual understanding and develop scientific temper amongst students by providing hands on experiment tools. We specialize in designing and developing highly interactive educational products & services based on the experiential learning model.

With a good blend of technical skills and creative ability I head the Marketing & Sales Division at Curion.

My interests include a whole lot of activities like Teaching, Reading, Travelling, Social Networking, Music, Movies, Gaming, Film Making, Clay Animation, Photography and Cooking.

After having spent 10 years at Indian Language School I thank the entire teaching & non teaching staff, for bringing the best out of me. I also want to thank my family for supporting me and for giving me a chance to pursue my dreams. I wish to reach out to every child irrespective of his/her socio-economic background.





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## AMRITA BALACHANDRAN (CLASS OF 2001)

My three years in ILS might sound relatively short, but to me, these years have come to hold special significance in my life and in my career. As ILS turns 30, I take great pride in joining the community that this school has fostered over these memorable years, to celebrate its great success!

I joined ILS in 1998, in the tenth grade, and graduated from the twelfth grade in 2001. The education that I received at ILS, and the people whom I befriended there, continue to shape the following years of my life.

While at ILS, my interest in biology led me to seek a college degree in the same. Following high school, I pursued a bachelor's degree in microbiology at Mississippi University for Women (MUW), in Columbus, Mississippi, on an academic scholarship from the university's Honor's College. MUW offered a holistic liberal arts education, and in addition to my training in the life sciences, I also had the opportunity to engage in a diverse range of campus activities. While at MUW, I worked closely with the Department of Student Life, specifically with the Division of Residence Life, and was also a member and elected officer of several academic and campus organizations. As a final year student, I was selected by the

university to receive the Outstanding Student Award from the Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning. In 2005, I graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in microbiology, and a minor in chemistry. Prior to graduating from MUW, I had spent a summer as an undergraduate researcher at the University of Pittsburgh, and following my bachelor's degree, I joined the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Biological Sciences, in pursuit of a doctoral degree in molecular biology.

My doctoral training as a molecular biologist has prepared me to be an independent scientist and communicator. I recently defended my dissertation, which focused upon the role of iron acquisition in the development of bacterial communities. I also completed a minor in teaching, and hope to someday pursue a career in teaching at the university level. In the meantime, I am currently interested in research in the socially relevant area of public health, focusing on identifying the incidence of and risk factors for diseases at the community level, and planning and



executing interventions to mitigate these risks and lower the toll of disease. My career interests also extend into science writing and editing, and I am currently engaged in developing experience to hone these skill-sets.

As ILS reaches the milestone of its 30-year anniversary, I wish all its students, teachers and staff members all the very best for a bright and successful future. I have ILS to thank for many significant aspects of my life - preparing me for the long road of academia, instilling the ambition for a career in scientific research and education, and most importantly, for being the place where I met my best friend and husband, Bala Kattappuram. Thank you, and congratulations on 30 great years!!





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## BALA KATTAPURAM (CLASS OF 2001)



Standing at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> avenue and 45<sup>th</sup> street in midtown Manhattan, looking across at the building that houses the United Nations headquarters, it is sometimes easy to forget where my story began. Panning across the rows of flags and stopping at the one from Nigeria, brings back a rush of memories. Having lived in Lagos for most of my life, and being fortunate to have attended ILS all the way from kindergarten through twelfth grade, every new turn in my life has been framed within this context. Even as I walk to my work as a Research Assistant at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), I am conscious of every step that I have taken along the way - from those early days riding the bus from Ikorodu to ILS, to the time I left Lagos in pursuit of a higher education. I am one of those students who is a true product of ILS, through and through, one-hundred per cent.

My story begins in Nigeria, and over the years, at every new juncture, I write a new chapter that still is uniquely Nigerian in its meaning and purpose. After graduating from ILS in 2001, I enrolled in a bachelor's program in electrical engineering,

with a focus on power systems, at the University of South Alabama. Alongside academic work, I tried to ensure that I made the best use of available opportunities on campus, and worked at the university newspaper as the web and lifestyle editor, organized intramural football tournaments, and stayed involved across student government associations on campus.

Upon graduating with my bachelor's degree in 2005, I joined Florida Power and Light (FPL), a South Florida-based electric utility firm, as a power systems and transmission line design engineer. My work at FPL focused mainly on designing 500KV and 230KV high voltage power lines in the state of Florida. After working in the energy sector for over four years, I decided to pursue a master's degree in energy policy and management at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. While at CMU, I was selected as a Dean's Leadership Fellow, and was founder and president of the college's first energy policy club. After graduating with my master's degree in December of 2011, I am currently involved in the UNDP's Energy and Environment group as a Knowledge Manager. My work involves performing research and developing studies on climate change mitigation strategies across the world. My work spans across all continents, and is focused primarily on developing countries and their rapid economic growth and the associated energy requirements. In the future, I hope to establish myself in a career that involves electricity pricing markets, smart grids, and transmission grid upgrading in the developing world. I hope to use my professional work experience in engineering, policy analysis and management, to help

shape and strategize business development in the energy sector. On the occasion of ILS's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I am deeply honoured to be able to be a part of the celebrations. My years at ILS hold special significance in my life, and the relationships that I have forged there remain a part of my life to this day, as I stay in close contact with several of my former classmates. In 2008, I married my best friend and former ILS classmate, Amrita Balachandran, and together, we hope to embark upon new adventures, while sharing our common past and stories. Congratulations to ILS for 30 years of great memories, and my heartfelt gratitude to all the teachers and staff, who have helped to shape us to what we are today.







## SURYA SWAMY (CLASS OF 2001)

Surya Swamy joined ILS in 1989 as a young student in Grade 1, and graduated twelve years later as a young man eager to explore the world in 2001. His 12 years at ILS were formative and memorable in many regards. At ILS, Surya gained wide recognition for being an outstanding student both in and out of the classroom.

Throughout his school years, he was deeply involved in numerous extra-curricular activities, from Inter-House Quiz Competitions to Inter-School Music and Sport Competitions. It was at ILS that Surya's passion for music, sport and science was cultivated at a very early age. As a young musician representing ILS, he won numerous awards at the Musical Society of Nigeria (MUSON) for his instrumental solo performances on the trumpet. As a member of the ILS volleyball, basketball and table-tennis teams, Surya took great pride in winning laurels for his school at intramural competitions. In the classroom, Surya developed a keen affinity towards science and math, which served him in good stead years later as a graduate student studying Mechanical Engineering. Surya was actively involved in the student government at ILS having held numerous posts including that of the Vice-Head Boy. It was this dedication to excellence as an all-round student that culminated in his being awarded the Best Student Award and Best Sportsman Award in 2001, which was a unique achievement.

Surya fondly looks back at his ILS days with great nostalgia and pride. He remarks "It's the simple things about ILS school life that I dearly miss – sitting under the assembly shed during inter-house competitions, catching a game of pickup basketball with my peers, or practicing for hours on end in preparation for the Annual Day, an event that I hope to attend someday again. I owe a lot to the teachers and staff at ILS who created a conducive atmosphere for students to learn and grow as unique individuals. And it is within those

four walls of ILS that I received the gift of learning and subsequently became inspired to change my corner of the world."

After graduating from ILS, Surya studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin). During his tenure at UT Austin, Surya was actively involved with the student organization AIESEC as a Vice President, through which he earned the opportunity to travel the world including learn Portuguese in Brazil, and pursue an AIESEC traineeship in Turkey. Surya then went on to pursue a Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, with a focus on energy and environmental systems.

Today, Surya works as a Consultant for Lumina Decision Systems in Los Gatos, California, a leading provider of decision analysis software and energy consulting. Through his work, Surya has consulted for State and Federal energy agencies around the world on matters of climate and energy policies. His recent work on a multi-disciplinary research team to enable decision makers choose among viable decommissioning alternatives off the coast of Southern California was credited with influencing state policy on instituting a 'Rigs to Reef' program. Surya is currently working on a World Bank Low Carbon Development study for Nigeria, the outcome of which is to provide the financial underpinning for renewable energy investment in Nigeria over the next decade.

On a personal note, Surya is engaged to Tanya Rao, an outdoor educator and yoga teacher. When not working on issues of energy modeling, he spends his free time immersed in the world of music and sport be it taking Afro-Brazilian drum classes in the San Francisco Mission District or playing in a local soccer league.





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## ADITI JAIN (CLASS OF 2002)



Exactly ten years ago, I was prancing around the hallways of ILS and preparing for my last dance on the school stage for our beloved school's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. How time flies! Here I am ten years out of school and we now have five school buildings and the school size has doubled in number and I am writing an article for Flying High as an alumnus.

Back then, all I knew was that I wanted to work at an International bank. I moved to the United States and started my college career at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. I graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration honors degree and a concentration in Finance and Accounting. Upon graduating, I joined the investment banking arm at JPMorgan in New York, where I developed a global financial perspective and an in-depth understanding of improving a firm's financial structure. I had fulfilled my childhood dream of working at an international bank. Desiring to learn about the driving force of a company and how a company operates, I joined the global corporate strategy group at Visa in San Francisco. At Visa, I developed critical strategic thinking skills and learned to collaborate with a diverse global team to create value to the company. I worked hard and had several opportunities to meet, interact and present to C-level executives at the firm. It was an enriching experience and I was hungry for more.

Outside of work and academics, I have pursued my passion of working

with children. During college, I took up a leadership role with Dance Marathon – the largest student-run, non-profit organization that raises funds and awareness for pediatric rehabilitation. For three years I stood up and danced for 30 consecutive hours to raise awareness of the program and celebrate our children's progress. Since graduation, I have mentored and financially sponsored a child, Pooja's, education, in India. She has grown tremendously and progressed academically. It is a pleasure to see how a small contribution can create change.

In 2008, I co-founded the American India Foundation (AIF) - Young Professionals Chapter in the Bay Area. AIF is the largest non-profit organization in America dedicated to social and economic development in India. I was the chapter president from 2008 -2010 and built a team of 16 individuals championing causes to provide digital education to underprivileged children in India. I led and facilitated discussions to set our long-term strategic goals comprised of awareness, fundraising, and expansion of youth-based AIF chapters across America and assisted team members to execute our short-term milestones. Seeing how my little contribution has enabled hundreds of children to enhance their employable skills, improve their socioeconomic status, and change their destiny gives me immense gratification. This accomplishment has also served to accelerate my vision as a business leader, as a woman, and as a human being. I am excited that the organization is still running strong and they have accomplished a lot more since I left the Bay Area.

While in my few years out of college, I had developed professionally and personally, I desired to learn more, build my network and explore opportunities I would never had. Also being in the corporate world for a few years, I quickly realized if I wanted to climb the corporate ladder and be successful, I would need to build on my academic training and develop a stronger professional network. Hence, I decided to apply to Business School.

I am currently pursuing an MBA from the Wharton School of Business and will be graduating in May 2012. For the past three semesters, I have been in the top 10% of my class academically. At Wharton, I have met impressive individuals from around the globe, sat in class with world renowned professors, lead a professional club, hiked a mountain, choreographed dances and most of all made some incredible friends. With all this and more, I also decided to embark into the next phase of my life and recently got married. I kept true to my African-Indian roots, my husband is an Indian from Kenya and we share many values. After graduation, I will be moving back to San Francisco to work in a Corporate Finance role at a large technology company.

I do believe that my success to date is built on a strong academic foundation and lots of hard work.

The ILS faculty, teachings, opportunities and experiences gave me the foundation I needed to reach where I am today and I am grateful for that. My parents always stood by me and guided me, without them I could not be where I am.







## ESHA KHULLAR (CLASS OF 2002)

**W**hen in school, it's hard to think of what awaits us when we leave. In ILS, I was able to develop leadership skills when elected Head Girl in 2002. I was exposed to core values like hard work, respect and passion that have helped and continue to help through the rest of my educational journey.

After completing 12<sup>th</sup> grade at ILS, I joined Panjab University, India in 2002 to pursue an undergraduate degree in Biotechnology Engineering. During my time at Panjab University my interest in research grew. Research work conducted included the isolation of microorganisms showing nitrilase activity and the role of nitrile hydrolyzing enzymes in the production of industrially important chemicals, pharmaceuticals and bioremediation. I also had the chance to intern at Nigerian Breweries and Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology (IGIB), providing me insights to industry and lab settings outside the University. I left Panjab University with a gold medal, a degree and a determination to pursue a higher degree.

At the University of Illinois, USA, I completed my Masters degree in Agricultural & Biological Engineering in 2008. During my Masters, I worked on biofuels with focus on ethanol production from modified and conventional dry grind processes using unique corn types. Work conducted led to a publication in a research journal as well as an online news article that was republished by other agencies like Daily India, United Press International, Thaindian News and Innovation Report.

Upon completion of Masters, I decided to further my research endeavors in biofuels with a desire to expand my knowledge within the field. I decided to stay at the University of Illinois for a PhD degree. I am currently working on developing pretreatment and enzyme hydrolysis processes for ethanol production using lignocellulosic substrates. As a graduate student, I was given the challenge to work with multiple projects and learn how to manage my time. I was able to work

on projects with enzyme companies and ethanol plants. I have served as a teaching assistant in a number of courses and have actively participated in departmental tours of the Dry Grind Ethanol Laboratory for high school and undergraduate students.

My interest in biofuels and renewable energy led to working with the Center for Advanced BioEnergy Research (CABER) to establish a student organization for bioenergy at the University of Illinois. As President of the organization (2009-2010), we held seminars and invited speakers from industry and academia. The student organization was registered in fall 2009, and currently has 150 student, staff and faculty members.

I currently have 3 publications, 12 presentations (oral and poster) and 2 patents that have been filed. I was awarded an AACC Graduate Fellowship (contributed by Kellogg R&D), University Fellowship, Ben and Georgeann Excellence in Teaching Award and was selected to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brazil-U.S. Biofuels Short Course at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. I hope to graduate in May 2012 and cannot wait to see what challenges lie ahead.





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## DWEEPA MEHTA (CLASS OF 2002)



**I**t feels just like yesterday when I bid farewell to ILS to start a new life full of new hopes and aspirations. The following years brought with them many happy moments as well as difficult times, but the years that I spent in ILS will always hold a special place in my heart.

After completing my 12th grade in ILS, I went on to study Dentistry in Gujarat, India. Dentistry for me has been a fascinating profession that blends both art and science into one. It has given me an opportunity to help people in relieving their pain and put a smile on their face. After completing Dentistry, I got my Masters in Health Care Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University in NJ, USA. I am presently pursuing my Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from University Of the Pacific Arthur A Dugoni School of Dentistry in San Francisco, California. All through these years, one goal led to the other and the journey has helped me be what I am today. The foundation of this was what I took from Indian Language School. Perseverance, Patience and Dignity are values that ILS instills in its students and for this I will be forever indebted to it.

It has been an honor to be a part of the Indian Language School. Many Congratulations for completing 30 glorious years and I wish ILS many more to come.





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## MANEESH MALHOTRA (CLASS OF 2003)



Ever since his school days, Maneesh Malhotra has always been very passionate about expressing himself through art. He eagerly contributed to several House projects and to the Flying High magazine every opportunity he got. Excelling in academics was also very important to him.

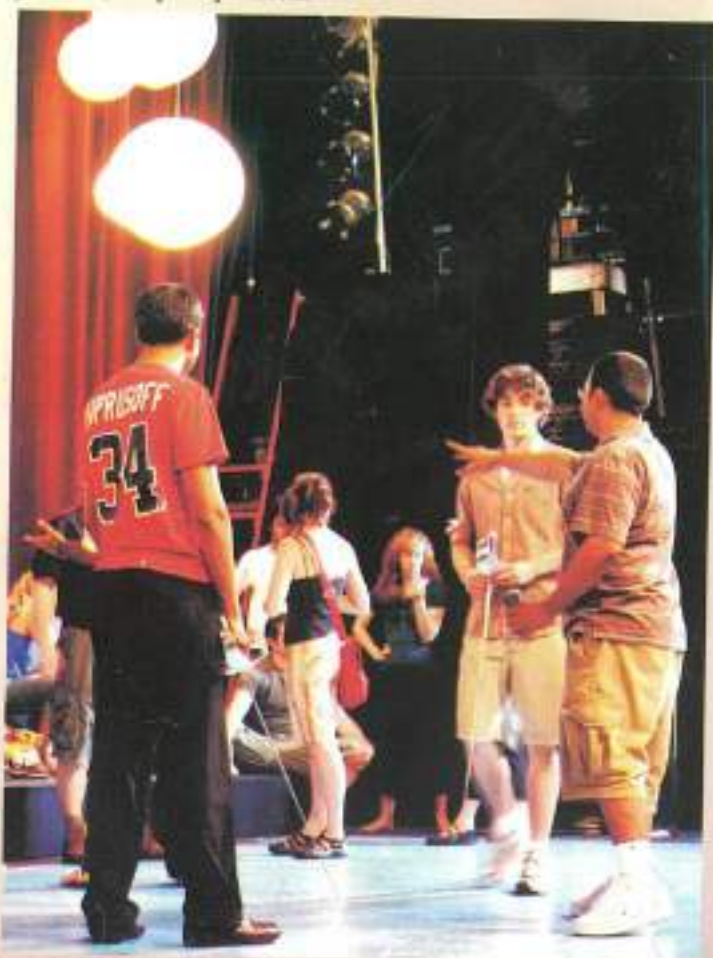
Maneesh was raised in India, Nigeria and Canada, bestowing a pan-cultural outlook on life before graduating secondary school. This led him to the universal language of film, directing and editing over a dozen shorts, commercials and videos before graduating from the Toronto Film School. A big fan of the post-production process, Maneesh also engaged in the Advanced Post Production program at Humber College.

As a writer and director, Maneesh made his debut in the independent film *English Butler Masala Chai*. As an editor, Maneesh has edited over a hundred commercials for both Canadian and American markets. He has also edited four independent feature films, numerous shorts and several music videos.

In the future, Maneesh hopes to make his mark in the film and television industry, telling creative stories that entertain audiences around the world. Maneesh's goal in life can be summed in the words of Denis Waitley: "Chase your passion, not your pension."



ENGLISH BUTLER MASALA CHAI





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## AHANYA JOSEPH (CLASS OF 2003)



## A Reminiscent Salute

"Teachers can change lives, with just the right mix of chalk and challenges."

Joyce A. Myers

The teachers at Indian Language School have definitely changed mine! The six glorious years that I've spent at ILS have

left an impression-able stamp on my life. Today, being a proud alum of this strong institution, I am honored and grateful to be a part of this year's Flying High magazine and to be able to share my journey post-ILS.

I joined ILS in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and passed out after 10<sup>th</sup> grade with fond memories and armored with a strong educational foundation. The morning assemblies, sport activities and our grandiose annual day functions are some of my most vivid recollections.

Equipped with a strong passion to be better than the best, I left ILS to finish my 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade in Chennai. With Biology as my favorite subject in ILS, it was a no brainer that I would be majoring in science. I passed out of high school and completed my Bachelor's in Biotechnology. Hard work and perseverance, two strengths that were honed in me while at ILS helped me survive the four grueling years of engineering. With a Bachelors degree at hand, I decided to further my education by pursuing my Masters in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Southern California.

The first job I landed was as a Quality Engineer in a leading medical device company. I was able to have hands on experience in dealing with cardiovascular devices and learning their importance in saving lives. After a year, I was presented with yet another golden opportunity, this time at a smaller privately owned company that opened a sea of opportunities and potential for me to grow professionally and personally.

Staying in California for the past 2 and half years, I have grown to love this state, the beaches, the weather, the people and the food, this place has helped me grow into an independent spirited woman, a long way from the awkward kid that I was back in school. Indulging in the outdoors, theatre and travelling have become my biggest passions with cooking as a new addition (much to my mother's disbelief!). Thanks to the diversity and authenticity of the people and culture, I have become quite the foodie, never missing out on an opportunity to sample a different cuisine or an exotic dish.

Having stayed in Lagos and being a part of a wonderful close knit Indian school, nourished a sense of feeling at home although I was miles away from home. To this day, I am ever grateful to my Alma Mater, Indian Language School for having taught me not only to reach for the stars, but also to appreciate diversity in all its magnificent elements and most importantly, to remember to cherish my roots and ethnicity as an individual that makes me stand out from the rest. Thank you ILS!





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## ROHAN GULATI (CLASS OF 2004)



I wish to congratulate the school on the occasion of the celebration of its 30th anniversary. I will never forget the values and foundation that I developed during my years at the school which I solely attribute to the success I have achieved in my professional career to date.

It has been over 8 years since I graduated from

ILS in 2004 and I would like to take this opportunity to narrate my journey post arrival in the United States. I was fortunate to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering in 2008 from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. During my undergraduate days I was fortunate enough to be recognized on the Dean's list on multiple occasions for my academic merit in addition to receiving an academic scholarship. Following the leadership path that I started out at ILS as the "Vice Head Boy", I became the Finance Director for the Organization of African Students at RIT. After initial success with the "ILS Munday" Bhangra Team in Lagos, I founded an Organization, "RIT Bhangra" whose mission would be to promote the Traditional Indian Dance and Culture throughout the Rochester Area. Today RIT Bhangra has grown to be a university funded and endorsed organization with over 30 active members generating participation and interest from a very diverse population in the RIT community ranging from the President's office to members from outside the Indian subcontinent who actively represent

RIT Bhangra via participation as a member of the official team. The team has also reached a level of performance that has enabled it to be recipient of several awards / prizes both within RIT and outside of RIT.

As time flew by my studies and career became more and more important to me and in 2009 I graduated with a Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering specializing in Lean Manufacturing. I have had the opportunity to work for 5 Companies as a Continuous Improvement Specialist and/or Lean Manufacturing Consultant. Amongst my portfolio are Novelis Corp which is one of the world's largest aluminum recycling operations with plants located worldwide and Anaren Inc which is a major innovator of standard products and custom microwave and RF technology supplying the US defense and space industry with proprietary cutting edge technology.

In 2011, I set out to further my Education moving to Pittsburgh, PA. In 2012 I will have graduated with an MBA degree from the Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh while completing my Entrepreneurial Studies at the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University. Currently I am an aspiring entrepreneur and am in constant engagement with startup companies. My goal is to become a Serial Entrepreneur, a career path which has drawn my interest for a very long time.

I am confident that every student in ILS will find success in life; I have had a significant advantage over my peers ever since I left Lagos because my fundamentals were solid ever since I stepped out of the ILS classroom.





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## ROHAN BHATNAGAR (CLASS OF 2004)

23 Rohan Bhatnagar is presently working as a Systems Engineer in Cedar Rapids, IA with Rockwell Collins, Inc. within the Flight Management Systems (FMS) Department. He is an integral part of an innovative, supportive, highly motivated team that develops cutting edge next generation flight deck products for the business and regional aircraft markets. Assigned to the Learjet 85 Pro Line Fusion® program, Rohan leads a team of Avionics Engineers as a Program Project Engineer for FMS. In this role, he manages a \$6 million program budget and reports to leadership on project planning, scope, budget, schedule, milestones and staffing, while providing overall technical guidance. In addition to this, Rohan also serves as the primary engineering customer interface between the Rockwell Collins FMS Department and Learjet.

Rohan is a qualified Aviation professional and holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, with major concentrations in Aeronautics, and minors in Mathematics and Computer Science. He also holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, with dual major concentrations in Aviation Finance and Aviation Management. His varied background and unique skill set in Engineering and Management, both strongly coupled towards Aviation, provided an ideal foundation for a Project Management role at Rockwell Collins.

Rohan is no stranger to Aviation, having spent several years as an Aero modeling enthusiast, which taught him the basics of Aircraft design, construction and controls. This is also what led him to eventually pursue Aviation as a career.

Prior to starting his full time job in April 2011, Rohan interned with a diverse range of organizations, including Rockwell Collins and Unisys India and led his University's team in the Certified Financial Analyst- Global Investment Research Challenge. He also spent two years as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University teaching Aerospace Structures and Instrumentation to senior engineering students. Consequently, he was awarded a full tuition waiver for his entire Master's Degree along with a generous stipend for his services to the University.

While at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Rohan was nominated for the 'Outstanding MBA of the Year' Award for the Class of 2011. He was also the recipient of the prestigious 'James A. Bryant Jr. Fellowship' and 'Outstanding Graduate Student scholarship' for distinguished academic performance. The 'Who's Who Among Students' recognition and 'ERAU Leadership Award' as President of the on

campus Indian Students Association, are other accolades to his name.

A member of the Graduating Class of 2004 from the Indian Language School in Nigeria, Rohan strongly believes the foundational education he received at the Indian Language School was instrumental in shaping his career, and provided him the tools necessary to succeed.

In his free time, Rohan pursues music as a hobby, with a keen interest in piano, guitar, singing and ethnic Indian instruments. He also hopes to complete his Private Pilot's certification through Rockwell Collins, and certify himself as a Project Manager through the PMP Project Management certification in the near future.





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## SHRUTI BAPNA (CLASS OF 2004)

**I**t has been an exciting journey till now owing to the wonderful school life spent in Indian Language school, Lagos early in my life. I studied in ILS for eight years from Std. 2nd to Std. 10th. I finished my graduation in commerce from Podar College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai. Along with my college, I also started voicing and dubbing; and doing theatre. I did few English and Hindi plays with renowned personalities from the theatre world for around three years before landing up in a show on television. I started with a show called Jasuben Jayantilal Joshi ki Joint family and went on to doing few more like Bure Bhi Hum Bhale Bhi hum, Mahi Way, Sasural Genda Phool, Crime Patrol

etc. I was also a part of the film, Wake up Sid and am waiting for few more releases like Ek Deewana Tha, Rowdy Rathod, The Monsoon Shootout etc... I am currently doing "Saas Bina Sasural" on Sony TV, which keeps me busy enough at the moment. I won an award too for one of my shows and hoping to get more soon...

I love dancing and have very fond memories of all the dancing I did in school at Annual Days and cultural functions. I had always been inclined towards singing in school though I don't practice enough now. However, acting lets me use a bit of everything that I like... including travelling. I have been married for two years now and my husband, Tushar Ishwer, also an actor and writer supports me in every way in pursuing my goals. I am thrilled about the fact that ILS has completed thirty years of extraordinary excellence and that I had been a part of it...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my teachers and friends to have made my school life fun filled and so memorable...





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## VEENA GANESH (CLASS OF 2005)



My association with I.L.S dates all the way back to 1992 when I was 5 years old and I have come a long way since then. I left after 10<sup>th</sup> grade to pursue Biotechnology at Jain International Residential School. I completed my B.S in Molecular Biology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. During my years there, I was intrigued by multifaceted nature of the life sciences industry. I wanted to explore the range of this technology and its clinical application. With this clear focus, I completed my first M.S in Biotechnology from Indiana University Bloomington and moved on to do my second M.S in Clinical Genetics from Long Island University C.W Post. A combination of these two fields allows me to understand two sides of the same coin – available genetic testing technologies and its application in clinical genetics. In this profession, I get to work with individuals and families who are at risk for certain genetic diseases (ex: certain cancers, birth defects, chromosomal conditions etc) or inherited disorders. It's

an engaging field that has no boundaries!

I learned some very valuable lessons from my years at I.L.S that provided the ground work and vetted my appetite for knowledge. It was exhilarating to be given the opportunity to address some of the students and meet my teachers this past summer. So current students, remember to think big, have an inquisitive mind and follow your strengths and interests! Happy 30<sup>th</sup> year celebrations I.L.S!



## DR. MAHIMA BAKSHI (CLASS OF 2006)



A physiotherapist by profession, Mahima has had achievements in the fields of modeling and fashion. She was a semi-finalist in Femina Miss India 2011, adjudged Dabur Gulabari Miss Glow, the wild card entry into Miss India Pageant 2012 and was Best Face UAE 2011.

She has walked the ramp for international designers in Dubai and has launched her own designer collection, 'Mezz Creations'. She is also on the panel of Apollo Hospital, New Delhi, as counsellor-cum-grooming expert.





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## ADITI SINHA (CLASS OF 2006)

The day is clearly etched in my memory, the day when I first treaded in Indian Language School in my blue pinafore and white shirt, with a nervous smile on my face. My first ever steps led me to 'KG-C' and these steps have made me the person I am today. I grew up in ILS, made my first friends there, learnt the basic nuances of academics and enjoyed the thrills of performance. I studied in ILS from KG till Grade IX. I grew up in the old school premises and the school buildings of white and blue are as clear in my mind as if I'm standing right amidst them. My basic education was instilled in me at ILS. My teachers have shaped me and have taught me diligence, sincerity, hard work and meticulousness which are traits I have imbibed right from the very beginning. These traits make me stand a step ahead of my peers even today. I had always been a good student at my academics and came first in class throughout my school days at ILS.

I left Lagos in 2003 after completing my Grade IX and then studied at Modern School, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi wherein I completed my Xth, XIth and XIIth. There too I performed well academically throughout. After finishing with my school, I shifted to Mumbai in 2006 and pursued law from Govt. Law College, Mumbai, the first law school to be established in India. I studied in the 5 year law course and passed out last year in 2011. I have been a consistent top ranker throughout my 5 years at law school and topped the entire Mumbai University in my final year BLS.LLB examinations. I was felicitated by the Mumbai University Vice-Chancellor and received the Late Advocate S.A. Keluskar Prize for securing the highest number of marks in aggregate at the Fifth Year degree examination of the Five Year LLB degree course (2011). I have done my internships with leading law firms in India such as J.Sagar Associates and Luthra & Luthra Law Offices and I am currently working as a corporate lawyer in the legal department of Axis Bank, Corporate Office, Mumbai. I'm interested in corporate law and international banking law and treasury

as a career and I'm enjoying every bit of it. This field does require hard work and lots of sincerity and dedication.

I fondly remember my days spent at ILS and remember each growing up year just as if took place yesterday. I loved performing at the Annual Days' and the Sports Days' were my personal favourite. I was in the Cauvery House and my mind registers the colour yellow as synonymous with Cauvery House. I was a Prefect in Grade VI and VII. I still have all the numerous trophies I won at the races and the treasured certificates of the intra/inter school curricular activities. I'm grateful to my teachers at ILS right from KG till my Grade IX and I credit all my success and achievements in life to the basic education instilled in me at ILS. I remember my days in Grade III-B wherein my class teacher, Mrs. Badami, the teacher who taught me the most as a person, used to have 'vegetable day' on Wednesdays'. She encouraged me to improve my handwriting and brought out the best abilities in me. I am thankful to all my teachers during my formative years, to mention a few -Mrs. Mirpuri, Mrs. Namratha Mallya, Mrs. Chitra Joseph, Mrs. Niyatha Krishnan, Mrs. Pratima Kapoor, Mrs. Aloka Sarkar, Mrs. Punjabi, Mrs. Mithla Gupta. I remember my nannies - Comfort (KG) and Joyce (Grade 1) and hope they are doing well. I used to love playing basket ball and table tennis. I reminiscence the art classes with Mrs. Rukhi Mitra and the dance classes with Mrs. Bapna. I learnt to face the world and be confident about everything and these traits do take you a notch up ahead of others. I have grown up reading the 'Flying High' and used to wonder as to when the day will come when I will be featured therein as an alumnus. Sigh! Time does fly and I am an alumnus of ILS, the best school that I could ask for. I am thankful to Dr. (Mrs) Suman Kanwar for being so supportive throughout.

I miss Lagos and ILS a lot and I cherish each moment spent there. It gives me immense pleasure to know that ILS has completed 30 years of its existence and I truly wish that the

school keeps flying high for many years to come and does brilliant in all myriad fields. This achievement would not have been possible without the efforts of the students, teachers and last but not the least, Mrs. Kanwar, for being the best principal and leader to guide us always. It is indeed a moment of great pride for all of us, being a part of this glorious institution on this happy occasion. I extend my heartiest congratulations to all the alumni, teachers and non-teaching staff, without whom this achievement would have been impossible. I wish the present students of ILS all the best in their lives and to cherish and live each moment they are spending at ILS.







After completing Grade 11 in ILS, I moved to Toronto, Canada with my family in 2005. I am currently pursuing a Masters degree in Biomedical Engineering in the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering (IBBME) at the University of Toronto. My research, funded by the provincial Graduate Scholarship, is focused on "Developing Biological Glues inspired by Aquatic Mussel Adhesion, for Medical and Dental Applications". Apart from doing research, I am also working as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Toronto. Currently, I am working on a manuscript to publish my research findings over the past year and have been selected to present my research at the international Materials Research Society Conference in San Francisco in April.

In 2011, I published a research paper as First Author in the journal *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta*, detailing my undergraduate research and work done as a Research Assistant. I completed my undergraduate studies in 2010 from McMaster University, Canada in Biochemistry and Biomedical Science with a specialization in Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. My studies were supported by several national and university scholarships and I was on the prestigious Dean's Honor Roll throughout.

In addition to academics and research, I have also developed interest in the consulting industry and recently won the UofT Sustainability and Business Case Competition. Additionally, as a consultant with the Volunteer Consulting Group, I provide *pro-bono* consulting for non-profit organizations. As executive member and Case Competitions

Director for the Leaders of Tomorrow group, I encourage leadership among engineering students. At the moment, I have landed a post graduate job as Consulting Analyst with Accenture for the upcoming September and I am now at a career cross-road choosing between my passions for research and consulting!

Over the years, I have also been passionately involved in contributing to society. I have avidly promoted science education in schools through organizations such as 'Let's Talk Science'. I have also volunteered with groups like the 'Red Cross Youth Council', in various hospital departments, as In-School mentor for 'Big Brothers Big Sisters' and have represented my university's student community as part of the McMaster Ambassador Team. Furthermore, I have pursued my love for dance by learning varied styles such as Salsa and Merengue and performing and choreographing Bollywood, semi-classical and folk dance performances with the Canadian Odisha Society of America and Panaroma India. I have even been awarded the Government Volunteer Service Award for my contributions!

Importantly, I would like to send out my hearty congratulations to ILS on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary! I believe that all of my achievements thus far can be attributed to the personal, educational and social values that ILS and my teachers instilled in me through my school years. In addition to providing an institution of learning, ILS taught me a great deal about developing as an all-rounded personality. I shall forever be grateful to ILS for giving me a strong foundation and for leading the way. I wish you all the best in maintaining your excellence and enlightening students for many many more years to come.





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SNEH DIXIT (CLASS OF 2007)



For me recollecting memories of school days is a way of holding onto the things I've always loved, the things that have made me what I am today and the things I would never want to lose..

It's been exactly 5 years since I graduated from ILS and like all my other friends I too had no idea what was in store for me beyond the comfort and familiarity of school life. However I strongly believe that it were the values that were instilled in me and the foundation that I made during my years at ILS that helped me make the transformation from school to college and then to adult work life.

After school, I came to Mumbai to pursue my degree in Bachelors of Mass Media with majors in Advertising in the summer of 2007. The three years in college along with living in a city like Mumbai did have its ups and downs, but then we know what they all say all's well that ends well. Away from home living in a hostel taught me the art of what I'd like to call 'protected freedom', its when you have multiple responsibilities and there are many times when you alone have to make important decisions but then there is always the support of your family and friends. College gave me a lot of opportunities to prove who I really was and to analyze what my strengths and weaknesses were both academically as well as when it came to extracurricular activities. In my first year I was nominated as the Class representative - a student who bridges the gap between the Department's teachers and HOD on one hand and the students on the other. I also became a part of the Mass Media Club as an executive in my first year and later went on to become the President of the club basis the voting cast by the students of the entire college in my second year. I

was also a member of the college basketball team and played at the University level. However the one thing that I would like to highlight about my college life and would give anything to go back to those days was being part of the college cultural festival 'Kaleidoscope'. I was part of the 300 member organizing committee and the festival would see students from colleges all around India competing with each other, in a week full of fun excitement and a lot of hard work. Being a coordinator for the performing arts team is where I realized that management is something I am good at and I should build on that and probably make a career out of it.

This exact thought along with the encouragement and support of my teachers and family, I applied for an internship at the end of my first year in the brand management department in one of the world's leading advertising agency's Lowe Lintas. My two months stint at Lowe left such a positive impact on my life that I would actually like to term those two months as the start of my professional career, it was those months that molded my future. At Lowe I was part of the brand management team on a premium apparel retail brand. My job profile involved liaison between the client and the agency, understanding the client's needs and conveying them to the Creative team with the main highlight being supervising the execution of the summer advertisement campaign for the client. Working for the first time in a city like Delhi taught me a lot about time management, efficiency and also helped me enhance my people skills. I completed my internship on a high note with my senior bosses and vice presidents acknowledging my hard work and wishing the best for my future.

While back in college although I was enjoying all the extracurricular activities in college, I made it a point to not let my studies get sidetracked. I was consistent through the three years and ended with a first class with distinction and with the second highest aggregate in the graduating class of 2010. With college life coming to an end, the big question hovering over everyone's head was..What Next??. Fortunately for me everything fell into place and in the summer of 2010 I applied for a summer course at the Stanford Graduate School of Business and got selected to participate in an intensive four-week residential professional development program in general management, which has an admission rate of only 15%. In these four weeks I met people from all around the world, got taught by world renowned faculty that included the likes of Edward Lazear my economics professor who also was the Chief economic advisor to President George W. Bush. The four weeks were packed with lots of rigorous studies, lectures, workshops and group sessions but was balanced by all the fun activities that were planned for the participating class of 130 students by the management. We got a chance to go watch a baseball match, go for a beautiful trek at Yosemite National park, attended a soiree and a many other cultural events. All in all I can say this was one of the most learning and enjoyable summers of my life.



After the program finished I travelled all across the United States of America by myself from the west coast to the east coast doing what all tourists do. I thought their country was very beautiful and the people were warm and the food was definitely the highlight of my trip.

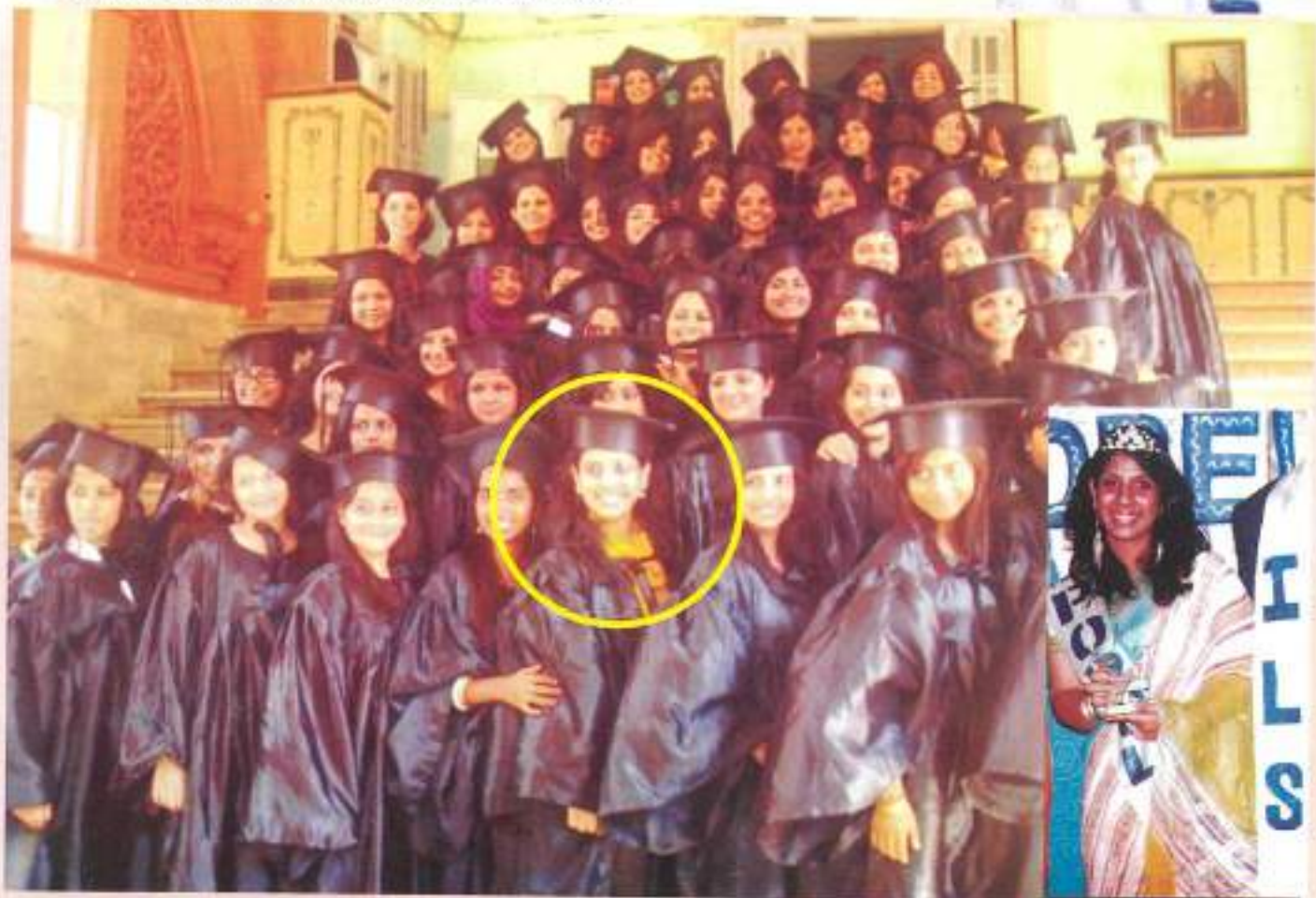
After coming back to India I was fortunate enough to get a job offer right away. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October I embarked on the journey of my adult professional life as a junior account executive in one of the world's best known advertising agency's Ogilvy & Mather, Mumbai. I am in the Account Management team and I handle the brand Westside - A Tata retail enterprise. It requires me to perform all operations for the brand from the brief to execution ensuring smooth functioning of studio operations and managing the financial aspects related to the brand. One of the key responsibilities is building upon and strengthening relations with the client by partnering and anticipating them on new fruitful ventures, and ensuring they are satisfied with our performance through consistent performances and continuous value additions.

As an employee of such a prestigious organization and working with such senior clientele made me realize that the output of my actions have various effects and thus it is of utmost importance to give it your best at all stages. There is no room for error at all.

It has been about 2 years since I joined Ogilvy and now after doing my research and talking to experienced people I have taken the plunge and started preparing for business

school examinations such as the CAT and GMAT. I feel that to strengthen my future career prospects I need this qualification along with the quality work experience that I have as this kind of specialization will help in the growth of my career graph.

I have always dreamt of owning a pent house in New York City and buying my parents Wimbledon final match tickets, so hopefully with my strong self belief and support of my friends and family it will all be possible. Till then like my mother says I must prove myself everyday because I owe this to no one else but myself.





## HARSHITHA KRISHNAN (CLASS OF 2008)



It's been all of 3 years since I left Lagos and Indian Language School. And even though I have a great new life in India, I'd be lying if I said I didn't miss school. ILS was much more than a school to me. It was my family, and all my childhood memories revolve around school. After I finished school and headed to India, I joined A.R. Rahman's KM Music Conservatory where I did a part-time Certificate program in Hindustani music. Within my 1<sup>st</sup> week of joining I had gotten around 3 recordings for projects that Rahman sir and his students were working on, and was the 1<sup>st</sup> part-time

student to get these opportunities. After that, there was no looking back. I worked on a project with Rahman sir for SaReGaMa featuring Katrina Kaif and was even flown to Mumbai for the launch of the album where sir had selected my song to be played for the press. It was an incredible experience and it inspired me to push myself more and more. While all this was going on, I had joined M.O.P Vaishnav College for Women in Chennai for my Bachelors of Science in Visual Communication. It is a really fun course involving Graphic Design, Fine Arts, Photography, Multimedia, Advertising, Marketing, Film Studies, Film Making and Fashion Culture. It took me a while to fit in because the people were so different and the general culture of people was so different from what I was used to. But the process of adjusting taught me a lot about myself and who I wanted to be, and so I was able to improve on myself.

Apart from all that I was doing, I also joined the Madras musical Association (MMA) which is the largest and oldest existing choir in India. They are the go-to choir for music directors like A.R. Rahman and Ilayaraja. We performed in a variety of places all over the country and I was a part of a small subset of the choir who was sent for recordings and shows for popular music directors. Juggling college, KM, my freelance work as a musician and choir was a huge task, but it was through the choir that I met future bandmate Kalyani Nair.

Kalyani is an incredible musician who had an idea for a very unique band, and I was honored when she asked me to be a part of this band. We started out as a 4 piece acoustic/ acapella band but then expanded to a 6 piece acapella band. After only 6 months of our formation, we became a YouTube sensation. Suddenly everybody wanted to sign us up for shows and recordings and we, of course, were more than happy to oblige. We travelled all over the country to perform and even toured Hong Kong last September.

But this wasn't all that I was working on. I was and am still working as a freelance singer for many bands in Chennai, performing at music festivals in different parts of the country. Through these, I have got to meet a lot of musicians that I had only heard in cassettes and CDs my whole life up until this point. I got to meet people like Tanvi Shah, Sunitha Sarathy, Benny Dayal, Blaaze, Usha Uthup, Chitra, Raghu Dixit and many others.

Now, I am a college graduate with some sort of experience as a professional musician, and I intend on keeping it going by applying to music schools for a degree in music. And for all this, I have ILS to thank. My teachers taught me to dream, and dream big. And that's the only advice I have to give anybody who reads this.





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## KUSHAL JAJOO (CLASS OF 2009)



When I reminisce about the 2007 class 10 batch of Indian Language School (ILS), Lagos, Nigeria, all I can recall is the gurgling laughter, the mischievous grins and of course the nostalgia of the moments I had spent with my dear friends in the last 15 years of being in Lagos. I have left the city and it's been 5 years since then, that I am in India and whenever, I walk down the memory lane, I do cross the beautiful flowers which were my friends for the fragrance they spread in my life, the trees which were my teachers for strength and support and of course the part distance that I had covered which I can proudly say was ILS. I embarked the journey in India by joining Delhi Public School (DPS), Vasant Kunj, New Delhi after scoring 91.8% in the 10<sup>th</sup> class. I chose commerce for an option since I was not interested in science at all. I fared well in the 12<sup>th</sup> class with 95.25% and was on top of the world when I got admission in the country's leading college- Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC). DPS had opened new windows i.e. I got a lot of exposure in terms of interaction with new people, different viewpoints of the sea of talented people that surrounded me followed by SRCC which apart

from the interactions also gave me an inter college exposure through competitions and fests which also added on to the enriching experience. I took part in the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit held in Mumbai in 2008. I was part of a team that made a short movie on "Global Partnership", which was later showcased in the World Federation of United Nations (WFUNA) headquarters in New York.

In May 2009, I had written my Chartered Accountancy (CA) Foundation, also known as Common Proficiency Test (CPT) and cleared it. My next task was to clear the CA Inter known as IPCC (Integrated Professional Competency Course) which was held in November 2010. I got the result in February. I can't forget the day. The result not only showed that I had passed, but I secured an All India Rank 8 in the exam! I was second in the North India zone for which I was felicitated on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in Le Meridien, New Delhi. That was a proud moment for me!

I then thought of trying my hand in Common Admission Test (CAT), the entrance exam for the elite

management institutes of the country. This was because after IPCC, I would have to spend 3 years as an intern with a CA firm before I could give my CA final exam. The same was not appealing to me. I scored 98.8 percentile in the CAT 2011 exam and am currently preparing myself for the interviews and group discussions.

All that I can say for my journey till date is that, it has been filled with fun and frolic along with hard work and conviction that I have shown in all the tasks in hand. I would not have got this naturally without the guidance and support of my teachers in all walks of life.

I will end by the inspiring quote given by Mr. Vince Lombardi which says – "The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand".





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## AMAN GULATI (CLASS OF 2009)



**I** Congratulate ILS on completion of glorious 30 years of Imparting Education and Excellence for shaping young minds !!!

I am a proud alumnus of ILS having completed my school education from year 1996 to 2008 at ILS. It was at ILS where I was moulded into an all rounded individual with active participation in Sports, Student and Extra-Curricular Activities, apart from a very good academic foundation.

In 2008 I enrolled in Carnegie Institute of Technology ,Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as an Undergraduate Engineering Student. While many may think that you will never have to work as hard in college as you did in school, my experience at this unique institution was substantial proof to the contrary.

CMU combines some of the best schools of Science and Technology, Business and Arts on one campus and you very quickly realize that you are in the company of exceptional peers and mentors from all over the world and from every background. That in itself was the biggest motivation to drive me for the next four years which proved to be more grueling, stimulating and enlightening than I could ever have imagined.

Quite early in my first semester I developed a passion for Chemical Engineering, a field I knew close to nothing about, but at the same time felt intellectually stimulating and challenging as I began to immerse myself into it. I got my first job working as a Lab Assistant in the Undergraduate Chemical Engineering Lab about a month into my freshman year, and this later influenced my decision to study Chemical Engineering for the next four years. From the interactions with the Lab Instructor and my seniors in that Lab I learnt that my department was unique and the Lab courses were designed without a curriculum and each team of students was given the freedom to pursue independent research projects entirely of their own choice and design which would be completely funded by the department. This independent learning was the hall mark of my studies through out my four years at CMU in which I pursued the theoretical and experimental projects in Fountain Pen design, PVC Windows, Glow Sticks, Cooling Band Aids, Insulin production from Biodiesel waste, Natural Gas purification and design of a Portable hand held Aerosol Paint Pen.

In the summer of 2011 I interned at a Glass bottle manufacturing company working on a specific process which involved PVC protective coatings for medical containers, most commonly anesthesia bottles. This was in line with interests that were budding in me towards polymers and plastics. After that summer I decided in my final year to pursue these passions taking courses outside my department in polymer processing with the Material Science department and a post graduate organic chemistry of polymers course with the Mellon College of Sciences.

My achievement that I am most proud is joining the TEDxCMU team for 2012 TED events at CMU. TED is an annual conference held to promote "ideas worth spreading" by showcasing talks by exceptional individuals in technology, entertainment and design. TEDx events are independently organized all over the world under the TED license by teams of people who are extremely passionate about and dedicated to organizing TED talks. TEDxCMU is one of the University's biggest student run events and I worked on publicity on campus and in the city of Pittsburgh to generate almost 2000 applications for the event and a full capacity show of over 500 attendees. Apart from that I also helped to choose and invite our speakers which included an inspirational fashion style blogger, the CEO of the popular video gaming company Electronic Arts, the CTO of a multimillion dollar startup producing batteries to meet the needs of the future, a neurobiologist studying how we understand music, a globetrotting social entrepreneur and many more. More information on this event including videos can be found on [www.tedxcmu.com](http://www.tedxcmu.com)







## MOHIT DEVNANI (CLASS OF 2009)

Dear Mrs Kanwar,

My heartiest congratulations and best wishes to you and everyone who was part of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. It is truly a wonderful feeling to know that we have reached this far, and I am so proud and grateful to have been a part of ILS.

Looking back at my school days, I feel blessed for having received all the kind help and assistance

From everyone including you, the faculty as well as the non-teaching staff, through every walk and phase of our education at ILS. Several memories of school are still fresh in my mind and I cherish all the years I spent as part of school. I want to thank you and all the faculty for their love, support and dedication towards us through all our years at ILS. Every experience at ILS has enabled me to face several challenges and molded me into the individual that I am today.

"No days like school days"! How true that saying is. My school days at ILS are certainly among my most beautiful and cherished memories!

Owing to the strong base and guidance given by my teachers at ILS, studying here in Mumbai has not been hard. I have just completed my final year examination for B. COM. At H.R. College, I am also doing Chartered Accountancy under the Institute of Chartered Accounts of India(CAI), and having cleared the first two levels of CA, I am currently interning with a CA firm in Mumbai.

I really want to thank ILS from the bottom of my heart for everything it has given me.

Regards

Mohit Devnani





## VIGNESH SUBRAMANIAM (CLASS OF 2010)

I am currently, a second year undergraduate student pursuing Electrical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. I first joined ILS in 2003 for my 6th standard. Lagos was a completely strange country to me, but the moment I entered the school it felt just like home. The students were friendly, and the teachers were motivating and helpful. I studied in ILS for five years till my 10th CBSE board exams. I scored 93% in the board exams with 100% in Mathematics and 98% in Science thanks to the utmost encouragement of the teachers. In a place like Lagos, ILS has been a boon to every Indian student - for education and sports activities.

Since my childhood, I had always been fascinated by science, and by my 10<sup>th</sup> standard, my dream was to join IIT. I had heard a lot about JEE, about how difficult it was, and how tough the competition was. But I believed in myself, and my family supported me and we decided to come back to India so that I could prepare for my entrance exam. I was sad that I had to leave ILS, but at the same time, excited by the new challenges that lay ahead of me. I prepared hard for 2 years.



The subjects were tough but also immensely interesting and I enjoyed studying. My hard work paid and I cleared IIT JEE with an AIR of 944, and my dream of becoming an IITian came true. Life in IIT is an amazing experience. The professors are knowledgeable and inspire students and bring out the best in them. I am interested in scientific research in the field of signal processing especially imaging and hope to contribute to the field. I also like to take part in extra-curricular activities, mainly sports like chess, basketball and tennis.



## DISHAAN AHUJA (CLASS OF 2011)



throughout the years paved the way for many academic challenges and successes that I have enjoyed. I will always remain grateful to my former teachers for their contribution to my achievements.

I moved to California, United States in 2007 and spent my high school years at Mountain View High School in Mountain View, California, in the heart of Silicon Valley. The United States has provided me with unparalleled opportunity to excel. I graduated from high school in the summer of 2011 and am currently working towards a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, which is widely regarded as one of the top schools specializing in scientific study.

Computers have always been my major area of my interest. I began to teach myself to program in

seventh grade, and I have continued to develop and expand my knowledge in this area, through college courses and research work. In the future, I plan to go to grad school and would love to have a start-up company of my own.

I would like to wish all the students at ILS a bright future and once again, to all the staff at ILS, thank you so much for all that you have done for me.

I was a student of ILS for 7 years from the year 2000 to 2007. It has been almost 12 years now but it seems like yesterday that I entered my second grade class. Over the years, ILS shaped me into the individual I have become. The encouragement and support that my teachers at ILS offered me





## HEALING HANDS - ALUMNI DOCTORS



**MEENU  
GOGIA**  
(Class of 1989)

MD from University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Practising Internal Medicine at Foothill Health Center in San Jose, California, USA.



**SHITAL VAIDYA** (class of 1991)

B J Medical College, Ahmedabad  
MD DGO  
Private practice at Ahmedabad.



**KIRAN RAO** (class of 1991)

MBBS, Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences (Bangalore)  
MBA, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad



**NIPA DANI** (class of 1991)

Mahatma Gandhi Mission's Medical College, Mumbai.



**RYAN D'SOUZA** (class of 1993)

Interventional Cardiologist, practising in S. L. Rajeja (Foetis), BSES, Surana & Umrao hospitals, Mumbai.



**SHWETA KESKAR**  
(class of 1997)

B J Medical College Pune, Tata Memorial Hospital, Radiologist. Working with SRL Diagnostics in Hyderabad.



**BHASKAR AZAD** (class of 1998)

Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal  
IIT KHRAGPUR.  
Senior clinical specialist at PHILIPS, Bangalore.



**RUCHI  
KAPOOR**  
(class of 1999)

MBBS- Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune.  
M.S. (Obstetrics & Gynaecology) from R.G.U.H.S. Training in IVF and Infertility mgt. from Sir Gangaram Hospital New Delhi



**REGINA VARGHESE**  
(class of 1999)

Cardiologist, Living in London



**CHAITANYA KULKARNI**  
(class of 2000)

Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum. MD in Radio-Diagnosis from GSVM Medical College, Kanpur.



**PRITI  
NIKTE**  
(class of 2000)

Mahatma Gandhi Mission's Medical College. Residency in family medicine. Working as a Hospitalist Physician in central Illinois.



**MINI CHANDRA**  
(class of 2001)



**JUI JADE** (class of 2002)

B J Medical College, Pune.



**VARUN KWATRA**  
(class of 2002)

King George Medical College, Lucknow, Junior Resident, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.



**RAHUL GUPTA**  
(class of 2002)

Christian Medical College Vellore.



**SACHIN MATHEW**  
(class of 2002)

Christian Medical College Vellore. DTM&H, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.



## HEALING HANDS - ALUMNI DOCTORS



**SUJIL MATHAI JACOB**  
(class of 2004)

University of Debreceniensis (MD)  
Licensed Physician in EU & EEA.



**SREELAKSHMI  
LEELADHARAN** (class of 2003)

MD Anaesthesiology, Amrita  
School of Medical Sciences.



**KAVITHA SRINIVASAN**  
(class of 2004)

KMC, Manipal.



**NATASHA KANWAR**  
(class of 2003)

Kasturba Gandhi Medical College  
& Hospital, Manipal.  
M S (Ophtho) Final year at  
Kasturba Gandhi Medical College  
& Hospital, Manipal.



**NEHA SINGH** (class of 2005)

Jawaharlal Nehru Medical  
College, Belgaum(2010).  
Intern at Ram Manohar Lohia  
Hospital, Delhi.



**DEVANSHI MEHTA**  
(class of 2006)

Pramukh Swami Medical College.  
Intern at Shri Krishna Hospital,  
Karansad, Gujarat



**ALIVA NAYAK** (class of 2006)

Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College  
(DMIMS), Sawangi, Wardha.



**RAMYASITA PALACHOLA**  
(class of 2006)

KMC, Manipal. Going to study  
at Boston School of Public  
Health, USA.



**MEHAK MUKHI** (class of 2007)

Krishna Institute of Medical  
Sciences. Intern.



**SIDDHARTH GARG**  
(class of 2007)

MBBS from Sri Devaraj URS  
Medical College, Karnataka.  
Working at SNR Govt.  
Hospital, Bangalore.



**NAVEEN MATHEW**  
(class of 2007)

Christian Medical College  
Ludhiana, Intern at CMC  
Ludhiana.



**GEETANJALI  
RAMCHANDANI** (class of 2007)

KMC, Manipal.  
Intern at K G Medical College &  
Hospital, Manipal.





# FOUNDATION FOR A SMILE - ALUMNI DENTISTS



**PARUL AGARWAL**  
(class of 1993)  
Manipal University -BDS  
University of Detroit, Mercy  
DDS- MSD PROSTHODONTICS,  
from IUPUL.



**MANSHA BAKSHI**  
(class of 1994)  
Dayananda Sagar college of  
Dental Sciences and Research,  
Bangalore.  
Internship from Govt.Dental  
College,Rohtak. Lecturer at  
Sudha Rustogi College of  
Dental Sciences & Research,  
Faridabad.



**ARCHANA THOMAS**  
(class of 1996)  
BDS Yenepoya Dental  
College, Mangalore,  
Karnataka State.  
MDS Pedodontics Manipal  
Heading the Dept. of  
Pedodontics at St. Gregorios  
Dental College in  
Kothamangalam, Kerala.



**PRIYA NAYAK**  
(class of 1997)  
A B Shetty Memorial  
Institute of Dental  
Sciences, Mangalore.  
Working at Bendigo  
Health, Victoria,  
Australia.



**RUBY AHUJA**  
(class of 1999)  
R V Dental College  
working in Edinburgh as an  
Associate Dentist with  
NHS, Scotland.



**DIVYA KRISHNAN**  
(class of 2002)  
SRMC Chennai  
MADC, Prosthodontics.  
Senior lecturer at Ragas  
Dental College.



**DWEEPA MEHTA**  
(class of 2002)  
Studying Dentistry at the  
Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni  
School of Dentistry, San  
Francisco California.



**DIMPI MESTRI**  
(class of 2004)  
Dr.D.Y.Patil dental college  
and hospital,  
Signature Smiles multi-  
speciality Dental Clinic Pvt  
Ltd.Mumbai.



## JUST MARRIED



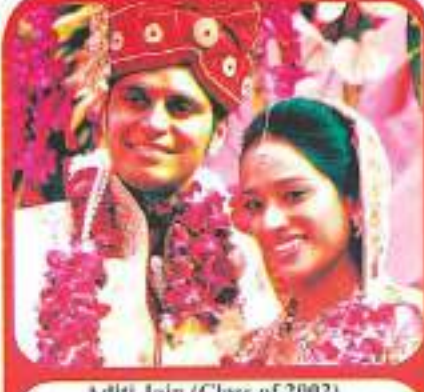
**Varun Ahuja (Class of 1993)**

married Dr. Rashima Jain on 30th Nov. 2011. He is Senior Vice President at "CITI GROUP" New York. Rashima is a general practitioner.



**Anirban Mukhopadhyay (Class of 2003)**

married Aditi Vyas on 24th June 2012. Anirban has an MBA and works as Senior Executive HR at Syntel Pune. Aditi is also working at Syntel Pune.



**Aditi Jain (Class of 2002)**

married Tejash Umadhat on 6th October 2010. Aditi is a Bachelor of Business Administration from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor & MBA from Wharton Manager San Francisco. Tejash is BS in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from U.C. Berkeley & MBA from Kellogg.



**Esha Kullar (Class of 2002)**

married Karan Bansal on 11th Feb 2012. Esha has a doctorate in Agriculture and Biological Engineering from the University of Illinois. Karan has a masters in Biotechnological Engineering and he is working as Research Engineer at Dow Agro Sciences at Indianapolis.



**Neha Kullar (Class of 2000)**

married Philip Jacob on 30th Nov. 2011. Both did BE from India and MS from Carnegie Mellon (USA). They are Chicago based and are working for Deloitte Consulting, Neha as Sr. Consultant and Philip as Manager.



**Ananya Tandon (Class of 2005)**

married Arunabh Arora on 24th June 2012. Ananya has Masters in Bio-medical Engineering from WPI and is working as Quality Control Engineer with Boston Scientific. Arunabh is a software engineer Case Western University and works with Hyland Software, Cleveland, Ohio.



**Surya Swamy (Class of 2001)**

married Tanya Rao on 29th June, 2012. Surya did his BS in Mech. Eng. from UT Austin (USA) and his MS from Carnegie Mellon (USA). He works as a Consultant for Innova Decision Systems in Los Gatos, California. Tanya is currently doing her Masters in Outdoor Recreation & Tourism at San Francisco State University.



**Sandhya Srinivasan (Class of 2000)**

married Arun Jacob on 6th Oct. 2010. Sandhya is a graduate from XIME, Bangalore St. Agnes College, Mangalore and works with Accenture.







*Our Sincere  
thanks to*

**VISTA**

*For the kind donation  
of the paper  
used in this Magazine*



## TWO DECADES AND MORE... AT ILS

## Tribute to ILS

It was on a pleasant February morning in 1983 that I had my introduction to ILS and back then, I never imagined that, almost three decades later, I would still find myself here. What can one say about a place that has been such an integral part of most of one's life—except that the ILS experience has enriched me beyond words. To be a school teacher, is not to age—because children with their youthful exuberance and fresh outlook and unbelievable energy renew our lives over and over again. Only a teacher will know what I mean. In ILS, I learnt more about India than I ever did in India. In ILS, I learnt what unity in diversity really means. In ILS, I learnt tolerance. In ILS I learnt to respect young viewpoints— and that it is 'the right of every teenager to sulk' (Quote from a 12<sup>th</sup> standard student of the early '90s'). Over these years, thousands of students have come and gone through the doors of this school. Many walk away without a backward glance—a few remember.. even fewer keep in touch—because that is the way life is. I have forgotten the names and faces of most of those whom I have taught and I am sure they have forgotten me. That is the way life is. However, at some point in time, our lives have crossed within the walls of this school and we have left a thread in the fabric of each other's lives....In the years to come —many more will pass through these portals, and merge with greater world outside And, for all of us, ILS will remain a corridor in time where we briefly met and parted. And, ILS will remain— an indelible footprint of India in this beautiful corner of Africa.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mathew (Vice Principal)



## I Celebrate ILS

Reflections bring the most nostalgic memories. Like a flash of summer lighting two and a half wonderful decades of my life have flown **breathing life into the Art Department**. ILS has seeped inside me to the core of my being. Basking in the glory of my 26<sup>th</sup> working year at ILS, I can boast about it being a 'sunshine spot' in my life.

Each school year witnesses numerous bright innocent faces metamorphosing into young grown up adults and me alongside growing with them, succeeding with them, applauding them, and rising with them. Bidding farewell to grade XII, the mixed feeling of exuberance and sadness to starry eyed young adults is perhaps what I feel year after year with batches passing out.

Ping...Ping goes my IM window and just after an interesting chat with an OSAIL member, my thoughts tiptoe down the memory lane evoking the reminiscences of bygone years, cherishing each nanosecond spent with these ILS alumni who are all now spread out like sparkling studded jewels across the globe.

ILS has been my extended family where we iron out our differences because we cannot imagine our lives without it. It is always a humbling experience to see the dedicated Nigerian Staff trying to put in their best efforts to maintain the integrity of the school. The collective planning, implementation, execution and the finale of each event—all that, is what makes being part of 'US' at ILS, so wonderful.

Mentoring my 'bachhas' gives me a feeling of satisfaction for they paint my rainbows with their smiles and dreams in different hues of colours. Enriched with a spectrum full of reinventing experiences and recognising the diverse abilities of my students, I celebrate their collectively creative, yet elegantly individual perspectives.

Mrs. Rukhi Mitra





## TWO DECADES AND MORE... AT ILS

## Accountable to ILS

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."  
Henry Ford



My association with ILS since 1987 has been, without doubt, a purple patch in my life. The exceptional leadership of Mrs. Kanwar, inspired by a long term vision has brought about a great transformation in the educational and cultural activities of this illustrious institution.

I am, indeed, proud to have had the privilege to write a few words about the School and its visionary principal.

I came to ILS with a 10 year teaching experience in various Nigerian schools and started in the administrative department, after which I moved to the finance department until date.

ILS epitomizes what an ideal educational institution does, nurturing young students to dream and achieve their aspirations.

Apart from being part of the finance department, I am also among the thousands of proud mothers, whose children have been educated here. The spirit of excellence they have acquired from ILS has enabled them to establish themselves successfully in productive careers.

Thank you ILS!

**Mrs. Lita D'souza**

## ILS - FootPrints

23 years ! Phew ! Seems like a lifetime gone in a flash, packed to the hilt ! What a remarkable journey through these years in ILS ! Away from "home" in India, ILS engulfs you in its warmth as you step in.

I have...

..loved to watch the play of emotions of students lustily singing during the morning assembly.

..watched as the second generation of ex-students' kids line up outside the admissions office with the same anxiety writ on their faces as was on their parents', years back,

..experienced the anxiety and the thrill after all the hard work, as event after event like the Annual Day, Bal Din, Sports Day and others unfold in all their glory.

..bit my nails as batches of students appeared for the Board exams,

...sat entranced when they performed at the MUSON music competitions,

..cheered when they played inter-school matches,

..burst with joy when they walk away with the honours,

..enjoyed that beautiful smile break out on a student's face,

..shared the special camaraderie with my colleagues.

..been touched to see the Nigerian staff handle a hurt child with gentle care and

..been fascinated to see them break rhythmically into a dance when happy,

..looked on with pride as past students successfully found their niche somewhere in the world,

..been in awe of Mrs. Kanwar's multitasking skills.

This is the reason I am forever grateful that I am an integral part of this ILS family where you leave behind a part of you to take away a part.

**Mrs. Sushila Swamy (Admin Officer)**





## TWO DECADES AND MORE... AT ILS

## Memories of Yesterday

Twenty years in ILS !!!!. Einstein's theory of relativity on time seemed to have proved right. I still remember, It was on July 15<sup>th</sup> 1988 , that I joined ILS. It seems like yesterday. Since then I have been teaching Physics, Maths and Computer science (5 years). My first batch of grade XII was the 1990 batch consisting of students like Sapna Ramchandani, Nanda Gurubani, Riaz Subhan , Dimple Lalchandani, Anoop Mathew, Rena Agarwal , Kiran Chandy , Niveditha, Bhairavi Desai, Hafceez.....and many more...



One of my happiest moments was when Dr (Mrs) Kanwar announced in the assembly that more than 10,000 students who passed out from Indian Language School are graduates. Many of them have also completed their post graduation. Most of them, I am sure have been taught by me, and I am confident that they are excelling in their various fields of specializations all over the world. The Indian Language School has flourished over the years under Dr Mrs Kanwar's exemplary stewardship. My wish is for the school to continue to grow from strength to strength in the years to come.

Mrs. Jolly Mathew

## Winging through 20years

20 long years have flown away on the wings of speed! It seems just the other day that i joined I.L.S, teaching political science to the humanities stream. I continued teaching even the commerce stream. But, with the introduction of P.E., political science, as an option was removed. The strength of classes used to be smaller then and the children were more obedient. The school has flourished over the years, and the plus two section does not have the humanities stream any more. So, I now teach history and civics to the secondary school students. With the new trend of CCE, the load of work has increased and I feel tired- perhaps it's an indication that none of us are getting younger. All these years at I.L.S have been a teaching-learning experience, enhancing my personality and enriching my character. The support of Dr. Mrs. Kanwar and all my colleagues and friends has made me sail through smoothly through the trials and tribulations of my teaching career. Children these days are smarter, but there sure is a lessening of values and they have become too self-willed. But, I suppose value systems change with time. The novelty of teaching has not deserted me. I still experience the same sense of excitement as on the day I first began. I hope and pray for the success of the school. May it attain the highest level of glory. The fond memories will forever be embedded in the sweetest corner of my heart.

Mrs U. Ahuja





## TWO DECADES AND MORE... AT ILS



मैंने इसका बचपन देखा  
धीरे धीरे फलते देखा  
देखा इसका उन्नत रूप  
जिसमें दिखता भारत का स्वरूप

दो दशक से अधिक समय बीत गया आई० एल० एस० से जुड़े । इससे मेरा संबंध अत्यंत घनिष्ठ है । वही सुबह ७.३० की घंटी , वही बच्चों का ठमडता हुआ शोर, वही प्रार्थना सभा हर वर्ष घेरे बदल जाते हैं । हर विद्यार्थी कुछ नया सीखने और कुछ नया करनेकी प्रेरणा देता है । समय कैसा भी रहा हो, हमने पीछे मुड़कर नहीं देखा । पढ़ने-पढ़ाने की तकनीकें बदल गई हैं पर हमारा संघर्ष जारी है। आई० एल० एस० विदेश में स्वदेश की मिट्टी की सौंधी सौंधी खुशबू बिखेरता है। हम सौभाग्यशाली हैं कि अपने देश से हजारों मील दूर रहकर भी हम भारतीय संस्कृति और मानव मूल्यों का प्रचार और प्रसार करते हैं । यहाँ के विद्यार्थी बहुमुखी प्रतिभा के धनी हैं। आज वे विश्व की जानी - मानी कंपनियों में उच्च पदों पर आसीन हैं । बोर्ड परीक्षा के शत प्रतिशत परीक्षा-परिणाम इस तथ्य का प्रत्यक्ष प्रमाण है। आई० एल० एस० भारत के उच्च कोटि के विद्यालयों से कहीं अधिक आगे है। मैं आई० एल० एस० की दिन दूनी रात बौगुनी प्रगति के लिए प्रार्थना करती हूँ । आई० एल० एस० का परचम सदा ऊँचा लहरता रहे यही कानना करती हूँ ।

शुभकामनाएँ  
ईशिता यादव  
हिंदी अध्यापिका

## Siddharth Singh's letter to Mrs. Ishita Yadav

Dear Ma'am,

I am writing this message to you in order to thank you for all that you have taught me during my time at Indian Language School. I was foolish to have left school without having a word with my teachers and expressing how grateful I was to them. However, I wish to correct that mistake and tell you today that I haven't forgotten your Hindi classes and your contribution to my progress as a student. Every now and then, we meet a teacher who isn't bothered only with the syllabus or the curriculum, but also with the all round development of a student. Such teachers do not teach; they inspire. Ma'am you are such a teacher. You did not merely focus on the CBSE portion, but instead also chose to illuminate the right path, the path a student must tread along to ensure that he/she grows up to be a responsible and conscientious member of society. I remember how in Grade IX you were open to discussing the various issues that adolescents encounter during their teenage years, and how you were never averse to giving us some advice, and directing us where we were unable to take any decisive action. But traditionalists will argue that the quality of a teacher is only gauged by the manner in which he/she teaches. Well in all honesty, I must confess that as a teacher in the traditional sense, you were superlative. Your lessons during Grade IX assisted me even in Grade X and allowed me to score phenomenal marks in the board exams. I always underestimated Hindi as a subject, but your lessons came in handy when Hindi finally became a taxing subject in Grade X.

Ma'am, this one letter will not be successful in describing the extent of my gratitude. I am and always will be grateful for the indelible impact and impression that you have left on me.

Regards,

Siddharth Singh (The talkative boy)



## LETTERS FROM FORMER STAFF

With immense honour and pleasure, I congratulate Indian Language School, Management, Principal, Staff and students for having completed thirty years of dedicated service to the Indian community in Lagos. This is indeed History in the making.

ILS will always remain a dear memory stored away in the cockles of my heart to review when these memories nostalgically 'flash upon that inward eye' and 'then my whole being with pleasure fills' and I am transported in time to ILS; where I spent twelve years of my life.

Whether it was spending seven hours in the 'go slow' for a twenty minute drive or it was sitting cross legged on the seat in the Merc taking me to the school prying fervently that the car doesn't stall in the early morning downpour; as much as saving my feet from the water that had entered the car; or whether it was to see nine of my class twelve students spilling like beans out of a car that had dashed against the median in the middle of the third mainland bridge; and I, rushing to herd them into my car to save them from the police; all have been sweet memories etched in my heart and these will not be forgotten in a lifetime.

No matter where I go or what I do; Ms. Suman Kanwar; the Principal and the staff and students of ILS will always be a part of my life; the love, warmth and friendship will follow me to the ends of the earth; be it on facebook; or through the phone; or the BB; each of those that have touched my life at ILS, have always remained connected. It was at ILS that I learnt lessons of life from my students as much as I taught English to these young hearts. I salute you ILS for shaping me as I am today; and hope that you keep FLYING HIGH forever and forever.

**Pooja Ramchandani (Former Vice Principal-ILS)**

Principal- Sadhu Vaswani International School, Hyd; India  
www.svishyd.in



I joined ILS in February 1989 and worked there till June 2001. ILS had been an integral part of me. My children had a wonderful education and I had one of my best career years. I learnt so much in those years. I learnt that I was capable of doing much more than I ever did in my life. The opportunity was endless and all thanks goes to Dr. Suman Kanwar. She believed in me more than I believed in myself. ILS would not be what it is today without her. Hats off to her.

I remember the days when I stood on each roof top under the scorching sun to make sure they are putting the right amount of concrete and using the vibrator to distribute the concrete evenly, secretly sneaking in to see if they are polishing the floor nicely, making sure they are using the level for perfect alignment of the windows and doors, keeping a tab on the materials coming in, being used, taking inventory, going shopping, finding the best bargain and last but not the least haggling for the best price wherever possible. Sitting for weekly meetings with the Trustees and jotting down the minutes and making sure the deadlines are met almost became a challenge.

All these anxiety, stress and unexplained doubt fell into oblivion once the building took its form and started getting dressed with those little trimini tiles. To me they looked like jewels and I am sure I had that expression of accomplishment on my face. I learnt so much from that experience. It gave me so much joy. Thank you Suman for choosing me for that job.

My most memorable part was being a cookery teacher and that was a stepping stone for me for my future career.

I am now a professional cook working with Dana Hospitality Inc. To get to that level I did a course on Cooking and catering because I had to learn about western cooking and their styles. I cater to about 250 -300 people /day. I enjoy what I am doing now. Cooking 25kg sheppard pie or 30 kg chicken tikka masala is no big deal for me. People love my cooking and I love to see them enjoying.

All said and done I do miss ILS and all the celebrations, glamour and





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# 'CELEBRATING 30'





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# ARTISTIC PROFUSION





# TERRIFIC TABLES





# CRAFT AND CREATION





# IMAGES OF INTRICACY





# CHECKMATE!





# SHAPING UP





# TIMELESS ART





30

# COLOURS OF LIFE







# REMINISCENCE NITE - EMINENT GUEST





# REMINISCENCE NITE- BRIGHT GATHERING







# REMINISCENCE NITE - OUR ALUMNI





# REMINISCENCE NITE- STAGE SAVVY





# REMINISCENCE NITE - WELL WISHERS





# REMINISCENCE NITE - WELL WISHERS

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# A SHOW TO CELEBRATE

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Barman is currently completing a Master's program at Hong Kong University. Also part of a Hong Kong based band - The Barman.





# RADIANT ENERGY





# CADENCE OF COLOUR





# SHARING THE STAGE

30





# SHARING THE STAGE





# RAINBOW RHYTHM





# COME TO INDIA





# AFRICA! OH AFRICA!





# MOODS OF LIFE





# FUSION AND FANTASY

