



GLOBAL GRACE





RECOGNITION AND REWARD





LEARNING AND LEISURE



30

RECOGNIZE US ?



BIDDING ADIEU





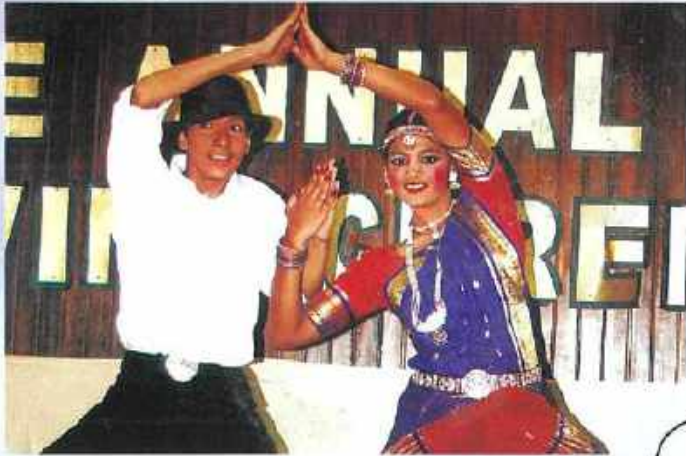
REUNION TIME



SPECIAL MOMENTS ON SPECIAL DAYS



ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE





THE MUSIC MAKERS...



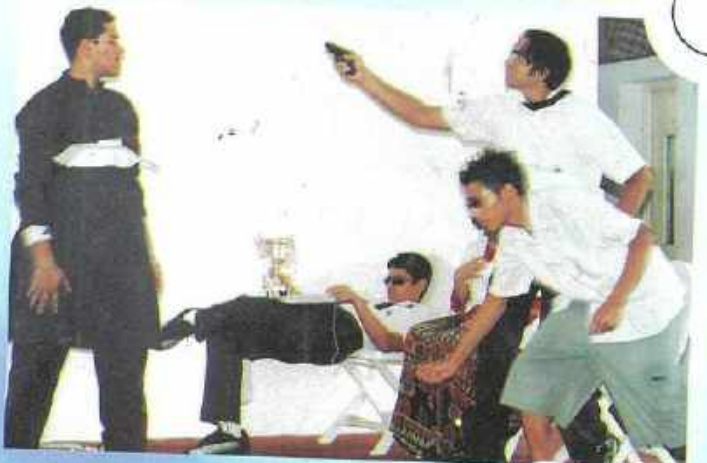


GET DRAMATIC...





ACT IT OUT...



NOTES OF NOSTALGIA



WE TOO... ARE SCHOOL...



STEPPING OUT





MARCH ON.. MARCH ON TO VICTORY





TAKING TO THE TRACK



POWER AND FLEXIBILITY



REACHING THE GOAL



THE SOUL OF SPORT





FROZEN ACTION



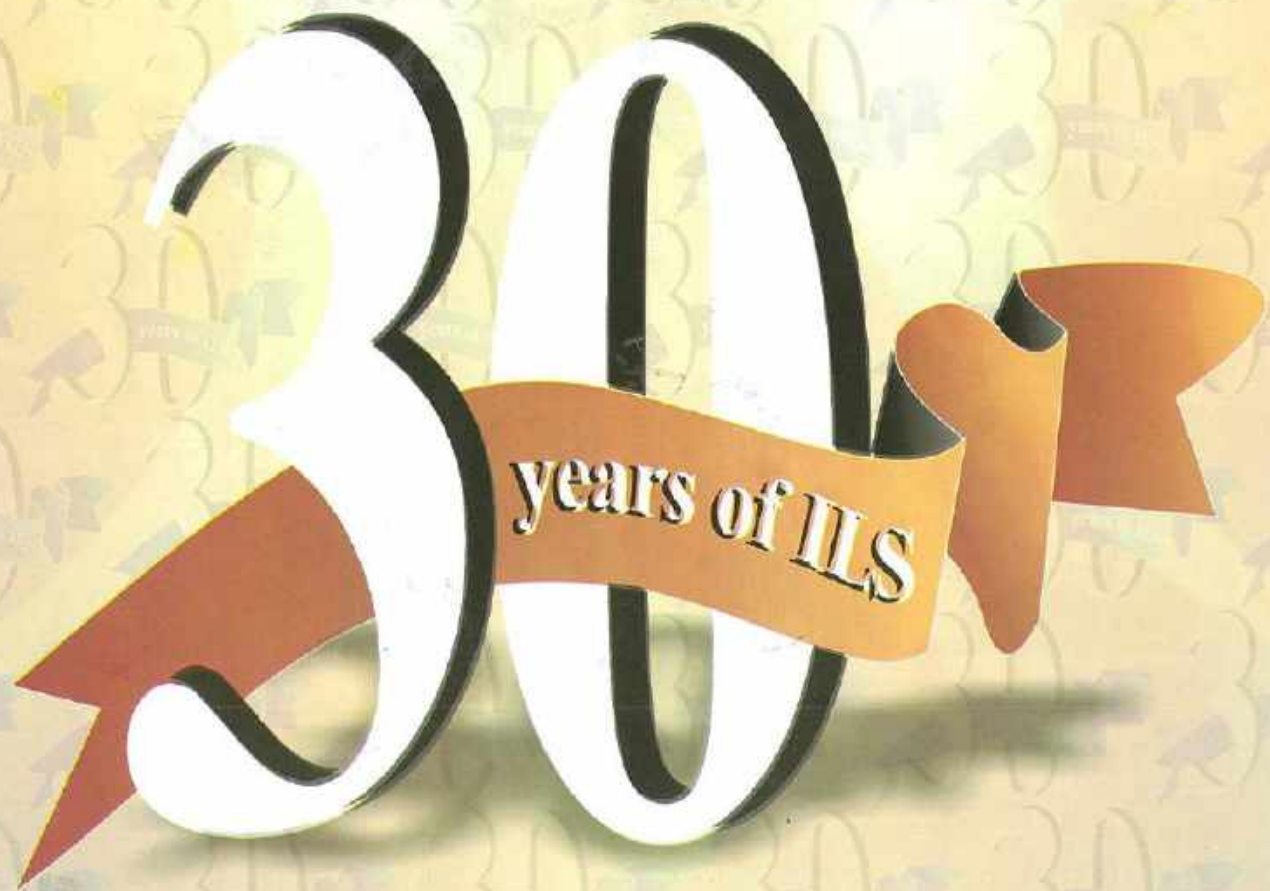


VICTORY IS SWEET





SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



An educational institution comes of age, when the students who have passed through its portals become responsible and successful members of the adult world. ILS, at 30, is proud to count among its old students hundreds of such young people. The next section of the magazine comprises of letters from, and information about, a few of our former students who wrote in, to tell us about their careers, lives and memories of their ILS days. Today, ILS alumni are to be found in all parts of the world, pursuing a wide range of careers. A few pages of the magazine, list those who we know are in the medical profession. As the numbers of alumni who are engineers and accountants are so many, we have not been able to devote similar space to them. Letters from Mrs Pooja Ramehandani, Vice Principal of ILS from 2001-2007, who is now the Principal of Sadhu Vaswani International School, Hyderabad, and Mrs Jayshree Sarkar, former Maintenance Officer at ILS, have been included.

Just as students come and go, teachers do too. However there are among the teaching staff, a handful who have been here for over two decades. They too, have written briefly about their ILS years.

We are also happy to be able to count among our students, fourteen, who are children of our alumni.



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RAJESH ANANTHARAMAN (CLASS OF 1989)



There were a lot of “firsts” for my classmates and me at ILS: the first class on the expanded campus, the first class to petition the principal to wear long trousers, the first class to graduate from ILS, and many more firsts that are probably best shared over a drink. I was thirteen years old when my parents and I moved from Bangalore to Lagos and I was a shy kid with sparse interests and even sparser direction. But 5 years later when I graduated from grade X and headed back to India, I had become a confident boy curious about the world and ready for life's adventures. I have often wondered about why Nigeria and ILS had such a profound impact on my life. Could it have been the high teacher to student ratio, being the trailblazing class very year, the passionate teachers that inspired us to think for ourselves, the small school spirit that provided a safe haven to experiment, the African culture around us, the life-long friends we made, or our teenage years where emotions run raw and everything seems possible? Whatever the reasons, my 5 years at ILS changed me forever and I would like to wish the ILS community happy thirtieth birthday from its first graduating class.

After ILS I moved back to Bangalore to finish my high school at St Joseph's College (at that time ILS went up to only grade X). My parents decided to continue on in Nigeria and I boarded with my grandparents in a joint-family compound in Bangalore. After finishing up twelfth grade I was accepted into the Engineering program at Columbia University in New York. Columbia and New York were wonderful introductions to the entrepreneurship and the diversity of the Americas. After graduating from Columbia, I started my career in management consulting, which enabled me to travel to different countries (including a project in South Africa) and work on diverse management challenges. I then went on to get my MBA from Yale University. During those years I met my wife Alexandra and after finishing up at Yale I took a job back in New York. We then moved to Boston where I continued in management consulting in the telecom and media space, and Alexandra worked as a city planner. I now work in corporate finance at Fidelity Investments, an asset management and financial services company. We have two boys, Naveen who is 7 and Santosh who is 4, who keep us busy but young at heart. In addition to work, I coach Naveen's soccer team and enjoy skiing with my family. My parents moved back to Bangalore and we try and see each other at least once a year.

When I tell people about my background, experiences and travels, they are astonished at how well I have adapted to life and work on three different continents. My life's adventures would not have been possible if not for the formative years at ILS and Nigeria. The eight of us from that first graduating class have pursued varied interests and live in 4 continents and are a true testament to the ILS vision of molding “dynamic global citizens”. The immense success of ILS is a tribute to the students, teachers, principals and parents that came from diverse backgrounds and sparked new ideas and had the courage to execute them. I wish the ILS community continued success and hope that many more students benefit from its richness that was afforded to me. And to my principals, teachers and class mates: I always have and will look upon our time together as some of the happiest days of my life. Please look me up if you are ever in the Boston area.



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ANITA MOORTHY (CLASS OF 1989)



I was part of the first batch of students who wrote the 10th standard exam at the Indian Language School. From here I went on to do a degree in Computer Engineering from The University of Waterloo in Canada. This particular University is well known in North America for engineering and computer science and 60% of undergraduates hired by Microsoft are from the University of Waterloo. Waterloo Engineering is a 'coop' program, which means that students alternate between a 4 month study term and a 4 month work term, so that by the time they graduate they have two years of work experience. I found this extremely beneficial in putting my theoretical knowledge to practical use and

also in determining what I wanted to do after engineering. As a coop, I worked at Nortel, Alcatel and Microsoft. After obtaining my engineering degree, I worked for five years as a business consultant with Ernst&Young and later with Price Waterhouse Coopers. This gave me the opportunity to travel to Thailand, London and other places and to gain first-hand knowledge of business processes and challenges in different industries. As I was keen on having a leadership role in a tech company, I then decided to do an MBA from MIT Sloan School of Management, because of its reputation for entrepreneurship.

Apart from my work, I have two great loves. First are my husband Prasad and my kids, Vikram (7years) and Tarini (4years). I am completely obsessed with them and love hanging out with them in my spare time. We love to travel and learn about new cultures, people and nature. My second love is the arts. I continue to keep up with my Bharatnatyam dancing and have recently taken up the sitar. I have always been fond of classical music and initially decided to learn as a way of motivating my son also to learn classical music. But, I find myself enjoying the new found hobby to such an extent that I hope to give a live concert someday--- maybe with my son and daughter singing to my tunes.

My parents and brother are settled in Boston, MA while I have recently made the move to Bangalore. If any of you are in Bangalore, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I have very vivid memories of my two years at ILS. Our class was small (only 9 of us) and we were the first batch to write the Grade X CBSE examinations. I remember all my classmates being smart and that helped to create a competitive and challenging environment. My teachers were all great—they truly cared about teaching us and I felt that they went over and above the call of duty to individually get to know us and encourage us. I also specifically remember the show our class put on where we represented different civilizations. I represented the Indian civilization and others represented the Chinese, Greek and Egyptian civilizations. I am usually not great at remembering things, but my time at ILS was good and I think these memories of my years there, will always stay with me. Thank you to all-- the teachers and the school for helping me in the formative years.



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DEEPAK DUGAD (CLASS OF 1990)



Congratulations to ILS on its 30th anniversary and it give me great pleasure and honor to be part of this historic moment.

ILS is indeed and holds a special place in my heart. Fortunately, for me I have had the opportunity to visit Nigeria and ILS periodically over the

past 23 years since graduating in 1989 as part of the first batch of 10th Grader from ILS.

Every time I drive past ILS Illupeju, attend a function or a ceremony hosted by ILS a feeling

of family dawns upon my heart and a sense of opportunity and pride comes to mind.

I first set foot in ILS, coming with my family from Tanzania when I was 15 years old. I spent 3 wonderful and enriching years at ILS that has left some of the best impressions and cherishable moments in me. After ILS, I was in boarding at Mayo College Ajmer and after completing my 12th grade there, I completed my Engineering in Electronics at Bangalore. Went to the US to complete my Masters in Electrical Engineering with specialization in Wireless Engineering from University of Texas, Arlington.

I joined Nortel Networks as an Intern while completing my Masters in 1995 and after graduation joined them full time. I had one of the best times of my career at Nortel that took me to various parts of US (NJ, California, Georgia), India and as Country Manager for Nigeria lead the setup of Nortel operations and offices in Nigeria for which my family and I temporarily moved to Lagos in 2008 and stayed till October 2009.

My wife Shubha and I got married in 1999 and are blessed with 3 beautiful girls (Anusha-8, Priyali-6 and Natasha- 7 months). We are based in Dallas, TX and enjoy living there. My wife and kids have heard all my endless stories and anecdotes from ILS and have had the privilege to visit the school.

I have since worked at Ericsson and now Vice President of Verveba Telecom based out of Dallas, TX. I am currently heading their Africa Business and expanding their footprint in the continent which brings me to Nigeria quite frequently now and stay in close touch with ILS and its happenings.

I wish to thank ILS, teachers, Mrs. Kanwar and staff for the contribution in my life for what I am and helping shape and influence my life. I will cherish every moment of ILS with fond memories.





HAFEEZ AZEEM (CLASS OF 1990)



Walt Disney said "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them " and that's exactly what I did. So true to my first toy being an Acro Plane, I have nurtured my childhood dream, realized it and continue to be a part of the airline industry today. During the final year of B.Sc in Computer science, in parallel, I completed the foundation course in Travel, that being the then revered IATA Diploma in

Fares and Ticketing. To this day, Mrs. Ram, Regional Manager for Jet Air, South India recalls my persistence of pitching for an opportunity to work for the team at no cost, which she gladly agreed to. Even before the results were out, I was ecstatic to start with my first assignment; of being part of Jet Air group with a monthly startup stipend of just INR 500.

Looking back, it's been an amazing journey through the years. KLM – Royal Dutch Airlines was the stepping stone, that led me further into the field as a Sales Executive. Signing off after 6 years as a Marketing Manager for Saudi Arabia and Qatar, followed by a short stint as a Commercial Analyst with Gulf Air. The real deal being with Emirates; a brand that I still am passionate about. Nine wonderful years looking after Commercial Interests in Africa and finally as a Regional Manager - West Africa based in Lagos. That took me on to Fly Dubai, a low cost startup, as one of the pioneering commercial managers of the airline.

During the course of my career progression across Middle East and Africa, getting an MBA from Bradford was hard work and rewarding. As of date, I continue to be in the aviation industry working as Director of Sales - Gulf for "Amadeus ", the largest technology provider in the travel and tourism industry.

On a personal level, I am a keen rider, an avid reader, and still a real Desi but settled in Dubai with my family. Lastly, about Indian Language School, I am absolutely certain most ILSians would agree, especially the first few batches, that our time in ILS was probably among the most defining moments in our lives. The school played a huge role in reinforcing values we brought from home and shaped us to be what we are today. Our teachers, coming from varied backgrounds, were relentless in their efforts to mould us into individuals whom they can be proud of. So a million and more kudos and thanks to the board of trustees, Mrs. Upadhaye, Mrs. Maira, Dr. Kanwar, teachers and the support team (some of them are still there) for the amazing work that they have done over the years and continue to do.



SUDEEP NADKARNI (CLASS OF 1990)

Sudeep has over 18 years of experience leading progressive firms in developing corporate strategy and executing business process and technology transformations. His work has consistently delivered a stronger competitive position for services firms operating in global Information Technology (IT) markets and returned measurable value for shareholders and customers.

Sudeep is a majority owner in DataStraits, Inc – a global business solutions firm. As the founder and CEO, he has guided this Chicago based Integrative Marketing firm to build two state-of-the-art platforms that aggregate demand and empower firms to design and deploy customized products to financial services and pharmaceutical industries.

Prior to DataStraits, Sudeep enjoyed a long and distinguished career with Kanbay Inc – a global outsourcing firm serving the financial services industry. Joining Kanbay in 1995 as one of the founding members of their India operations, Sudeep served in several critical senior management positions and was a key driver in the growth of the firm from a 20 employee startup, to a 7,000 person, publicly traded firm that was eventually acquired by Capgemini for \$1.2 billion.



Born in Mumbai, Sudeep traveled at a very early age with his family - completing his primary education in Iran before joining ILS in 1982 just as the school opened its doors for the first time. While at ILS, Sudeep was a self-described "nerd" who co-founded the school's Quiz and Debate Clubs and competed in the Math Olympiad. He also served as the Krishna Team Captain and was elected to Head Boy before graduating in 1988 and heading back to Mumbai where he completed his undergraduate degree in electronics engineering with distinction.

Based in Chicago since 1996, Sudeep possesses a deep understanding of the business transacted in the US-India corridor and has strong relationships with its major players. Adept at both organic & inorganic growth options, Sudeep has negotiated & executed several multimillion dollar intellectual property acquisitions and has spent a large part of his career establishing and leading shared services IT Outsourcing and Business Process Outsourcing operations from the ground up. Sudeep is a recognized expert in the fields of integrative marketing, business intelligence and technology outsourcing serving on advisory boards of several firms active in this space. He is frequently asked to speak on topics of entrepreneurship, marketing technology and business process outsourcing. In 2001, Sudeep was awarded an MBA in marketing and strategy from Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

An avid golfer, his other interests include music, chess and tennis – a passion he shares with his wife, Meenal, and sons - Rohan and Neel.



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RIAZ RAIHAN (CLASS OF 1991)



Riaz Raihan (also sometimes known as Riaz Subhan) joined Indian Language School in 1987 in Grade IX. His father, Captain M.A. Raihan Subhan (Indian Navy) was appointed to the role of Defense Advisor to the High Commission of India, Lagos. Riaz and his younger brother (Irshad) joined ILS in May 1987. Riaz was a student at ILS from 1987 to 1990; and in those three years made a big impact both academically and in various extra-curricular activities. He was an excellent student and consistently ranked at the top of his class. In Grade XI, he won the Top Academic Honour in the school by earning the highest marks in all subjects – a rare feat. In the same year (1990), he also won the Best Student Award for his all-round proficiency.

Riaz was elected Headboy of the School during the academic year 1988-89, while he was in Grade X. His election campaign was well organized and conducted, and he won by a landslide, in one of the largest margins of victory at ILS.

Riaz was particularly fond of debating, public-speaking, elocution, and drama; winning

numerous First Prizes over the years at ILS and in inter-school competitions. Later in life, his intense drive for excellence helped him go on to win the National Debating Champion in India in 1995. His other major interests include cricket, tennis and reading.

When his father was transferred back to India in May 1990, Riaz left ILS amid a tearful farewell. Today, 22 years later, Riaz ranks his three years at ILS as “the best years of my student life”. Riaz remarks, “ILS had a very high quality of education. The teachers and staff were very committed; the student body was cohesive; and the environment was conducive to learning. The School promoted all-round student growth. In addition to academics, there was focus on other core life skills like public-speaking, debating and competitive sports. ILS helped in all-round development of its students. I give ILS a lot of credit for my success in adult life.”

After completing Grade XII in India, Riaz studied Mechanical Engineering at Andhra University, finishing at the top of his class with a Gold Medal. He then earned an MBA from India's prestigious S.P. Jain Institute of Management, again finishing at the top of his class.

Riaz joined Accenture as a management consultant and quickly rose through the ranks to become a Manager. He moved to Ernst & Young in Toronto, Canada in 2001, and rose to the position of Director. In 2004, Riaz joined SAP, the world's largest business software company and a

\$20 billion global corporation with operations in 125 countries. Riaz was one of the youngest Vice Presidents in the company and is today the Senior Vice President in charge of business development which includes: Value Engineering, Industries & Private Equity.

Riaz has advised CEOs and CFOs of multi-billion dollar corporations across Canada. He is a graduate of the Stanford University Executive Program and a member of MENSAs, the global High IQ society.

On the personal front, Riaz married Arshi, a graphic artist, in 2000, and they have a young son, Adam, who was born in 2004. The family lives in Toronto, Canada.

Riaz is a patriotic Indian and a proud Canadian; he serves on Indo-Canada business boards. He is active in civil volunteer work and devotes time and energy to Youth Education in Canada. In his spare time, he is an avid cricketer and Captain of Team Thunderbolts, Champions of the Toronto City Cricket Tournament in 2010 and 2011.



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SAPNA RAMCHANDANI (DISHA THADANI) (CLASS OF 1991)



I am a consummate product of ILS. Today whatever field I excel in, whatever endeavor I tackle, is with the knowledge and confidence that I armed myself with in this school. Academically I was above average. However, it is the extra-curricular activities that I participated in, which shaped me into who I am.

I graduated from ILS in 1991 and went on to do a Computer Science Degree in Programming at the University of Lagos, which I wasn't able to complete due to indefinite strikes during my tenure. Soon after I met and married my husband Naresh Thadani in June of 1994 and became Disha Thadani. Almost immediately my little family took shape. My father often proclaimed that Aanchal (born in 1995) and Akhil (born in 1999) are my Bachelors and Masters degrees respectively. Although my formal education came to an abrupt end, I helped my husband pursue his after marriage.

ILS nurtured and inculcated my creative side, that defines me today.

My teachers encouraged me to sing, dance, debate, act, draw and much more.

Early on, when the children were younger I started teaching free-style dancing from home. The classes were popular and I was busy. For the next six years I designed and decorated ornate pottery, diyas, idols working with cold and hot ceramics, which were exhibited during Diwali. Since then I am a co-owner of a successful business. I source designer sterling silver jewelry from all over the world and see clients by appointment at home.

Years of holding the microphone in the school assembly, is a habit that I haven't been able to shake off. Whether it is for the Indian Community as entertainment head for VAMA WAVE (an Indian women's Charity Organization) or for the International Community as entertainment head for "It's a SMALL WORLD" (Largest women's Charity event in Nigeria), I continue to do what I love.

Some of my most memorable moments in ILS would be, becoming the first ever Head Girl, winning the western music competition (Karma Chameleon) and receiving the Best Student Award. My 8 years in ILS were by far the best years of my life. Congratulations to us all on this landmark anniversary and wishing ILS umpteen more years of success!!





DIMPLE LALCHANDANI(PAGARANI) (CLASS OF 1991)

A Letter to My Younger Self

Dear 15-year old Dimple,
Right now, buried under your books, you are lamenting to God, "God Almighty! When will my life become fun?! When will I become an adult and make my own choices?! When will this tyranny of teachers and parents end?! I can't wait to get out of school and start living my life when I will get to call all the shots!"

As your 37-year old self, let me tell you- adult life isn't that fun all the time. You realize that the choices you make affect other people. You constantly second guess yourself on the path you choose, and long for the guidance of a teacher or parent who can tell you what to do. Don't despair though -- you will have fun, lots of it. Only, your definition of fun will change several times over the course of your life. You will also make lots of choices. Some will be right, others not so right. But the more choices you make, the more confident you'll get. In making your choices you will come to depend, more and more, on your past and will realize how crucial your experiences at ILS were to the rest of your life.

Let me give you a glimpse of the future and explain how. All that emphasis on Academic Performance will gain you lots of popularity at University. When you get to University of Massachusetts a couple of years from now, you'll be grateful for all the hard work you put into your homework and exams at ILS. Your classes will be a breeze leaving you lots of time to get adjusted to the American way of life. Your classmates will respect you for your brilliance, and your professors will love you. You'll even get invited to all the cool parties by all the good looking jocks whom you helped with their homework. That will be lots of fun!

Being able to get through tons of homework within a short amount of time will help you shine at B-School. You know those days when you have so much work that you need to stay up all night. Consider those days as endurance training. At Yale Business School it is that very training that's going to make you stand out amongst your peers and help you get your first job as an Associate at Merrill Lynch, New York. And yes, looking out from your window on the 18th floor will be fun!

Coming up with creative solutions to difficult problems will enable you to fast track your career as a Strategy Consultant. Recall those times when you and your classmates get past obstacles like limited resources, lack of space and less time, but still manage to put up a great show using team-work and creativity. Well, those skills will come in very handy when you join Accenture, Lagos. You will work with extremely intelligent and experienced people in different industries, and still be able to put forth valuable suggestions, and recommend new and better ways of doing things. Your input will always be sought and appreciated and boy, will that be fun.

Mandatory participation in Annual Day, Elocutions, Debates, Art Sports Day will turn you into Super-Mom Five days before



your 30th Birthday, you'll be given the best and most demanding gift in your life – your daughter Riya. As she grows, she'll want to sing songs, act in plays, participate in dance performances and poetry recitals, get on the swim team, make presentations to her class and win every competition possible. And the best part is, you'll be able to help her and guide her through it all because you did it all at ILS. Double fun!

Setting high goals and targets for yourself will help you achieve more in all your life experiences

I know that sometimes you feel overwhelmed with all the expectations your teachers and parents have of you. But believe me, as an adult it is you who will have high expectations of yourself. Most times you will achieve your goals and other times you will learn from your mistakes. However, by the time you get to my age, you would have grown into a decent human being with lots of good friends, and many occasions to celebrate and have fun.

Finally, your invaluable experience at ILS will help you realize that a good education should be available to more children in the world Today you feel like school is such a pain but the most profound change in your life will come around the age of 35 when you realize that all your life's accomplishments have been possible primarily due to your "solid" education. You will want to provide a similar solid ground to as many poor Nigerian children as possible. It will become your passion to work as a member of several charity and voluntary organizations that will help you achieve this dream. And achieving it, in any measure, will be loads of fun.

So stop fretting and complaining. Get on with your work. It is nothing compared to all the work you have to do as you get older. Because, fun is that exhilarating feeling you get when you accomplish your goals and dreams. So keep having loads and loads of fun!

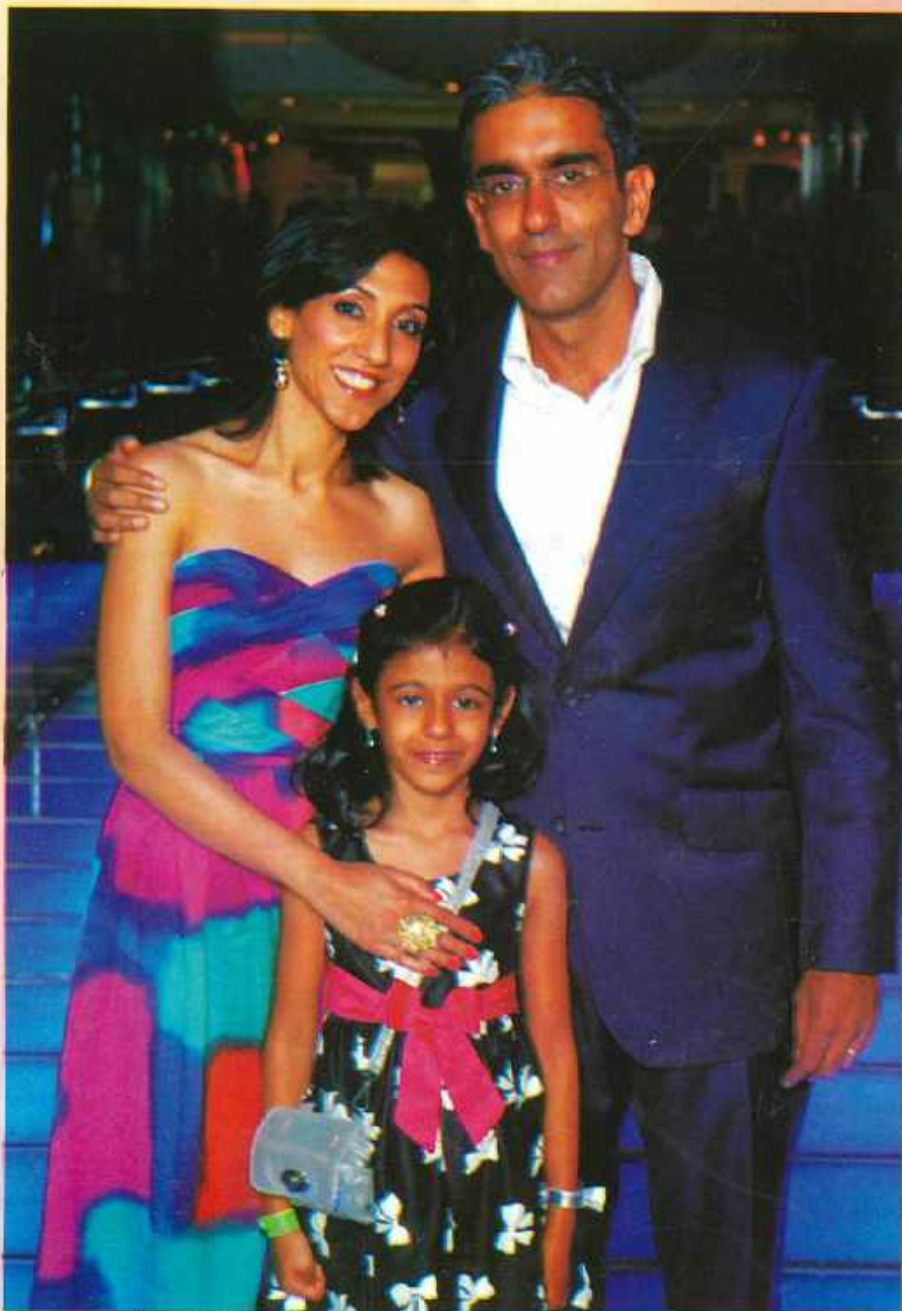
Lots of Love,

37-year old Dimple

Dimple Pagarani (nee Lalchandani) joined the Indian Language School in its year of inception and was part of ILS' first batch of Grade 12 to graduate in 1991. Thereafter, she spent 6 years in America where she obtained a BSc. in Computer Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst followed by an MBA from the Yale School of Management, Connecticut.

After a brief stint at Merrill Lynch Private Bank in New York, Dimple returned to Nigeria to join Zenith International Bank, Lagos. Soon she switched into her role as a Strategy Consultant at Accenture, Lagos where she worked until 2003.

She subsequently got married to Mahesh Pagarani and moved to London where she had their daughter Riya. Today, Dimple is back in Lagos with her family, where she continues to set high goals for herself and have fun along the way.





CHARUL BAGARIA(GUPTA) (CLASS OF 1991)

“Have confidence in yourself and the world will follow”



When I moved to Australia 12 years ago, I had not the faintest idea of where I was headed. Before my marriage, I did degree in Bachelor of Arts, followed by MD in Alternative Medicines. I had my clinic for couple of years. Later in years I moved overseas with my family. There I did advance study in Tourism and worked as a manager in a Travelagency.

For a few years, after my marriage in Australia, I helped my husband occasionally with his import and wholesale business dealing in kitchenware and Manchester products. But there was a drive in me to do more, a passion for marketing and penchant for sales. Six years ago, I decided to establish the retail segment of the business, expanding and diversifying our product range and distribution channels. With immense determination, hard work and God's grace, we have grown from one outlet store in 2005 to five retail stores located in up-market malls around Sydney and this is just the beginning for me.

As I look back, I see that the foundation of my success was laid in Lagos at the Indian Language School (ILS). I graduated from ILS in 1990, a school which was more home than an institution, where my teachers and classmates were all like a well-knit family.

Academics were never my strong area, but ILS allowed me to realize my aptitude for sports, creativity and “out-of-the-box” thinking. The school Sports-Day where I won several awards in basketball and relay-races, the Annual day when I performed happily in my yellow 6-tiered Spanish dress in Grade 12 and the Republic-Day salad-making competition where I made a potato Taj Mahal and won the first prize, are some of the fond memories I have of occasions when the school nurtured my creativity.

Yes, academically I was mediocre, but I excelled in building myself into an honest, confident, imaginative person and most importantly, a good student in the classroom called 'Life'.

Every day is a new challenge. Every struggle and hardship makes me stronger and teaches me new things. I am fortunate to have two beautiful children and an extremely supportive and loving husband. I balance my family and work very delicately, making sure none is accomplishments, I realize

My friends, it is really true- nothing is impossible!

Three cheers to ILS!!!



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BHARAVI DESAI (CLASS OF 1991)

I am Bhairavi Desai, 37 yrs of age, married (my husband Sanjay) and blessed with 2 kids Sanyoni and Sannidhya. I was born in India and lived in Nigeria for 13 years. I studied in Indian Language School starting from its inception in 4th Grade in 1983 till 12th Grade 1991. In fact we were the first class to have a science based 11th and 12th grade. (BTW, for anyone interested I was in the Kaveri team). I returned to India in 1992. I am presently based in Houston, Texas, USA.

I consider myself as originally an Environmentalist, accidentally working in Information Technology, **but I am not a Programmer.** My love for science started in grade school and was fueled by extraordinary teachers. In fact, Dr. Kanwar and Ms Khullar have both been my Chemistry teachers! I also was inspired in part, by David Attenborough's Living planet and Carl Sagan's Cosmos. And I read Encyclopedias on Animals like story books. Not surprising then that

I would choose my college degrees in what I was passionate about.

I did my Bachelors in Zoology from Mumbai University and Masters in Environmental Science from Indira Gandhi Institute of Environment and Ecology. I also completed a Higher Diploma in Computer programming and another in Medical Lab Technology while studying for Bachelors and Masters.

I have dabbled in a number of different types of jobs before finally finding my space in my present role. My Career has spanned from working as a medical representative in Knoll pharmaceuticals, Business Analyst in 3M to my present job as a Project Manager in General Electric (GE). I have been in this role for the past 4yrs.

I am passionate about my job. I work with teams across the globe – in US, Mexico, Europe, China and India. I build processes that help them work more effectively; I control communications for my team building newsletter, blogging and own the Social media strategy for my Organization. My work brings me in contact with all levels of employees from programmers to engineers. It's a very exciting job as I not only create (websites) but also get to play with latest web technologies in my workplace. But mostly I love my job because I create value for the people around me and I get a great sense of accomplishment in what I do. In my workplace I get to meet people from all around the Globe, it's a place where Diversity is celebrated and the focus is on equal opportunity. While I continue to climb the career ladder I am focused on taking the path that brings me satisfaction and makes me happy.

I am also passionate about things that interest me: my family, Swadhyay and community. I read voraciously and listen to 90s music and Bollywood music – basically anything that sounds good and has good lyrics. I love camping and hiking and do a lot of voluntary work.

I continuously inculcate the very best of the values of Diversity, respect and cultures in my children, to allow them to appreciate different cultures and different ways of being. But I also teach them Indian culture ... to be proud of the heritage they come from.

Finally I would say Thank you to Indian Language School, its staff and teachers for giving me the foundations to be successful in both my personal life and career! My best wishes to all the students present and future in their quest for a successful journey through life. God Bless!



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ANOOP MATHEW (CLASS OF 1991)

I will try to keep this as linear as possible, but at the end I do want to come back to a special time in my life, that really shaped me. After graduating from grade XII in ILS, I dabbled in Engineering at University of Lagos. I say dabbled, because after a year, I realized that I wanted to pursue a career in Hospitality. That led to an adventure, studying Hotel Administration at Hotel Institute Montreux, Switzerland and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Upon graduation, I joined a boutique hotel company in San Francisco, as a management trainee and soon gravitated towards accounting and finance. I really enjoyed the opportunity to work in small teams, wear multiple hats and get involved in different aspects of the high-end boutique hotel and restaurant business. I also had the opportunity to consult with a couple of partners in setting up a bar and lounge in San Francisco. I helped set up the concept, create the vision and finally execute on the plan. Currently I work as the Financial Controller at a exclusive private golf Club where I interact with Board of Directors and provide advice to the General Manager and Business Unit Managers in managing the day to day operations at the Club. In this role, I oversee the financial operations of a business that generates \$10M in revenues and employs 100 individuals.



I am a firm believer in continuous education. I am also working on my MBA at the Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley and will graduate in May of this year. Upon graduation I will join Symantec, the industry leader in security software, in their Corporate Finance team. As you can see, my professional life has taken many turns and I hope to take on many more adventures where I can learn, grow and make an impact.

Along the way, I lucked out meeting an amazing woman, Vineetha, my wife and the mother to our son. If it was not for her support and advice, I don't think I could have got to where I am now. My son, Ethan, puts my life in perspective. When I am too busy studying or working furiously, staring at a monitor, and Ethan asks me to spend time with him, it is then that I realize that these are the precious moments that life makes worth living.

My other passion is staying active and enjoying the outdoors. I love hiking the California wilderness, it is where I find my peace and sense the Creator's hand. If you get a chance, go visit the Grand Canyon, for it is truly a humbling experience. This summer I am riding a bicycle from London to Paris along with my sister. The journey is 300 miles long and will take 4 days through English countryside and French market towns.

Now, I want to come back to that special time I mentioned in the beginning, my wonder years at ILS. I can genuinely say that ILS had helped define who I am as a person. The values that I forged at ILS, the sense of selfhood, the notion of determination, hard work and community, these are values that are the backbone of my adulthood. But my fondest memories are of my classmates in grade XII. They were the greatest group of friends. We shared a sense of camaraderie that I now yearn for. When I left Lagos, my classmates got me one of those silly T-shirts with a picture of shark and a tagline: "Lagos, Tourists welcome". My classmates had signed it and written out phrases like "Forget me not Snoopy!" I still have that shirt, tucked away in my drawer. It has been with me through my adventure from Lagos to San Francisco. Once in a while, I hold it in my hand and reminisce of the laughter and sorrow we shared, and the bonds that we formed.

I wish you, my fellow alumni, future artists, engineers, entrepreneurs and doctors best of luck. Dream big and have the courage to take some risks. Forge strong bonds with your classmates because I assure you, your paths will cross again and you will be nostalgic about the glorious past!



In conclusion, I want to share a portion of Steve Job's commencement speech at Stanford that has inspired me:

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma – which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of other's opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary."





BINDIYA MEHANDRU (CLASS OF 1991)



I graduated from ILS Grade 12 in 1991 having ranked #3 in the graduating class of ILS and amongst the top 2% in the Political Science cohort in CBSE worldwide. Having graduated high school I enrolled in UNILAG to pursue a degree in Economics. After a year in UNILAG I transferred to McGill University in Montreal, Canada in 1993. Here I spent the next 3 years completing an undergraduate degree majoring in Economics and Political Science with a minor in International Relations. Post graduate studies took me to Waterloo, Canada where I received a Masters in International Relations in 1996. Upon graduation I started working for McKenzie Consulting in Toronto and in 1998 moved to Dallas, Texas USA after getting married to Rohit.

I started my career in banking in 2001 as a Sr. Financial Services Advisor. Having gained relevant experience, I was promoted to management within one year. The last 10 years have seen me work at 3 major US banks in various capacities – from Assistant Manager to Branch Manager to Retail Sales/Service Coach to District Manager and to most recently Branch Retail Executive and Vice President.

In my spare time I enjoy traveling. Having lived in 3 continents (Asia, Africa, & North America), I have learnt to appreciate new cultures, cuisines, and languages. Travelling has given me different perspectives about human life, art, history and how these have influenced and shaped us as a people.

I hope to someday retire from banking and go back to school to pursue a PhD in Economics and International Relations and join the academic field.



Flying High 65

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SRIVIDYA RAMAKRISHNAN (CLASS OF 1991)



I was lucky that the school started just before my father moved to Nigeria and I studied there from 6th to 10th standard. One event I can never forget is, in the first week of my joining ILS, our car did not come to pick me up after school. As I was only 10 years old and new to the country, I was waiting alone by the gate when the principal, Mrs. Upadhyay, saw me and dropped me all the way home in Ikoyi. Our teachers imbibed in us a strong academic foundation with extra-curricular activities that helped me get into Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan, one of the best schools in Chennai, for 11th and 12th. I was very interested in Math and Physics, and decided to try for Engineering. Two years of intense study paid off as I scored in the top 1% in the Joint Entrance Exam for the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-JEE) and joined IIT, Chennai to pursue B.Tech in Chemical Engineering.

After graduating near the top of my class in 1995, I was able to get scholarship for the PhD program at Princeton University in New Jersey,

one of the top 10 graduate schools in the world for Chemical Engineering. The years spent at Princeton gave me the opportunity to interact with some of the brightest minds, ignited a passion for research and the desire to apply my skills to solving complex problems in the industry. After completing my PhD, I worked at Unilever Research followed by Bristol-Myers Squibb in New Jersey. I remember the former for a culture that fostered creativity and freedom, which I now try to inculcate in my team. At BMS, I had the opportunity to help bring new drugs to market by working on process research of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API).

In 2006, my daughter, Bhavani, was born, which led to a radical change in our life-style. We decided that it might be better to be closer to family in India, and moved back in 2008. I joined Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, a leading generic pharmaceutical company based in Hyderabad, as an Associate Director heading their Centre of Excellence in Polymorphism and Particle Engineering. Dr. Reddy's objective to provide "affordable and innovative" medicines resonated with me, and my team works on API process development, discovering novel crystalline forms of API that enable an earlier launch, thereby bringing down the cost of a drug. In my leisure time, I love to travel and hike; some of the memorable trips being a 4-day hike on the Inca trail to Machu Picchu, Peru, and Iceland. I also utilize the opportunity to travel when I present scientific papers at international conferences.

Though I had no inclination towards sports in my school days (I must have been one of the few who never got a sports prize at ILS), I started enjoying swimming and tennis in college and later even ice-skating. I also like to play violin (Carnatic) but most of all I enjoy spending time with my daughter.

As I conclude, I would like to acknowledge my friends at ILS with whom many happy hours were spent (Swati, Rima, Vinay, Aparna, Alokparna, Anoop, Riaz, Dimple, Sapna, Shital, Vandana and so many others) and my teachers, Mrs. Upadhyay, Mrs. Beliappa, Dr. Kanwar, Mrs. Das, Mrs. Manjunath to name a few, who always supported and encouraged us, and whom I appreciate all the more now for bringing the standard of education in a new school on par with the best schools in India. It is great to see how ILS has expanded; I wish you all the very best and look forward to an opportunity to visiting Nigeria and ILS once again.





Dr. KIRAN RAO (CLASS OF 1991)



MBBS, Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences (Bangalore)

MBA, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

Kiran is a private equity investor and is a Principal at Grove Street, a fund that manages over \$6 billion in assets..

Kiran focuses on fund investment activities across sectors, including fund due diligence and evaluation, as well as monitoring existing investments. He participates in all Investment Committee meetings. As a former physician trained in neurosurgery and strategy consultant to the pharmaceutical industry, Kiran's knowledge and experience is particularly deep in biotechnology, medical devices and healthcare services. He also actively works with GSA's India funds. Kiran brings leadership to GSA's performance analytic capabilities and is an important contributor to mining GSA's databases, as well as client portfolios, to evaluate performance of current and potential fund managers.

Prior to joining GSA in 2009, Kiran was a Principal at the Boston Consulting Group. He has experience leading strategy consulting projects and developing client relationships across three continents with BCG, having worked for significant periods in BCG's Boston, Zurich and Mumbai offices. Kiran worked on a broad range of strategy, finance, and operations projects in a variety of industries ranging from healthcare and financial services to consumer and industrial goods. He specialized in BCG's healthcare practice area where he led cases with large pharma, medical technology and health services companies.

Focus on healthcare, mid-market and Asian private equity

Leadership in GSA's performance analytics and evaluation

Over a decade of experience in private equity, strategy consulting and running health care operations

Kiran is a charter member of TiE, a not-for-profit global network of entrepreneurs and professionals founded in 1992 that now has more than forty chapters in nine countries.

I. SUSMITA GUPTA(HUNT) (CLASS OF 1992)



years of studying for a doctorate were gruelling but worthwhile, and provided a thorough grounding of several basic scientific techniques, including molecular cloning, DNA

allows me to simultaneously keep abreast of the latest developments in the biosciences and help talented scientists worldwide to publish their research, while being flexible enough to afford time to actively parent my enquiring nine year-old daughter, Ria, and six year-old son, Ethan. My daughter has even expressed a wish to be "a weird doctor who doesn't cure people in the hospital but plays with science words on the computer"! I wonder where she got that idea.

ured and delighted to...ory to 'Flying High', as...commemorate 30 years...The magazine has been...named for a brilliant...evokes many happy...a place that offered...ghter, competition and...ways encouraged me to...uits, both academic and

and protein purification, mass spectroscopy, NMR, and enzyme kinetics, which proved very useful in the years to come. As a newly fledged 'accepted' scientist, I was keen to take on a job that made a difference to human lives, and jumped at the chance when offered a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Cancer Research Centre in Birmingham. My project was based on gene therapy, modifying attenuated adenovirus vectors to enable their use as therapeutics targeting ovarian cancer cells.

Wherever my path in life takes me, I will always remember my years at ILS and the many dedicated staff that continue to make up its indomitable spirit with great fondness. Teachers like Mrs. Mathew who brought English literature to life (my children love 'Tyger Tyger', which you taught me!), Mrs. Khullar who made Chemistry so much fun, Mrs. Malhotra who never gave up on me despite my atrocious Hindi, and Mrs. Das who was determined to inculcate a love of Mathematics into me, just to name a few. My kids declare they love their primary school, and if they come away with half of what I gained from ILS, I will be one happy mum. Thank you all for making my school years so memorable - and keep that flag flying high!

1990 after completing 10th discovered an aptitude for went on to take my levels in Pure Mathematics, and Biology in the U.K. I was placed at Southampton to pursue a degree in with Physiology and y. After obtaining my BSc,

I was enthused to continue with academic research and decided to do a PhD in Protein Biochemistry at the University of Birmingham, Meanwhile, I received another proposal that I simply could not refuse...of marriage. Daniel and I were married in 1999 in two ceremonies that spanned two continents, with an English wedding in Leicester at his parents' church and a traditional Bengali ceremony in Kolkata. My years as a research scientist led to a new discovery - an enjoyment for writing papers and presenting work at conferences. I started to expand my repertoire by writing paper/patent alerts and biotechnology evaluations for a publishing house called Current Drugs (now Thomson Scientific). Prior to expecting my first



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MAHESH RAMCHANDANI (CLASS OF 1992)



Congratulations to ILS on her 30th anniversary! I was a student during the first ten years of ILS's existence (1982-1992) - 3rd grade to 12th grade. Those years laid the foundation for the 20 years since I graduated from this great institution.

I am currently the director of trading technologies at HBK Capital Management, a multibillion-dollar hedge fund in Dallas. My mission is to build software systems that enable trading of multiple asset classes 24 hours a day around the world. I am passionate about building productive teams and writing great software. The roots of this can be traced back to ILS. When I was in the 4th grade, a microcomputer vendor conducted an introductory class at school. That was my first exposure to a computing device. It was a Sinclair ZX 81, a humble machine that came with a built-in BASIC interpreter. I was enthralled, and thus began my love affair with all things programmable.

I was also very fortunate that ILS offered computer science as a subject when I was in the 11th and 12th grades. This was in the late 80s/early 90s. If you are a current student at ILS, let me put this in perspective; this was before you were born and before the World Wide Web and the Internet as we know it. ILS had a small computer lab with 80286 PC compatibles running DOS and Borland Turbo Pascal compilers.

After ILS, I applied to the University of Lagos to study computer science. The unstable political environment at that time shut the university down, so I set my sights across the Atlantic and got admitted to the University of Texas at Austin where I earned a Bachelor's in computer sciences with highest honors. I met Charmi Gandhi, my to-be wife at UT, and we were engaged and married soon after I graduated. I also enrolled in the CS masters program part-time while I worked as a software engineer at National Instruments Inc. in Austin, Texas.

During my tenure at National Instruments I worked in many engineering roles on various scientific software applications, but the most interesting was my role as technical lead at National Instruments Bangalore. I moved to India with my wife and 10 month old and set up the Indian software development team for the company. The energy and excitement of an emerging India was intoxicating! Upon my return to the US, I took an opportunity at a small security software startup that was quickly acquired by Symantec. After integrating the acquired technologies into Norton Internet Security, I got a phone call from the company I'm at now and moved to Dallas.

It seemed like a good idea to move to the financial industry in 2007. But the years that followed saw the most turbulent economic times for the US and the world. Nevertheless, hard work, passion and serendipity gave me opportunities to grow and have great years at the firm.

As you read this, I hope it comes across to you that none of this was part of a grand plan. As Steve Jobs said in his Stanford commencement address, you can only connect the dots looking backwards. I truly believe you should be true to yourself, pursue your interests and use your talents to serve the world and things usually work out well.

Students of ILS, you have a vibrant and far reaching alumni network. Feel free to connect with me. If you are ever in the Dallas area let's meet up for coffee or a meal together!



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ANURITA CHATTERJEE (CLASS OF 1992)



I still remember that day in 1983 when I walked into ILS and joined year 3, all scared as a shy child. Little did I know then that it would be the start of a wondrous journey. The encouragement that I got for an all round development lead me to discover a lot of hidden talents which became passionate hobbies later on.

In 1988 the elections saw me become the Vice Head Girl at ILS which till date is one of the most honourable positions I consider to having held.

My parents returned to India in 1990 where I completed my high school and went on to study Chemistry honours. Following that I did a B.Tech in Petroleum and Petrochemicals Engineering from Calcutta University. On passing, I got my dream job of working in a start up Petroleum Refinery -HPL for about a year.

In 1999 I left my job and went on to IIT Kharagpur to do a PGD in Information Technology and made a lateral shift into IT. Ever since I have worked in several technologies for some of the largest IT companies in the world like IBM, Wipro, CSC and end clients like Transeo. Today I am an SAP HR consultant and proud to say that my foundation was built in ILS where I spent 8 years growing and

learning not only what books taught but to be a good human being.
I love to write poems so thought I'll dedicate one for my life at ILS:

Time Gone by....

Twenty odd years have gone by in a flash
A role swap from a girl to a Mum
The carefree days have been bid farewell
And 'from strength- to strength' I've come.

As I sit by myself alone some days,
Distant in my thought
The old times have a way of coming back
And in memory's web I'm caught.

Those early morns of being woken up
Of breakfast ready and warm
Of clothes all starched and ironed out
And shoes shining when worn.

Of the school bus honking for being a minute late
The sweet smile of my parents at the gate
The tiffin box a surprise, till noon let open
The bells to say the classes had broken.

The playground and the PE times
Doing craft and drawing lines
All the dancing and singing in tune
Of looking at the clock waiting for noon.

All the instances of being made to stand
For homework handed late or being out of line
All the prizes on the mantle now glow
And certificates to my son I show.

The times spent with friends having fun
Are now snaps in an old forgotten album
Yet etched in memory the days will stay
Remembering the times that have gone away

How nice it is to love a place
Where learning was not just a book or a face
Where friends were met and bonds erected
And bands across the globe created.

I am honoured that you chose me as a part of the alumni team for the 30th Anniversary.





PUSHKAR MURTHY (CLASS OF 1992)



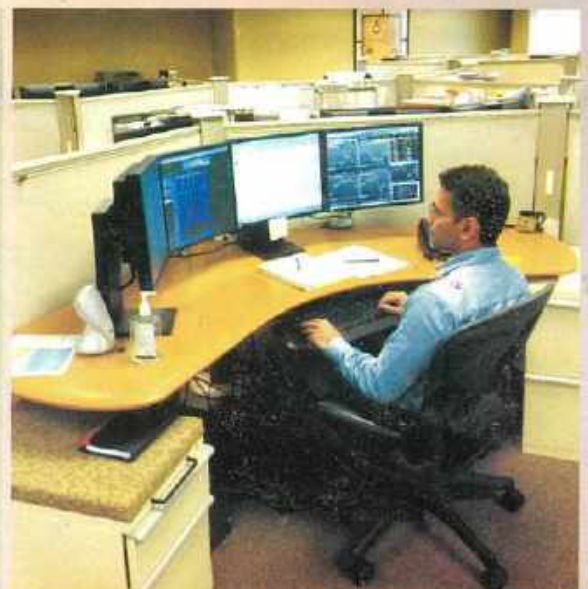
Pushkar currently works as an analyst at an investment firm. His role involves researching and selecting stocks to include in various equity portfolios that his firm manages on behalf of institutional clients. This was a position that he joined after completing an MBA from the Wharton School of Business. Prior to this job, he worked for seven years at a healthcare technology firm, which is today the largest provider of mobile device applications for medical professionals. He joined this firm when it was about a year old at a start-up phase, and held a variety of roles as the company matured and evolved - from marketing, to operations, and finally, in finance. His first job was as a management consultant where his role focused on devising sales and marketing strategy, mainly for clients in the pharmaceutical and media industries. Outside of work, he serves on the boards of non-profit organizations, and is involved with mentoring MBA students.

He moved to Bombay after finishing grade X at ILS. He graduated from IIT Bombay, and then completed an MS in engineering from the University of Massachusetts. He is a CFA charter holder.

When I joined ILS in the 8th grade, I was struck by the vast array of extracurricular activities that were available to students, in stark contrast with those at my previous school. It pushed me out of my comfort zone of merely striving for decent grades, to actively getting involved in as many aspects of student life as I could. Believe me, it was nerve-racking to run for office and campaign for votes, or stand in front of the entire student body and make speeches during morning assembly, or MC the Annual Day event. But, these activities forced me to redefine and improve my communication skills- honed by meeting, interacting, and working with a diverse group of people.

In those days before internet, cell phones, Face book etc, these face-to-face interactions were a lot less efficient, but far more effective in terms of getting to meet and know people better. Further, it made me lose the fear of failure that always used to hold me back before. So, I tried out for art and singing competitions even though I had no talent whatsoever! But at least, I learnt not to be too worried about embarrassing myself. Finally, there was the spillover effect in my academic efforts also. Earlier, I would only work on the subjects that I liked, and just do the bare minimum in the subjects that I disliked. But then I started wanting to improve even in subjects like Hindi and Social Studies where I was weak. Between the extra-curricular and homework, I learnt how to prioritize and budget my time better than I used to.

I hope that students in the ILS of today get involved in, and aim to excel in academic as well as extra-curricular school activities. To them, I would say, "If you do, you will reap the dividends for years to come, and before long, will be looking back on your days at ILS with fondness."





RAVI BAJAJ (CLASS OF 1993)

'Looking back, I feel that the experience of being the Head Boy of the school boosted my sense of self-confidence and independence and that has helped me tremendously, both in my personal and professional life.'Ravi Bajaj

After completing Gr. 12 from Indian Language School in 1994, Ravi received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, in 1999, and his MBA from the William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration, University of Rochester, New York, in 2002. He joined the Chevron MBA Development Program in 2002 and during his Chevron career, has held various financial, business development and commercial roles of increasing responsibility in U.S.A., Nigeria and Australia. Presently he is working as Planning and Commercial Manager, Chevron China Energy Company in Beijing, China. He is a member of the Chevron China Leadership Team responsible for all business planning and commercial activities. He is accountable to develop the strategic and business plans, track and report corporate performance in the region, lead commercial activities, including contract negotiations, and serve as Chevron focal point in non-operated joint ventures.

Prior to this posting, he was the Commercial Manager, Wheatstone LNG (Australasia) in Perth, Australia and responsible for all commercial aspects of the Wheatstone LNG Project (capital budget in excess of US\$ 20 Bln).

From 2005 to 2008 he was Manager, Business Development and Support (West Africa Gas Projects) based in Lagos, Nigeria. He took commercial lead on Gas Supply and Project Financing agreements representing the Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) /NNPC Joint Venture on the \$14 B+ Olokola LNG Project in partnership with Shell Petroleum and British Gas. He was responsible for optimizing CNL Gas Projects plans (Eservos Gas Projects, LNG, and Domestic Gas Supply) in areas of Asset Management, Financing, Accounting, Economics, Budget & Strategic Planning, Public & Government Affairs, and Local Content.

He was a Strategy Planning, Business Support Analyst with GLOBAL GAS in San Ramon, CA, where he coordinated and consolidated preparation of Strategic Plan and 2005-2007 Business Plan for 7 midstream Business Units.

He has also represented Chevron interests on the Australia LNG JV team as a Financial Analyst, tasked to raise US\$ 402 million to build two LNG carriers and manage risk in the China LNG SPA.

He has performed valuation on CNOOC's proposed purchase of 12.5% equity in the Gorgon project and benchmarked it to comparable equity transactions in the industry.

He has served as Finance lead on deal team tasked to value and divest Chevron's Papua New Guinea operations.

He worked as a project manager at PRAXAIR INC, Buffalo, NY for a year.

Ravi is a certified professional negotiator; certified Project Manager; Internal Quality Auditor

An engineering Scholar cum Laude graduate, he is a recipient of the Phillips Petroleum Scholarship, the BP Amoco Scholarship, Lubrizol Foundation Scholarship and Bill Blackwood Scholarship.



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RYAN D'SOUZA (CLASS OF 1993)



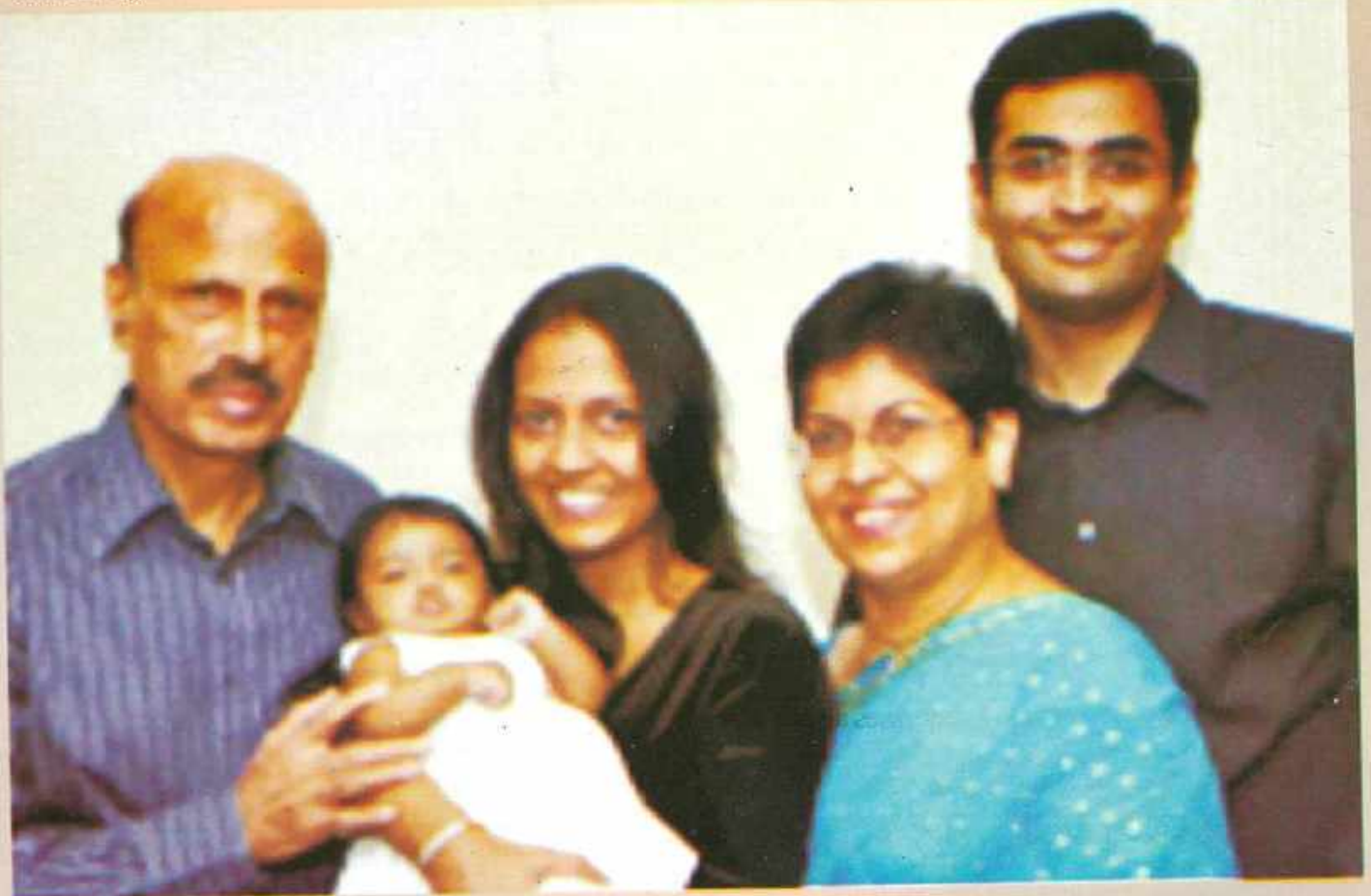
I am an Interventional Cardiologist, practising in Mumbai. My current attachments are S. L. Raheja (Fortis), BSES, Surana & Umrao hospitals.

I completed my schooling from ILS in 1991 & my higher secondary education from K. C. College in 1993. I did my MBBS from K. J. Somaiya Medical College & then went on to do a post graduation in Internal Medicine from Father Muller Medical College, Mangalore. Thereafter I joined Hinduja Hospital & completed my super specialization in the field of Cardiology. Following this I went to Switzerland to do a fellowship in Interventional Cardiology. There I'd the good fortune of training under Prof. Bernhard Meier, a pioneer in the field of invasive cardiology. He was at the operating table when the world's first angioplasty was being performed. Thanks to him I now specialise in performing adult angiographies & angioplasties.

I have been to many places & institutions across the world. My fondest memories, however, are those of my schooling days in Lagos. The values & education imparted by my teachers at ILS have been the building blocks of everything I've achieved till date. I fondly remember the morning prayers, the house system, and the annual & sports days. The care & love shown by the Nigerian & the non teaching staff can never be forgotten. The friendships during my school life will always be cherished making the annual ILS reunion the highlight of the year for me.

I sincerely hope every student coming out of ILS is successful in the field he chooses. Under the guidance of our beloved principal & teachers I find it hard to believe otherwise.

My sincere advice to all the students is to study hard, play harder & enjoy your time at school...Kyun ki...Yeh school-life Naa Milegi Doobara...





HENA ANSARI (CLASS OF 1994)

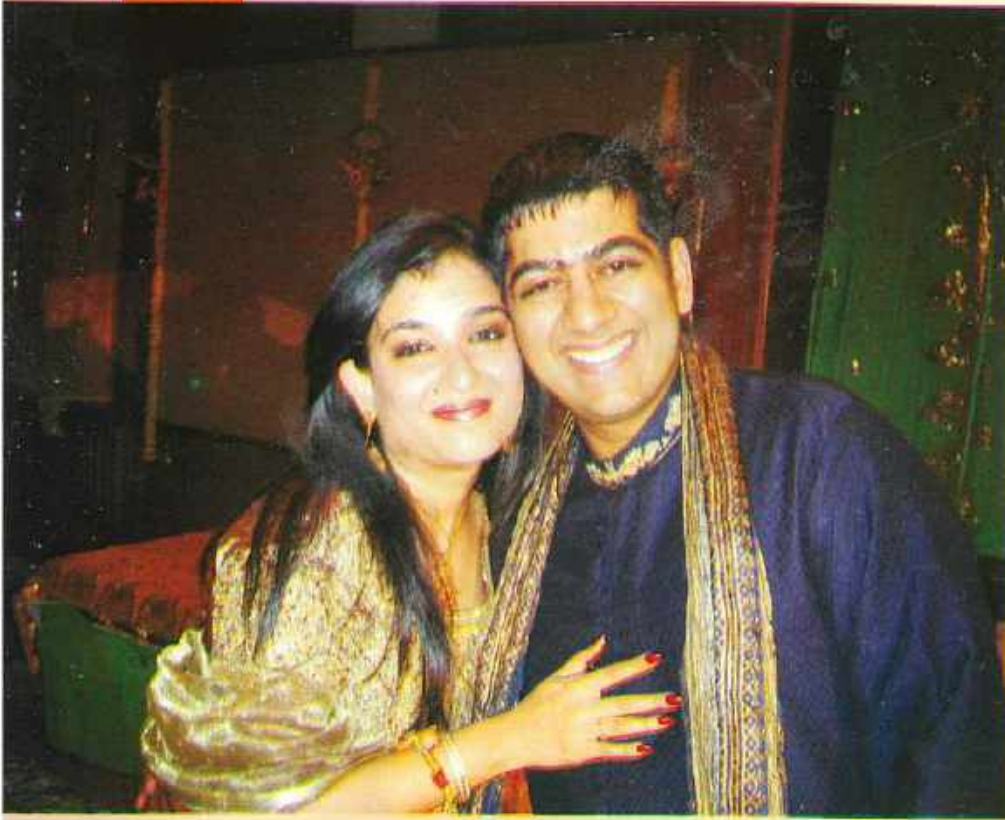
Greetings to everyone at ILS. First of all, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to Dr. Suman Kanwar, and all staff members and students of ILS on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the school. It is indeed wonderful that the school has come such a long way, with so many achievements. This is all due to the excellent leadership and dedication of the teachers. The school is without doubt, a boon to all the students there and it is a privilege to write for the school magazine, 'Flying High'.

I joined ILS along with my brother Yusuf back in 1988. I am fortunate and thankful that I had a strong academic foundation, in which ILS played a major role, apart from my parents' (Mr. Ayub Ansari and Mrs. Nighat Ansari) unwavering support and guidance. I achieved the first position in my class X board exams and second position in class XII. On returning to India after my XIIth, in 1994, I gained admission to the MBBS course in Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh (UP). I went on to complete my MD in Pathology from the same college in 2004, followed by my senior residency. Currently I am an assistant professor in the Department of Pathology in the same hospital. My work primarily involves clinical diagnostic and laboratory work, as well as undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. I also enjoy writing papers for medical journals. The rest of my time, in general, revolves around home, my family and my baby daughter Zubia. My husband, Dr. Merajuddin Faridi, is an Assistant Professor (Physical Health) in a postgraduate college. My brother, Yusuf, also an ILS alumnus, secured gold medals in his graduation and post-graduation and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in English literature here in AMU.

Throughout my years at ILS, we had excellent teachers. Academic work, obviously, was given the utmost priority but there were also frequent extra-curricular activities going on, in which we all readily participated and enjoyed ourselves a lot. The focus was on all-round development of the student. It is highly praiseworthy that in far-off Nigeria, ILS maintained the highest standards possible, just as any good school in India. I would like to tell the students there that only a good education will ensure a secure future and earn you respect. Therefore, work hard and enjoy your student life. I wish ILS many more milestones and many successes ahead. Keep flying high!

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TRISHA DAS (CLASS OF 1994)



She is currently writing her first fiction book and working as a freelance writer for TV shows and magazines. In the past, she has written and published 2 non-fiction books and directed over 40 documentary films, which have been broadcast on channels all over the world. She was presented with the National Film Award for Best Documentary by Dr. Abdul Kalam in 2005. Trisha is married and lives in Singapore. Her husband, Deepan, is a banker.

Trisha Das went to the Indian Language School from 1983 till 1989. She completed her schooling from The Lawrence School Sanawar and then went on to study Sociology at Sophia College in Mumbai and Documentary Film at New York University.

Trisha worked as an independent documentary filmmaker in New Delhi before moving to Singapore and starting a career as an author. Most recently, she has authored "The Mahabharata re-imagined", a fictional retelling of the great epic through a series of short stories. She has also written two non-fiction books, "The Art of the Television Interview" and "How to write a Documentary Script". She is currently working on her fourth book, a novel, which will probably be released by 2013.

As a documentary film director and writer, Trisha has written and directed over 40 documentaries in a film career spanning eight years. She has won two Indian National Film Awards and was the University of Georgia's "International artist of the year" in 2003. Her films have been broadcast and screened in various forums including: The Discovery Channel, the STAR Network, The Doordarshan Channels (India's largest network), national and international film festivals, university campuses and conferences worldwide.

She has also been a visiting artist/scholar at the universities of Michigan, New York, Georgia, Emory College (Atlanta) and Insead.

Trisha currently lives in Singapore with her banker husband, Deepan, and two sons, aged 3 years and 5 months. In between writing and 'mom-ing,' she has little free time for hobbies but always makes room for traveling, reading and dancing classes! She writes of her memories of her days at ILS.

I remember the school growing along with me. New buildings, or sometimes even portable sheds, came up and went down regularly as more and more students enrolled. I remember my dread of sports day and how I used to try and avoid the races at all costs! I remember enjoying the classes of my English teacher Ms Davis and my social studies teacher and former principal Ms Maira. My best memories are of sharing my lunch with my friends and our conversations as we exchanged cheese sandwiches, parathas and other goodies daily. I still keep in touch with those friends today.



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GUNJAN MITAL (THIAGRAJAN) (CLASS OF 1995)



I have wonderful memories from my time at ILS, especially since those years were particularly formative for me. I had many defining experiences in these three years, some of which included my first public speaking opportunity and my first leadership position. At first glance these experiences may seem trivial, but for me they represent the beginnings of who I am today. After leaving ILS in 1993 to complete junior college in Mumbai, I went to Rutgers University in NJ for my undergraduate years. I had always enjoyed math and so a career in engineering seemed to be a logical choice at the time. While working towards my degree I gained two very different internship experiences at Motorola and Deloitte Consulting. Motorola allowed me to apply my college learning, but Deloitte provided exposure to a broad range of industries and functions and became the place that I would start my professional career.

I moved to Los Angeles and starting working with Deloitte. Over four years I worked with financial, manufacturing and healthcare clients, mostly focused on programming and systems design. The hours were long and I travelled almost every week but along the way I fell in love with the healthcare industry.

I was doing well at Deloitte and was assured a path forward if I continued to work in information technology. But I wanted to work in healthcare marketing and I knew that I would not be able to make that career switch without an MBA. I entered UCLA's Anderson School of Management in 2003 and joined their fulltime MBA program. Amgen was a local biotech company that had been on my radar screen for a while and UCLA Anderson's reputed recruiting program provided a way for me to interview with the, resulting in an offer to join.

Amgen is a Fortune 500 biotechnology company headquartered in Los Angeles. With annual net revenues of ~\$15B and ~15k personnel worldwide, Amgen is one of the largest biotech companies today. I joined Amgen in 2005 and have been working in Sales and Marketing since. In my current role I market a \$4B drug to health insurance companies and physicians. My job allows me to apply the technical and creative skills I have acquired along the way – I build analytical models, manage artistic proofs produced by advertising agencies and present to large sales forces on a regular basis.

Professional growth can be incomplete without personal achievement; at least it is for me. I took up Bharathanatyam when I moved to Los Angeles and completed my Arangetram in 2005. Bharathanatyam also led to a surprise appearance on the cover of **TIME magazine**, which was a fun experience. While working for Deloitte I met a wonderful partner whom I have been married to for 10 years. Ramanan and our two sons, Rehan (5 years) and Ruben (1 year) support me in all that I endeavor to do, personally or professionally. I strongly believe that all the aspects of my life are closely intertwined. Dancing has taught me stage presence and confidence, which in turn enable me to be an effective public speaker. Separately, being a Mom and managing people at work both require common skills i.e. a high level of organization and preparedness as well as compassion.

I continue to credit ILS with experiences that have shaped my personality and laid the foundation for my life today. A sincere "Thank you" to the staff and the school who continue to provide a well rounded education to the many students that they serve.





ARCHANA THOMAS (CLASS OF 1996)

No great achievements to mention but still I take pride in sharing the little that may be a motivation and inspiration for the children of today: the people of tomorrow...

I feel honored to be given an opportunity to share with you a little about my school days and an insight into the journey of life so far.....

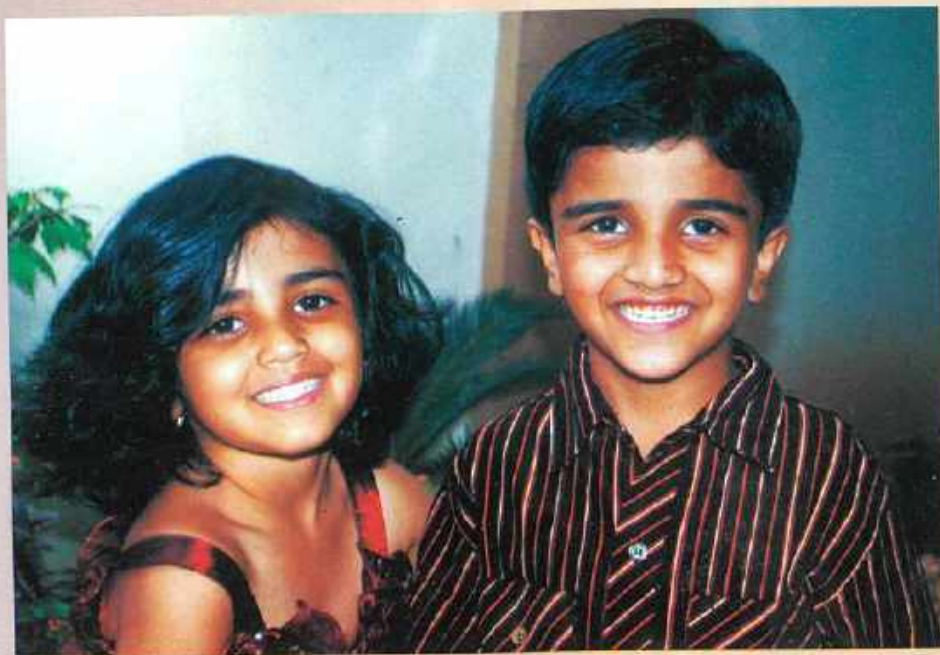
I'm an alumna of the Indian Language School, Lagos: joined in Grade II in 1986 and completed Grade XII in 1996. It's a kind of patriotic feeling I have for ILS, which we all call, "My School". My school days at ILS hold a very special place in the heart and indeed my entire life. ILS gave me 'the Best' teachers. I'm sure my classmates will surely agree we had all wonderful teachers, good friends who grew up together and classmates who still very much keep in touch. Even through Dental school and Post Grad my ILS days were the days!!!!

As a Pedodontist I visit a lot of schools in and around the South India conducting Dental Health education and awareness programs interacting with students. By far ILS was and is the best school one can have. At times I really wish I could send my kids to ILS too.



After School, I got through a common entrance test to the five year dental course with internship, that awarded me the Bachelor of Dentistry (BDS) from Yenepoya Dental College, Mangalore, Karnataka State. Soon after, I got, by merit, admission to the post-graduate course, at MAHE university in Manipal. This is where I took up the masters' degree (MDS), specializing in Pedodontics (pediatric dentistry) and Preventive Dentistry. I got married to my wonderful husband Dr Johnny Cyriac during my final year of MDS. We are blessed with two children - Aaron, 6 yrs (1st std) and the little girl, Anitta, 5 years (UKG). Today I'm a pedodontist practising and teaching dentistry for children at Cochin in Kerala state, India. I am a consultant at 7 clinics in Cochin. I am also heading the Department of Pedodontics at St. Gregorios Dental College in Kothamangalam, Kerala. My husband is a Gastroenterologist at PVS Hospital, Cochin.

A message for the students: there are a lot of opportunities out there in the world for every field you opt for... What to do -who to be is a big question once you reach the 10/12th gradeFor that, know your books today ... read your lessons well... pray for guidance and humility ... observe the world around you , know what's happening around you.... you need not indulge in everything; just listen.....be a learner always .. Don't waste a chance ...and hope for the best !!!





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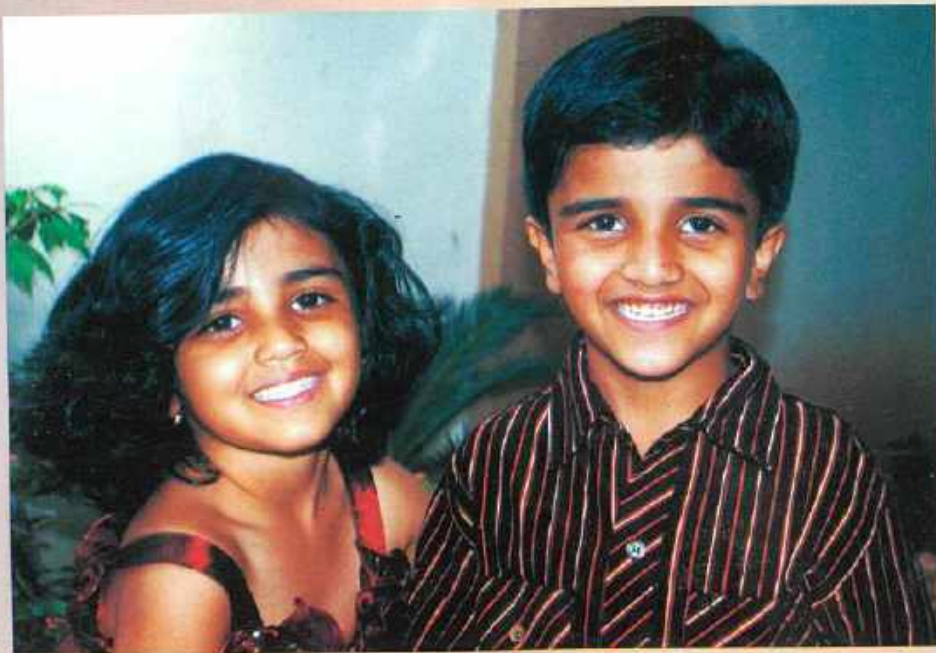
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RAJAT GUPTA (CLASS OF 1997)



Let me start by saying

CONGRATULATIONS to ILS for having shaped and inspired young minds for 30 years now. I can still remember my days in ILS, and they were some of the best in memory.

I studied in ILS from 1984 to 1995, and the friends and teachers from those days are truly unforgettable. I've since moved to Singapore and am settled down here with my lovely wife and daughter. I moved to Singapore in 1997, when I received a scholarship from Singapore Airlines who sponsored my university education at Nanyang Technological University, which is where I completed my Electrical and Electronics Engineering. My wife and I have since completed our MBAs from the National University of Singapore.

I'm currently working as the Asia Pacific Head

of Global Accounts for Hewlett Packard, a job I've been in for the last 14 months. I previously worked for IBM in their services organization, where I managed our Singapore sales team and had a 2 year stint with Telstra as their South East Asia Head of Services prior to joining HP. My family and I love to travel and explore new places, and I do hope that I get the opportunity to bring my daughter Tisha to visit ILS one day, and show her where her dad studied in his early years. Thanks once again ILS for the memories, and I wish ILS a lot more years in the future. I hope to attend the golden jubilee celebrations in due time.

