



S P Jain
School of Global
Management

DUBAI • MUMBAI • SINGAPORE • SYDNEY

SPJAIN COMMUNIQUE



Quarterly Alumni Newsletter

Issue Number 4

DEAR ALUMNI,

Welcome to the first issue of 2020 and the 4th issue of Communique!

When we started the new decade, nobody could have predicted how this year was going to unfold. We are suddenly faced with the COVID-19 pandemic which has majorly impacted all of us. This has been a difficult period for all of us but together we shall overcome this too! We hope that you all are keeping safe and healthy during this time.

ALUMNI PORTAL

We launched our new Alumni Portal in February 2020. The SP Jain Alumni Portal is a one-stop platform for you to look up your batchmates and find out what they are currently up to, discover the latest happenings at your alma mater, find upcoming events on campus that you might be interested in, and build new connections with over 7,000 SP Jain alumni around the world. It is your connection to both the past and the future- Rekindling old ties and making new ones.

If you haven't registered yet, we request you to do so at <https://alumni.spjain.org>

Once you register on the portal using your LinkedIn accounts, you will even be able to access some exclusive members-only features including job and internship search, photo uploads, and much more. Please click [here](#) for more information on the features and benefits of the portal.

If you have any issues logging in or if you wish to share any comments about improving the portal, do write to us at alumnioffice@spjain.org



ORIENTATION

Dubai campus welcomed the new cohort of MGB and GMBA students and the new cohort of EMBA students in January. The Orientation involved sessions to familiarise students with the campus and its myriad facilities, along with an introduction to faculty, staff, current students and Alumni. We welcome the new cohorts and hope you enjoy your time at SP Jain.



CONVOCATION

Our Postgraduate students graduated at the Crowne Plaza Dubai and our Luxury Management (Batch 05) students graduated in Mumbai. The Chief Guest in Dubai was Ms. Debbie Stanford-Kristiansen, CEO – NOVO Cinemas and Alumni Guest were Mr. Nihad Nazir, (GMBA Alumni Batch 2007) Director, Banking Global Digital and Architecture Center of Excellence, Oracle. In Mumbai, the Convocation was graced by Biren Vaidya – MD – Rose Group. Congratulations and Best wishes to the new Graduates from all of us, We look forward to welcoming you to the Alumni Community.



CORPORATE PARTNER MEET

In January, we hosted a Corporate Meet 2020 which was held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel in Singapore. This event was an industry-academia collaboration to thank the corporate leaders who mentored our students with their Global Immersion Projects over the years.

During the event, a few selected students from different specializations got a chance to present their work. The discussion for the panel was "Curating Tomorrow's Business Leaders". A big thank you to our Panel members, Andrew Koay (Deloitte), Cherian Varghese (Oracle), Mark Shen (PropertyGuru), Mrinal Jain (Dell Technologies) and **SP Jain Alum -GMBA 2009**.



As part of the Postgraduate student recruitment process, our PG Student recruitment Team held "Meet the Dean" events for prospective students. These sessions were held at Link Café - Sheraton Mall of the Emirates - Dubai and Kohinoor Elite in Mumbai. Prospective students got an opportunity to talk personally with Dean Dr. Balakrishna Grandhi and discuss details of the program as well as learn about the recruitment process.

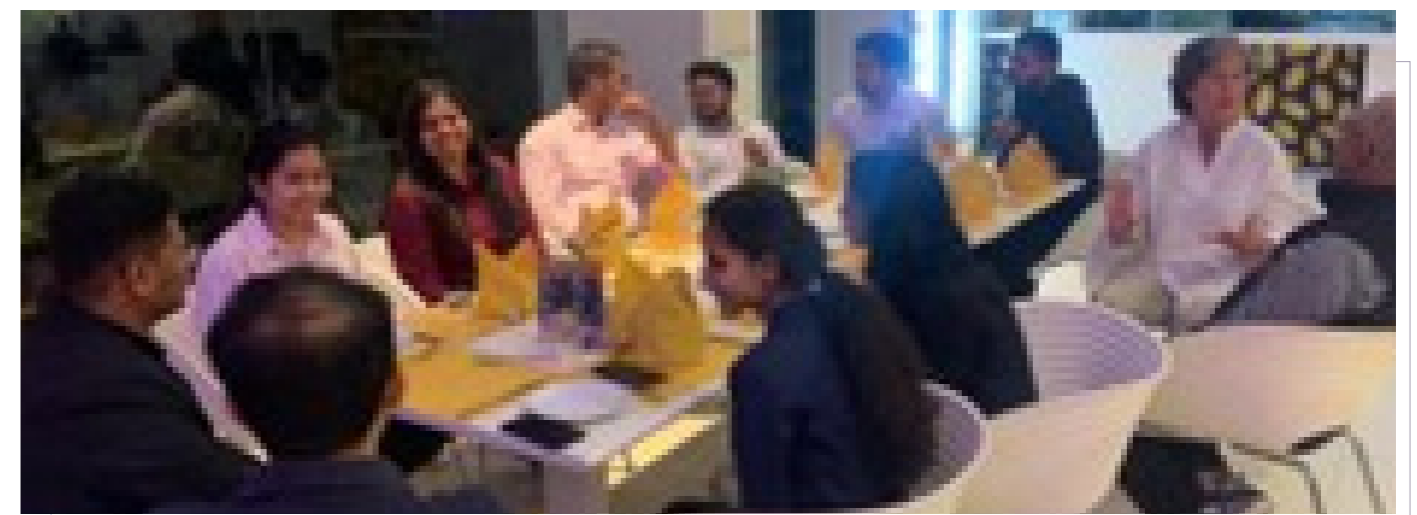
The following alumni were present to share their journey with the prospective students. We are grateful to them for their time and for sharing their experiences.

In Dubai: Shruthi Dhanwanthary, Shankar Anand and Paul Bautista

In Mumbai: Mohit Hemrajani, Meenakshi Wadhwa, Ashwin George, Satpal Singh, Jaideep Kapani, Mohit Jain, Yogesh Rao and Ashish Pankhaniya.



MEET THE DEAN – DR. BALAKRISHNA GRANDHI



Due to the fear of the Coronavirus and Government regulations which started as early as January in Singapore, we had to cancel many of our events. However, before the lockdown took place in other countries, we were able to host some events across the various locations. Given below is a glimpse of some of them.

ALUMNI EVENTS

ALUMNI GUEST SESSIONS

We are proud to see our Alumni succeed in their professional careers and also their willingness to give back to the School. We have had a few sessions where our Alums have shared their experiences, knowledge and insights with our students.

SUSHMEET SINGH

Account Director, Digital Transformation, Oracle and GMBA Alumni Advisory Board Member (MBA 2008 – 2009)

As part of the Mumbai EMBA Study Tour to Dubai & the Dubai EMBA ECAP initiative, Sushmeet Singh spoke on “The Current and Future Impact of Digital Transformation upon Industries and Companies in Dubai / UAE”.



VIGNESH SANTHANAM

Lead Drones and Tomorrow' AirSpace at World Economic Forum

Another ECAP Session was held at our Mumbai campus for our EMBA Students by Vignesh Santhanam, GMBA 2013 Batch. Alumni and students were elated to attend a session with Vignesh.



ISHTIBA MEEJANE

Commercial Director (Sales & marketing), FMCG, SIRUD, Groupe Denis Freres Ocean Indien for Procter & Gamble.

Dubai campus hosted Ms. Ishtiba Meejane (GMBA 2008) who shed light on the Mauritian, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean markets. Her interaction was focused on sharing insights on the FMCG Marketing strategy and plans based on the PG strategy framework. Ishtiba shared fond memories and key lessons that she has valued and used in the corporate world.

“It was wonderful to be back at SP Jain after 10 years as it brought back fond memories. it was interesting to be on the side of the classroom; talking to postgraduate students who were keen to learn about the current market”



MGB INTERNSHIP WORKSHOP WITH ALUMNI (DUBAI CAMPUS)

A kick-off session meeting was organized by the CR Team for our MGB interns. 4 alumni shared the challenges faced by them while looking for internships and how they were able to successfully overcome these challenges. This session was very motivational and useful for our interns! We would like to thank the following Alumni for their time and for sharing their experiences with our MGB Cohort.

Ratnakar Vandanapu – MGB MAY 15 Product Manager at Redington Gulf

Anand Hannikeri – MGB MAY 18 Air Freight Executive at Kuehne + Nagel

Sneha Katrela – MGB MAY 18 DSV UAE: Global Transport and Logistics

Shivani Yalamanchili – MGB JAN18 ICC Loyalty



ALUMNI NETWORKING SESSION AND SOCIALS

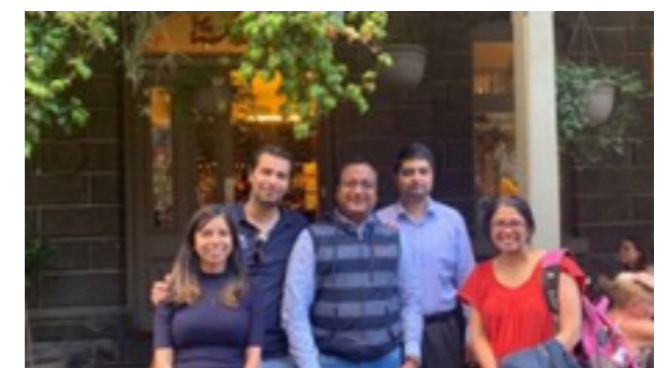
Dubai campus hosted an Alumni Networking Session on 8th February. Alums got to meet their batch mates and interacted with other alums of different batches.



While the Dubai campus hosted the Networking session on campus, SPJ Social's were held at various other locations- Singapore, Hyderabad, Mumbai and for the 1st time ever in Melbourne. All the Socials were well attended and were a great opportunity for our alums to reminisce their college days. We look forward to increased participation for future Socials.



HYDERABAD



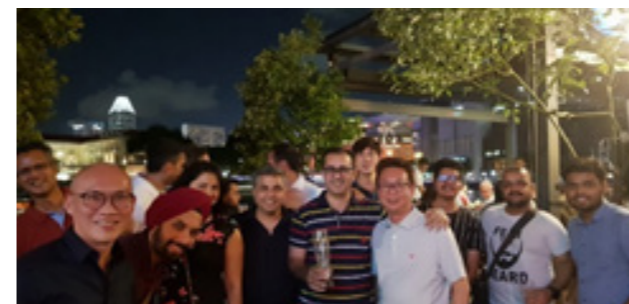
MELBOURNE



MUMBAI



MUMBAI



SINGAPORE



SINGAPORE

XPRESSIONS – BOOK READING AND DISCUSSION WITH PROF. RAM KUMAR

Dubai campus hosted Xpressions by Prof. Ram Kumar, where he discussed his recently published book (available on Amazon) **“Politically incorrect Children Stories”**. Prof. Ram Kumar explored areas connecting to this book, including work-life education, wild-life, environment and parent-child relationships. As always, our Alums thoroughly enjoyed this session with one of their favorite Professors.



“We have known Professor Ram Kumar for about 4 years now and this is not the first time that he has been able to sway the audience with his impeccable rhetoric about being able to codify a myriad of topics and blend them all together in a raw the unique set of sequence that exudes creativity and fun. Professor this time with his commentary on his quirky little book made us reflect on that we casually ignore. He was able to ponder upon our daily conversations and comment upon them making it extremely relatable and in a sense deriving meaning out of them yet keeping his exquisite touch of humour intact. His way of expressing thoughts about a topic are insanely delightful and the method is particular to his own style that he has cultivated over years through a blend of varied experiences in academic, social, educational, and sporting background. The book reading section also turned into a commentary on the modern education system as well as the evolving millennial and gen y who to give an impression of falling into an extreme sense of anarchy but at the same time having a shot of being able to manage it in a way a that encompasses educational practices -Gleffany Pispis – MGB Batch 2015.

“Professor Ram Kumar happens to be someone who can easily command a large audience which was very clear considering the kind of turn up for that session with people coming from even very old batches coming in to interact with him and his content. We really appreciate SP Jain holding this kind of events historically and hopeful that this kind of events continue in the future so as to provide its alumni a strong network and a common set of values to live by, constantly supplying thought-provoking topics using professors like Ram Kumar with this level of aptitude”- Adnan Yahya - MGB Batch 2015.



INFORMAL DINNER MEETING WITH DEAN GARY STOCKPORT AND EMBA ALUMNI

EMBA Alumni who recently graduated in Jan 2020 met with Dean Dr. Gary Stockport for an informal dinner at PF Chang's In Dubai. Alumni shared their experiences while studying their EMBA. They were very appreciative of the Faculty as well as the administrative support received by the staff.



TOASTMASTERS CLUB – CONTEST THEMED “MAGIC OF 23 (6TH MARCH 2020)”

This time the Toastmasters event had different sessions which included the International Speech Contest, Evaluation Speech Contest, Humorous Speech Contest and Table Topics Speech Contest.

EMBA Batch 26 Alumni, Divya Raj won 1st Prize in the International Speech category and now advances to the Division Context. EMBA Batch Alumni, Muhammed Ashik achieved the 2nd Prize in the Speech Evaluations category & 2nd Prize in the Humorous Speech category. He goes forward to the Division Context in both categories.

Our Executive EMBA Dean, Dr. Gary Stockport was present during this event. “I am proud of these Alumni who continue to achieve and give back to the School and EMBA Course in many different ways.” Congratulations to all participants.



SPORTS

INTER B- SCHOOL CRICKET MATCH – SP JAIN AND IIM KOZHIKODE - KOLKATA

In February, India Chapter -East held an inter B-school cricket match with IIM at The Turf Club in Kolkata. Alumni very enthusiastically participated in the match and played well. Around 12 players from each side participated. The Chapter plans to organize such matches in the future too.



FACULTY NEWS

We are happy to share that Dr. CJ Meadows- Director - i2i, The Innovation & Insights Center, launched her book in January -"Innovation through Fusion". At the book launch, which was held at our Singapore campus, Panellists Ran Clift, Melissa Aratani Kwee and Jawahar Kanjilal, who were also contributors to the book shared their amazing stories about how they innovated and overcame obstacles faced by them. Special congratulations to Chef Ryan Clift on being recently conferred the title of "Lordship". We look forward to dining at one of your restaurants soon.



ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

We are pleased to share that Akhil Somani- Senior Group Vice President at Motilal Oswal Wealth Management Limited (G MBA 2008) has been featured as the "MOST INFLUENTIAL BFSI LEADERS listing for 2020" and was felicitated with a framed citation at the ET NOW World BFSI Congress and Awards on 14th February 2020.

Congratulations Akhil!! We at SP Jain are very proud of you and wish you many more such accolades.



2006 G MBA graduate Aakanksha Bhargava (CEO – PM Relocations Pvt Ltd) was recently awarded The Extraordinaire Powerful Women Award at Brand Vision Summit 2020, and we are so proud! Congratulations, Aakanksha on this wonderful achievement!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This issue, we caught up with Shriti Chhajed and Tomilola Adejana, two of SP Jain's very own women entrepreneurs to discover how they are pushing boundaries, breaking stereotypes, setting new trends and excelling in the world of business.

TOMILOLA ADEJANA

- **Tell us about your career path. How did you get your start?**

My journey started as an investment analyst with a boutique wealth management firm in Lagos Nigeria but my foray into fintech started during my time in S P Jain. Coming back to Nigeria after my GMBA, I was invited by a friend and mentor to join the founding team of a micro-lending and agritech startup in Nigeria. His believe and interest in me stems from our conversations about my projects in S P Jain and thats how my journey into Fintech in Nigeria began.

- **What is the story behind Bankly? How was the idea born?**

Bankly was formed out of primary research. I was part of the 15 people selected by Accion Venture Lab in its company builder incubator program to problem solve and build solutions for financial inclusion in Nigeria. Bankly was born from a hypothesis that "For financial services to reach the last mile, it will be distributed like a Fast Moving Consumer Good (FMCG) and since 2018, we have been working hard to test out this hypothesis.

- **How did your time at SP Jain help you in your journey?**

My foray into fintech started during my time in S P Jain. First in Sydney where I was given a project along with a team to design a business model and navigate regulatory challenges for a peer to peer lending company similar to Lending Club and later in Singapore during my ALP (Action Learning Project), I was assigned to a private equity firm interested in investing in Fintech across Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa and I was given the task to determine the opportunities across each country.

- **In less than a year, Bankly has garnered interest and support from investors, accelerators and relevant government agencies. Could you tell me about a few notable achievements that Bankly has seen over the past few months?**

Bankly was selected to be part of the Google powered GreenHouse Lab accelerator for female founders. We successfully raised a pre-seed investment in 2019. Recently won the Global Innovating Justice award for 2020 by the Hague Institute for Innovating Justice (HiiL), Nominated for the Technology Playmaker Awards by Booking.com, achieved 100% National coverage in 9 months, a distribution network of 6000 agents strong, 26,000 customers and we are just getting started.

- **What is the most challenging part of your job right now, and how are you overcoming it?**

Building a company in Africa especially in Nigeria is not for the faint hearted. Finding talents, raising capital, regulatory challenges, infrastructural challenges, but my focus right now is on talents and building a formidable team. Building a sustainable and high growth business needs all hands on deck and not just any hand..qualified hands. Talents cost money, finding talents is time consuming...money is a resource that is in hard supply for early stage African startups but I still count my blessings with my partners...Fredrick and Ifeanyi, whom I met during the Accion Venture Lab Company Builder program. We have also invested in our human resources and building a thorough recruitment process.

- **Owning a startup is stressful. What motivates you to continue your work, even on the bad days?**

People motivate me (my team and my advisory board), finding an answer to Sub-Saharan Africa's most challenging problems motivates me. Africa needs to solve Africa's challenges and we have been very lucky with the quality of people who have chosen to be a part of Bankly with their wealth of experience, network and financial resources not held back from is humbling and keeps me going.

- **What do you have planned for Bankly over the next 5 years?**

The plan is to make Bankly the bank for the unbanked and build economically viable digital communities for over 2 million people. Increasing Africa's inclusion rate from its current 43% by at least 200 basis points.

SHRITI CHHAJED

- **What is the story behind Bookeventz? How was the idea born?**

It all started back in 2013, when booking for an event was a Big Unsolved Problem. That is when the idea of starting a one-stop portal, which would cater all event-related services struck. Thereafter, there was no looking back. BookEventZ has today paved its way to become India's leading network of trusted venues. It also serves as a portal for booking vendors such as Decorators, Photographers and more. So be it a social or corporate-event - Share your Enquiry, shortlist your BookEventZ venues and get best deal for your event.

- **How has Bookeventz grown over the past few years?**

Over the years BookEventz has created a top brand recall when it comes to finding venues. We have over 15000 venues listed on our website from across the world having served over 5 lac event queries. We have 60 BookEventz Flagship venues in Mumbai now and a team of 150 people. We have always come up with various business initiatives to find the right model to serve this fragmented, unstandardized, highly customizable event industry.

- **Just last year, Bookeventz had a lift-off with the introduction of a new concept called Bookeventz Flagship Venues. Could you tell us more about this?**

Yes this was the one of the best initiatives and pivot in business model we came up with where we control the supply. BookEventz Flagship Venues are venues where complete venue inventory, sales & marketing is handled by Bookeventz. With this we are able to have quicker response, professional approach, better customer experience at our venues. Because of this we have seen an increase in corporate business in our standalone banquets. Our banquets observe on an average 30% more bokings than the regular banquets.

- **What is a typical 'day at work' like for you?**

Being a Founder there are a variety of things you get into and thus every day is very different. Typically would have some team planning meetings, work discussion, product designing, Hiring discussion, taking interviews, researching on competitors other industries to be upbrest with newer initiatives. Mostly our meetings are more discussion on tasks where personally I get into each activity to see how better we can do that. It helps us get more and more ideas.

- **Owning a start-up is stressful. What motivates you to continue your work, even on the bad days?**

The amount of time & efforts we have given to the startup, valuing that and thus have to ensure we make something big and get value of it.

- **What do you have planned for Bookeventz over the next 5 years?**

We see BookEventz as India's largest event booking platform with multiple service offerings across entire event lifecycle. BookEventz Flagship as India's leading chain of venues with presence across all top cities in India.



JD'S FOR OUR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Skanda Lokeshwaran
Mitzi Tuliao
Yatish Ramesh
Siddharth Ravishankar
Diptyajit Chaterjee
Mitesh Mohnot
Akash Jain
Rahul Saraswat
Kashish Gupta
Sachin Chopade
Ganesh Sistla

Varun Karunananth
Praveen Subramanian
Venkat Subramanian
Ujjwal Ranjan
Vikrant Rao
Aayush Rawlan
Jithnedra Buravalli
Akhil Sharma
Vinit Dubey
Siddharth Dhudheria

Karthik Siddavaram
Abhishek Jain
Sthitapragyan Satapathy
Siddharth Viswanath
Arjun Ezhil
Samir Chaturvedi
Ritesh Gaind
Shubhayou Naik
Sricharan Chandrashekar
Ranjit Bhargava

NEW INITIATIVES

SPJ WEEKLY WISDOM:

We have started a new series called SPJ Weekly Wisdom on our Social media platform. This is a live and interactive Instagram session every week with our alumni, faculty, or student where they talk about their subject expertise followed by questions from our audience. We started this series with one of our UG Alumni, Aditya Sood (BBA Class of 2019). If you are interested in participating in SPJ Weekly Wisdom kindly please write to Radhika Rathi at Radhika.rathi@spjain.org

We wish you and your family lots of strength and good health during this period. If you have any suggestions or need any clarifications, do write to us at alumnioffice@spjain.org

Take care and Best Wishes,
Alumni Relations Team
S P Jain School of Global Management

ASSISTANCE WITH PRP AND MOCK INTERVIEWS

Sanket Mokashi
Niket Mehta
Nitin Kanaujiya

Mohit Hemrajani
Manuj Jain

Sudev S
Vijay Ramrakhyani

JUDGES FOR COMPETITIONS

Inter-University Art Competition
Inter-University writing contest

Suraj Thite
Menaka Ramakrishnan

GIP PROJECTS

Mrinal Jain
Sojish Nair



We would like to thank our Alumni for their assistance with