

Re-connect!

**Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science
(Autonomous), Margao Goa.**



Alumni Newsletter

**Volume 2 Issue 1
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Alumni Startups



StudyNook – Annalise Benjamin and Finoshka Rodrigues

A year ago, at 22, it dawned upon us as we were deep into the mental exhaustion of the pandemic, we sat down to work on a research paper and realized that the only peace we found in this uproar of emotions was in research and literature. It dawned upon us, that many students across India must be feeling a similar sensation of helplessness and thus StudyNook was born. (Three friends- One company!) A small idea which otherwise would have faded out had it not been for the drive to make it work. We were told not to invest much of our time initially as we were too young even though v managing Studynook.

StudyNook is Goa's first online interactive platform open for all. We designed the classes and have personalized courses to cater to the needs of our students. It sounded absurd to everyone around us. But we had dreamt and were all in. We, at StudyNook, provide various services at an affordable rate. We believe in quality, we have a set of experienced professionals who will guide you through your learning journey. According to the curriculum, our courses are mapped to direct you on the correct path of achieving your goals. Our students can easily communicate and interact with the teachers to openly communicate with one and another. We, offer various classes from crash courses to IELTS training. **Continued on page 5**

Mushroom Connect – Aduja Naik and Hashma Muhawar



Mushroom connect is a startup by Aduja Naik and Hashma Muhawar, from Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology respectively at Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science Autonomous Margao Goa. They have recently launched their products and services which include Mushroom spawn, Mushroom grow-at-home kits and Consultancy services for those looking to set up their own mushroom farm. **Continued on page 5**

Re-connect! The Alumni newsletter by Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science Autonomous, Margao Goa

Editorial board

Mr. Malcolm Afonso
Assistant Professor
Department of Geology

The opinion and news appearing herein are those of the editors and not necessarily those of Principal or The Management. Contact us on mla005@chowgules.ac.in

Phone: 0832-2759504

Fax: 2759067

Website: www.chowgules.ac.in

Campus News

"Mushroom Connect" Start up Product launch

Our College Start-Up 'Mushroom Connect', in collaboration with the Innovation and Incubation Cell (IIC) of our College, launched its product 'Grow at Home Mushroom Kit' on Saturday, 31st July 2021

"Brandema" a Start-up to Promote start-ups inaugurated.

Innovation and Incubation cell committee of our College inaugurated the launch of the first Student's driven College startup, "BRANDEMA" on 10th February 2021 at 12.30pm.

"BRANDEMA" is a startup by students of our College for promoting the start-ups through digital marketing platforms.

Goa's top-ranked Private Autonomous College for 2020-2021

Our college is listed as Goa's top-ranked Private Autonomous College for 2020-2021 by educationworld.in. For complete rankings visit <https://www.educationworld.in/autonomous-colleges-rankings/>

Band A institution ranking in ARIIA 2020

Our college is categorized as 'Band A' institution (rank between 06-25) in category of 'Institutes & Colleges (Govt. and Govt. aided)' in Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA) 2020 announced on 18th Aug 2020.

Alumni Contributions



Our talented Alumni are inspiring the next generation of achievers from our college. They are actively involved in the many activities of the various departments, from giving career guidance talks to the budding students to delivering expert lectures on specific new subject topics. We are proud of our alumni and their contributions to the college. Here below is a list of alumni contributions towards departmental activities. **Continued on the next page**

Biotechnology Alumni Talk Series

A series of webinar's were conducted on **'My Career journey in Biotechnology'** as a part of the Biotechnology Alumni Talk Series for the Life Sciences students of the institution by the faculty of the Department of Biotechnology. The following alumni contributed to the alumni talk series

- Ms. Divya Naik Senior Research Fellow at Mazumdar Institute of Translational Research, Bangalore on 7th November 2020.
- Ms. Joans Pires, Masters in Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering from the University College London (UCL) on 13th February 2021.
- Ms. Sakshi Ahluwalia, Masters in Biomedical Science from the National University of Ireland, Galway presently working as an Associate Biotech Production Specialist at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. Ireland on 27th February 2021.
- Ms. Maclaez Vaz, Masters in Applied Bioinformatics from Cranfield University Bedford, United Kingdom on 6th March 2021.
- Ms. Chaitra Shetty, Masters in Clinical Virology from Manipal University, Karnataka presently working as Molecular Virologist at Srinivas Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Mangalore on 13th March 2021.
- Ms. Ankita Chattopadhyay, Masters in Applied Microbiology from the Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore presently a PhD Scholar at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore on 27th March 2021.
- Ms. Saili Madangirikar, Masters in Biotechnology from Symbiosis School of Biological Sciences, Pune presently working as an Associate Biocurator at PierianDx Pvt. Ltd., Pune on 8th May 2021.
- Ms. Rudraksh Madkaikar, Masters in Biotechnology, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune presently working as an Executive E2 in MSAT Mammalian & Microbial Downstream processing at Lupin Biotech Ltd., Pune on 15 th May 2021.

Department of Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry organized a virtual talk entitled **"My career journey in Chemistry—from academics to academics"** on 19/12/2020 for TY BSc students by our alumnus Dr. Hari Kadam, Assistant Professor, School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University. Dr. Hari gave an insight of his career on how he started his journey from the Department of Chemistry, Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science and how he planned and took it up to being a faculty in the School of Chemical sciences. It was a very motivational and inspirational talk for the TY BSc Chemistry students.

Department of Botany

The Department of Botany organised a **"Career Guidance Session"** for the Third year and Second year students on 6th February 2021. The resource persons for the same were (our Alumni) as follows:

- Ms. Ravina Pai, Alumni, Batch of 2017, Research Scholar, Goa University.
- Ms. Stacey Fernandes, Alumni Batch of 2018, PG Biotechnology student, Goa University.

Department of Computer Science

Department of Computer Science organized a talk on **“Planning a career as an I.T. Graduate”** on 10th Oct 2020. The speaker was our very own Alumni of Chowgule College, Mr. Aditya Rane. Mr. Rane is currently working at Texas Instruments Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore as Systems Administrator. Aditya spoke on how to find your interest in the field of computer science and how to pursue it to make it into a successful career. 72 participants from B.Sc Computer Science, B.Voc Software Development, M.Sc I.T attended the talk. The talk concluded with the speaker and the moderator having a discussion on all the questions that were submitted by the participants.

Department of Geology

The Department of Geology organized a **“Student- Expert cum alumni interactive session”**. The session was organized on 11/12/2020 in online mode. The sessions were as follows:

- Vikas Peeru, Deputy Manager Exploration, Vedanta Ltd. He gave a deep insight into the exploratory phase of mining. He also did software demonstration on how geologists build geological model of the ore body using borehole data and how planning of next phase of drilling boreholes is done to build a complete model. He also shared his field experience of working in various projects in Liberia and discussed the challenges faced by a typical exploration geologist.
- Santosh Ghadi, Deputy Manager Mine Planning, Vedanta Ltd. He presented a complete overview of the Mining process in Goa from the mine site to the end user. He highlighted the various ways in which the mined land can be reclaimed after the mining operations have ceased. Using software demonstration he explained how a progressive mining plan is made. He also highlighted the various community social responsibility activities performed by the mining companies for the direct benefit of the mining affected communities. He also shared his experience of working in various deposits worldwide including copper deposits in Zambia and Zinc deposits in South Africa.

A question and answer session was held at the end of the presentations where both the speakers patiently addressed all the questions and enlightened the students on aspects such as mine land reclamation, issues in mining in Goa, Measures taken to prevent mine pollution, Job prospects in mining, educational qualifications, career paths etc. It was an enlightening session for all the participants of the Department of Geology.

Department of Psychology

Career Talk by Ms. Sangrail Brito Carvalho and Ms. Kimberly Pereira in April 2020

Every year, the Department of Psychology, conducts **‘Career Talks’** for the students of the department. Resource people from different fields are invited to guide the students and give them a glimpse of work life. This year two alumni - Ms. Sangrail Brito Carvalho and Ms. Kimberly Pereira addressed the students on 28 th and 29 th April 2020 respectively. Ms. Carvalho spoke about Corporate Psychology as a career option while Ms. Pereira spoke about the field of Counselling.

Obituary



We have lost our dear Carlos Fernandes on 6 August 2021, He will be fondly remembered for his dedicated service of 32 years to this institution. He was known for his humble nature and often going out of his way to help his colleagues and also students in distress. May God grant his soul eternal rest.



We lost our dear Mahesh Naik (Dharma Bus) on 25 May 2021. Though he was not a member of the college staff he was very much a part of the student's campus life. He ferried students to many of their triumphs, be it in sports events or cultural events or on educational trips. He had gained a reputation for being punctual and dedicated to his service. May God grant his soul eternal rest

Alumni Start ups continued from page 1

StudyNook – Annalise Benjamin and Finoshka Rodrigues

Studynook offers different courses which are freely available for you to choose from, we give personal attention to self-paced learning along with personalized extra classes based on your requirements.

The journey to form a company was not a cakewalk. Being an entrepreneur begins from the inception of the idea and for people like us with zero business skills, it was tough. But when there is a fire burning within you, even the toughest of areas become simpler. We fought our way through registering the company and then began brainstorming how to market StudyNook. We had everything yet no way of promotion. Things certainly have a way of falling into place. Through word of mouth and constant promotion, we were out there. The initial months were a struggle like any other business. We were hanging on loose threads, struggling to find our own ground. The day of feeling secure seemed far off but even while most expected us to give up, we found strength in each other to motor through. That's what we did. Three friends dreamt of a company that everyone thought would shut within weeks, a year later we stand strong only because of our determination to make learning interesting.

As we were invested in blooming the company, we were still invested in our side jobs and would occasionally collaborate to write research papers together. Annalise has been awarded a scholarship for further studies in the USA, a few of its kind and Finoshka has been invested in publishing her first poetry book. It has made us more comfortable and we have surely learnt a lot during this difficult phase of our lives and are still learning!

Mushroom Connect – Aduja Naik and Hashma Muhawar

The startup mainly aims at Providing good quality mushroom spawn to growers across Goa. It also focuses on encouraging people to start mushroom cultivation at a commercial scale as it has high nutritional value and a good profit margin. To encourage people to grow mushrooms at home with their grow-at-home kit and Raising awareness about the nutritive value of mushrooms