



Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science  
(Autonomous)

Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A' (CGPA Score 3.41 on a 4 Point Scale )  
Best affiliated College-Goa University Silver Jubilee Year Award

## NAAC CRITERIA V 5.4 Alumni Engagment

5.41 - *The Alumni Association/Chapters (registered and functional) contributes significantly to the development of the institution through financial and other support services*

### Additional Information

1. AACT Registration
  2. Alumni Re-connect Newsletters
  3. Samples of Reports of Alumni engagements
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## CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

(See Rule 5)

(The Societies Registration Act, 1860)

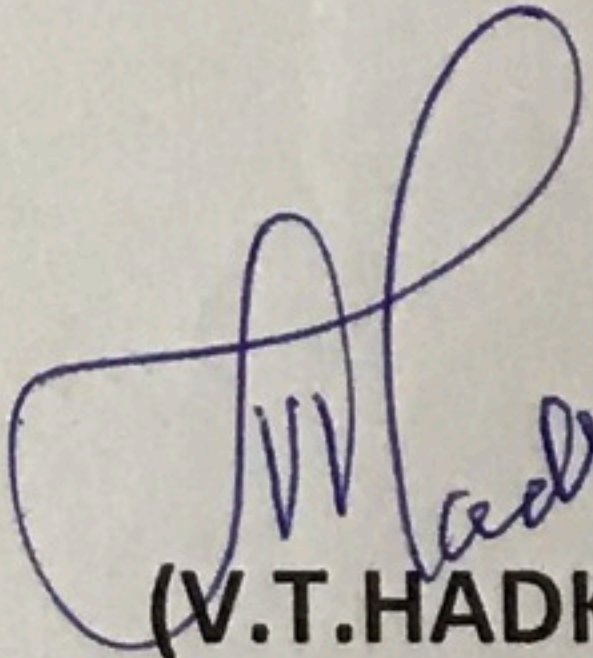
(Central Act 21 of 1860)

Registered No. 47/GOA/2019.

It is certified that the Society "ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF CHOWGULE TIGERS, GOGOL MARGAO SALCETTE GOA" has this day been duly registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Central Act 21 of 1860).

Given under my hand this day of 27th February 2019.



  
(V.T. HADKONKAR)  
Inspector General of Societies  
District Registrar (South Goa)  
27/2/2019



# Re-connect!

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



**Alumni Newsletter**

**Volume 2 Issue 1  
August 2021**

## 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](mailto:mla005@chowgules.ac.in)

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## 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### 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.

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### Department of Botany

The Department of Botany organised a **"Career Guidance Session"** for the Third year and Second year students on 6<sup>th</sup> 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

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## 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



## Alumni meet 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018



Members Present:

1. Vasant Hede – Marketing Officer/ Alumni Connect at Chowgule College
2. Akhilesh Bhise – 3D Modelling Trainer at CCAPS Chowgule College (Autonomous)
3. Purushottam Verlekar (Associate Professor at Goa University Geology )
4. Professor Chandrashekher Rivonker – Professor at Goa University (Marine Sciences)
5. Radhakant Divkar – Accounts Manager/ Operations Red Bull – Goa

First alumni monthly meet was conducted on 6th October at 10.00am in Teaching Learning Centre.

The Agenda of the meet was to understand the Possibilities of how Alumni could be engaged with the Institution and what are the various projects/internship opportunities that could be offered to current students.



Figure 1 L to R Purushottam Verlekar, C. Rivonker, Radhkant Divkar, Vasant Hede ,Akhilesh Bhise





Mr. Rivonker said that he would be delighted to associate with zoology department and offer help to post graduate students on projects like Mapping and photo documentation of coastal habitats of Goa. However he mentioned that any projects at Bachelors level may not be feasible due to the time constraint that the undergraduate course has. He also showed interest in having connections with NIO, NCAOR, Goa Biodiversity Board and said if required by the college he could help us to connect with these organisations.

He was interested to come as a speaker for seminar/talk or workshop at college and also gave the idea of having **Adjunct Professors** (who could be academicians/ industrialists) listed on our college website (after due permissions). E.g. Kiran Balliker, Atul Naik, Sanjay Kamat. Etc and that would help Chowgule College in listing the **Luminous alumni** graduated from Chowgule college.

Radhakant Divkar then initiated the discussion in the direction where he felt that the Chowgule College should look at **Alumni association** as a long term plan and have a team dedicated in connecting and engaging with alumni starting with the Luminary Alumni who have graduated from this institute. He stressed on to engage and get help from alumni, as a college we need to first have a:

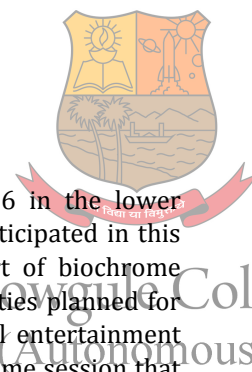
1. Database of **the Luminary Alumni** listed with a brief profile.
2. Showcase the alumni (with due permission) and acknowledge them on various digital platforms like college website, social media site as an ongoing process.
3. Invite the Alumni (in and out of India) for Series of talks and Sessions.
4. Connect with Alumni like Mr. Rivonker (he is part of a batch and has 78 members who meet yearly once ) and get contact details of other members

Mr. Purushottam Verlekar and Mr. Akhilesh Bhise supported the ideas mentioned by Radhakant and Mr. Rivonker.

The meet ended well with lot of positives from alumni in taking further steps in strengthening the alumni association.

Vasant Hede





### **BIOTECHNOLOGY ALUMNI MEET 2016-17**

The annual third biotechnology alumni meet was conducted on 3rd September 2016 in the lower auditorium of the college. The alumni of batches 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 participated in this meet. The event commenced with presentation by an S.Y.B.Sc. student, of the report of biochrome activities conducted in the academic year 2015-16. The presentation included the activities planned for the current academic year 2016-17. The presentation was followed by a short cultural entertainment programme by the students of F.Y., S.Y & T.Y.B.Sc. The students beautifully arranged a game session that involved the interaction of alumni with each other.

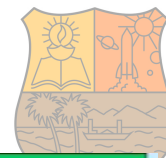
The alumni shared their experiences, advice and provided some insight into careers for the current students with regard to their job profiles and nature of work in their respective chosen fields. While some outlined the scope in biotechnological industries in Goa or outside, others advised students to pursue specialization courses that interested them. Most of the alumni unanimously quoted that "It is important to love what you do" and hence it is important to find what one loved doing the most even if it was out of the scope of biotechnology. The recent batches that graduated could provide useful information on the M.Sc. courses that they are currently pursuing, the modules studied and general information about the colleges/universities that they are enrolled in or those that they researched on while going through the application processes for themselves.

The experience was enjoyable for the students as well as the alumni who took part in the event. The students finally concluded the event with cake cutting celebrations for the teacher's, the surprise element for teacher's day while also serving the snacks they prepared by themselves for the alumni. The student interacted with alumni informally after the whole event while taking pictures at the 'selfie booth' prepared for the almost indispensable part of every programme -- 'The photo session'.



**Figure 3 : The alumni of batches 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 & 2015 at the annual third biotechnology alumni meet held on 3rd September 2016.**





## BIOCHROME ACTIVITIES

The Biotechnology Club - BIOCHROME - organized the '4th Biotechnology Alumni Meet' on 2nd January 2018 for which 23 alumni attended and shared their experience with the current students of Biotechnology of our college, providing an insight into Masters programmes and employment details. Most of them have pursued postgraduate degrees in other parts of India and abroad, specializing in Dietetics & Nutrition, Forensic Sciences, Food Technology, Medical Biotechnology, Biotechnology

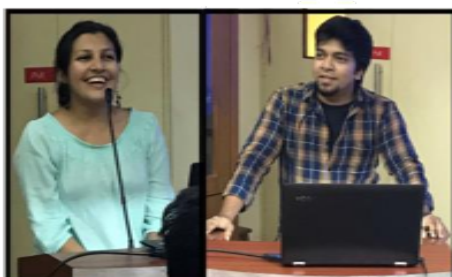


Figure 4: Stills from the Biotechnology alumni meet.

ogy and Biochemistry. Additionally, there were attendees who are currently employed in reputed companies such as Biocon, Natural Remedies, Quintiles, Wipro Life Sciences, Aqua Viva and Studymode (all in Bangalore), Alembic Pharmaceuticals, Quintiles, Thyrocare (all in Mumbai), Lupin Biotech (Pune). It was a wonderful experience to hear from the Alumni as they shared the ups and downs of their Biotech journey, contributing to the success of the event through their resourceful interaction.

The final Biochrome activity for this academic year was conducted on 16th February which included the participation of students from all batches of Biotechnology to solve a Biotechnology puzzle - a brain storming yet fun experience for them. - Ms. Madhavi Motankar, Asst. Professor and Biochrome Coordinator.

The Biotechnology Club - BIOCHROME - organized the '4th Biotechnology Alumni Meet' on 2nd January 2018 for which 23 alumni attended and shared their experience with the current students of Biotechnology of our college, providing an insight into Masters programmes and employment details. Most of them have pursued postgraduate degrees in other parts of India and abroad, specializing in Dietetics & Nutrition, Forensic Sciences, Food Technology, Medical Biotechnology, Biotechnology and Biochemistry. Additionally, there were attendees who are currently employed in reputed companies such as Biocon, Natural Remedies, Quintiles, Wipro Life Sciences, Aqua Viva and Studymode (all in Bangalore), Alembic Pharmaceuticals, Quintiles, Thyrocare (all in Mumbai), Lupin Biotech (Pune). It was a wonderful experience to hear from the Alumni as they shared the ups and downs of their Biotech journey, contributing to the success of the event through their resourceful interaction. The final Biochrome activity for this academic year was conducted on 16th February which included the participation of students from all batches of Biotechnology to solve a Biotechnology puzzle - a brain storming yet fun experience for them.



## 26-28 Jan'18 Report- Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp

### At Chowgule College Auditorium



Chowgule College  
(Autonomous)



**The Enthusiastic 71 students for the Entrepreneurship Camp**

A three day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp was organised by Chowgule College in association with Don Bosco College of Engineering and Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) from 26<sup>th</sup> Jan to 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018.

The camp started with some inspiration from Principal Dr. Sawant, who encouraged students to come up with ideas and assured them that Chowgule College will provide all the necessary support and connect with industries to bring these ideas as live start up projects. Dr. Sawant gave a wonderful example of thinking out of the box and being aware about an idea, opportunity which can come to you anytime.



### **Principal Dr Nandkumar Sawant inspiring students on Innovation and Ideas**

#### **Think out of the Box**

The first session was delivered by Training and Placement Officer Rajesh Gaonkar (also the coordinator of the camp along with Marketing Officer Vasant Hede from Chowgule College ) on understanding what is entrepreneurship, history of entrepreneurship and innovation. With some good examples around the world of good and great entrepreneurs like the Reliance Godrej, Wipro , Infosys etc. Rajesh took some hands on activities with the students (71 students in total with majority students from T.Y. B.Sc.) where they understood concepts like, thinking out of the box, innovation, risk taking attitude etc.





Pimpri Chinchwad Education Trust  
Pimpri Chinchwad Education Trust  
(Autonomous)



**Rajesh Gaonkar in action in an exciting Hands on activity on Risk Taking**

Vasant Hede also the main coordinator of the workshop took an activity focussing on being present and aware at all times to grab an opportunity and work harmoniously with each other at work.



**Vasant Hede taking an activity on Awareness and team work**



## **How to Start a Small Scale Industrial Business Unit**

The second session was on how to start a Small Scale Industrial Unit (SSI) delivered by Entrepreneurship Development Institute Manager Tushar Samant from Centre for Incubation and Business Acceleration (CIBA ) Verna Goa. Tushar through his witty style and diction, first redefined entrepreneurship and starting a startup venture. He was honest in his opinion to let the students know that having a relentless will power and a constant desire to achieve your dream are the important ingredients for successful business ventures. He argued that definitely having interest and a skill is very essential for any startup venture, but stressed on the fact that the desire to achieve your dream will encourage an entrepreneur from time to time to update himself and hire skillful resources on the journey of entrepreneurship. He gave some wonderful examples of various entrepreneurs who started their journeys through freelance works and also questioned the Goan mentality to look only for government jobs.



**Tushar Samant explaining process of Starting a Small Scale Industrial Unit**

## **Government Facilities and Schemes for Entrepreneurs**





Resource Person Aarti Desai from CIBA gave us information about various schemes such as Chief Ministers Rojgaar Yojna (CMRY) and others that are available for all men and women in Goa to get a loan upto 20 lakhs to start their start up. She encouraged students to come to CIBA and know more about these facilities and avail this facility and start with their dream projects.



**Aarti desai taking a session on Govt. facilities and schemes for start-ups**

### **Finding Opportunities in Market for Entrepreneurship**

Jervis Pereira CEO of Goa Entrepreneurship Mentorship Services shared some amazing facts about various successful startups based in Goa who are developing world class products. In a hilarious and interactive session he made students understand not to look down upon anything in life and encouraged students to embrace one of the most important quality of entrepreneur 'to solve problems in communities'. He mentioned various successful examples where entrepreneurs have used technology and developed solutions like the coconut plucking machine, extra virgin coconut oil producer, household problem fixing companies to name a few.



## Creativity and Business

Founder and CEO of an architecture firm, Tallulah D'Silva (Alumnus of Chowgule College) kept all the students captivated with her eco friendly and green creative architectural designs. She gave a tip to all budding entrepreneurs to work smart and always look for doing less but doing smart. She focussed on maintaining ethics and also the environment into consideration while doing business. Being a people's person, she stressed on how each one of us can exercise choice in our lives and share it with the community so that we can all reap the benefits of such practices together and develop a business model around it.

She got students involved in a hands on activity where the students build a tent for outdoors in less than 20 minutes.



**Tallulah D'silva (Alumni 1990 Batch) in action in a creative activity**





## Life Cycle of Business

Chowgule College  
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Mangirish Salelkar (alumnus of Chowgule College ) President of Goa technology Association and CEO Umang Software Technologies gave some deep insights on how Indian Economy has been focussed on businesses in service Industry . He shared examples of his company and his entrepreneurial journey from 2004 and stressed that Market Research is the most important stepping stone for a good business plan and how often many business skip this essential step and are over enthusiastic about launching the business.



**Mangirish Salelkar (Alumni 2001 batch) President of Goa Technology Association in a humorous pose**

## Successful Entrepreneurs

Sushant Surlaker shared his wisdom for being in business for last 23 years in various sectors such as IT, Event Management and Training. He mentioned the various qualities such as good observation, perseverance, desire to achieve; an entrepreneur should possess and also practice them regularly.



## Business Communication

Chowgule College  
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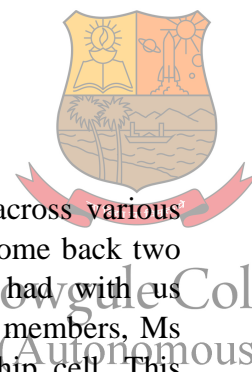
Vivid Pawasker Soft Skills Trainer and English teacher at Mallikarjun College Canacona in his humorous session gave some amazing examples of how an entrepreneur should communicate effectively and gave a set of online tools such as 'Mind tools' which every budding entrepreneur should use to stay focussed and determined on their entrepreneurship journey.



**Students with a dome structure created during Tallula D'Silva's Session**



## **1<sup>st</sup> ALUMNI MEET 2018 : ‘CHAI PE CHARCHA’**



Our college has always taken pride in having a number of alumni spread across various professions. On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 our College was pleased to welcome back two of such alumni for an interactive session called Chai PeCharcha. We had with us Mr. Purshottam Verlekar and Ms. Rohini Shetkar joined by one of our faculty members, Ms. Andrea from Zoology Department and Mr. Vasant Hede from the Internship cell. This session was conducted in the Teaching learning centre from 10.00 AM to 11.30 AM.

This meet was unlike any. It was conducted in a circle. Everyone sat facing each other, thus making conversations simpler. A talking piece was placed in front, so if anyone wished to speak, they could do so by picking it up. The session began with a simple breathing exercise wherein Mr. Hede asked everyone to close their eyes and get themselves to this moment. Everyone was asked to express what was going on in their minds, so we could jump into the session without any distracting thoughts.



**Figure 1 First Alumni Meet 2018 - Chai pe Charcha**

The conversation began at 10.30 AM with brief introductions. Mr Purshottam Verlekar began by introducing himself. He had come Goa University where he taught as an assistant professor in Geology. Ms Rohini Shetkar was a former B.Sc. in Botany who is now pursuing her masters in the same. She is an active member of Mangrove Society of Goa and her previous work involves research with TERI and participation in making of a renowned documentary. “The Birdman of Chorao” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIPHDpr1b8o>

Previously our Alumni were communicated through an email if they would like to get back to the college in any manner. Focusing on that, Mr Hede asked the alumni if they could contribute to the college and its students in terms of internships. The alumni had a lot to say and offer regarding the same. Mr Verlekar told us about the internships offered in the Goa University, which included internships at NIO, NCOR and IIRS which is in collaboration with ISRO. Students interested to work in the field of hydro-geo were sent to Vasco by



contacting the concerned person Mr. Smitesh Talwadkar. He suggested these internships would be of great benefit to the students. Mr Hede asked if we could allow students to work on projects and consider them as internships. Upon which Mr Verlekar had an innovative suggestion. He said we could have a project called Geo Heritage. To further explain this, he told us how a number of places in Goa needed to be protected as heritage. Places like Fort Aguada has unique ripple marks made on the rocks which are of great interest to geologists. He said places like Anmod Ghat, Paloem have the oldest rock found in the Asian subcontinent but unfortunately, they are not protected by anyone as they should be. Harvalem waterfall as well is an area with great geological heritage. He suggested if the students went to such places, only then the need to protect these heritages would be found. The students could document these areas, maintain the records in their thesis or could also write a booklet for the locals to understand the worth of these beautiful places.

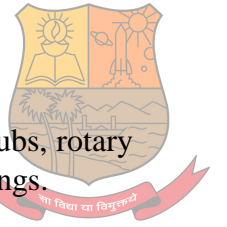


**Figure 2 L to R Alumni Purshottam Vernekar (2011, Geology), Incharge of Internships Vasant Hede, Zoology Teacher Andrea D'Souza, Intern Nikita Narvekar and Alumni Rohi Shetkar (2014, Botany)**

Further Ms. Shetkar spoke about her experience in working with mangroves. She along with Ms. Andrea explained to us the need of mangrove protection. Ms Shetkar told us about her previous project and how drones were used in marking of the species. She said there is a lot to be discovered and learned in the area of mangroves. She said institutes like TERI are always keen on giving opportunities to students to work and learn more. She told us how MSI, that is Mangrove Society of India wants to chalk out an Atlas of Goa on mangroves. Projects like these could be a great opportunity for students to work and expand their knowledge. She said NIO, GSI, Goa state biodiversity board are willing to offer internships to students.

Later, the alumni spoke about their college activities with various groups and clubs and how engaging with the same could be beneficial to the students. Mr Verlekar told us about his participation in working with a group called 'MARG' and how they needed students for translation of certain scientific terms into Konkani. He suggested 'Konkani Bhasha Mandal' for Konkani enthusiasts as they are looking for people to work on children's literature. He





also suggested organisations like 'Parikrama Knowledge Terminus', local youth clubs, rotary clubs where students could get involved into various projects according to their likings.

Lastly, before winding up the session, ideas for future alumni meet were discussed. The alumni said such meets should be held at least twice a semester, or even better if all the alumni were called on one fixed day and time once a month. One fixed slot can be allotted every month for a meet where such interesting and informative talks can take place. With this the session was wound up. Mr. Hede thanked each everyone present in the room for taking out the time and joining us. The alumni were then taken to the canteen for tea and snacks.

Thus, the first alumni meet gave us a great opportunity to interact with the alumni about their respective fields. It also gave them an opportunity to get back to the college by providing us with such information which is definitely going to benefit the students, thus making this event a great success.

By Nikita Narvekar

FY BA Psychology



### **Report Biotechnology Alumni Meet 2015-16**

The second biotechnology alumni meet was conducted on 5th September 2015 in the lower auditorium of the college. The alumni of batch 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 participated in this meet.

The alumni shared their experiences, advice and provided some insight into careers for the current students with regard to their job profiles and nature of work in their respective chosen fields. While some outlined the scope in biotechnological industries in Goa or outside, others advised students to pursue specialization courses that interested them. Most of the alumni unanimously quoted that "It is important to love what you do" and hence it is important to find what one loved doing the most even if it was out of the scope of biotechnology. The recent batches that graduated could provide useful information on the M.Sc. courses that they are currently pursuing, the modules studied and general information about the colleges/universities that they are enrolled in or those that they researched on while going through the application processes for themselves.



The experience was enjoyable for the students as well as the alumni who took part in the event. The students finally concluded the event with cake cutting celebrations for the teacher's, the surprise element for teacher's day while also serving the snacks they prepared by themselves for the alumni.



## **Report on Chowgule College Alumni Reunion 2015**



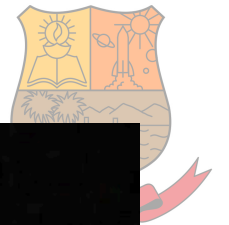
The third Chowgule College alumni Reunion was held on 20<sup>th</sup> December between 5pm to 7.30pm in College Campus. The reunion was for students who were graduates from year 2000 to 2014.

Principal Dr. Ramesh Gaonkar welcomed all the students to their alma mater and the event was well received by all the alumni.



Figure 1 Alumni 2013 Graduates who came for the Reunion

The publicity of the event was done on Chowgule College Facebook page and alumni email database. The total number of alumni who were present for the event was 97. The current students of Chowgule College took the responsibility of the entire event. Vasant Hede Marketing Officer was the coordinator of the event.



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Figure 2 From L to R Kimberly , Akash and Aishwarya from TY Batch of BA Hosting the Event for Alumni

The event comprised of welcome song, dance performances from current students and alumni, experience sharing of some of the funniest and craziest times in Chowgule College, thank you note submissions from alumni to their beloved teachers and karaoke singing.