



**CHRIST**  
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)  
BANGALORE · INDIA

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# AURUS MEMOIRS

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**CHRIST BOOK OF MEMORIES**  
1969-2019





**CHRIST**  
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)  
BANGALORE · INDIA

*Memories Pressed Between The Pages  
Sweetened Through The Ages*

Dedicated to all Christites - Past, Present and Future



Hosur Road, Bengaluru



Kengeri, Bengaluru



Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru



Lavasa, Pune



Ghaziabad, Delhi NCR

CHRIST is a nurturing ground for an individual's holistic development to make effective contribution to the society in a dynamic environment.



**CHRIST**  
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY

Hosur Road, P.

₹ 20/-



विशेष आवरण • Special Cover



स्वर्ण जयंती  
GOLDEN JUBILEE



डी.आर. कॉलेज पी.ओ.  
560029  
D.R. College P.O.  
11-07-2018



CHRIST (Deemed to be University) launched its Golden Jubilee celebrations with an Inaugural Ceremony on July 11, 2018, with the release of 50 years Golden Jubilee Commemorative Stamp, First Day Cover and Post Card specially designed by the Department of Posts, Government of India. They were released by Mr S Rajendra Kumar, Postmaster General, Southern Karnataka Region, Karnataka Postal Circle.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the entire CHRIST community for the plethora of heart-warming entries you have sent CAPS - Centre of Academic and Professional Support. We have tried to incorporate as many contributions as possible. If you find that your entry has been edited, please accept our sincere apologies. This has been done only due to space constraints. We thoroughly value your sentiments and reminiscences.

We thank the CHRIST Management and Alumni Association for supporting this project. Without your support, this idea would not have seen the light of day. We thank our entire CAPS family - our Director, Mentors and Student Volunteers who have worked tirelessly to spread the word, knock at cabin doors, seek entries and diligently craft each one of them.

Special word of thanks to our Art Director Mr Rajeev K for burning the midnight oil and giving shape to AURUS MEMOIRS. Several of the beautiful pictures featured here have been sent by Mr Binny Viswanathan from Centre for Concept Design; we are truly grateful. We thank SV Color Graphics - this book has finally taken the form of a keepsake thanks to your printing.

We acknowledge and thank all contributors to AURUS MEMOIRS. Without your reminiscences, this book would not have been infused with nostalgia and soul.

Do email us your thoughts on caps@christuniversity.in. You can find a soft copy of this book on our website www.christuniversity.in/caps. We look forward to keeping in touch with you.

Warm regards,

**Anamika Viswanathan**

*Chief Mentor - CAPS*

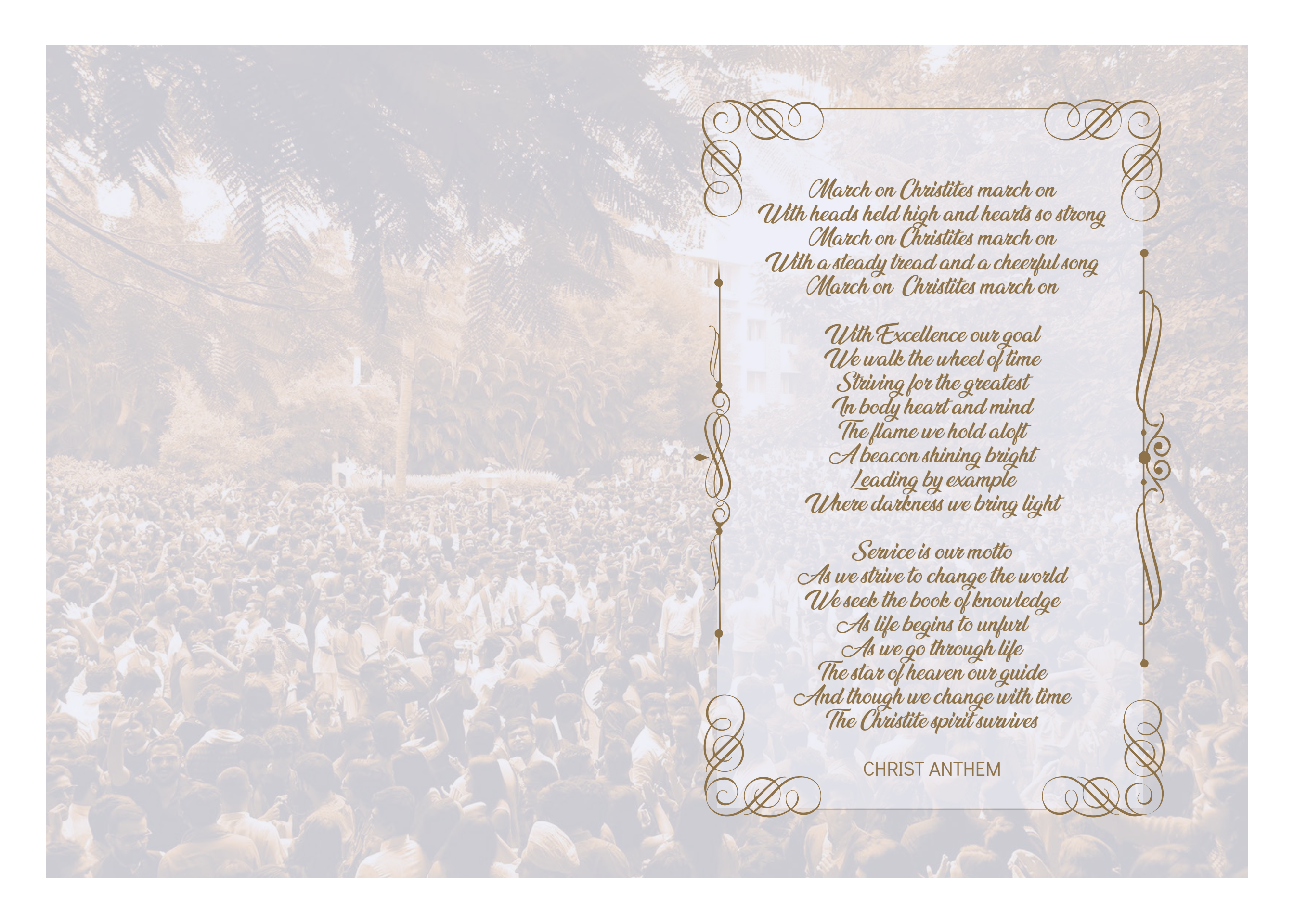
*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*



Prof Dr Fr George Edayadiyil CMI  
Dr Fr Abraham V M, CMI  
Dr Fr Thomas C Mathew  
Dr Anil Joseph Pinto  
Jugnu Uberoi  
Francis George  
Hormese Tharakan  
Samuel S George  
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Alan Carvalho  
Kashinath Krishnaswamy  
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Sangeetha Sekar  
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Purananda Bhaskar G  
Michelle Karen Peris  
Shobana Mathews , PhD  
All The Fat Children  
Namrata D'Souza  
Pearle Maaney  
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Aghil, Nitish, Rejoe, Akshay, Gijo and Sherlie  
Rupen Paul  
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Alina Padikkal ( VJ )  
Christal Ferrao  
Karan Machado  
Adishesha Sairam K B  
Vivian Rajasekharan Nair  
Chitresh Shrivastva  
Legato Vocal Point (LVP)  
Rojan Babu  
Mariaet Wilson  
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Allen Benny Mathew  
Rahul P Vinish  
Azadeh Moradi Nikoo  
Saurav Jyoti Lahon  
Vivian Paul Parakal  
Karen Tatum Cole  
Nikhil Sinha  
Centre for Concept Design (CCD)





*March on Christites march on  
With heads held high and hearts so strong  
March on Christites march on  
With a steady tread and a cheerful song  
March on Christites march on*

*With Excellence our goal  
We walk the wheel of time  
Striving for the greatest  
In body heart and mind  
The flame we hold aloft  
A beacon shining bright  
Leading by example  
Where darkness we bring light*

*Service is our motto  
As we strive to change the world  
We seek the book of knowledge  
As life begins to unfurl  
As we go through life  
The star of heaven our guide  
And though we change with time  
The Christite spirit survives*

CHRIST ANTHEM

**AURUS  
MEMOIRS**  
CHRIST BOOK OF MEMORIES  
1969-2019

## FOREWORD

What could a relatively new Centre do to serenade CHRIST (Deemed to be University) as it celebrated its golden anniversary? CAPS - Centre of Academic and Professional Support was ideating as to what could be a befitting tribute to this grand institution that has educated thousands of students for the past 50 years (and continues to do so), provided an academic haven to teaching faculty with its rich academic roots and sustained thousands of non teaching staff over the years. It then occurred to us that a book that carries recollections from alumni, staff and students will perhaps capture meaningful moments and memories.

Aurus Memoirs is not just another coffee table book. It's a living testament to the tremendous enrichment CHRIST has provided to each one of us. It is infused by the spirit of

service and nurtured by the pursuit of excellence. As you browse through the numerous recantations and narratives, you'll feel sincere sentiments and joyful recollections coursing through every page. Words that relive the years gone by and pictures that capture true camaraderie...

We thank each one of you for your valuable contributions and hope that this Book of Memories will help highlight an important milestone in the journey of this august home of knowledge and learning that is continuing to contribute to academia and the global community at large.

### Team CAPS



## INTRODUCTION TO CHRIST BOOK OF MEMORIES

Memory is the treasure house of humanity making history alive and life meaningful for generations. It is the driving force for the present and the future. As we age, memories may fade, but the sharing of memories will keep them ever fresh and alive sustaining and strengthening humanity on its constant journey. Some travelers will find them as a source of strength and inspiration on the way as they were for us. The CHRIST Book of Memories is an attempt to bring out the evergreen, ever young and ever vibrant memories of the stakeholders of Christ (Deemed to be University) for the last fifty years. I do congratulate the Centre for Academic and Professional Support (CAPS) for the timely initiative to have CHRIST Book of Memories published during the concluding celebrations of the CHRIST's (Deemed to be University) Golden Jubilee Year. My sharing is a confluence of my own experience, dreams, and understanding of CHRIST and those who are associated with her. CHRIST with its motto, Excellence and Service, creates a new educational culture by being mindful of the challenges and possibilities of the time. It is a nurturing ground for teaching, learning, research and service for life. The fifty years history of the University is an amazing story of God's providence, human solidarity and boundless hope. It is a great source of strength for her to go forward

without any compromise on her vision, mission and core values. CHRIST provides a holistic, inclusive, value based, quality, disciplined and nurturing ambience that transforms individuals knowingly and unknowingly to be their best. The activities and life in CHRIST reflect this culture and ambience and there's never a dull moment on any of its campuses.

The vision and passion for excellence and service coupled with the courage and confidence to face adversities with a collective will that never compromises the good of all the stakeholders is the reason behind the transformation of CHRIST (Deemed to be University) as it is today. When threatened by challenges, the firm belief and conviction that God who guided her in the past will continue to provide and lead her along the right path gives CHRIST immense hope for the future. Faith in God stands as the most basic core value of the University. She aims at serving humanity using all the gifts of God going beyond all the man made boundaries.

As Chancellor, it is a great honour and privilege to be part of Christ (Deemed to be University), which many have nurtured together. The staff, students, parents,

guardians, management and well-wishers and above all her Alumni share the same sentiments. That sense creates an unparalleled bond and gives an internal strength and vitality to CHRIST and her mission of education. She lives in the heart of all Christites. Further CHRIST has set a high benchmark for all her stake holders. So there is no resting time for anyone at CHRIST.

As I look at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) through the eyes of numerous Christites who have gone through her portals, I understand CHRIST as an experience, a memory, a perspective, a vision, an emotion and a passion. The amazing beauty of CHRIST is that all the stakeholders, namely, the students, staff and their families and management own CHRIST as their own.

CHRIST is run in the spirit of trusteeship proposed by the Father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Here trusteeship means that all owns her for a time and with accountability. The accountability, transparency, freedom and teamwork give an internal cohesion to CHRIST. The University is not managed by a single person but by a religious community (CMI: Carmelites of Mary Immaculate) whose members do not take any

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individual benefits out of it. The whole community along with all the stakeholders of the institution is responsible for the decision- making process. The visionary founder, Bishop Jonas Thaliayath CMI, all the Rectors, Principals and Vice Chancellors share a common bond as members of the same religious community (CMI). God has blessed CHRIST (Deemed to be University) with wonderful, faithful and compassionate shepherds, who have served the students and the entire staff all these years, with single-minded devotion, vision, commitment, diligence and fraternal and compassionate love.

Any living organism grows from its internal strength of the seed and adaptability to the context, refocusing itself to face the challenges, not from being stretched beyond its power by external forces. The University too, has grown this far with the internal strength, cohesion, unity of purpose and command and with total trust in the providence of God, daily prayer, the intercession of St K. E Chavara and the humble acceptance of the will of God as revealed through persons and events. As for me, I am proud of the University and pray that she may serve many more seekers of knowledge and wisdom with an uncompromising pursuit for excellence and service. The inner strength of CHRIST

(Deemed to be University) lies in the percolation of her vision, mission and core values by all the stakeholders, including the public. This fit between the various stakeholders and the institution is the key to the path of the university's journey of excellence.

The University provides an ecosystem of organizational excellence, the culture of consistent talent development, constant evaluation of the best practices and the provisions for immense possibilities for the mature and holistic growth of all. This University is for the students. The management, the staff and the entire facilities are here only to serve the students and scholars. CHRIST (Deemed to be University) is a culture, a language, an experience and a way of life. This is easily felt by those who have gone through the portals of Christ and as they share their vivid personal memories. The last fifty years of CHRIST is an inspiring story of which we are all characters. Let us continue to tell her story seen with our own eyes and felt with our hearts through AURUS MEMOIRS - CHRIST Book of Memories.

### **Fr George Edayadiyil CMI**

*Rector, Dharmaram*

*Chancellor, CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*



A bronze statue of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara is seated on a pedestal in a natural setting. He is wearing a habit and holding a book. In the foreground, there are three other statues: one on the left, one in the center, and one on the right, all appearing to be in a state of prayer or listening. The background features large, gnarled tree trunks and a small arched niche containing another statue.

St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara  
(1805 - 1871)  
Founder of CMI

Proverbs 16:16 - How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver.

## THE EVOLVING PRIORITIES OF CHRIST



My journey with Christ College began in the year 1978. I joined to pursue Philosophy from Dharmaram College. This campus held a unique vibe, so much so that anyone who walked in, experienced a burst of energy. I felt encouraged to grab every opportunity that came my way. I was able to thrive as a leader in Sports and various other extracurricular activities.

Eleven years later, I was able to join this institution as a lecturer. The environment had drastically changed and students breezed around campus without focussing on their priorities.

I felt quite let down by how the very ethos of Christ College was being downplayed. Having pursued my higher Education from institutions that were really particular about discipline, I found it hard to adapt. It was even worse when I would just have 3- 5 students in the class for my lecture. The entire class showed up only by the month of September as it would be time to pay their fee.

By that time of the year, preparations for Spring Fest would have begun. I would say that it was more like a 'tourist festival'. Random people would just pop into college and honestly speaking, Christ College was known for all the wrong reasons!

Slowly, the management began to put down a firm hand. By the '90s, the goal of transforming the institution was under process. All hands were on the deck to ensure that academic rigour and discipline was well-maintained on campus. Over time, several aspects began to evolve positively on our campus. If one was to look into the College Dance Competitions, there were only two teams that were headed by Charlie and Prasanna. They would take turns to win the first and second prizes. Eventually, when Mr Prabin joined in the year 2009, several dance teams were mobilised. On a cultural level, CHRIST started having multiple teams for dance, theatre and even music.

Today, CHRIST has developed into one of the most sought-after institutions by both students and parents. Although I have witnessed growth on a phenomenal level, I intend fortifying the most important pillar of a University - Research. I strongly believe that Research is the essence of developing a University.

As CHRIST commemorates its fifty years, words cannot express how much this institution has fostered. As a student, faculty and now the Vice-Chancellor, I stand grateful and amazed at how blessed I am to be part of this family.

**Fr Abraham V M, CMI**

*Vice Chancellor,*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*

## WORDS OF WISDOM

(Excerpts from CAPS Penathon - tête-à-tête with former Vice Chancellor Fr Thomas C Mathew)



Q: What is that one aspect of our education system which was practised when you were a student and would benefit students if it were still practised?

Fr: Probably you are looking for what I experienced at school and we are trying to implement it in the system.

See, “Mata Pita Gurudevam” is what we believe and in the Indian culture, we have that strong thing. There is a change in the young people because we have moved from a macro-family to a micro-family. You are all coming from a one-child or two-children family. So, you are extremely precious in the environment that you are working with your parents. But what you probably would be missing is that sibling training. You don’t have too many people at home.

I come from a 6-member family, I had to fight with my brother and sister and connect with them. So probably that makes them respect the parents, respect the sibling. Love for one’s siblings is a lot more than love for one’s parents. Sometimes, I think we need to connect with them and respect the teachers.

What I mean is connecting with your parents connecting with your teachers on a longer range rather than consumers.

Q: Thank you, Fr. We’ll try to implement it too. My second question to you is- what is the best advice someone has given you and how have you implemented it in your life?

Fr: Probably something that my mother told me when I decided to lead a life like this. “If you are not going to be a model, then there are going to be so many people who will be deviating.”

So, a steadfast role model is one of the things and she is still concerned if I am a role model or not.

Q: This is my 4th year in Christ. Since my UG, I have been learning a lot from you. My father was also from a Chemistry background. Can you advise us how to survive in today’s highly dynamic, competitive and ever-changing environment?

Fr: There is no mechanism like that, but the simple thing is you have to unlearn to learn. The ‘unlearning process’ is a very difficult process for anybody. The unlearning process simply means that we have to learn again. If you are considering me, I took the headship of this institution in 2004. There is a difference between the period of 2004 and 2019; huge difference. How I survived is a big question every day. So, the only thing is to try to learn from anywhere

possible. But that learning process can happen only through an unlearning process, that's all I can say. When you people retire 50 years from now, what is going to happen, nobody can say because of the speed of the process that is happening. So, the only thing response to the change, unlearning more to learn more with a certain framework of the value of life. If we are not preparing ourselves for a life which has quality then there will be a conflict between our inner heart and what we are doing.

**Q:** After setting up such a huge legacy in this final leg of your run here, when you shut your eyes in the night, what are the thoughts that come to your mind. How do you feel looking back at what you have set up for us?

**Fr:** When I joined here in 1996, I was a young man of 32. Today when I leave, something happened because of various reasons that you are asking me what is your thought when you sleep. Sometimes, I am not clear what would be the most important thing, how we have to move forward.

The moment in which we are, we are thinking back that this is the best thing either at CAPS or anything, you are gone. How do we go ahead, looking into the environment,

especially the students, the needs of them, sometimes this is challenging. At this pace, I think all of you have done a great job.

What CAPS would be doing in 2020 should be different from today. So, whether it is possible or not, we will be creating history for the future; the academic environment should move from a repetitive history to a creative history. How would we do, I don't know. But it is a challenge. Otherwise, it may be a dip in the education system if you are not careful with that alertness of all those people.

You know I am friendly and cherish personal connections. I am going to miss that because when I joined here, I was the 35th teacher here. Today, 750 teachers teaching and I may be knowing only the leaders, maybe around 100 people. So, there is a personal connection that you are going to miss. But your service to the institution should be more than a personal connection to a person. To an organisation, its students are very important. The baseline is the organisation, our commitment.

All the best for your future, dear students, organisers and prize winners!

**Dr Fr Thomas C Mathew**

*Founding Vice Chancellor (2008-2019)*

*Principal (2004-2008)*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*





## BONDING THROUGH THEATRE

Dr Anil Pinto joined CHRIST in the year 2005. In 2006, he was assigned to be the class teacher for FEP (Functional English & Psychology) which is currently known as CEP (Communicative English & Psychology).

This batch was quite troublesome and most teachers had several complaints regarding their conduct. Back then, Dr Pinto used to be heavily theatre-oriented and he decided to use this technique to improve the interpersonal challenges that existed in the class. In his evaluation, the students had split into several groups based on different aspects.

To fix the challenge of groupism and promote inclusion, he decided to randomly divide the class into groups. These groups were further assigned with one-act plays that were to be performed in a month's time. Students were asked to handle marketing and promotions by themselves.

These performances were launched in the form of a huge event and all the groups put in commendable efforts in their respective plays. Dr Pinto stated that around 80% of the interpersonal challenges amongst the FEP students were resolved after these performances.

These performances still run within the Department of English and are called 'Masquerades'.

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## THIRD TIME LUCKY



Third time's a charm - I would be the best person to affirm this! I remember filling in the application to join CHRIST in 2003 and to my misfortune, the deadline had already passed. I decided to try my luck again in 2004 and I did not even get called for the interview. Finally in 2005, my journey with this prestigious institution began.

In order to break new grounds at CHRIST, 'tenacity' and 'rigour' were absolutely necessary. I faced several situations where my ideologies were not supported. This institution taught me that if I had the ability to sustain my ideas and move confidently up the ladder, I could achieve anything.

In 2012, when our former Vice-Chancellor, Dr Fr Thomas C Mathew asked me if I would like to be the Registrar, I felt exuberant. I was touched by the fact he felt confident about my ability to handle such a huge responsibility and felt encouraged to begin many initiatives for the betterment of this institution. I had the opportunity to be part of several fellowships which further resulted in international collaborations. In this way, I was able to support our former VC's vision. A vision definitely requires focus and validity in terms of translating it into reality. I was able to contribute meaningfully from that point of view.

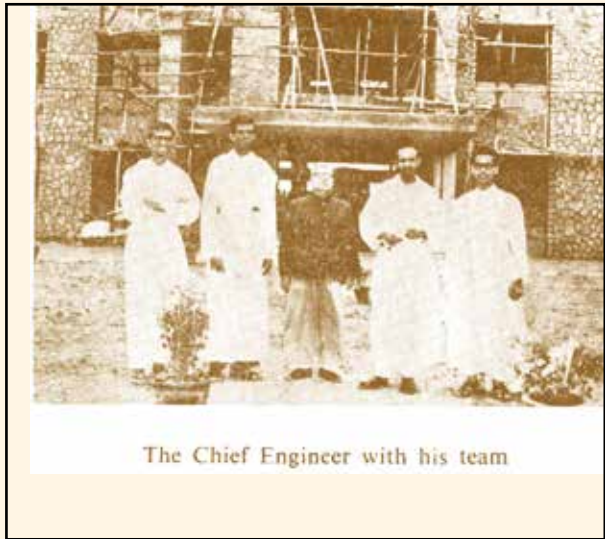
I have been to several institutions around the world and till date, I have not come across one like CHRIST. The number of student activities and efforts to ensure that students do well in life is a very unique attribute. Initiatives like CSA where the organisation runs on just 250 volunteers and still manages to directly impact more than 10,000 families is commendable! Students go out into learning centres located in slum areas and their efforts are very consistent. At the end of the day, we all have the responsibility to give back to the society and that's a core value we try to instill in every Christite.

Being an institution that never advertises its programmes, we are definitely one of a kind! As CHRIST commemorates 50 years since inception, I thank God for his immense grace and blessings that have helped all of us come so far.

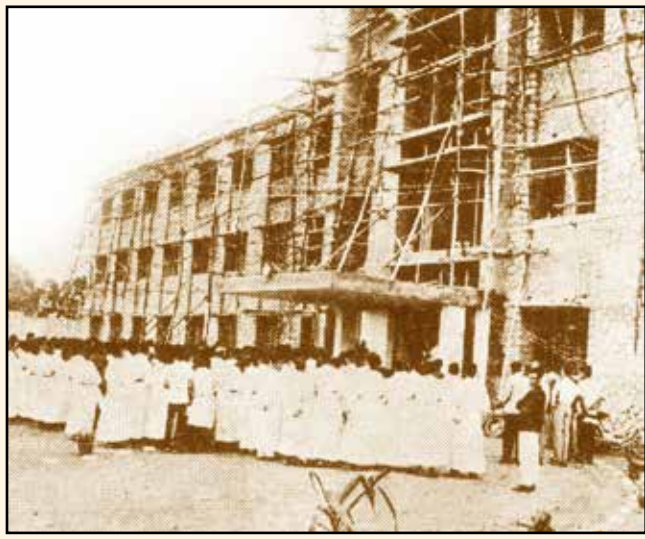
### **Dr Anil Joseph Pinto**

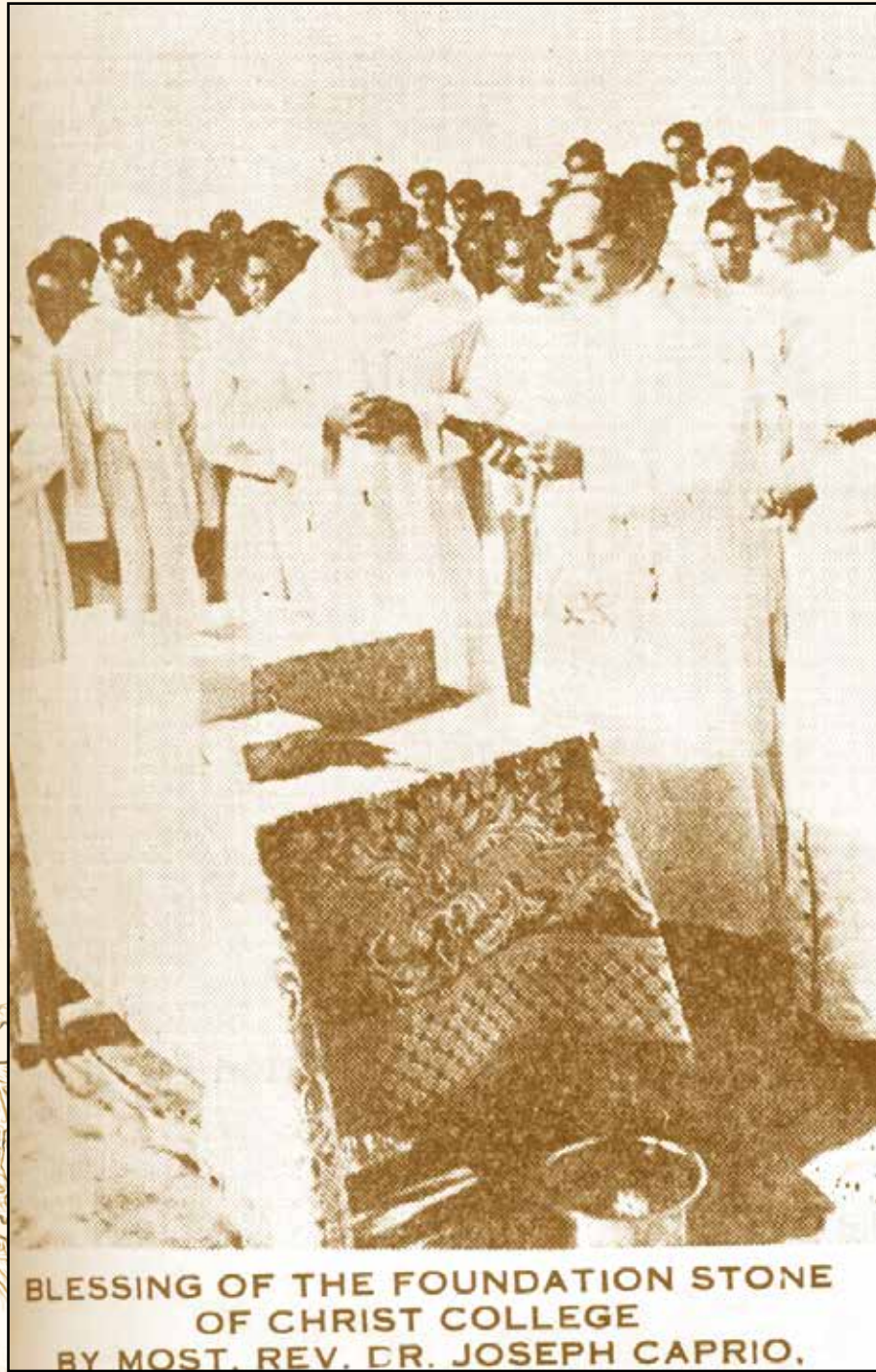
*Registrar*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*



The Chief Engineer with his team





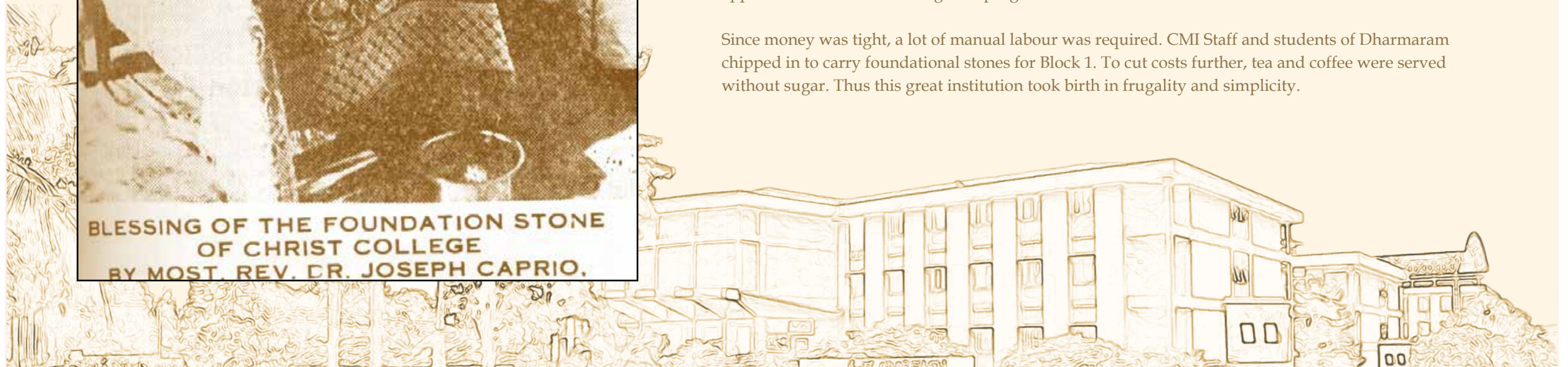
**BLESSING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE  
OF CHRIST COLLEGE  
BY MOST. REV. DR. JOSEPH CAPRIO.**



## HIGH THINKING AND SIMPLE LIVING

Bishop Jonas Thaliath had envisioned building educational institutions in Bangalore since 1950's. He was appointed the Director of Dharmaram College in 1966. He registered a trust for the college and Christ College Society was also established. Since initial inspections did not approve the plan, he invited S. Nijalingappa, the Chief Minister of Karnataka back then to visit the land. Finally, the approvals came and work began to progress.

Since money was tight, a lot of manual labour was required. CMI Staff and students of Dharmaram chipped in to carry foundational stones for Block 1. To cut costs further, tea and coffee were served without sugar. Thus this great institution took birth in frugality and simplicity.





## THE FIRST EVER BATCH AND TO WHERE WE'VE COME...



I, was one of the 350+ Christities to have set foot when the gates of this fine college opened in July 1969. We were a small group but one which was proud to wear its colour and motto even after 50 years.

Recalling those days and looking at today's growth, I find that though the educational system and infrastructure has changed with time but the motto of excellence and service remains the same. In short once a Christite always a Christite.

Even in our times, we had many a fine faculty lead by principal Rev Fr (late) Mani Giles, who had a vision then to bring out the best in his students. Many of us excelled in our studies while we did not miss out on cultural activities. If today you have darpan, we had spring festival. We too had sports day, graduation day, NCC group, boys' hostel etc thereby giving us many an opening to sharpen our skills.

The foundation laid when we graduated as the 1st batch in 1973-74 stands firm and solid even today, for it has helped us build our tomorrow. We owe a lot of our success and growth to our alma mater.

Having had the opportunity to head its alumni association for nearly 18 years, I have had a very close view of its growth in the recent times. Must acknowledge the dedication of the management fathers led by Rev Fr V. M Abraham along with the faculty and non teaching staff in making the university as one of the best in the country, but taking us into world rankings too.

The alumni association is trying to keep pace with the university's growth. Currently we collect and spend over Rs 25 lakhs every year which is used towards the student scholarships, popular fun fiesta for our faculties beside other projects like tree plantations, medical camps etc. While joining thousands of proud christites in wishing its alma reaching this milestone of 50 years, we pray to almighty that the in the coming years it grows from strength to strength to be a leader in this world by churning out Christites with our motto.

Here I would sign out by saying march on my Alma Mater... We Christites are immensely proud to bear your name.

**Jugnu Uberoi**

*Batch 1969-1973/74*

*President - Alumni Association*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*



BLOCK ONE QUADRANGLE  
MAIN CAMPUS, BANGALORE



LAVASA CAMPUS  
PUNE



BANNERGHATTA CAMPUS  
BANGALORE



KENGERI CAMPUS  
KUMBALGODU



GHAZIABAD CAMPUS  
DELHI NCR



DHARMARAM  
CHAPEL

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY



I joined Christ College during the year 1970 batch for pre-university. Our batch was the second batch in Christ College and the place was still in the stage of inception. It was only the Main Block and we used to have classes in two classrooms on the third floor. I joined the pre-university course and I took HEL - History, Economics and Logic. Post that, I pursued Bachelors in Economics, History and Political Science.

Altogether, 4 years at CHRIST was wonderful. It was a new experience for us after studying upto 10th in Kerala then coming to Bangalore. Joining CHRIST helped me meet a lot of students from various parts of Karnataka and also abroad. Bangalore being a cosmopolitan city, the students from various cultures and strata were a part of our class. Also, there were a good number of brothers from the Dharmaram college which is the CMI Ashram at CHRIST. This helped us a lot in experiencing various cultures and meeting different kinds of people. After pre-university, some joined medicine, engineering and I'm probably the only one who took up political science. As a member of the

parliament, my experiences at CHRIST helped me a lot. The principal and the teachers who taught us took good care of us.

CHRIST gave me good exposure about the country as such because as I mentioned earlier, students from various parts of the country were a part of the institution so we had good contact with various communities, societies and cultures. All this helped me as a parliamentary member in my work.

Today, I feel proud to be associated with one of the most top rated institutions in India. I'll always cherish these memories.

### **Francis George**

*Second batch of Christ College (1970)*

*Chairman of Janadhipathya Kerala Congress*

## D BLOCK ST. JOHN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSTEL



The first principal of Christ College was Rev Father Mani Giles. He was really generous with his admissions since many young boys in those days could just walk into Christ College and he used to welcome each and every one of them. Those days, we were a very good football team. A young college like Christ had one of the best teams in Bangalore although we lost to government arts and sciences college later on.

Back then, Father Mani Giles would go out of his way to arrange accommodation for some of the students in St.John's Medical College hostel. Thirty of us used to stay in D block SJMCH. At seven in the evening everyday, Father Mani Giles used to come and meet each and everyone of us in our rooms to see what we were up to. He used to check on our health, studies and everything.

When Christ College started, there was only one block over there. Gradually, two blocks came up and before we knew it, there were four blocks. Later, we had a beautiful courtyard in the middle of the entire campus. It was

altogether a new experience. We had a very good staff and each staff would give us personal attention in terms of our studies and wellbeing. Finally, during our graduation, the second years gave us a wonderful send off with music, concerts and a lot of other activities. I really cherish those memories!

Another sweet memory of mine was when a film by the name 'Bunniyad' was shot on our campus in the early 1970s. The shot was taken during a basketball game conducted in our basketball courts.

Back then, coming to Christ College was a tedious process as there were hardly any buses that came by the route since Christ College was located in a remote area. Even through all these limitations, I had a wonderful time at Christ College and I'm grateful to God for the opportunity.

### **Hormese Tharakan**

*Bachelor of Commerce*

*1969- 1971*

## BANKING ON CHRIST



I am currently a retired chief manager of HDFC bank, settled in Kochi. I pursued Bachelors in Commerce at Christ from 1971 to 1974. Ours was the second batch of the degree courses that rolled out the previous year. There was only one quadrangle at the college back in my time. A temporary building was erected near the main gate which served as the canteen. There was a beautiful sunflower field which was replaced by the Forum mall. We used to use the playground of the Dharmaram college as there was only one basketball court inside the campus. I truly enjoyed those times.

Reverend Father Mani Giles who later became the Bishop of Thamasherry was our principal. I still remember the times we used to hang out and spend most of our evenings in Brigade Road or Commercial Street. The Kearnlites used to

celebrate Onam in their own traditional ways in college.

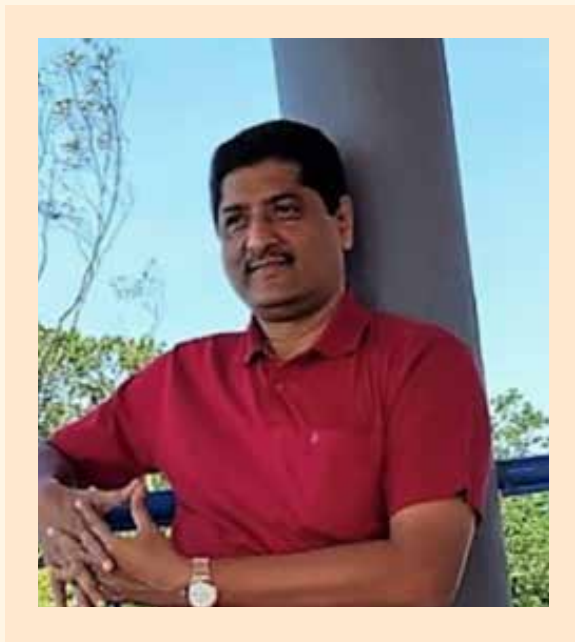
We all had started an Alumni association of Christ College students under the able guidance of the Former principal Reverend Doctor Anthony Kariyil. The association functioned for eight to ten years with regular meetings but sadly it is not functioning anymore. We are proud to know that Christ has grown to become one of the best colleges in India and I am a proud Christite!

### **TT Thomas**

*Bachelor of Commerce*

*1971 -1974*

*Retd Chief Manager, HDFC Bank*



## THE PLACE TO BE

How time flies...I graduated in 1985 and had the opportunity to speak at the 25th anniversary celebrations of (then) Christ College in 1994. And here we are already... at the 50th anniversary celebrations of this great institution!

I spent some of my best years at CHRIST in the early 80s before I graduated in 1984. Some of my best memories are centred around 'Spring Fest' which the college hosted for years. It was THE place for the best music and cultural events. During the three-day festival, all roads lead to Christ College and featured some of the best bands from around the country. Many of Bangalore's most well-known musicians were regulars at Spring Fest and went on to pursue careers in the music and entertainment sphere.

Congratulations to all the staff, students and alumni of this great institutions. It's really wonderful to see the CHRIST flag flying high even after all these years.

### **Alan Carvalho**

*BA in Psychology, Economics and Sociology*

*Graduated in 1985*

*Director (FEL)*



The oldest and top recruiters at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) are EY (Ernst & Young), KPMG (Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler), Deloitte, PWC (PricewaterhouseCoopers) and D.E. Shaw & Co. These top companies absorb about 1/4th of the graduate population from CHRIST. In the past 4-5 years, there has been a rise in several startups approaching CHRIST for recruitment.



**AURUS  
MEMOIRS**  
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## NOT ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL



The culture at (then) Christ College made it inviting for many young boys to join the college after they finished their high school. There was this one particular young boy who couldn't wait to join the college in the year 1989 after his 10th standard. The little boy joined Christ College in the year 1989 and he remembers his very first day at CHRIST.

The excitement of going to college was amazing. The boy suddenly felt like he had moved on from strict rules that he experienced in his school atmosphere to the new college life and environment, which made him feel like there was a lot more freedom. The senior students used to sit on the side wall in a line starting from the gate to the basketball court, ready to pick on the new joiners. They asked the new joiners to do different things like take the Christ College student oath, etc. They felt that the college was actually getting stricter, there were more rules and there was less freedom. These were the early signs of the transformation and change college would go through!

There were many other highlights for this boy since joining CHRIST. Studying here was clearly one of the highlights in his life. Graduating with a BA in Psychology, Sociology and Economics and then with an MA in Sociology, has definitely served him well. The boy joined CHRIST not knowing how it was going to be, as it was a bit away from his home and he didn't know anyone. His father had finished his education in Joseph's and he had insisted repeatedly that he joined St. Joseph's and not Christ College. But the boy insisted on

joining CHRIST and eventually his father gave in and agreed. This was definitely one of the best decisions that this boy had made.

He didn't know anyone when he joined the college but by the time he graduated from PUC, BA and MA- he had made a truck load of friends. The college instilled in him a sense of confidence - drawing him out of his shell. It gave him an opportunity to meet new people. He learned interpersonal skills at Christ College and is forever indebted to the institute.

Today, it's nice to see that some areas of what was formerly part of Dharmaram Campus are now part of CHRIST. The college had one of the biggest libraries back then. Today there are two libraries on campus and I think they still continue to be the best in the city.

CHRIST is not just a college but a university today; and it has become one of the most recognised institutions in Bangalore and has also started to be recognised internationally. I am so proud to be a Christite through and through both as a student who studied here, and now being a part of the staff. It truly feels like I have come full circle in my own experience of CHRIST.

### **Samuel S George**

*Batch of 1989*

*Program Manager*

*Praveen Kenneth Leadership Chair*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*



The birth of the School of Architecture began with a conversation between Mr Dharogah and the former Vice Chancellor of CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Dr Fr Thomas C Mathew. Mr Dharogah, who had previously built two schools dedicated to architecture, expressed his zeal to do the same for CHRIST. On seeing his passion and clarity, Dr Fr Thomas C Mathew was very excited about this new prospect. Once everyone expressed their consensus, the idea became action!

The School of Architecture was not a part of the management's long term ideas or plans for the institution, but this just goes to show how a small conversation filled with enthusiasm and vision can result into a versatile and dynamic school that caters to a 200 number of budding architects.



# AURUS MEMOIRS

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## CREATIVITY NURTURED BY FLORAL ART

This is an award I received for bagging the highest number first prizes in Ikebana - Japanese Flower Arrangement (a total of 29 1st prize silver cups, 12 2nd prizes, 3 3rd prizes and 3 rolling trophies) during the August 1988 - Independence Day flower show held at Lalbagh, Bangalore.

The man behind making me learn this art is Dr Fr Thomas C Mathew, by providing me a part time job and some financial help to complete my Instructor Diploma from Ichiyo School of Ikebana, Japan.

**Kashinath Krishnaswamy**

*Centre for Publications  
CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*

## FROM REBEL TO LEADER

(Transcribed from the 50th Golden Jubilee Celebrations Inaugural Ceremony)



I consider myself privileged to have studied in such an honourable institution. 50 years in the life of an institution is a great milestone. It's almost two to three generations that have passed out of this college. I don't know how well people in the first batch can connect to the ones that have just passed out. CHRIST has evolved considerably and I recognise two distinct spans over the last 50 years.

I joined CHRIST in the year 1991 and prior to that, the college had already completed 22 years. Even during those days, CHRIST was one of the most sought after institutions in Bangalore. Although, I would say that it was for different reasons. If I were to simply state it, CHRIST may not have been a preferred institution for parents of kids back then. But I can tell you that the kids really wanted to be here for sure! It used to be one of the most happening places in Bangalore to have fun. Some of us who did not make it into college had plans to just sneak in during the Spring Fest. All the boys and girls around Bangalore just loved to be on campus during that one week of the Spring Fest as it was the best college fest in town.

Back then I would say that I was a 'societal misfit' and I had mastered the art of failing my PU Exams several times. Somehow I managed to pass and joined CHRIST along with a few of my friends. Know that the impression we all had in our head was that we were joining the college of 'Spring Fest'. But to our misfortune, Father Antony Kariyil and Finance Officer & Vice Principal, Father Thomas C Mathew had taken over the reigns to change the destiny of CHRIST. They had decided to

develop the college into a place that would be fun to be in, but at the same time, one of the most sought after institutions for higher education in the country. Our batch and few other batches that followed were ones to witness the transformational change.

Being a part of a bunch of misfits who joined CHRIST to just let go and have fun, we did try to go against the disciplinary regimes set by Father Kariyil and team. When they clamped down on the 'Spring Fest', we turned into rebels. Not saying that we were serious rebel. Back then, we were just 'wannabe' rebels with absolutely no grit! But we still tried. We cut classes and protested to bring back the old Spring Fest. Within two days, Father Kariyil and team ensured that we were broken down and brought to our knees.

Another chapter in the glorious evolution of CHRIST came to an end. Today, this institution has evolved into something that those of us from 90's could ever imagine. Although the management brought us to our knees, the kind of love and affection we received is something that endures till date. Those bonds we created are even stronger today. I am grateful to all the fathers and teachers who supported and molded me.

### **Krishna Byre Gowda**

*Batch of 1991*

*Minister for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Law, Justice  
Human Rights and Parliamentary Affairs.*

*Govt Of Karnataka*

## PIONEERS OF LEGACY



I graduated in 1994, the year Christ College (as it was then known) completed its silver anniversary and it is wonderful to see how the institution has thrived to complete a brilliant half century!

Looking back over these last 25 years, life as a Christite brings forth a flood of happy memories. Some of the elements that stood out for me include the outstanding leadership of Fr. Anthony Kariyil, ( Our Principal back then), and Fr. Thomas C Mathew, (who was the Bursar or head of finance and Vice Principal, and who later served as the Vice Chancellor of Christ University), the excellent and committed faculty members - many of whom continue at Christ to this day; the airy classrooms and excellent infrastructure including a wonderful 'green' campus, and, of course, the friendships that I made and the fun I managed to have!

In the late-80s and early 90s, the institution certainly didn't have the sterling reputation for excellence it enjoys today. Its credentials have been built painstakingly, step by step. It is remarkable to see how CHRIST has emerged as one of the country's top-ranking institutions.

I believe the visionary zeal of the Management and Staff have been solely responsible for the institution's stature today. Leaders like Fr. Kariyil and Fr. Mathew had the determination to single-mindedly take what were then seen as unpopular decisions (especially in areas like student discipline and decorum). Their pioneering approach reiterates the notion that it takes great guts to create a lasting legacy.



(Cultural Secretaries of Arts, Dramatics, Literary and Music Events 1994)

During my time there, the chance to represent the Christ Western Music team, AICUF, the choir, the cricket team and the NCC contingent were among some of my most treasured opportunities. Besides the faculty, I owe a great debt to my classmates as well as the many friends and acquaintances that I was fortunate to have. Their unique and interesting life-stories helped me gain exposure to varied perspectives and shape my own identity'. I will be eternally grateful to CHRIST for these precious memories.

### **Brian Carvalho**

*Bachelor of Commerce*

*1991 - 1994*

*Communications Consultant*

## STUDENT WELFARE OFFICE

*CHRIST's Unique Hub of Culture and Art*

CHRIST (Deemed to be University) is known for its academic proficiency and vibrant culture; A concept unique to CHRIST, today SWO stands tall with over 400 volunteers, 140 choir members, a Natyarpana team, 100+ Cultural Team members and the Quiz Association. But much to our surprise, it did start off with unions, student elected bodies. A transition from a student coordinated body to an organisation called Student Welfare Office took place in the years, 1994-1995. Krishnaswamy sir took the mantle as a faculty coordinator with support from many other faculties and established SWO, to be on its path to today.

The year after its inception, 1995- 1996, gave way to the initiation of DARPAN, a competition for a place in the Cultural Team. The CHRIST Cultural Team is one of the largest most sought after teams in the country, winning laurels everywhere they go. 2004-2005, saw the emergence of the University Choir, growing every year under various Choir Conductors, it's now a spectacle to witness. Magnificat and Sound Curry are two occasions that are dedicated to the celebration of music and a showcase of the Choir. 2006-2007, the Debating Society (DebSoc) was born in SWO and later branched out to the Law Department. Solely run by the students, the Debating Society is much revered across the country. The same year, the University Dance Team, Natyarpana was also set up.

In 2011, the University celebrated its first ever Dance Day, NRITTA that has established its place as a favourite amongst the Christites. At the same time, Christ University Quiz Association was started as a student initiative and the following year the association hosted one of the largest Quiz Championships India has ever witnessed.

The much awaited In-Bloom, had a predecessor, the Spring Fest. Commemorated in the Spring, post SWO, In-Bloom emerged as an avenue for students across the country to be on a quest and celebration of their inner talents. In 2010, in parallel to In-Bloom, Blossoms was organised to give every student of the University an opportunity to hunt their talent and showcase it. Making it compulsory, it became one of the most prominent, widely participated and most awaited event amongst the Christites.

Organising events of such a scale is no small task, but with the continued support and keen interest of the University management, we have achieved this feat. 2019 not only marks the 50 years of Christ (Deemed to be University), but also the 25th year of the Student Welfare Office. from the Inauguration ceremony followed by DARPAN, BLOSSOMS - In-Bloom, culminating with Convocation and everything in between, the Student Welfare Office with other Centres and Departments coordinates the various programmes and initiatives in the University.





# AURUS MEMOIRS

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## HATH MEIN PAISA MUH MEIN SAMOSA

The Kiosk began about 20 years ago but I've been here for 30. I used to work in the old Canteen for 10 years, the only canteen in CHRIST back then. It used to be where we have the Audi block now. They demolished the old canteen building years ago.

The buildings have come and gone like the students. We remember a face or two who regularly run in starving and ask for Rs. 10 credit. The best part is that we never know their names! They're like the samosas and honey buns that get sold out. They've been there since the beginning of Kiosk but each one is never the same.

-Thomas (Fondly referred to as Kiosk uncle)



## BREAKFAST ON CREDIT AND THE MANY LESSONS LEARNT



“You don’t choose what’s given to you in life, but you have all the power to choose, to make a great life with what’s been given to you”. Now I don’t remember which wise man said this. But the wise man was right - a lot is given to each one of us in this journey called life. The ones you like are called gifts, and the ones you didn’t expect are called surprises - and the surprises can be very good or not so very good. But it’s still given.

What makes the journey magical is the multitude of events it’s filled with. And the people and places, which take the central role in making these events. For me, my life journey and events started unraveling in 1986. The day I walked in through the gates of Christ College as a 16 years old student.

Today, almost 33 years later, the contribution of the people and the place called Christ College, has no doubt remained a hallmark in helping me become the person I am today.

The people, which included the priests, the respected Fathers and the lecturers. People which included my seniors in college, and my fellow classmates. And not to forget the staff in the old canteen, and the old canteen manager, who gave all the students a long lease of credit for the morning

breakfast, which he used to so happily serve, knowing very well that the possibility of it getting repaid was bleak.

I learnt a lot from this place - in the beautiful campus called Christ College. I learnt the good and the bad- and the understanding to differentiate them. I learnt about the joy of enduring friendships. I learnt the incredible art of managing people. I learnt patience and the essence of temperament. I learnt resilience. I learnt the pain of failure and the joy of growth. Most important of all the lessons, I learnt the power of possibilities - The incredible power to choose, to make a great life of what ever gets thrown at you.

Today, as this incredible institution celebrates its 50th year of commemoration, I can only join the celebration with much gratitude, joy and fondness - for the place that it holds in my heart , the lessons learnt, and for bringing people who have played an amazing role in my life and continue to do so.

Many congratulations and God speed.

### **Praveen Kenneth**

*Founder, Law & Kenneth Worldwide*

*Founder/Chairman Elohim & Kenneth Ventures Pvt. Ltd.*

## THE PLATFORM TO BUILD METTLE



I remember standing in front of a mirror in school, saying to myself, “I’m a strong, confident person” and not believing it one bit. I was passed over for all extra curricular activities and this largely fueled my insecurities.

Cut to 2001... I was intimidated by the campus, the number of students, the future looming in front of me...would be an understatement; but I decided to put my best foot forward, little knowing that Christ College would be right there with me every step of the way. Over 3 years, I saw myself metamorph. Christ College offered me opportunities, a platform, a voice- an identity.

From class rep to association secretary, I took part in association activities inside of college and represented Christ College in other inter collegiate events. I watched myself grow more sure of my footing. It helped immensely that my lectures saw and nurtured this potential that was waiting to be given a chance.

I’m forever indebted to Mrs. Swarnalata Iyer, Fr. Paulson, Dr. Priya Dasgupta, Mr. Randolph, the Late Mr. Oommen Mathew and the wonderful bunch of people I was honoured to be batchmates with.

People look back and say they have fond memories. It’s a little different for me, I don’t just have memories; I have experiences, lessons, friendships, stories....

Today, head held high, I KNOW, I’m a strong, confident, successful woman.

### **Sangeetha Sekar**

*BA in Psychology, Sociology, English*

*2001 - 2004*

*Master of Business Administration: HR*

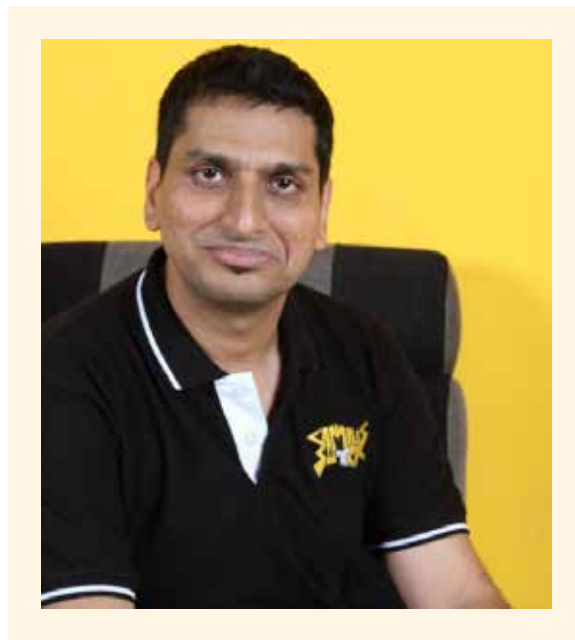
*2005 - 2007*

*Sr Manager,*

*Project & Delivery Excellence,*

*Concentrix*

## CHRIST TO CAMPUS SUTRA



I am a proud Christite and looking back, I can see that my college years proved to be an ideal porters ground to build up my career as an entrepreneur. Even though it's been 15 years since I graduated, there are a couple of values and life lessons that I picked up from CHRIST and I still hold them very close to my heart :

**Ability to Multi-task:** CHRIST gave me the opportunity to engage in a number of activities, simultaneously! The numerous projects we had to work on meant that one had to always think ahead , juggle various items and cannot let the ball drop.

**Working with People:** The crowd at CHRIST was very diverse in terms of economic background, religious beliefs etc. In order to thrive, it was important to be able to get along with an array of people. Being an entrepreneur, I had to practise this skill as I need to work with people across all levels.

**Scaling Leadership and Excellence:** It was amazing to observe how the management of CHRIST maintained a good grasp of things and managed to scale leadership and excellence across campuses. In the venture that I run now, the ability to deliver operational excellence and quality in every single unit of merchandise is imperative and it's definitely something that I learnt to appreciate from my time at CHRIST

I am delighted to see the strides that CHRIST has taken and my congratulations and best wishes to the management, staff and students of this great institution.

### **Dhiraj Agarwal**

*Bachelor of Business Management  
Graduated in 2004  
CEO, Campus Sutra*

## PERSISTENCE, PATIENCE AND POWER



I remember when I first decided to pursue journalism, I had applied for different engineering entrance exams across Karnataka. I had also written the Common Entrance Test. My parents are both engineers thus they wanted me to pursue the same as well but I put my foot down and told them that Journalism is what I wanted to pursue. CHRIST was automatically the first choice but it wasn't easy getting into CHRIST. I really had to struggle to get a seat and I am really proud of that struggle.

I remember coming to college and this was just when applications were submitted and the first list was going to be out. I had become a little late to submit the application form; the admissions had closed at this point. Admissions were not being given to anyone; anymore. I had to convince Father Principal to get the admission. I stood outside Principal Rev Fr Thomas' room for several hours a day. I came to college for a week to try and meet Father Principal, to tell him that I was a Science student who wanted to pursue Journalism. Finally one day Father decided to meet me. Father asked me several questions like What my name was, Where was I from and why I wanted to pursue journalism?? I told him I wanted to pursue journalism because that's the only thing I know. I also told him that I am a good communicator, I love the news and that I want

to be a journalist. Father said that nobody can be sure if I'll leave the college to go and pursue science after getting an admission in any engineering colleges. He told me to come back in a week.

Father actually made me wait till all the entrance exam results were out. After this I went to meet him again. Father was not convinced; he wanted to find a reason as to why I should get a chance to study in Christ University. I still remember, Father made me write a test. Father asked what I could write? I told him that I am good at Mad Ads. I remember writing a script sitting on the floor in front of Father's office. When I gave it to Father, he just took a glance and he tore it apart. He told me that he couldn't read my handwriting. I sat down again on the floor and rewrote the entire script again in better handwriting. He then called the Cul Team Incharge from the third floor of the old block. She looked at the script and told Father that the script was good enough. Only after this did I get seat at CHRIST!

It has been nearly 12 to 13 years since I started to work as a journalist. I started off as a reporter, then I stated anchoring at the age of 23. Then I went to Mumbai, and 10 years after that I came on national television and 10 more years from there I am the editor of a news channel in Mumbai. I take



pride in telling people that I am from Bangalore and that I studied at CHRIST. I tell people back in Mumbai that CHRIST especially is a great university and we also have hired a lot of students from CHRIST who have become our assets in the past 10 years.

I am very grateful to Naresh Rao Sir, he has been very patient with me. We were a batch of 59 to 60 JPEng students. The three of us - Malik, Nibin and I were close friends. From first to the last year, we would sit at the last bench. We would sleep through all the classes either because we were up the previous night or in my case, tired since I had started stage working. For three years Naresh sir would see us sleeping but never said a word. Just before we passed out, Naresh sir pursued us for the projects to be submitted as we had not submitted any project on time.

These are not things that I am proud of but these are some lessons that have taught me how it is really important to be punctual. I believe CHRIST has played an important role for me in my life when it comes to recognizing these values.

**Niranjan Narayanaswamy.**

*BA in Journalism, Psychology, English 2004 - 2007*  
*Editor, Republic TV*



On an early morning walk in the Dharmaram Campus, on 3rd October, 2017, Dr Shaji Varghese, Associate Professor of the Department of English saw a fallen coconut leaf, from which he saw a single leaflet stick out like a straw. This sight led to the invention of Leafy Straws.

Leafy Straws also known as Blessings Palm, the biodegradable coconut straws made by the students and Dr Saji Varghese, are quickly making a mark all over the world.

They have received a patent for their invention.

The team has presented their invention at many domestic and global forums where they have received many accolades. Orders for Leafy Straws have been flooding in, 10 crore straws to be precise from many global markets. They send nearly 30, 000 straws per month to The United States, Canada, Germany, Australia etc.



**AURUS  
MEMOIRS**

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## METAMORPHOSIS

Such was the feeling when I first stepped into the campus. The beautiful canopy of trees seemed to lead me to the place where my life and I were to transform forever. The invisible energy flowing through the air instantly elevated my spirits and I walked on...

The transitional phases of our life are always challenging and demanding. I was amidst one, moving to a new city, just a few months into marriage, apprehensions were many.

However, I was determined to give it a try. With random thoughts crossing my mind, I finally reached my department, Christ College of Education. I wasn't sure if it was my destination or the beginning of my journey but a voice within me said that it would be the place where my metamorphosis would begin.

Our department, at that point in time, was still in its infancy, my batch was just the second. Nevertheless, there seemed a great desire in both teaching and non-teaching staff to motivate and enlighten us in their own unique styles. A decision was made. I was going to give it my best shot. Throughout our course, our teachers ensured that we never had a dull moment. Academics and co-curriculars went hand in hand. Rushing to college, the lectures, submissions, practicals, library references, cafeteria, extra-curricular

activities, etc., they all had their own charm. Leading my team

for teaching practice at Mary Immaculate School, Wilson Garden prepared me for the professional path ahead. We gained a lot of hands on experience which enriched us. Our first outing was the community living camp at Kengeri. It gave us a valuable insight into the life and challenges of rural India. The rural landscape gave us many picturesque memories. Cooking in mud ovens, evenings by the pond, friendly fights over who occupies which level of the bunk beds... everything etched a memory. Our college offered many programmes which were unique.

One of the most enriching experiences was Theatre-in-education (TIE). We learnt how principles of dramatics could be used to better our teaching. At the end of the course, we performed at 'Darpan' - the intercollegiate play competition. Our play 'Distorted Desires' was woven around the theme of betrayal in friendship. I gained valuable experience as Art and Stage Director. The icing on the cake was winning the 'Best Poster Award' for the poster that I designed for the play.

Having won most of the competitions I was awarded the 'Kalapratibha' award at the cultural fest and made my team

proud. One day, as I emerged happily chatting with my friends from the cafeteria, one of my teachers called me with a grave expression on his face. He just told me "Exam results are displayed in the department. What have you done?" And even before I could ask anything more, he walked away. I was fearing the worst. I had always done well academically so far but now my heart was in my mouth. My friends consoled me and dragged me to the department. Once there, I mustered up the courage and started looking for my name from the bottom which ended at the top! Congratulations and celebrations followed. In the second semester I bettered myself and managed to get the 5th rank in the Bangalore University. It was a great feeling to be awarded the 'Best Student Teacher' award by my department and also being felicitated by the Alumni association.

I honestly feel that I could achieve this because my attitude and aptitude were in line with the course and Christ College of Education proved to be the ideal nurturing ground for me, which provided for a truly 'holistic education'.

### **Jolly Nandi**

*School of Education*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*

*Class of 2006- 2007*



Justice Micheal Francis Saldanha, an Indian judge and the former Justice of the High Court of Karnataka while conversing with former Vice Chancellor, Dr Fr Thomas C Mathew, propagated the idea to begin a School of Law as one of the programs offered by CHRIST (Deemed to be University). The confidence and voracity in the conversation, gave impetus to the beginning of the School of Law.

CHRIST (Deemed to be University) is the first Catholic institution to begin a Law School in India.



# AURUS MEMOIRS

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## SECOND INNINGS



I was a student from the first batch (2006-07) of Bachelor's of Education Programme offered by the College of Education, which was affiliated to Bangalore University.

I was awarded the 'Best Student of the Year' Award and given a certificate of 'Topper of the Class-Academics'.

I was 40-year-old, mother of two, when I took up this regular programme. I was called the 'Mummy' of the class and was the student representative of the batch. Its 12 years since I did my B.Ed, in these 12 years I have completed my regular Masters of Education (M.Ed), Master of Art in Sociology (distance), Masters of Philosophy in Education (M.Phil) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Education. Working for the last 10 years in the School of Education as a Teacher Educator. Present designation is Assistant Professor.

I call this phase the 'Second Inning' of my educational career. I am enjoying this phase of my life. I've been able to accomplish much in terms of research presentations and publications (updated in the faculty profile). I have grown with the department of Education from its inception. I started teaching at the School of Education from the third

batch of students. I was employed immediately after my Master's degree completion.

A big thank you to CHRIST (deemed to be University) for what I am today.

"An understanding heart is everything in a teacher,  
And cannot be esteemed highly enough.  
One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers,  
But with gratitude to those who touched our human  
feelings.  
The curriculum is so much raw material,  
But warmth is the vital element for the growing plant.  
And for the soul of a child."

I love and leave you with a quote from the bible,

"Whatever you have learnt or received or heard or seen,  
put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."  
Philippians 4:9

**Jacqueline Kareem, PhD**

*Assistant Professor*

*School of Education*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*

## SUGAR, SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE

I completed my Bachelors in Hotel Management from the batch 2008 - 2012. My heart's desire ever since I was a kid was to work in an industry where I could interact with a lot of people and leave a smile on their faces. That's when I was sure that I needed to pursue a profession in the field of Hotel Management. Right after completing I finished my pre university studies, I knew that I had to get into one of the best colleges in the country that offered the course. I'm grateful even today about the fact that I got to study at such a prestigious institution. The best word to describe my journey through those 4 years will be nothing but 'excellent'! We had a department that went an extra mile to provide holistic education. We received ample opportunities to develop our personalities and I would say, they truly to set an example for 'mentorship'.

During my final year, when had to proceed to specialising, I chose to specialise in 'Pastries'. I owe this to the faculty members who motivated and taught me to keep moving forward. After my Bachelors, I went on to working with ITC Hotels in their management trainee program for 5 years



as Junior Sous Chef in the Department of Pastry. Currently I teach at the Academy of Pastry Arts which has his centres in 4- 5 cities in Bangalore. I'm back in the teaching field and everyday I recall the days where I was taught. I think about the values and the time that was invested into me to bring out the best in me. I still practise what I witnessed during my time at CHRIST. Although life opens several doors before us, getting the right kind of guidance is quiet rare and that's what I recieved at CHRIST. I am eternally grateful to all my fellow peers and faculty for helping me become what I am today.

### **Michelle Karen Peris**

*Bachelor of Hotel Management*

*2008 - 2012*

*Pastry Chef*

*Academy of Pastry Arts India*



CHRIST (Deemed to be University) is unique for being the first Liberal Arts College to become a Deemed to be University.

It is also the biggest Liberal Arts university in the country which houses the largest number of students in Psychology, English and Sociology. An admirable feat for any institution.

It is also the first Catholic university that is still run by a religious congregation.



# AURUS MEMOIRS

CHRIST BOOK OF MEMORIES  
1969-2019

## LOSING OUT FOR THE REASONS; STANDING OUT ALL SEASONS!

Reminiscences of my past,  
Reverence that shall last

All that I am today,  
All that I have been day to day

All that I ever shall be,  
Gathering the courage to be

I think of you oh! My Alma Mater  
Life was handed to me not on a platter  
Oh! My Alma Mater

For all that I lost,  
I know not what I lost  
Thanking you for all that I lost,

Here I am with gratitude,  
For bestowing me with the right fortitude

**Losing out for the reasons,  
Standing out all seasons!**

The lesson I learnt from these gates of wisdom  
The golden pages of books that taught me seldom!

The message in this world, I strive to reach,  
With hope that you still teach

Just as the water in the river,  
Embracing landscapes without a quiver

Destined to reach the ocean  
Dutifully immersed in nature's mission,

The morning sun's rays shining through the clouds  
The farmer with dawn in pursuit, still ploughs

The dry leaves for the evergreen after rain  
The fragrance of the Myrtle in pain

Though crushed yet selfless in design  
The lesson that I strive to learn alas! in vain,

I appeared before you with all my possession,  
Perched on my ignorant countenance with obsession

Oh! My Alma Mater, when it did truly matter  
You by example withered, chiseled my chatter,

Surrendering for posterity my fallible being  
This campus that made me a true living being

Success and glory was my target  
Patience and focus you filled in my basket!

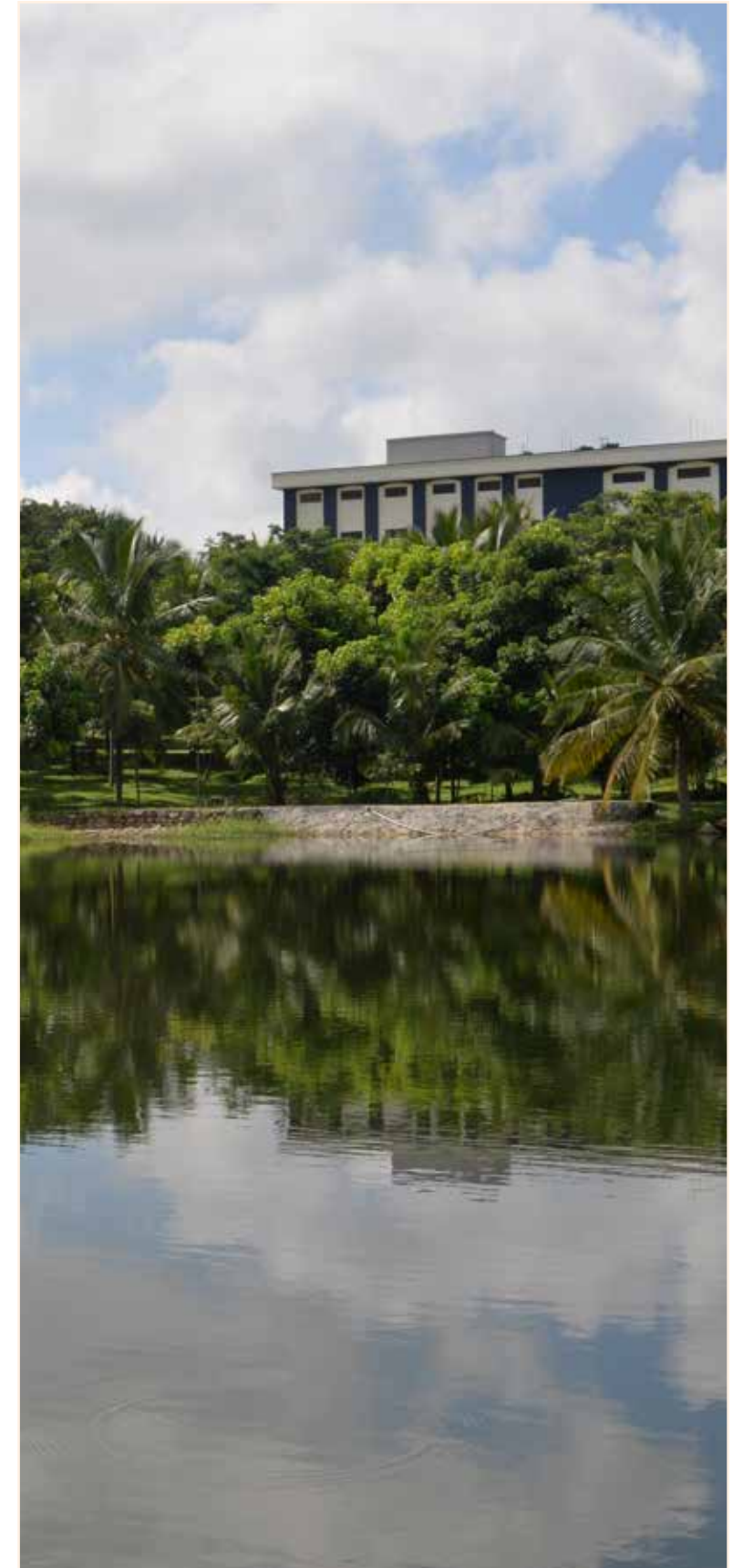
Through failure how well you taught me, that setback is  
part of the setup  
Setup from being knocked down, only to soon getup!

Getting up to walk not feeling sorry  
Walking ahead with all glory

Glory to humble myself  
Knowing finally my true self

**Standing out all seasons;  
May you stand out all seasons!**

**Jossy Peter Muttath**  
*Christ College (1983-88)*



## RESPECT FOR REGIONAL ETHOS



I still remember my first day at CHRIST on June 6, 2006: how I entered the University for PSEco. Not knowing how to speak in English, standing outside the class to see if any Kannada speaking guy was in the class and entering once I found someone who looked like a guy from Bangalore. I didn't know a single person in CHRIST and I felt pathetic. On the 8th day of college, I went back home complaining "I can't study in this college anymore." My aunt replied, "Your father has paid 8,000 rupees as fees and he has to struggle for another 4 months to earn that amount." It was then that I decided to stop pursuing acting and dance. I decided to solely focus on studies and getting good marks.

One day in class, my Kannada teacher asked us to participate in Yakshagana and none of us agreed to participate. That is when she told us that if you're studying in CHRIST and someone asks you what you do there, don't just say we study and pass. She said Christ is a place for you to grow holistically and develop your skills in any area of interest you have. Thus, I agreed to participate in Yakshagana. That was definitely a turning point for my life at CHRIST. I met my best friend Prabhath Bhat, who changed me as a person and motivated me in every way possible. I also joined SWO as a student volunteer.

The management at CHRIST noticed me and my keen interest in Kannada Sangha and SWO. They motivated me to do a lot more activities. We were one of the first batches to restart a theatre group called LYTE 11 Theatre Group

representing CHRIST in various state and national level fests and bagging several trophies. Fr Varghese, the then Chief Finance Officer and Fr Thomas C Mathew, who used to be our beloved VC, the Principal encouraged me and kept me in the forefront of every event thereafter. Urmi Ma'am, the then SWO co-ordinator, made me the Overall Head of SWO and the Student Representative of CHRIST even before the concept of the Student Council started. CHRIST transformed my life in a way where I entered not knowing how to speak a sentence in English to organising various events and addressing thousands of people.

I am very happy that I belonged to the Batch of 2006-11, the batch that observed and enjoyed the tremendous changes in the Institution. Ours was the first batch to step into one of the best auditoriums, first batch to organise and be part of Yakshagana, Bhasha Utsav, Blossoms, Magnificat, Nritta, etc. The appreciation and love I have for CHRIST has grown over the years with the experiences in and out of the University. For all that CHRIST has inspired me to be, I am determined to stay back and do the same for future generations

### **Purananda Bhaskar G**

*BA in Psychology, Sociology, Economics*

*2006 -2011*

*Coordinator*

*Student Welfare Office*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*

## WALKING THE WHEEL OF TIME



Driving down the deserted streets of Bangalore, his excited family leaning out of every available window, my father in his Ambassador accelerated from his sedate speed of 20 kms/hour to a reckless 30... 'we're leaving the city, folks!' he announced, to our delight.

"On the left, the dairy...see those cows...?" my father's voice with the grandeur of a circus barker... "And on the right...the famous Dharmaram chapel...and we are on the highway... children, sit back...we're gonna speed up now..." and the old Ambassador rocked faster in its effort to 'speed up' its journey out of Bangalore and onward past Hosur to the hamlet of Krishnagiri.

Thirty years later, rattling over potholes, winding our way between trucks, cars, buses, fallen trees, errant cows, stern police men and death defying bikers, I found myself entering these gates, no longer a landmark on the highway but almost in the heart of the city. While Dairy circle is almost unrecognisable, the Dharmaram chapel remains serene and unflinching, the eye of the storm that is Bangalore today.

What was once the end of the city, lies at the heart of it. And what was once a fleeting glance to a child driving past to her grandmother's house in Krishnagiri, now is her veritable home.

Whenever I pause at our University gates, I'm struck by this memory... and I wonder how many more unfamiliar places

will one day become home...as CHRIST has to me now. I say home not sentimentally. I have spent most of my waking hours here. I have become who I am, here. I have shed all pretences and been myself here, for better, for worse. Every morning as I enter these gates, I leave behind all the roles foisted on me by this world and become what I have chosen to be. I square my shoulders and plunge in, with some knowledge of things to expect and a lot of excitement for all that is beyond my anticipation. For that is a constant here- to expect the unexpected.

You ask me, aren't you bored? I look at you incredulously... bored? How? Who knows where every path will lead, what every discussion will reveal, what every class will challenge? I'll never really know. And just when you think you know it all, something disrupts your smugness and it's a fresh start. Like gazing through a kaleidoscope, no two days ever alike, no two people ever the same, no two tasks ever, ever the same.

*I have laughed here...*

At a colleague trying his best to articulate a thought but his rich baritone being constantly interrupted by a shrill, scolding squirrel determined to outdo his lecture from the dense foliage outside the window

At a line of turkeys, following, in grave procession, one of the maintenance ladies as she marched ahead of them, her broom jutting out from under her arm like tail feathers, so she resembled a turkey herself



# AURUS MEMOIRS

CHRIST BOOK OF MEMORIES  
1969-2019

At students desperately hiding their misdemeanour like I've forgotten what it is to be young and foolish, at the outrageous excuses for incomplete assignments, the pretentious poetry, the spaced out gaze of the daydreamer in a 2pm class, the rebel without a cause, the earnest but unintelligent ideology that is being formed ... after all, that was me not so long ago!

At my stern colleagues and even sterner Deans, as they struggle to hide their exasperated laughter at some teenage act of defiance! At our struggles to inspire indifferent youngsters and being grateful we haven't inflicted any bodily harm or permanent damage on their restless souls. That has become my mantra these days!

### *I have wept...*

With the broken-hearted, knowing he's never coming back or that she was too naïve.  
For the homesick, tired pair of eyes which gaze at me from the back of a classroom, late again to this hour.  
In irritation at that headstrong one who will be as difficult as he can yet panic when he hears the word 85%.  
With the girl I've never met before, who allowed me to hug her as she fought back tears outside the sickroom. She had a twisted ankle and her parents were far away, and though she was a Master's student, she was a little girl missing her mother.

For my young colleague who nurses his sick wife, makes inexpert dosas for his hungry, clamouring toddlers,

struggles to complete his research and wearily corrects a pile of projects. Lord have mercy!

For my other colleague as she juggles the care of an ailing parent and deadlines and research and edits manuscripts while finding time to comfort me and my woes and giggle over tea at someone's pompous, blundering foolishness.

### *I have fought...*

For honesty and rationality to prevail...  
To be objective.  
To be critical yet non-judgemental.  
To speak up for those who cannot, and not despise those who won't.

### *I have discovered...*

That there is no hero or villain, just people in search of themselves.  
That a noisy street play, a flash mob and soulful choir are as precious as a library full of books.  
A philosopher and an aesthete in a gardener who slaves over his pots and plants and lawns just so a class doesn't graduate without being surrounded by hosts of blooms.

That the lady who cleans my cabin has taught me richer lessons in feminism as we share a quick snack and tidbit of gossip and as she firmly advises me against getting another ear piercing!

That a rat in your bookshelf is worth two in hand ...

shudder...as we united in pursuit of a family of rats... priests, professors and techies, defeated by a band of rats that refused to vacate my bookshelf...screams, squeals and cheers ...and the humbling knowledge that Disney lied. Rats aren't cute.

### *I have watched in satisfaction...*

Generations of Christites marching on, proud parents beaming, a thousand selfies later, a mumbled thanks, a tearful hug and the flutter of robes.  
...the moment of epiphany when a youngster discovers the beauty of poetry.  
Or when an old timer looks at you anew and discovers you're not so bad after all.  
When a semester long battle of wits culminates in a moment of honest understanding.  
When the stammering teenager or haughty young debater mellows into an affectionate buddy.

### *And there are days...*

When I enter my cabin earlier than usual and the corridor light filters through the bars.  
And I smile in sheer joy.

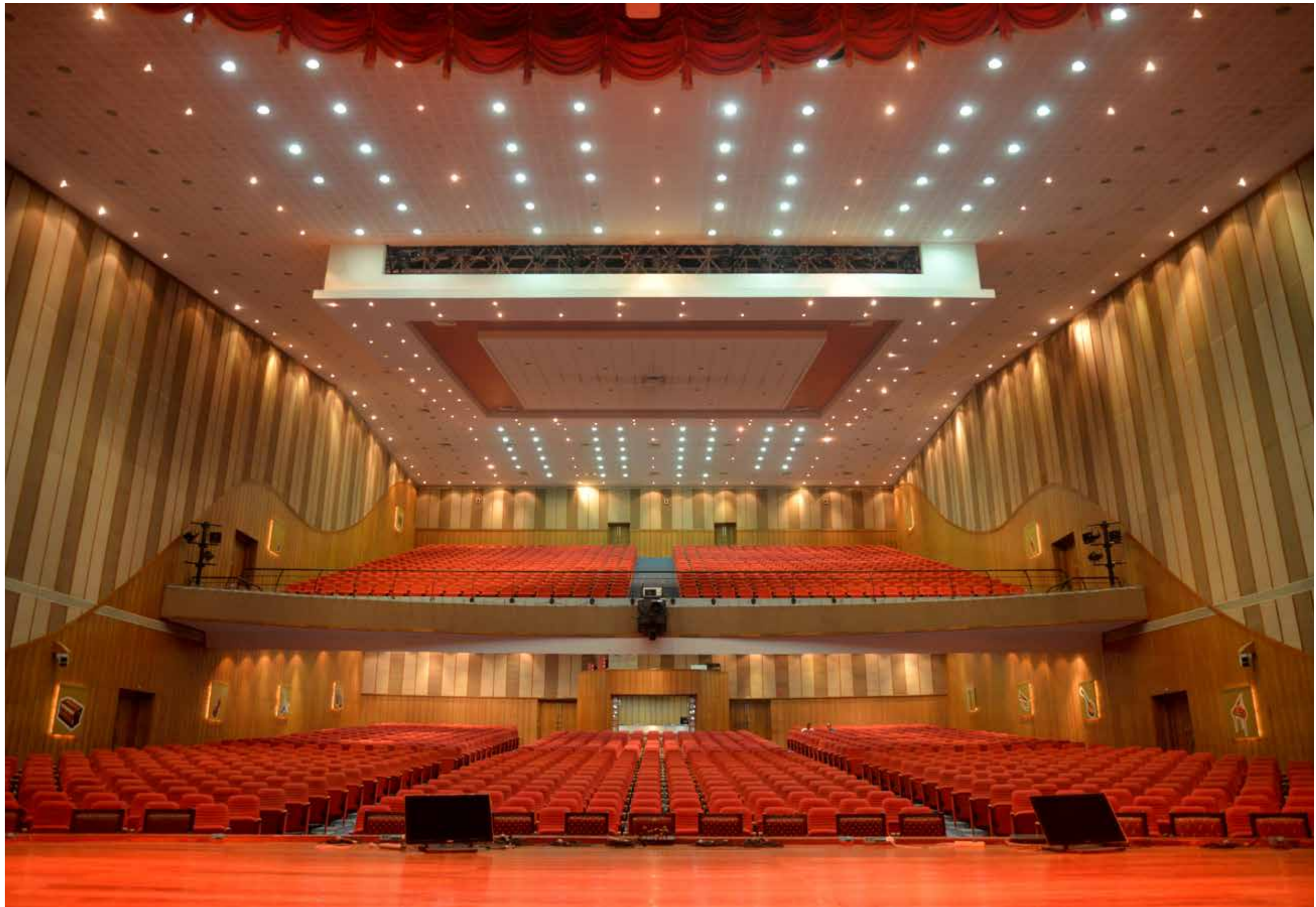
That this huge and whirling human dynamo of a University exists and I am part of it, even if infinitesimally so.

### **Shobana Mathews, PhD**

*Associate Professor*

*Dept of English*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*





## THE DREAMS BAND

The DREAMS project which is an acronym for Desire, Readiness, Empowerment, Action and Mastery for success is part of the 'Let Us Dream' voluntary service-learning movement. The team (band) strives towards making a positive difference in the community by utilizing their musical skills. Apart from coming together as musicians, they also impart training on teamwork, leadership, organizational communication, and social entrepreneurial skills.

They are a band with a meaning and greater goals for the benefit of the society. The aim of the project is to help motivate and develop underserved middle school students, by teaching them music and training them on leadership

and other social skills.

In the past year, the DREAMS band has accomplished much by performing at several campuses, as well as schools, in order to lift the spirits of all watching. Every DREAMS chapter has got a one of a kind Dreams Band which complements the project and showcases the connect of music with confidence and talent building.

DREAMS band is not only to sing and motivate the audience toward harmony and teach humanity as one family, but also uses music as a platform to empower communities and make music of their own, which can empower children and youth holistically. The DREAMS bands in different locations

usually practices every Sunday afternoon.

Today, after 20 years, the band has evolved into an international movement for empowering youth called, "LET US DREAM." It is an invitation for everyone to be a part of something greater than themselves which empowers youth to develop psycho-social and leadership skills for their holistic success in life. The journey of this vision further expands in different cities and villages in Bangalore and Kerala.

*DREAMS band is an initiative of Fr. Lijo,  
CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*

## FAT ROCK

All The Fat Children is a band of 3 former students from CHRIST (Deemed to be University). Formed in June 2008, Eben (guitars / lead vocals), Vickram (Bass / backing vocals) and Santosh, their drummer at the time, played their first ever show at the intra-college festival Darpan in 2008. They secured the second place at the competition. Eben was looking around for like-minded musicians to form a rock group. He found Vickram through a mutual friend and managed to convince Vickram to join after treating him to a bit of food and beverage from the Food Court. The original drummer Jerry, had rehearsed with the band sparsely and did not last long, so Eben had to find a drummer to take his place. Eben had gone to another college to watch a band performing. He met Santosh in the urinal during a break. He spoke with Santosh and laid out the vision to him. Not long after, Santosh joined the group, learning all the songs in a short span of time and played their very first show with them.

All the band members were a part of the CHRIST (Deemed to be University) choir and had their foundational training in singing by spending time rehearsing and performing with the choir. They continued to perform in many college competitions, winning many, and a few professional shows

between 2008 to 2010. It was through the experiences with the choir and balancing college, as well as external shows, that the band members came to understand the nuances and facets of the music industry. All the band members learned to become adept at business, marketing, branding, learning everything they could during their time at Christ. Being in a comfortable environment, cloistered in the backdrop of an educational institution, it was a safe space with which to operate. However, this was not without its own trial and tribulations. All the band members also managed to balance their studies (without even one backlog) alongside rehearsing and performing for their shows. In fact, two of the band members took up more responsibilities, such as Eben being the student cultural coordinator and Vickram was selected into the very first batch of the Psychology Honours degree. The band decided to take their first steps outside the college circuit around late 2009, taking this further in late 2010.

Santosh, the first drummer, had graduated 2010, leaving a huge role to be filled. Auditions were held and Sachin Savio Dane (also a Christite) was chosen to take up drummer duties, playing his first show with All The Fat Children at Darpan in 2010. Coincidentally, Eben also met Sachin at a

urinal and convinced him to audition. Sachin had learned his craft from John Thomas, founder and drummer of Motherjane. Sachin additionally served as their manager for some time as well. It was from 2010 that All The Fat Children had started taking on more shows outside the college music circuit. These shows helped to earn the band an income to help record and release song material composed over the years from 2008.

Having been Christites for over 3 years, the time had come to graduate and the band played the very last set of college competitions and shows in late 2010, phasing out of competitions (having won over 30+ competitions by this time) and moving into the industry itself through shows that brought in more income. Around early 2011, the band members were also involved (spearheaded by Vineeth Vincent) in creating a Guinness World Record and Limca Book of Record for largest Beatbox ensemble of 1246 beatboxing participants. Later that year, the band was also the opening act for Motherjane and Pentagram at St. John's Autumn Muse festival.

### All The Fat Children



In a bid to enter the Limca Book of Records during the year 2011 for the largest beatbox ensemble, 2700 heads bobbed in unison and enthusiasm. The staff and students of CHRIST (Deemed to be University) gathered at the institution's Main Auditorium for the glam event named 'Can you say Beatbox'?

The audience was divided into four groups, each headed by a beatboxer making a different sound into their respective microphones. After a couple of false starts and practise trial runs, their final effort clocked in at over 4 minutes, nearly a minute more than their original target.

This successful effort set a national record which beat the Guinness World Record of Largest Human Beatbox Ensemble set by 327 participants from Vienna in 2009.



# AURUS MEMOIRS

CHRIST BOOK OF MEMORIES  
1969-2019

## CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT OPTIMISING LEARNING AND HARNESSING EXPERTISE

CAPS - Centre for Academic and Professional Support focusses on providing Academic and Professional skill development to students. Through academic skills development, we assist students in areas of English proficiency, Research paper writing, Statement of Purpose crafting, academic writing etc. With professional skills development, we make them job ready by strengthening their job interview skills, professional conduct, Resume writing etc. CAPS Services are offered via various modalities such as peer training, one-to-one coaching, e-learning modules and psychometric assessments through its 5 wings and committees. Students sign up to CAPS to be a catalyst for fellow Christites and make a difference within the CHRIST community, acquire proficiency in skills beyond curriculum, master the art of professional communication and gain research writing skills.

With a peer mentoring model in mind, the Centre for Academic and Professional Support was set up in 2015 with a 3 mentor team and 20 student volunteers. With 190 outreach sessions, we were able to reach out to 3456 beneficiaries in Year 1. The structure of CAPS has evolved from its inception till date with its outreach activities and

functionalities being constantly refined. Today with the help of mentors and advisory faculty, we have grown to 270 volunteers across 3 campuses - Main, Bannerghata and Kengeri. Our outreach sessions have benefitted 40,000+ beneficiaries until now. We constantly strive to find fresher challenges and newer areas to lend support in.

Students are very likely to face challenges when they move out of college, such as competitive recruitment requirements, demand for excellent soft skills, stringent foreign admission procedures and demand for research and publication. They can be more equipped to face these challenges if they begin preparing before hand and that's where CAPS steps in. Our mission is to provide a platform for the entire university for sharing knowledge and expertise. Our vision is to set a benchmark within the global academic circles by providing academic and professional solutions through in-house and external experts. We also assist teaching faculty and non teaching staff in any need areas that they might have.

CAPS doesn't just provide services. We empower the student community to become service providers.



## ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL MODE ON



As a student at CHRIST (Deemed to be University), I was exposed to a multitude of opportunities and avenues to hone my skills. CHRIST has always believed in developing each and every student so that he or she can achieve their full potential. The institution has firm thoughts on building not just the academic rigour in the student but also preparing a student to successfully meet the demands of a professional life. Being a student for 6 years and completing 2 Undergraduate programs and 1 Postgraduate program, I have seen the difference in me from the day I stepped in to the day I left this institution. Actually I haven't really left as I am now working with CAPS.

I see that CHRIST heavily invests in developing avenues to cater to needs of students and faculty.

The Centre for Academic and Professional Support was an initiative of CHRIST (Deemed to be University) to bridge the gap between knowledge and learning. As a mentor at Centre for Academic and Professional Support, I am able to provide the CHRIST community with help and expertise to meet global education standards. CAPS is one of the centers that transforms the thoughts of the institution into action.

This progressive thought and ideation has seen multiple Christities succeed. A Christite that is able to confidently go out there and literally change the world.

Optimising learning and harnessing expertise is the motto of CAPS and it stems from the root values of CHRIST. These root values ensure that a Christite wherever he or she is aims for excellence, serves wholeheartedly and learns 24/7.

March on Christite ...march on!

### **Namrata D'Souza**

*BCom in Travel and Tourism*

*Bachelor of Education*

*MSc in Counselling Psychology*

*2009-2015*

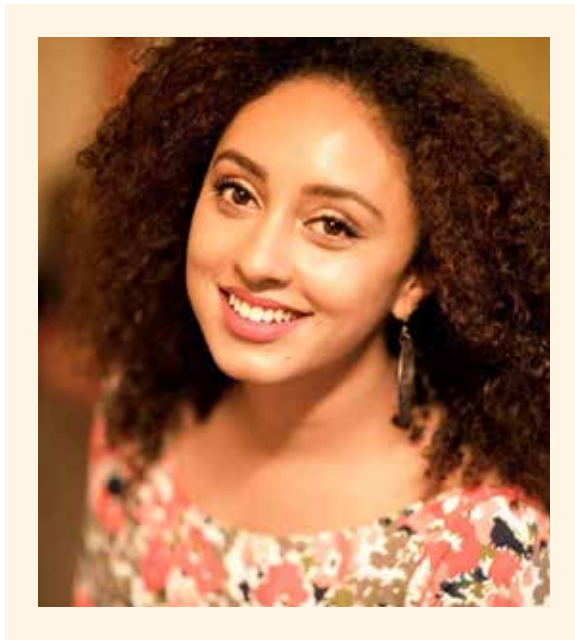
*Mentor*

*Centre for Academic and Professional Support*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*



## EXPLORING CREATIVITY



I studied Media Studies here in CHRIST. I've a lot of good and amazing memories in CHRIST. One of them would be the Food Court. Every time there was a break or every time our friends would want to hang-out, we would go to the Food Court and every time we went there, there would be someone performing or someone sitting there with a guitar or singing. There was a lot of time for us to explore our creative space and was not just about the textbooks for me, at least. So, I used to really explore the talents within me. It could be singing or dancing. The first 2 years I had this group called Shradha and we used to dance for Darpan. My team and I would practice all night, all day and I picked girls from my hostel so that we could practice together. That is one of my fondest memories that I have of CHRIST.

Another one is that they always bought amazing speakers to college to have sessions with us. This really made us feel that even we can do it and it really helped us understand the field we were getting into from their perspectives. We were really guided through the whole process.

3 years, it looked like a very short period of time for me because time just flew by and every day was so eventful. There were so many cultural events happening and the

campus itself is a beautiful place. It was so soothing to sit in the campus and be around the campus. Even after the classes got over, I would be inside the campus, even if it had to be me sitting alone and even if I had to write a project I would choose to be in the campus and do that because it is just so green, lush and so beautiful.

The students there were all so helpful. It is such a beautiful culture within the campus. The teachers are so friendly and so helpful. The teachers make you feel they can really help you and they really do that and the teachers, by the end of the year, become like your family. Also, I could say that I had my first camera when I was in CHRIST where I used to use my friends. They were all my muses. I used to be behind them clicking pictures. I used to even go around the campus clicking pictures because the campus was so beautiful. It is actually part of the album I have. I still have a huge album on Facebook. The funny thing is, since I was the photographer none of the pictures have me in it. Only few have me in it. Everything else is my classmates and classrooms.

### **Pearle Maaney**

*BA in Communication and Media, English and Psychology  
Actress*

## LESSONS FOR A LIFETIME



My relationship with CHRIST was an 8 year long one. It's the place I got in, as a young boy to join PUC. Post my PUC, I finished my Bachelors and Masters at the very same campus.

The institution for me is more than just its buildings. It's the teachers I met there, the friends I made for a lifetime and the lessons I learnt.

As a young boy, Centre for Social Action gave me the feeling of belongingness. I realized what and how my actions can create impact. I met people who shared the same values, and was inspired by my seniors and teachers who mentored me. CSA was the anchor during my years at Christ. Having a student led organisation within an institution gave me the exposure, and grounding and has a big role to play on who I am today.

One of the biggest opportunities I got was my exchange program to Sund Folk School, Norway. The exchange program, supported by Christ University was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. That was my first trip, and I

haven't stopped since. Inter cultural learnings, representing my College and my country will be one of the proudest things I have accomplished.

One of the other memories I have about campus is the innumerable conferences and seminars we participated in and organised. As an afterthought, all these opportunities gave me a platform to develop key skills of people management, understanding the needs of different people.

My association with CHRIST is one of memories and respect. I have grown up to be an individual with an identity in that institution and the association is still not over. It has molded me into the professional I am today, and it is humbling to come back to the institution to work on leadership and social skills with the faculty and students.

### **Jaikumar Chandrashekar**

*Masters in Social Work*

*Graduated in 2009*

*Founder*

*Inner Voice Consultancy*

## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!



Going to university in India was a dream I had since I was 13. I was following the footsteps of my sister and brother. I'm not sure how I ended up at CHRIST but looking back, I'm glad life led me to some of the most inspiring people I look up to, people who made me feel belonged no matter where I came from and those that never gave up on me.

My journey to this college was an unexpected one because I wasn't accepted on the first go. My father happened to be in Bangalore on an official visit and when he visited CHRIST he learnt that I didn't get through but somebody told him I could still walk in for an interview. So with no promise of getting accepted but with faith my parents had in me, I got on a plane for the first time.

My interview at CHRIST is a moment I still look back on. I sat in front of Mr. Kennedy who said my marks weren't up to the standard to enter JPEng but I could do PSEco. I rejected his offer (looking back I have no idea where I got the strength to do that). "I want to be a journalist, Sir. So, I'll go somewhere I'm accepted", I said. His immediate reaction was, "but you know, CHRIST is one of the best universities?" I did know that but what came out of my mouth was "that's what your website says, but I want to be in a place where I'm accepted for who I am and what I want

to be". I guess that last line was what got me accepted to CHRIST and I'm eternally grateful to Kennedy Sir for taking a chance on me.

I came into college ready to take on the world, like most youngsters do. I met some amazing friends, adapted myself into wearing kurtas, of course some days I wore t-shirts and covered myself in a shawl but got pulled over and lectured by Abaya Ma'am, got addicted to samosas, passionately hated psychology but fell in love with world literature. I studied like those college kids in movies, drinking coffee and cramping notes late night but realized it doesn't work like that when I failed the first year. But when you study in a place like CHRIST you can't keep feeling low for failing, because the next thing you do is eat a chicken puff from Kiosk, go to Forum to drink a coke float, watch a movie and dance to 'Pappu can't dance' and get on with your life.

People say college is the best time in your life and for a moment you wouldn't think that those best times would also be some of the most difficult times. It was my second year at CHRIST that had the biggest surprise for me when two weeks before the mid-term exams, I slipped off a staircase and broke my back. I wrote my exam lying down on two benches in the psychology lab. For an entire year

that followed, I lied down on two benches at the back of the class and simply listen to the lecturers so that I kept my attendance at 80% because I wasn't going to let a broken back stop me from graduating with my class. I wasn't going to give up on my friends who carried my bag, wrote my notes, fed me and held me while I climbed steps one at a time like a tortoise.

I wouldn't have made it through college if not for my lecturers, my friends and those egg puffs and coffee at the kiosk. CHRIST is a place that broke me and rebuilt me. This place gave me a family that carried me through the tough times and who admired me in my brokenness. I am what I am today, because this college created a space for me to belong, to learn, to make mistakes, to fall, to stand up and most of all to nurture. It's the place I wrote my first story and was pushed by PK Sir to keep writing more. It's the place I learnt to connect with people through their stories no matter where they came from or what they believed in. It is the place I learnt to accept the imperfections and brokenness in all of us. This is home. This is family.

### **Ishani Jayamaha**

*BA in Journalism, Psychology and English Literature*

*Graduated in 2009*

*Celebrated Sri Lankan Filmmaker*

## TO TRAVEL IS TO LIVE

I always had carried the desire to pursue travel and tourism as a profession. Promoting a country's culture and experiencing a place as a local. When I started looking out for colleges that offered this particular course and then CHRIST happened to me. I'm grateful that this institution offered a program in this category to help people like me to pursue their passion.

I learnt a great deal from this program and all the co-curricular activities offered like quizzes, fests etc. It helped me to shape my career in a lot of ways as I really wanted to do something in this field. Studying in CHRIST gives you the leverage to get into a lot of airlines and travel companies due to the quality of the institution. I used these skills to build my network and move ahead in my career.

My love for traveling grew because of the number of opportunities that came my way after I graduated. I was one of the first few people to get placed in the Karnataka State Tourism Board and I got to work closely with the government. I served as the Tour Manager at the Golden Chariot. I have also had the opportunity to work with several International Agencies that helped me gain a lot



of exposure. And all this because of the rich experiences that I had during my time at CHRIST.

### **Tandrani Raj**

*B.Com in Travel & Tourism*

*2009 - 12*

*Travel Blogger*

## IN A BLINK!



In May of 2009, a fairly past 21 years old, I approached the gates of 'Christ University' embedded on those attractive grey brick structures right under the lush green trees. Something always looked a class apart of this place. I had never by then ever visited the city of Bangalore (a city dearer than no other, and 'Bengaluru' somehow never settled in me!).

Anyway, I however knew I was supposed to come to this place, and the city. They were welcoming, and there I took my baby steps in to walk to my first day of postgraduate studies. Well, I assume I was done with my admissions and orientation by then, where all you consume is the sturdy and suspicious looks of the security and admin staff upon you (you kinda snudge to the majority of the hospitable ones who knows well how overwhelming a new place may turn to be true!).

I moved cautiously. I had been convent-bred all my life, literally, minus just those two years in higher secondary school. I knew my expectations of them, and their expectations of me. The strict dress codes, the time adherence, the surprise monitoring by staff, did not sound something unsettling for me. We were there to do our jobs, and their job was to make sure we do ours!

The style of the professors came with handsome sophistication, not just in their methods, but also in their own personal demeanor. I was in the Clinical Psychology discipline, and I may be biased in saying when I do, that our supervisors/teachers had a humble brilliance about them of an extraordinary kind. Trust them so when Dr. Tony Sam George is your leader! They were so someone we'd want to emulate. They taught us well, both in theory and in going about with our ways in life, and we were happy.

I have some fond memories of my friends too. We were quite an eclectic bunch ...Annd someone somewhere said, people from the North and South of India, North-East, East and West of India, couldn't stay under a single roof (Uff!). Strangely, all of us 30 odd-something were friends, not the best maybe, but yes, friends.

Post graduate studies, we were all competitive Christites, eyeing to be better than the other, but never to underplay another's efforts. You rise, I rise. You rise higher, I catch you. I rise higher, you do!

Originally the consensus of long months of research for a good school for postgraduate study in Psychology led me to this one of the premier, most preferred colleges in India, especially for the discipline then, but for most others now.

I remember Christ was amongst the most sought-after institute for Psychology back then, in the country. Trust with more specialized and dedicated courses to choose from, the school attracts massive amount of scholars, and rightly so. We learnt to experience, Stop, think, develop a theory and learn or relearn.

What brings me to conclude is slightly more magical, more intuitive, those first two seconds that Malcolm Gladwell in this book 'Blink' speaks about. One of the best reads, it essays on moments when we 'know' something without knowing why. That he says is the "power of our adaptive unconscious" and suggests one to trust that.

That moment again, standing on the gates of the entrance in May of 2011, when I finally bid goodbye to that place who I took so much unimaginably from, knew my 'instincts' of choosing this place changed the way I look into things forever.

**Mridu M. Sharma**

*MSc in Clinical Psychology*

2009 - 2011

*Visiting Fellow-American Board of Sport Psychology, NY, USA*

*Former Mental Coach for Indian National Badminton Team for Olympics 2016, Sports Authority of India*

*Team Manager/Sport Psychologist - Jr National Badminton Team Badminton Association of India*



## SEVEN YEARS AT CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)



For me it is difficult to believe that I have spent seven long years at Christ Deemed to be University. Clearly time has flown and every day has been one of learning from other faculty members through my constant interactions with them. To that extent every day is an interesting one on the campus and there is never a dull day.

My first visit to Christ Deemed to be University was in April 2010, when a former colleague requested me at short notice late one morning to address the media studies association at 2:30 pm one afternoon. In January 2011, I was again called by another faculty member of the Department of Political for a talk on India's regional security environment scheduled for February which I promptly accepted and made my second visit to the campus. After my academic engagement I suggested to the Department of Political Science that I would like to run a part time course on Strategic Studies at the University. To do so, an extraordinary Board of Studies had to meet in June 2011 to okay the syllabus since the earlier one had just got over a couple of days ago. It took me a month or so to put together a syllabus for a certificate course which I then began to engage from July 2011 till October 2011.

This was my second stint at teaching, which I quite enjoyed similar to my part time teaching engagement for a semester at a local post graduate autonomous college, while holding on to my regular job function. Meanwhile, I started to write newspaper articles on International Relations and Strategic Studies for various newspapers from time to time. In December 2011, a Political Science faculty member called me up and wanted to know if I was inclined to full time engagement with the University and I answered in the affirmative. The next morning the Personnel Officer called me for a meeting and I showed up at 10 am in his office. Then I met the Head - Centre for Publications who had a chat with me and took me to meet Father Vice Chancellor who asked me if I would like a full time or part time position to which I promptly replied - a full time one.

The institution is one vibrant campus with an emphasis on cultural activities that makes it unique in the country. One day a friend of mine, a retired senior military officer, who I had requested to teach the open elective or earlier known as certificate course, remarked that Christ University was very secular in character. The traditional lighting of the lamp is an auspicious Hindu custom that the institution had adopted

happily. What impressed me about the institutional culture is the need to wish fellow colleagues while walking around the campus. Also institutional initiatives like outbound training, faculty development programs, holistic education, and cultural activities aims to bond faculty members with each other. Over the years, the institution has acquired a brand image not only within the city and state but also other parts of the country.

The institution is also known to stage high quality plays that I have watched on two occasions -- once with a former colleague and next with my wife. On both occasions the shows were high performance with dedicated student actors which impressed my visitors and made me proud. Socially when I randomly encounter former students who have passed through the portals of this institution, they generally share pleasant memories of the years spent here. The only exceptions to such memories are some misgivings directed against some particular faculty member or the other. Those alumni who have decided to take advantage of the kind of education offered here helped them shape their personalities positively. They come across as confident individuals which are attributed to their formative years at the institution.

The students that the institution attracts from across the country are by and large smart and focused individuals. They are keen and waiting to go out into the world and prove themselves as capable young adults. Clearly these students define the institution in its present and future avatar. My years at CHRIST Deemed to be University, has transformed me positively and I am not the same person who earlier entered here in terms of knowledge. Apart from a lot of acquaintances that I have developed among faculty members at the institution, some of them have also become close friends with whom I am able to share my joy of sorrows that are part of the journey called life.

**Bidanda Chengappa,**

*Associate Professor,  
Department of International Studies & History  
CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*



## THE REEL LIFE



I joined CHRIST in the year 2010. I took up CEP and I did my BA course there. First year of college I started acting in films and I know people think that CHRIST is really strict and you don't get the freedom but I had a ball at CHRIST. I had even taken up theatre course as a part of TIE and as my elective I had taken graphic novel and creative writing and also culture studies. I think because of the course I started watching a lot of good films. It's why I probably want to do films. Even recently in an interview, I think when I was at Filmfare, I said, "You know when I was at CHRIST I used to study culture studies and watch films like 'Mirch Masala', movies by Smitha Patil and Shabana Azmi etc. I dreamt that maybe someday 60 years from now some girl will be writing about me and that's the dream I had." I wanted my films to be watched by young film students and even now I am chasing that dream.

When I went to Bombay, I made it a point to meet my idol - Shabana Azmi. I then got a call from a director here who said that they were remaking a movie called 'Ankur' which is a Hindi film where Shabanaji acted and they gave me that role. I immediately accepted it. I know it sounds slightly off topic but I can tell you that watching, reading and talking to the kind of people who are interested in the same thing can push you and inspire you in so many ways.

I'm in touch with Victor Sir, Shobana Ma'am, Anil Pinto Sir, Padma Kumar Sir and I think it's great they were so co-operative. Due to my shooting schedule I couldn't do my CIAs and I know I had to put in twice the effort to write my

exams but my teachers really helped me, all of them.

I remember Anil Pinto sir helping me out a lot and even being my counselor at times. I somehow scored 75%. When people support you and you dream in small little ways I think that's enough for you to follow your passion. I still have the presentations I made in class. I have started an art space right now. It's called 'The Artery' and I do graphic novel classes. In my reel life, I am doing Tamil, Telugu now a Hindi web series. At CHRIST I got a lot clarity about my passion and I'm very very happy that I did the course. I owe it all to my teachers. I think art flows from one to another either in writing, directing, editing, acting, dancing, everything is a part of the same thing.

I want to thank my professor Stephen Sir for just encouraging me and I'm very grateful and happy. My brother is actually going to join CHRIST now and I know how great it is.

I did bunk classes and stay in the food court or in the campus itself but it's not because I wanted to get out of college and just do something else. I wanted to stay in college and talk to more people and till today, my closest friends are from CHRIST.

### **Samyukta Hornad**

*BA in Communication and Media, English and Psychology  
2010 - 2013  
Actress*

## MANAGING EXPECTATIONS AND DREAMING BIG



The year was 2001, a meeting with the former Vice Chancellor Rev. Col. Fr. Thomas C Mathew saw me transition quickly from a Counsellor to a Placement Coordinator for the department of Christ Institute of Management. With our humble beginnings with a batch of 60 students we grew to our present count of 750 students and a database that pans the globe and boasts of over 1000 touch points across myriad domains. The placement department grew from strength to strength on the strong foundation, brand and repute the University had built over the years.

The department prides itself with increasing the number of participating companies coupled with a percentile increase in the package year on year. While placements is a cornerstone of the MBA department, the true heroes are the par excellence teaching fraternity and the pedagogy that demands the very best from the students. This unbeatable combination has helped us retain a front runner position.

Personally it has been a great journey of self-discovery and the path towards it has been made easy by the name

and reputation of our great institution. Addressing the ever changing organizational requirements and continually molding students to compete in this highly competitive environment, I believe this has been my greatest take-aways. Now under the guidance of our VC Dr Rev Fr Abraham V, we are confident to hit new highs and strive to be the number one preferred MBA program in the country with a stellar line up of placement opportunities.

We push forward with the below creed -

“If we work upon marble, it will perish;  
if we work upon brass, time will efface it;  
if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust;  
but if we work upon immortal minds and instil into them  
just principles, we are then engraving that upon tablets  
which no time will efface, but will brighten and brighten  
to all eternity.”— Daniel Webster

### **Molly Mampilly**

*Coordinator-Placements*

*Institute of Management*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*

## ACTIONS THAT IMPACT



I still look back at my three years in CHRIST as a treasured book full of memories, experiences and friends for a lifetime. As a person new to the city, CHRIST became my home in quick time. The vibrant atmosphere, the friendly teachers and fellow classmates was all that I needed to feel at home. If I have to look back, there were two distinct experiences at CHRIST, which have shaped me into the individual I am today, to begin with, my association with the Centre for Social Action.

As a young adult, the will to do something was kindred and nurtured at CSA. From performing street theatre on social issues on the streets of Bangalore, to teaching the children of the workers who were then working on the 'Central Block', CSA taught me a lot about how actions can create an impact. It was also the place where I made friends from different streams, who are still a part of my life. The conferences, the fund raising events, and the rural exposure camps - all have contributed in molding my personality.

Secondly, it was through CSA, that I was selected to be a part of the exchange program at Sund Folk School, Norway. The cross-cultural learning, the culture shock and above all, the friends I made there is something still close to my heart.

For me, what CHRIST did the best was provide me a platform. It gave me the platform to grow, learn and unlearn, and above all fly and I am extremely happy to be associated with the college even now.

### **Vandana Radhakrishnan**

*Masters of Social Work*

*Graduated in 2010*

*Founder, Butterfly Effect*

## KINSHIP

I completed my BA (CEP) in 2012 and Masters in Counselling Psychology in 2016 from Christ University. Having spent 5 years at CHRIST, I must say that my experience evolved over the two courses I completed here. The institution has given me a lot to be thankful for – teachers, mentors, friends and experiences that are very hard to replicate elsewhere. It's shaped a large part of who I am and how I see the world today and I'm very grateful for the many opportunities that have come my way as a result of being a part of the institution. I'm a proud alum and know that I will always find a sense of belonging when I visit!

It's hard to pick a favourite memory at CHRIST but the Christmas lights have been a huge highlight through the years. Also, huge props to the psychology department for being as amazing as they have been all these years!

### **Natasha Vijay**

*BA in Communication and Media, English, Psychology  
2012 - 2016*

*MSc in Counselling Psychology  
2016 - 2018*

*Programs Lead – The Live Love Laugh Foundation  
Consultant Counselling Psychologist - Inspiron*



## NINE YEARS AND COUNTING

It was 9 years ago that life brought us to this serene campus in the heart of the bustling Bangalore city. The six of us came from diverse backgrounds, had varied interests, but like the strings that produce the perfect chord, something struck and we remained friends thereafter. 9 years of friendship! 9 years of togetherness. And we don't see it ending any time soon.

It is difficult to recall a single strand of memory from those three years we spent together on campus. But we do remember that having lunch on one of those enormous round tables in the newly opened Gourmet extension was the highlight of the day. But getting one of those tables to ourselves was not an easy task - not when there were 12,000 students running around looking for tables. You see, getting a table for ourselves was the result of a well-planned strategy that involved doing the groundwork from 9am onwards. So this was how we accomplished it.

Rejoe and Aghil, either at 9am or in-between one of the breaks, would rush to the shop adjoining the Campus Store in Gourmet (the shop is now called Michael's Corner). We knew the uncle there; we would pay him and request him to keep aside two Chicken Biryanis for us when we return for lunch. Uncle would happily do that for us. Next step -

wait (im)patiently for the lunch hour to strike. When the bell did ring, like the dog in Pavlov's experiments, we would hurriedly steer our way, through the maddening crowds, to Gourmet. Fortunately, there were perks of having friends who brought their food from home; our group had two - Sherlie and Akshay.

Most often, they would be the ones to hunt for a table and then claim it as our own - it was just the table, mind you, not the chair. Chairs come and go, but you don't get a free table, at 1pm, in Christ. While Sherlie and Akshay hoisted our flag on the table by taking out their tiffin-boxes (Akshay's was enough to hoist a flag on two tables), Rejoe and Aghil would return with their Biryanis that had been paid for in the morning - they would never have to stand in the queue (that was the perk of having a friend whose dad had a shop). Meanwhile, Nitish, if he managed to slip out early from his CSA meetings, and survived the onslaught of students at the shop that sold rolls, would join us and we would begin our feast along with discussions on the class, CIAs (we would invariably be part of the same CIA groups as well), life issues, grand ideas about the future and so on.

Sharing our food was also part of the fellowship, but not quite the way one would assume. Nobody took food from

Akshay's tiffin, because it would hardly suffice for the man himself. Nitish always had vegetarian food, except for one particular occasion when we had finished shooting a short movie assignment to promote vegetarianism and we convinced Nitish to help us finish the fried chicken we ordered. So Nitish's routine college lunch was vegetarian... and we didn't have a great appetite for veg-stuff. Aghil would gingerly guard his beloved chicken from the prying eyes of Akshay,

while the magnanimous Rejoe would share his biriyani with Akshay (and then buy a second biriyani for himself since Akshay would probably finish off his first one). Sherlie would however, give us all a share of her lunch (especially on those special days that her mom cooked chicken kabab). Rejoe had a thing for these kababs. On a particularly special day, Rejoe finished the kababs that aunty had cooked for all of us, before Aghil joined the table. Rejoe then bought a plate of kababs from one of the shops in Gourmet and then offered them in Sherlie's tiffin to Aghil who happily munched on them and praised aunty for her cooking. It was only after 4 years that he got to know the truth (and he wasn't particularly happy).

On most days, by the time we wrap up, our dearest Gijo (the most well-dressed in our group), now a priest, would join us after having a quick lunch at Dharmaram. At times, Gijo would also get us some yummy snacks that the cooks in Dharmaram would have prepared (on another occasion he had invited us for a meal in the Dharmaram refectory when there was a Bandh and all shops were closed). By 1.55pm, we would start our journey back to Block 1, and another 2 hours of classes.

For nearly a decade now, we have always made it a point to have food together, no matter how far we were. Although presently, Gijo is engaged with his missionary works in North India, Rejoe is living in Vancouver, and Sherlie, Akshay, Aghil and Nitish are separated with the crazy traffic of Bangalore City, we still try and come together on video chats and calls, and group dinners (whoever can make it) on most weekends. Life has changed over the past 9 years, and we are sometimes surprised at how quickly time flies. It seems like only yesterday, when we all sat in Gourmet, cracking jokes and laughing at each other.

**Aghil, Nitish, Rejoe, Akshay, Gijo and Sherlie**  
*BA in Journalism, Psychology, English*  
*Graduated in 2013*

## WHO ARE YOU: THE ANSWER

I completed my Bachelors in Computer Science, Math and Electronics ( CME ) in 2013 and my Masters in Computer Applications ( MCA ) in 2016 from Christ University. I have a lot of memories! Had I not opted for this University, I wouldn't be the person that I am today. During my school days, I was just locked up in a shell and let go off many opportunities that I could have made use of in terms of my talent and personality.

Things changed to a great extent when I joined college as new avenues opened out before me. It was a fresh start for me and I went on to participate in several cultural events. I can vouch for the fact that Christ University values art, culture, music and every interactive form of art one can imagine. This was a turning point in my life. I discovered that I was skilled at comedy and CHRIST gave me the opportunity to explore this side of me. During the year 2012, I was part of Cultural Team and during the event, I witnessed so much of talent amongst my peers. Honestly, it motivated me to just up my game and get better at what I do.

Also, it's not just the opportunities. Even my teachers encouraged me to pursue my talents. There used to be lecturer from the English Department named Mr Joshua who taught my class during my Bachelors. There was a question that he asked during his lecture one day and I'll never forget that day.



He asked us " Who do you want to be seen as a person and what is your unique contribution to this world? ". He got me thinking and I answered that I want to be seen as someone who entertains and makes other people laugh! It's been 9 years since then and guess what, I make a living out of being a professional stand-up comedian. Faculty from Christ University go out of their way to make a difference in the lives of students and that's something rare.

I owe it to CHRIST (Deemed to be University) for helping me become who I am today and these memories will stay very close to my heart.

### **Rupen Paul**

*BSc in Computer Science, Maths, Electronics*  
*2010 - 2013*

*Master of Computer Applications*  
*2013 - 2016*

*Stand Up Comedian*

## VOLUNESIA



I joined CHRIST in the year 2013 for BBM (now known as BBA) with specialisation in Marketing. I stepped into this prestigious institution as an alumni from Seshadripuram Composite PU College. I was not proficient in terms of communication. My language and diction with regard to some words was not great. Even though I was brought up in a family filled with performers, I was super confident during an act. But the simple life skill of establishing a connect was something I struggled with.

Around the second year of my Bachelors, I happened to know about CSA and discovered street theatre. My first experience with street theatre performances was rather awkward. We performed in a slum and the crowd was unorganised, the place was extremely dusty with lots of dogs running around and people just went about doing their routine tasks. After several average performances, I realised that something is really missing! I needed to understand what the gap and really give my best out there. I would say that, every Christite should make an effort to join a community. It could be the cultural team, CSA, SWO and several others. It's an opportunity for you to discover yourself and give back to the community.

Joining CSA was the turning point in my life as a Christite. I mastered the art of mingling with people and even addressing large crowd in a professional manner. I discovered the fact that little heartfelt acts have the power to inspire people around you. Even though I was the first and only B0BM student to volunteer for CSA, I think that was the best decision that I ever made. I used to be part of the team named ' Dhristi' which had only 7-8 members when I joined. Today, it has developed into a big team with multiple clubs and teams across campuses.

'Milan' is another initiative where we work with people in slum areas to give them an experience of Sports Day and Cultural Day Celebrations. I got an opportunity to serve as one of the main event organisers. During that time, I wrote a song for the first time and recorded it to introduce 'Milan'-

"Aai sunaye ek Kahani  
Raja ki na Rani ki  
Yaad dilaye apna bachpan  
Araha Milan "

I'm happy to say that this song is still being performed by my juniors. Today, I work as a consultant and facilitate skill development workshops.

Anywhere you go, be it films, NGO Sector, government/ non government sectors, you are sure to find a Christite working there in a powerful position. Most people that I work with today, have some or the other connection with CHRIST. Once you become a Christite, you will have that identity forever. It just grows within you.

### **Abhishek Iyappan**

*Bachelors in Business Management*

*2013 - 2016*

*Social Entrepreneur*

*TedX Speaker*

## NAGAVALI

During the year 2014, the English Department introduced a theme of ' Fictional Characters' for their fest named ' Jabberwocky'. Being a Malayali, I decided to take up the role played by the Malayalam actress named Shobana in the movie ' Manichithrathazhu'. She had played the character named 'Nagavali' opposite Suresh Gopi ( His character was called 'Nagulan').. Coincidentally, at that time, Suresh Gopi's son Gokul Suresh, who was also my childhood friend was studying in Christ University as well. On that day, I dressed up as 'Nagavali' and Gokul came to watch the Fest too. We managed to get picture together and posted the same on Facebook. It was captioned "Nagulante makanaya Gokul'ney college'il cherkan vanna Nagavali " (Translation : Nagulan's son Gokul, who was brought by Nagavali for a college admission ).

Our class also had to come up with a theatre performance which was scheduled to happen at Block 1. The marks for this particular act depended on the number of people and the story of the play. This meant that we needed to come up with posters, flashmobs, personal invitations etc to promote the performance. Being a first year student, I was not sure about information regarding who our principal or Vice Chancellor was. One fine day, I noticed two father walking from Block 2 towards Central Block. I rushed towards them and talked about our play. I personally requested them to come witness our play as well. By



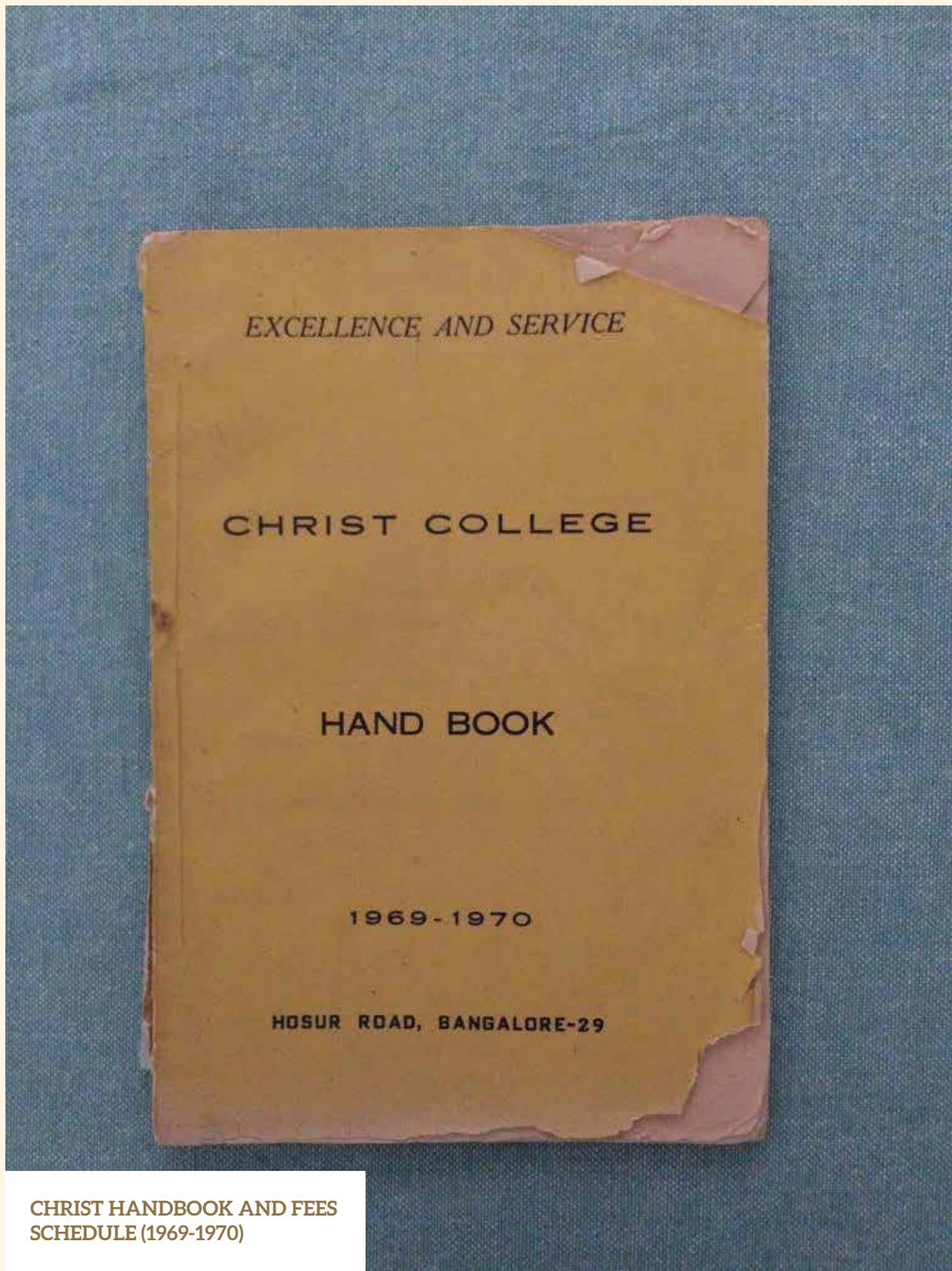
the end of the conversation, one of the fathers told me to come see him at his office after I finish with the promotions. He also wished me a great day. I was so happy!

Seeing this, my teacher Mr Felix told that it was not right for me to informally invite them like that. I defended myself saying I saw them approaching us and I felt interested to go invite them. It was when Felix sir told me that I realised something! I had actually invited the Vice Chancellor with an informal conversation. Although I felt very anxious, I still decided to go meet him at his cabin as per request. Much to my surprise, father told me that he was happy to see me approach him directly and students usually find him unapproachable. This is definitely one of my most cherished memories from Christ University.

### **Alina Padikkal ( VJ )**

*BA in Communication & Media, English and Psychology*  
*2012-2015*

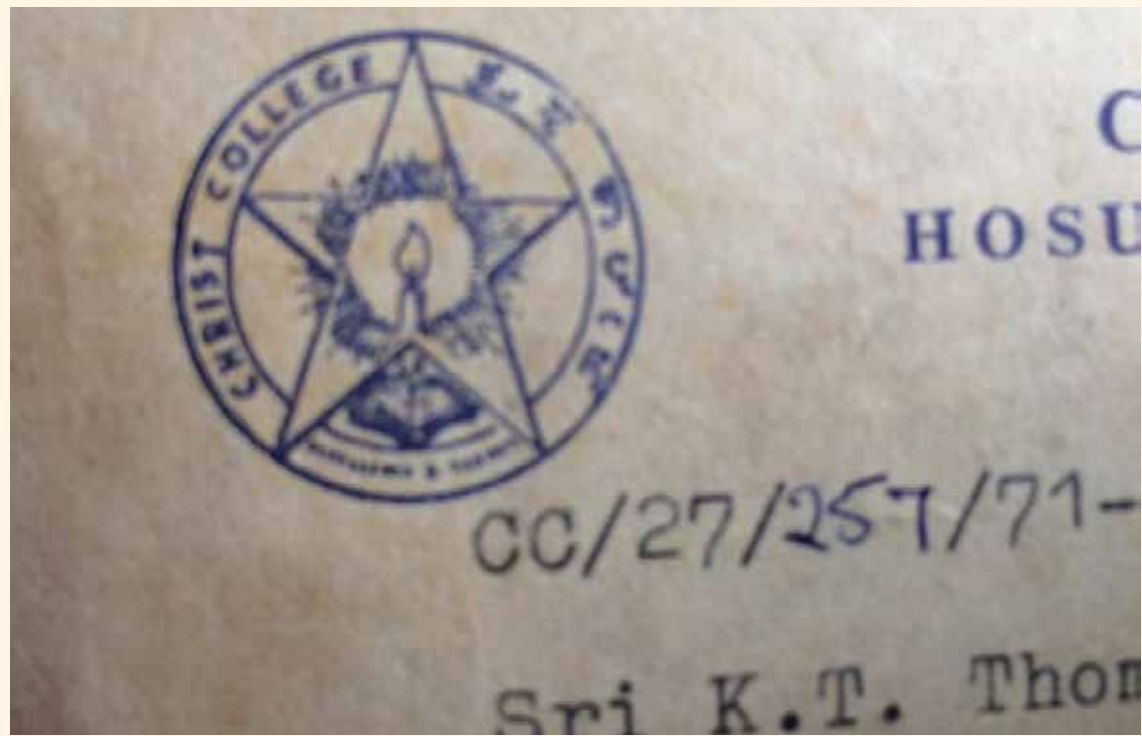
*Actress*



must submit their application at the appointed time. They must pay full fees until the decision of scholarship is announced.

### SCHEDULE OF FEES

Tuition fee	Rs. 22 per instalment of 8 instalments p. a.
Laboratory fee	Rs. 4
Admission fee	Rs. 3
Association fee	Rs. 5
Univ. Regn. fee	Rs. 2
Medical inspection	Rs. 2
Games & sports	Rs. 5
Lib. and reading room	Rs. 4
College Examn. & Calender	Rs. 3
Miscellaneous	Rs. 2
Cycle stand fee	Rs. 6
Eligibility fee	Rs. 5 (for students outside)



CHRIST HANDBOOK AND FEES SCHEDULE (1969-1970)

CHRIST  
AT  
A  
GLANCE  
(1991)



Quo Vadis ?



Into the temple of learning



An eco-friendly abode of knowledge

A lamp unto my steps



All roads lead to Christ College

INAUGURATION OF LIBRARY BLOCK  
(1987)



Welcome students! You're very welcome!!



The Governor takes the salute

# Kannada Sangha



Dr. D.R. Bendre day on 31st January 1991 chief guest Rev. Fr. Mani Giles, Prof. L.S.Seshagiri Rao, Rev. Fr Antony Kariyil.



Prof H.R.R. Rao honouring Prof. M. Gopalakrishna Adiga

## ನೂರನೆಯ ಪುಸ್ತಕದ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಸಮಾರಂಭ

ನೂರನೆಯ ಪುಸ್ತಕದ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಸಮಾರಂಭ 30-09-2017



ಶಾ. ಪಿ. ಎಚ್. ವಿವಿಧವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯರು ಶಾ. ಪಿ. ಎಚ್. ವಿವಿ ದೇವತಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯಾಕೆ ನೂರನೆಯ ಪುಸ್ತಕವನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು.

ನೂರನೆಯ ಪುಸ್ತಕದ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಸಮಾರಂಭ

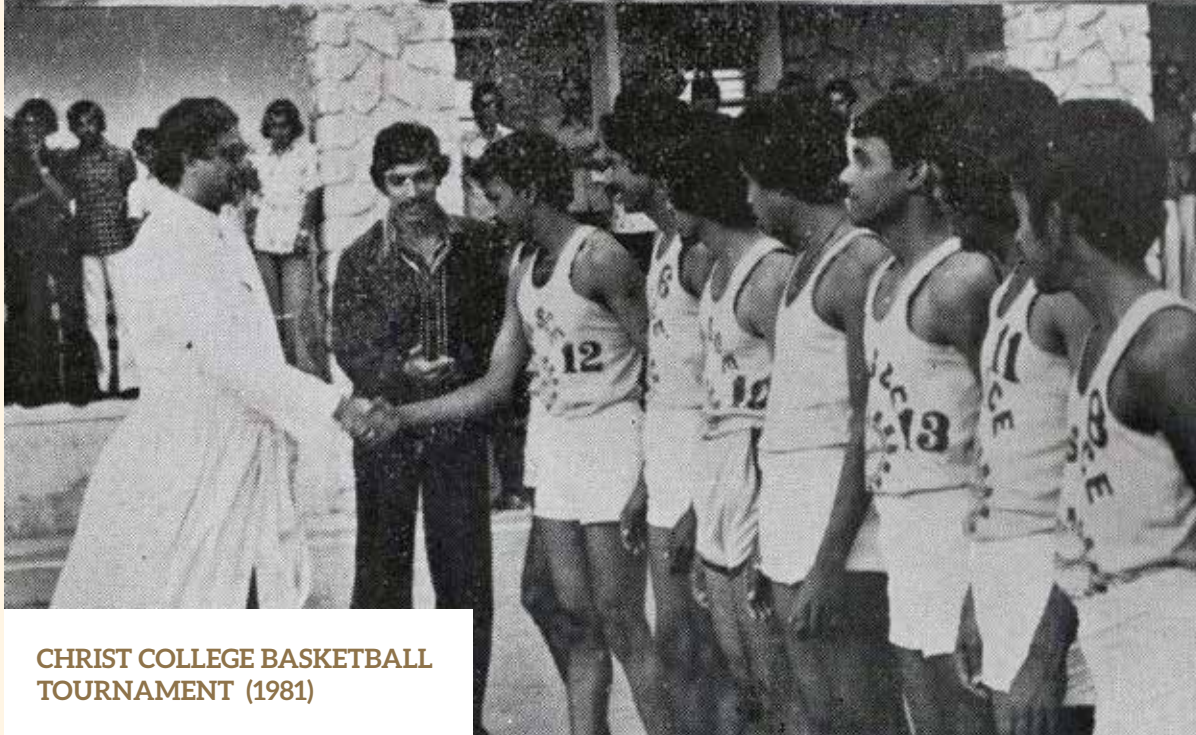
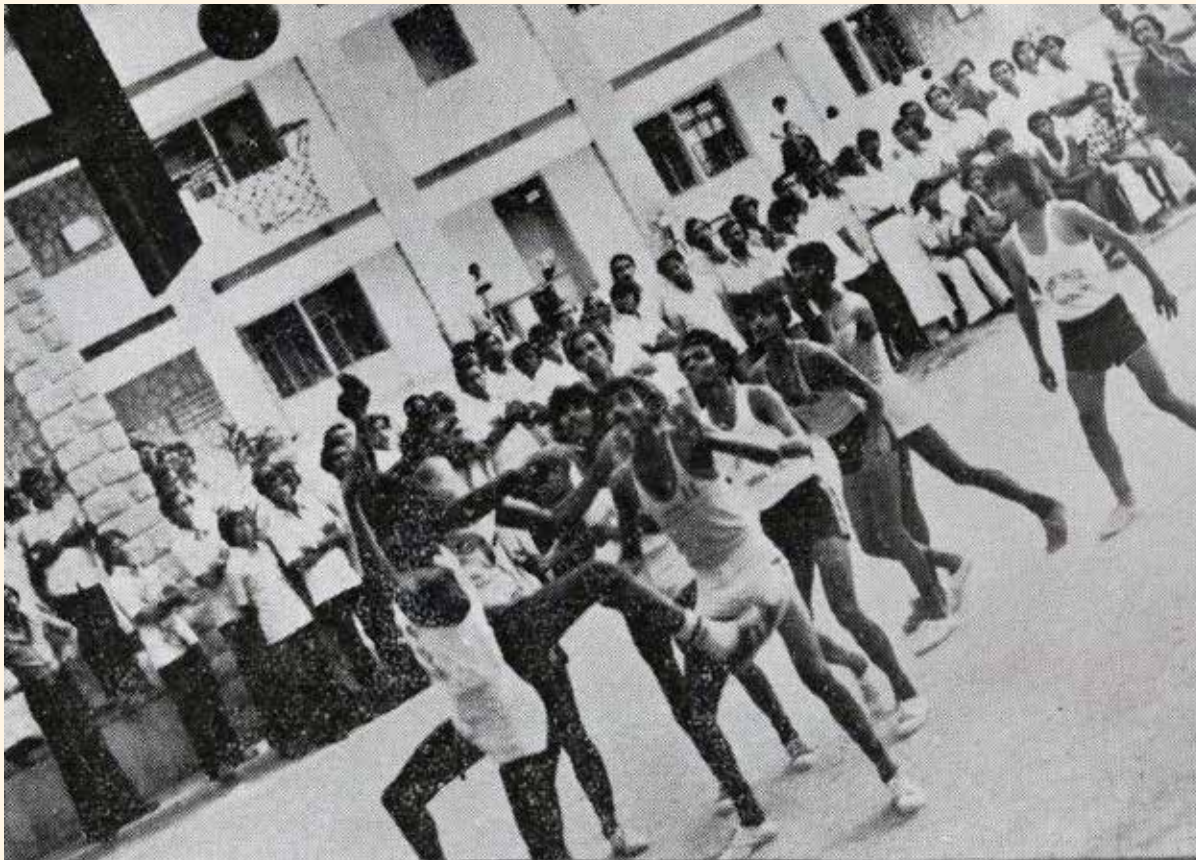


ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಗೌರವ ತ್ರಿವಿಂಶತಿಪುಸ್ತಕ ಗೌರವ ಶಾ. ಪಿ. ಎಚ್. ವಿವಿಧವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯರು ಬಹುಮಾನ ವಚಾಣಿ ದಾನಿ ದಾನಿ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು.



## A CULTURAL PHENOMENON

The Kannada Sangha is the oldest and longest surviving Kannada publishing initiative in Karnataka by an educational institution. The Kannada Sangha was set up in December 1972. It is a cultural phenomenon in Karnataka, it has a wide reach and is the talk of the entire literary circles in the state. Major Kannada writers have been launched through the Kannada Sangha. CHRIST (Deemed to be University) has been a silent and active collaborator of the initiative through funding and support. The Sangha has published over 246 books and has bagged several awards including the Central Sahitya Academy Award, Karnataka State Sahitya Award and several awards endowed by private institutions. A novel 'Kotra High Schoolge Seriddu' published by the Sangha was made into a Kannada art film.



CHRIST COLLEGE BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMENT (1981)

**AICUF : INAUGURATION**  
(1987)



A light to quell the darkness



Rev. Fr. Antony Chirathalakkal, the Director  
A lamp not put under a bushel



Singing joyfully to the light of the World

## CHRIST UNIVERSITY DIARIES – THE CRISTAL CLEAR WAY

25 years ago a couple decided to spend some quality time in Bengaluru city. But who ever knew that there was more to this visit, that would shape a new future for them and become a significant part of their family in the years to come. As the years flew by, I began my academic semester in CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru. The same city they visited years ago.

When I first entered this city I came with the usual list of academic and extra-curricular performances of a school going student. The University taught me to go way beyond this. My course helped me explore a wide array of skills that I could have done alone. I worked on planning and writing. And with this I also had the experience of working with one of the country's leading and most read national dailies and see my work appear in the same. It was here that I got to contribute to the vulnerable section of society through a mentoring programme for school students.

Besides all of these, I have other aspects to my credit. It was here where I got hands on experience at organising events. I also had the opportunity to participate across literary, stage and art events in such a short span of time. And it is here that I had one of the most memorable experiences of my life, i.e. a media research on Humour in Rajkumar Hirani

films. This helped me understand the role of humour and the qualities of Rajkumar Hirani as a director in relation to films, a topic I am very passionate about. I also had the opportunity to present the same for a national seminar at Media Meet in August 2016.

It was at this institution that I had the opportunity to intern at one of the known commercial radio stations of our country. This internship was a memorable one, not only because of the work experience it gave me but because of the many dear friends I made and the life lessons in work culture that I learnt during the internship.

CHRIST (Deemed to be University) has given me the opportunity to have friends across the globe and know that although we may seem divided by culture, language and region, yet we can be so similar in thought. This place has also introduced me to some learned people from different parts of the world. Their valuable feedback has helped me know, in a nutshell, about how the world sees me. And then there are more reasons that make you cherish your experience.

The University has made me proactive. It has taught me to be independent and strong. Besides proactive, this place has

also taught me to be reflective. I have started introspecting about my life and this has helped me understand myself better. It is through this that I wrote many poems, short stories and articles to channelise these thoughts. The list of poems in English led me to publish my book on poems even before completion of my graduation; something I never thought would happen this soon.

The book is titled, "It is Like Magic- a collection of poems", published in 2016, and available on Amazon. This opened the door of my interest to literature as well, an area of social science with which I had the least contact with. I was rewarded by the University for my efforts through a merit scholarship in March 2017.

The most important part of my journey at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) is me having the proud privilege of sharing my birthday with the dynamic former Vice Chancellor Col Dr Fr Thomas C Mathew. I am now a confident traveller. This experience made me eager to explore other cities across the country and the world in the years to follow.

### **Christal Ferrao**

*BA in Communication and Media, English and Psychology  
2014-2017*

## A PLACE FOR MAGIC



I'm Karan Edward Machado and I completed my Bachelors in Communicative English and Psychology in the year 2014. I clearly remember my first day at college where I had to be part of the orientation programme amongst a sea of people. It's truly amazing how the sea of people became home to me for three years. It was a wonderful journey filled with ups and downs. I was the type of student who used to be present in all classes and had minimum 98% attendance in all the semesters. I enjoyed attending classes and learning new things!

Amongst all, I enjoyed the people. It's amazing how you give people an atmosphere and a place to collaborate and the magic will happen automatically. Of course there were restrictions but on the other hand I found a wonderful set of people who have now grown into the face of various media fields and careers and I am so thrilled to say that I knew them in college. I met amazing people and in addition to that the most wonderful thing that happened to me was I got to build relationships. When I say that, I not only mean the students but also the faculty there was fantastic. I remember my English department and the various forms of literature we went through like British, American literature, literature theory and the things that happened in those discussions in

class were indeed thought provoking to say the least. The wonderful discussions that happened in our psychology class, the things that I learnt about the human mind, behavior really knocked me off my socks and the wonderful part about that was making it with other people and to be honest that was the most important part because it is them whom I'm working with even today and these people are my colleagues they were and still are my friends and I'm thrilled to say I know them and CHRIST made that happen.

CHRIST provided me the platform to discover myself as a performer and that moulded me into being what I am today; a radio jockey because of the space they gave me to do all those wonderful things be it performing on stage, performing acoustics, being in the choir and much more. The most life changing thing that happened to me at CHRIST was being a part of the university choir. I had a wonderful mentor Mr Jason Kishander, met wonderful people it was so brilliant from top to bottom to say the least.

### **Karan Machado**

*BA in Communication and Media, English and Psychology  
Graduated in 2014*

*RJ Kay*

*94.3 Radio One Bangalore*

## THE CHRISTITE SAVOIR-FAIRE



4th of June, 2014! The day I entered Christ University, Kengeri Campus, for the very first time! I had enrolled for the first ever batch of Automobile Engineering at Faculty of Engineering CHRIST (Deemed to be University). Little did I know on that day, that the next 4 years are going to be the best and most memorable days of my life. Words just cannot describe the transformation I've experienced in myself through these years at CHRIST.

It all started with the Experience Engineering Program (EEP) which helped me smoothly transition from a PU College student to a University student. I was part of the Team which was involved in designing and fabricating an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) which gave me a hands-on experience of the theories learnt in the classroom.

I was part of the Mechanical and Automobile Association of Christites (MAAC) - the Student Club of the department, from my 2nd year all the way till my graduation. It is this Club that gave me a platform to express myself and the opportunities to showcase my talent.

Then came Magnovite - The Annual Techno-Cultural Fest and the biggest event at the Kengeri Campus, of which I was given the opportunity to lead from the front as the Student Coordinator. I got to organise more than 20 Technical & Non-Technical Events and hosted 500+ participants from across the country. I also had the privilege to share the dais with Dr. Madhavan Nair (Ex-Chairman, ISRO), who was the Chief Guest for the event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my professors for all the support they have extended to me. I also want to thank Mr. Amal Raj, who safely drove the bus to and from college every day for 4 years in the crazy Bangalore traffic! Bhasha Utsav, Sports Day, National Conferences, Quizzes, Workshops... the list is never ending!

### **Adishesha Sairam K B**

*Automobile Engineering (BTech)  
Batch of 2014-18.*

## GRIT. PERSEVERENCE. HARD WORK.



It will not be an overstatement if I describe my time at CHRIST as transformative and life-changing. The three years at CHRIST were full of great opportunities, unique experiences, exposure to diversity and academic excellence. The Centre for Academic and Professional Support (CAPS) deserves a special mention in making my years at CHRIST more remarkable. The mentorship of Mr Sabu John had a considerable impact on not only my three years at CHRIST but also beyond that. The ability to navigate through difficult conversations, essential life skills, and the significance of grit are a few among the many things which I picked up whilst being there.

I can vividly recall an evening walk with Dr Thomas C. Mathew, which ultimately resulted in him taking up the initiative to introduce an optional Economics Dissertation

paper for the students of BA HEP, all within a week's time. Such actions are an attestation to the values that are taught as well as practised in my Alma Mater. I walked into CHRIST (Deemed to be University) as an "average" student struggling to brave out of his comfort zone. Three years later, I had made significant academic as well as personal progress and learned a lot from my peers and mentors alike.

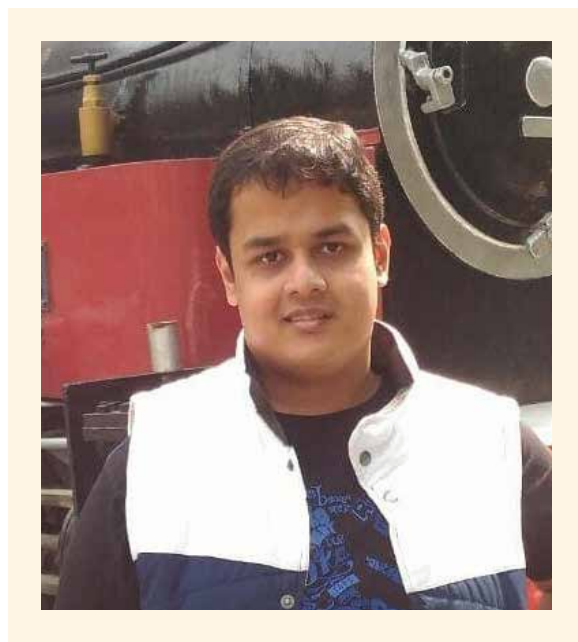
Today, I am proud to be a member of this community and will forever be indebted to the way it has changed my life.

March on Christites!

**Vivian Rajasekharan Nair**

*BA in Economics, Political Science, History  
2015 - 2018*

## THE TURNAROUND



5 years of my life at CHRIST has been a long and cherishing span which saw me develop not just as a student, but also saw me grow in my field of passion with the support and wishes of my teachers, friends, family and all my near and dear ones. When I first entered the premises of this prestigious institute, in the crowd of 18,000 students, I found myself totally clueless and overwhelmed of what the first three years of my life as an undergraduate student would hold in store for me.

There have been times when in the first few days of my college life, I often saw myself breaking down on remembering my school and feeling even more isolated in the vast ocean of students from diverse backgrounds with diverse interests, not knowing how should I start a conversation with them. Yet as I progressed, I slowly started building friends and mingling with the crowd. The funny part of all this was when I realised that unlike school, we didn't have a 40-minute class, but we had an hour-long class for each subject and to top it all every question asked wasn't direct from the textbook.

As time passed by, I slowly got used to college life and got attracted to the canteens more than the two libraries! Thanks to my friend Nikhil Pai who introduced me to Knowledge Centre, I found it to be the best place to spend some quiet time. At the same time, my passion for railways was also discovered by my teachers and friends and this was

the place where I started my blog on railways. Today, it is one of the most successful blogs with more 3000 people from 10 different countries visiting it.

Every teacher has been instrumental in fueling my passion and helping me grow. This reminds me of my interaction with the present dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. John Joseph Kennedy, with whom an hour long discussion on railways paved a way for it to become a part of the English Syllabus for the three years which followed. This was also the time when I developed a flair for writing, thanks to We Care, CSA and most importantly Nishok, one amongst my many good friends, who introduced me to the world of writing for magazines.

During my two-year MA in International Studies, I delivered a lecture to a group of 4000 students on railways which is a memorable event I cherish. An important juncture was when my passion gained recognition from the Registrar and the Vice Chancellor along with a rare opportunity to meet the Vice Chancellor personally. To be appreciated by the higher ups for my passion towards railways is a moment I cherish. I feel that CHRIST has contributed beyond just shaping me as an individual with rich academic experience; it has given me the necessary motivation to pursue what I desired beyond the curriculum.

**Chitresh Shrivastva**

*MA in International Studies*

2016-18



## ALPHA AND OMEGA

We as Legato Vocal Point, had a tremendous musical journey of using our talents for the Glory of God. Looking back at our initial days, we started off as a few member team who gathered together to just kneel and pray and use of our voices to sing for the Lord. We shared the burden that although God has gifted us different talents we tend to forget that these 'do not' belong to us, but are given to us from above. Skills can be developed over a period of time, but in-born talents are unique.

As Legato Vocal Point we wanted to Praise and glorify God's name for sending us His Son, Jesus to die on the Cross for 'all' our sins. Our faith in Jesus and the finished work on the Cross is the only way we are made right and acceptable before God.

"He has done it all for us; what greater Love than this!" We were privileged to be the first Gospel band, selected to the Christ University Cultural team, representing the University at different platforms and win prizes. Our renditions from the musical collection of the Gaither Vocal Band, such as 'Alpha and Omega' and 'Low down the Chariots' were two of our favourites.

We cherish the genuine love and support from Jason sir (former Christ choir master), friends and teachers at Christ.

**Legato Vocal Point (LVP)**  
*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*



# AURUS MEMOIRS

CHRIST BOOK OF MEMORIES  
1969-2019

## TRUNK OF HAPPINESS

The CHRIST campus has granted memories that won't expire. I still remember the first day in class; I was a bit confused and felt chaotic unable to connect with others. Well, being an introvert myself, thus facing challenges, I experienced the need of relating and communicating with fellow students. Honestly, assignments or extracurricular activities which demand teamwork have worked out a lot for me. Even though assignments do give a headache, it seems to be valuable in instilling many qualities which are needed for both life and work. Our class had several group activities and assignments.

Well, in the beginning itself we started off with 'masquerades' for British Literature, where each group was required to perform a short play. It was an opportune time, where we got closer to know each other. Later, as a whole class, we were part of Street play, Song competition and dance extravaganza. In future ahead, I don't know whether

I will remember all the lectures, but I am sure that I will keep in mind the quality time which I have spent together with classmates. The range of exposure which the campus guarantees is truly astonishing. There are people from different background and culture. You get to know different perceptions, philosophies and ambitions. In our space, there are people who strive to become a cricket commentator, filmmaker, writer, P.R and so on. Their hard work to attain their dream goal has inspired me to render maximum effort to achieve mine. Opinions and dissenting views in class discussions have given a new horizon in my thoughts. All those valuable seeds of small and big experiences will definitely sprout to be a trunk of happiness.

### **Rojan Babu**

*BA in Communication and Media, English, Psychology  
2016 - 2018*

## INEFFABLE JOY



Time flies, it seems like yesterday when I first entered to be an undergraduate student of BSc Psychology (Honors). I was truly happy to pursue my dream to be a psychologist and be part of CHRIST.

Walking into the newborn Bannerghatta campus with my dad, I had my own doubts on how things would turn out and on how I would cope here. Little did I know that this in fact would actually be a home in itself. The warm and loving seniors and doting faculty, helped break the insecurities and went above and beyond to become our family. They inspired, motivated and filled us all with the dream to build our campus and own it like our own.

The enthusiasm and zeal of the crowd I found here was simply infectious. I soon started exploring 'what could be' from all that was available. The pride of being founders of everything that could potentially grow and reach new levels was something I personally cherished. The friends I found and the relationships we made are something I definitely look back with fond memories. With time the campus started growing into its potential and so did we. We got wonderful juniors with whom we bonded. The experience

of performing on the newly built auditorium of our campus especially, a moment very close to my heart, that it fills my eyes with tears of joy. Everytime I go on stage, it feels like the first time and fills my heart with joy that is ineffable.

The harmonies in choir, the challenging and fun CIAs, 'Psych fam', SWO, CAPS, Student Council, ACC, Orpheus, Dissertation, running for attendance, yellow and white forms have all given memories for a lifetime.

3 years down the line, I have fulfilled my bucket list of planting a sapling on campus (which is 3 years now!), donating blood, spreading awareness about mental health, running in marathons and what not! From finding yourself to knowing what you want, from being a follower to growing as a founder, from starting solo to ending as a networker and from being just a student to a Christite was a journey that is truly priceless.

### **Mariaet Wilson**

*BSc in Psychology  
2016 - 2019*

## THE CHRIST PLANT – A SAFE SPACE!

‘CHRIST Plant’ here refers to the nurturing ground of the University campus, which is a host to these acres of land enveloped by mighty structural buildings, trees with beautiful flowers and greeneries everywhere. It has given wings to mosaic of lives over the last 50 years. One of the wonderful feelings of being a Christite is living in this campus with ample of facilities ranging from sports to libraries. It is where one learns to be, to respect all beings and live a dignified life ever after.

CHRIST (Deemed to be University) is a safe space not only from discrimination, criticism or other emotional or physical harm but also from the harsh of nature, and pollutions of the city. Have you ever wondered how diverse we are yet unified under one chorus of CHRIST anthem we sing along? It is indeed, a mesmerizing moment of grace when you realise the number of people who walk in and out of the campus every day.

The innumerable activities that happen in the walk way every day throughout the academic year will mark the diary of any Christite. The number of associations and clubs, sports and athletics, the competitions and initiatives

that are bombarded every day are a lifelong learning that has gone into one’s history. These are all a sign that we do not just exist to achieve academic excellence alone but living it out in real life situations. The formative aspect is clearly visible in the lives of Christites.

The numbers of cafeterias in the campus for instance, the Indian Coffee House, Nandini, Birds Park or Kiosk, the Pebbles Park or the gourmet are all a familiar place which is when we leave then will turn into nostalgia. These are not only a recreational space alone but the place for completions of CIA’s and project works, meeting for discussions, role plays and learning.

That feeling of safety begins when we enter the college gate is what safe space is all about. You need not fear anything but be confident to run your day. Walking through the driveway is a metaphor to the goal of life. Each is one struggling to reach that searching meaning for life, and very soon we realised that struggle itself is indeed a growth. Today we are all here, but tomorrow we are all going to be ‘thrown into the world.’ The time when one will be tested of what we learnt and lived through.

St. Mother Teresa once said, “We cannot do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” I am reckoning this saying when I observed the securities and the ground staff who are down to earth in their everyday duties. It keeps challenging me in my duties as a student. The librarians, either in the UG or the Knowledge Centre are cordial in their relationships, their smiles and help and most of all their commitment and dedication are lived example which every one of us must learn and respect. For the dignity of humans does not lie in the kind of work we do but how we do the work, to bring fulfilment and meaning in one’s life.

They are the dedicated souls who gave their today for the future of each and every student. And thus, gratitude sprouts from the heart for all of them. As we pave the years through, the old will go and the new will come, but the memories and grandeur of the contributions made by each one, we will ever cherish throughout one’s life.

### **Avi Krocha**

*School of Education*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*

*Fourth Semester*

## KALEIDOSCOPIC MOMENTS

If I retrace my footprints by one year, I will find myself in a small room, gazing at laptop screen, with “Congratulations, you have been selected in Christ University”, beaming at me. I got Kengeri Campus though, and I must admit that no ecstasy built up inside me. To call it my first official awkward embrace with CHRIST (Deemed to be University) won't be an over exaggeration.

Nonetheless, your world becomes the place you live in. The same happened to me as well. With time, the campus became an extended part of my life. The pride of being a Christite is something that words can't define.

The world we live in is beautiful and it is amazing how little things shape up our entire life. My association with CHRIST (Deemed to be University) did not just begin with MBA. Back during my engineering days, I had come to CHRIST for the event Baptizer with my theatre troupe. If someone asks about the performance we gave then, our entire team would develop a sudden dementia. But then it is also true we never cease to reminisce the time spent on the CHRIST campus. It was phenomenal. Incidentally, I got my first job in Koramangala, just shy of a mile from CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Main Campus. Needless to say, I used to cross the campus frequently. Back then I did not fathom that my future

was waiting there. That “March On Christite” will get embedded in my system, that discipline will become a habit, that I will find my soul mate here.

Our life is made up of memories: small, large, and miniscule fragments of memories that come together to form wonderful patterns like a kaleidoscope. Tiring classroom sessions, engaging countless chatter and brainstorming in the canteen, extra-curriculars, running around the campus during events; there is a madness that is electric and mystical at the same time. We fail to realize the beauty and importance of things when they are close to us but when they go away, a part of you does understand their worth. CHRIST has given me a lot. It is a realization that might escape me currently but I am sure that 10 or 20 years from now, I will look back at my life in CHRIST and delve deep into nostalgia. That day, I will pull out this dusty book of memory from the archive, read this piece I wrote and smile... smile at all the significant insignificant details. “Conscious of not being able to separate myself from my time, I have decided to become part of it.” -Albert Camus

### **Nikhil Sinha**

*Master of Business Administration - Lean Operations & Systems  
2018*



## NINE YEARS AND COUNTING



This bitter cold reminds me of the time I've spent with the warmest people I've ever met and I'm truly indebted to everyone involved for making this the BEST TRIP EVER. I still can't believe that it's been almost two years since I visited Germany as a part of the German Exchange Program from Christ Junior College. Twelve students and two teachers embarked on this cultural adventure without knowing that all of us were about to encounter the best days of our lives.

I had the opportunity to stay with my teachers - Mrs. Aswathy and Mr. Jerin. Being a vegetarian, I knew that food was going to be a big challenge and hence packed a whole suitcase of ready-to-cook food! It was a memorable experience for me as I was cooking for the first time and even more pleasurable as it was relished by all of us. We all enjoyed feasting on Indian food, in a foreign land. We were fortunate enough to experience all four seasons in one fortnight. Low population density, clean roads, zero traffic congestion and green trees forming umbrellas make Metten an ideal place to live in. Over and above, the hospitality of the Germans was like a cherry on the cake. They were kind to make room for me on one of their weekends and we went to the Bavarian forests, which

brought us one step closer to nature. Mount Zugspitze, the highest peak in the country, simply took my breath away.

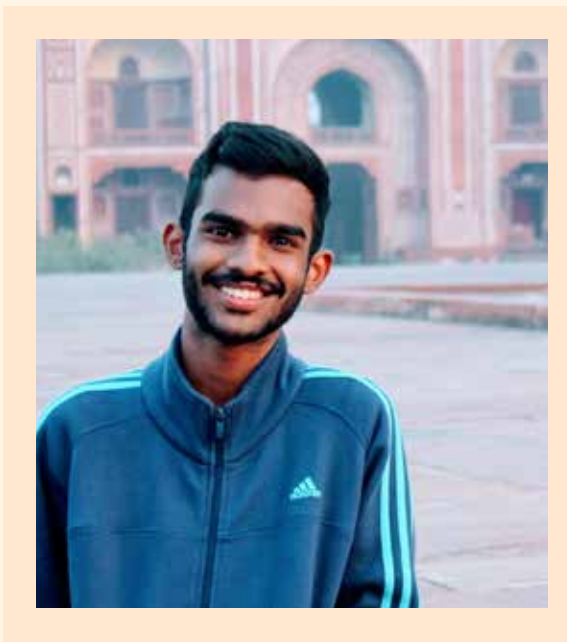
Travelling internationally without my parents at such a young age was petrifying yet exhilarating. Also, everyone made me feel so comfortable that I didn't miss my parents back home. The Germans were scheduled to arrive in India in October the same year... After their formal welcome, the German exchange students were given a tour of our campus. That weekend, the Germans experienced the grand Indian festival, Diwali. We also went to a village near Kolar and realized how contrasting Indian urban and rural folks are.

The last evening of the entire program was booked for the cultural performance by the Germans and the pang of angst snapped us out of our perfect trance. With teary eyes and aching hearts, we bid goodbye.

All in all, the student exchange program is nothing less than magic and I'm forever grateful to CHRIST for these memories that'll always be cherished.

### **Nikithaa Paarakh**

*BBA in Finance and International Business  
CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*



## NEVER A DULL MOMENT

As I walk the long road of garden street  
And visit the numerous places to eat,  
I see the dark blue ID tags hanging from each student  
Who develop unique ways of finding amusement.  
From street plays to proscenium, there's never a dull moment  
That's our university's one amazing component.  
Each block has its own tale to say,  
Block 4, although cry in dismay  
About their classes which start early in the morning,  
While Block 3 stays hidden,  
Until someone is bedridden.  
Block 2 holds the future to our money  
The ones in Block 1 study,  
Physics, Maths and Chemistry.  
Entering the lift in the Central Block remains a mystery  
While the Audi Block hosts various important events,  
All because of the Vice Chancellor's consent.  
The day we entered this University a friendship began  
With our classmates during the week and with others at the weekend  
I dread the day when we will all depart,  
With near ones telling us to party hard  
50 years has changed a lot and it will change further  
But 'Excellence and Service' will remain in every weather  
So march on Christites, march on  
With your heads held high and a heart so strong,  
March on Christites, march on.

**Allen Benny Mathew**

*Bachelor of Law (BA, LLB)*

2018 - 2023

## WHERE PADAYATRA STARTS



5th June 2017 marked my first day as a Christite. Being new to the strange ambience of the dynamic city of Bangalore and the extravagant yet peaceful campus of CHRIST (Deemed to be University), I was shocked more than excited yet my curiosity knew no borders.

I still remember wearing new shirt freshly ironed by my mum and new chinos, though it was not jeans, it looked so cool for an executive dress code. It was instructed that we had to be present in Main Auditorium on the first day. I came along with my mum, grandma and uncle. I was curious about the campus as I was constantly staring at each and every person, the infrastructure, posters and banners noticing the minutest things.

I keenly observed my own footsteps on the red carpet in the grand auditorium till I was instructed to take a seat by one of the volunteers. The programme started right on time as always since CHRIST stood for punctuality. Rangapooja by Natyarpana, the University Dance Team kicked off the ceremony. It took me 10 seconds or less to recall the name of the song as a smile came to my face and I uttered that word :

“PADAYATRA” (journey by feet)

Padayatra was originally a Malayalam album song written by E Chandrasekharan and sung by playback singer Job Kurian along with Harish Sivaramakrishnan from the band ‘Agam’. Though it was released in 2015, the song still remains the first on my playlist because of its divine musical rendition, soothing vibe and enthusiasm. This song also gives me immense positive energy every time I listen to it. In other words, listening to Padayatra feels like a visit to the temple for me. Natyarpana gave the most beautiful visual treat with an excellent song selection. I am not able to express in words the goosebumps I experienced while watching the performance. The only thing that could top the impact that Padyatra left on me was beloved former VC’s words Fr. Thomas C Mathew, a great visionary, with his youthful words and energetic which inspired us to zenith.

Music doesn’t have a language but it creates an impact on everyone, irrespective of the language. Among all the Padayatras I have gone through in my life, my ongoing Padayatra at CHRIST is clearly the most satisfying.

**Rahul P Vinish**

*Bachelor of Computer Applications*

2017



## A DREAM COME TRUE



The first time I came to Bangalore, I had to visit a couple of other universities. They were supposedly the top universities in Bangalore but none of them caught my interest. Not really, not until I found CHRIST (Deemed to be University). When I went to CHRIST on a breezy summer's day, the campus was closed for the weekend leaving that heavenly view for us to enjoy. The first thing that caught my attention were the magnificent trees, welcoming us right through the gates. It almost looked to be unrealistic and a view straight out of a painting. Walking through the campus, it barely felt like a university and more like a grand garden - one that nobility would own years back.

Despite the strong connection I felt with the place, my friend confronted me with a bitter lie. 'Because of your weak English, they won't accept you there.' I cried quite a lot that night. It breaks a lot in a person to build up so much hope to be shut down so quickly. Even if my friend attempted to comfort me about it, the demotivation didn't go away. Time passed by and it took a while for me to get back to Bangalore.

This time around, I applied to CHRIST (Deemed to be University), hoping for the best. There was no

guarantee that I would be accepted, but I couldn't just let go off a dream such as this.

Eventually, on the day of the results of the exams; I sat in front of my laptop, praying my heart out that I would be accepted. I suppose in a sense, the prayer worked; since when I checked the site's page through the names, I found mine! Claiming I was feeling relieved would be an understatement, but I knew I had one more thing to pass - the interview. On the day of the interview, I had to talk to two of the best teachers of CHRIST. They must've sensed how nervous I was, as they comforted me with very motivating words - If this is what you really want, you will get it! I was accepted at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) after all.

I find the students here very hard working, the staff kind and genuine, and the general aura divine. This has motivated me to work on my flaws and thrive to get better.

### **Azadeh Moradi Nikoo**

*Iranian PhD Scholar*

*Department of Psychology*

*CHRIST (Deemed to be University)*



## ODE TO CHRIST

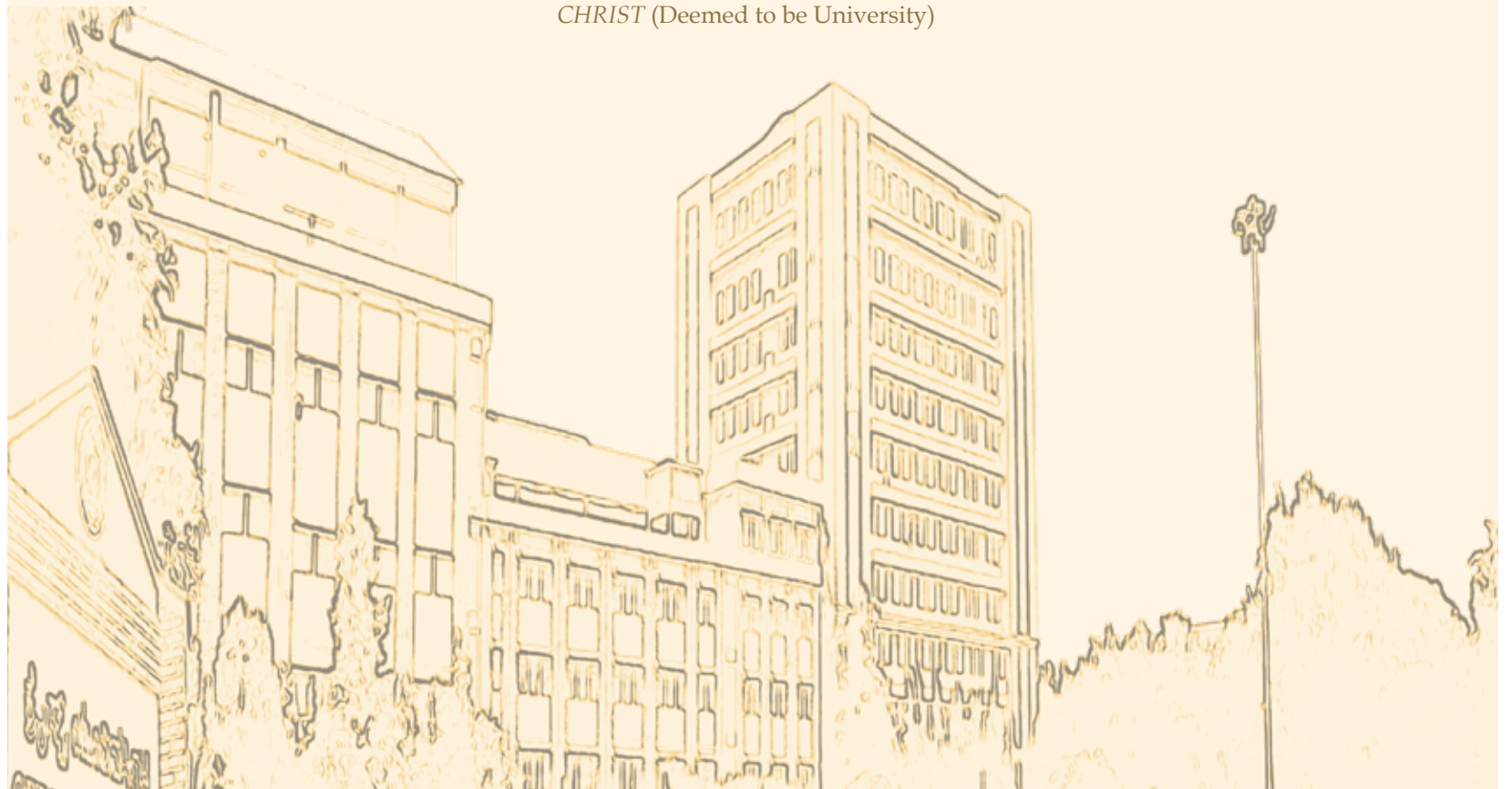
Decisions running helter-skelter, finally zeroing in on one,  
CHRIST (Deemed to be University) it was, in the hope that it would be fun.  
First day, inauguration, excitement of epic proportions,  
New faces everywhere brought about a desire for fruitful interactions.  
Events aplenty, countless in number, participations of all on the rise,  
Darpan, Blossoms, Nritta, gigantic and humongous in size.  
From Nandini to Central Block, conversations galore,  
Of academics and culturals and what not, often becoming folklore.  
The Choir will always have a special place in my heart,  
Letting me belt out my emotions, with harmony and deftness of art.  
The eateries became synonymous with memories made,  
Michael's, Mingo's and Rumbles, we will all miss, is what my friends said.  
Two years I have been here, do not regret it one bit,  
Consider myself lucky to be here, I was deemed fit.  
Once a Christite, always one, we march on with our heads held high,  
Onwards and upwards, with no regrets, always ready to fly.

**Saurav Jyoti Lahon**

Master of Business Administration

2017 - 2019

CHRIST (Deemed to be University)



## MUSINGS ON RESEARCH



In my late thirties I boldly decided to rekindle my passion for research! In fact one of my colleagues enchanted me with his unending and enamouring description of CHRIST (Deemed to be University) and its promising research culture and traditions. Hardly did I realise that I was taking a decision that would completely transform my perspectives of research and learning. Little did I know that the days to come were going to be rigorous and only the passionate ones would persevere! In fact, I had the wrong notion that 'research is a walk in the park'!

An auspicious beginning and I was thrilled to know that the intellectual curiosity would be sustained in the days to come. Intellectual giants of various shapes and forms, different approaches and attitudes, diverse disciplines and backgrounds 'came, met and conquered' our minds and intellect. We were spellbound and awestruck at their deep knowledge and expertise in research. Above all, we were stunned by their humility and dedication to research.

As a novice, trembling with fear, I began attending lectures. Enlightened young minds, my fellow research scholars, shattered my heart with frequent intellectual explosions! Out of the blue they would drop atom bombs of unfamiliar concepts and ideas which were Latin and Greeks to a beginner like me. As I was struggling to creep like an infant, they were establishing themselves as intellectual geniuses.

Gradually, I moulded myself and continued my journey. The second semester dawned with rich promises! Wow! I would find time with my research guide and proceed with my research. My hopes collapsed like a pack of cards! I was asked to join the Department of Psychology for my second semester. Mama Mia! What unfolded in the days to come was truly marvellous! Statistics! That too in galore! Struggled, disheartened, discouraged...but went on! Finally, SPSS and Statistics were part of history. There came the good news: 'Statistics will not be tested for the second semester examinations.' Our joy knew no bounds and we exulted in ecstasy. Nevertheless it was transient, as transient as an illusion.

I still remember a pertinent thought former Vice-Chancellor shared during the inauguration of M Phil course. He said: "Liquidity rate in M Phil research is very high." I am at present struggling to disprove his prophecy! Will I succeed? Yet to be answered. Thus I sum up a kaleidoscopic view of a researcher on ventilation, looking for a new lease of life! May all the heavenly patrons of research strengthen my willpower to forge ahead with determination!

### **Johnnichan J**

*Master in Philosophy in Education  
School of Education  
CHRIST (Deemed to be University)  
2018-19*

## FINDING THE RIGHT NOTE

In Senior Kindergarten, I performed on stage for the first time – I sang. I got too close to the microphone, amplifying my voice to a painful positive feedback from the speakers. A kid seated in the audience shouted “Will you shut that stupid radio?” I didn’t finish my song, burst into a fit of tears while getting off stage. A teacher came up to later to tell me that I did wonderful for my age. I fell in love with music that day – I think it loves me too.

In the 4th I did a Sufi solo that was a hit, making me “the kid who sings Kailash Kher”; in the 5th I won a state level singing competition, appearing on an unknown TV channel and an unknown newspaper, but appearing nonetheless; I performed my 4th standard performance on our Farewell and made my teachers cry, who told me they transcended back in time and saw me in my black sherwani and my plump childhood.

I wanted to get better when I joined CHRIST, so I looked for musicians in my class. I didn’t have to look much though, for my class had some wonderful musicians and singers. I was awestruck with their brilliance in music. The first guy I talked to was Aryan Yadav, a short, lean guy with a brilliant voice and hands that flowed over the strings of his guitar. The first we interacted was through music. One day I joined him while he played his guitar, borrowed it and sang. He listened and when I made a blunder out of nervousness, he

told me to continue with a smile. You should meet him if you love music; that’s all you need to have to make friends with him – sheer love for music.

I met two girls later who were in the choir, Ruth and Nicole. They are definitely the most talented singers I’ve met in my life. The grip over notes and the language of music that they had truly made me feel blessed to be friends with them and get to sing beside them. And then I met another Nicole who I had hardly talked to till one day when I heard her sing with mellifluous voice she has. Her voice has the same radiance her smiles does, which is perennial.

I wanted to participate in the Blossoms fest’s acoustic competition, so I asked them if they wanted to perform together along with another guy from JPENG named Manas Ganguly. You’d recognize him prancing around while listening to music, mouthing lyrics and drumming with invisible sticks on an invisible portable drum set. We did an acapella, my first ever, sang Backpocket by VULFPECK. We auditioned, qualified for the main competition and were quite amazed we made it through.

You must know that I love jazz, its intricacies and the song that introduced me to it was Michael Buble’s Feeling Good. I would sing along just for the feel of the song’s difficulty. I never had the confidence to sing it to a crowd, but with them

I felt so much more in control over my voice. I suggested we do the song for the finale and that I would be the lead. They agreed.

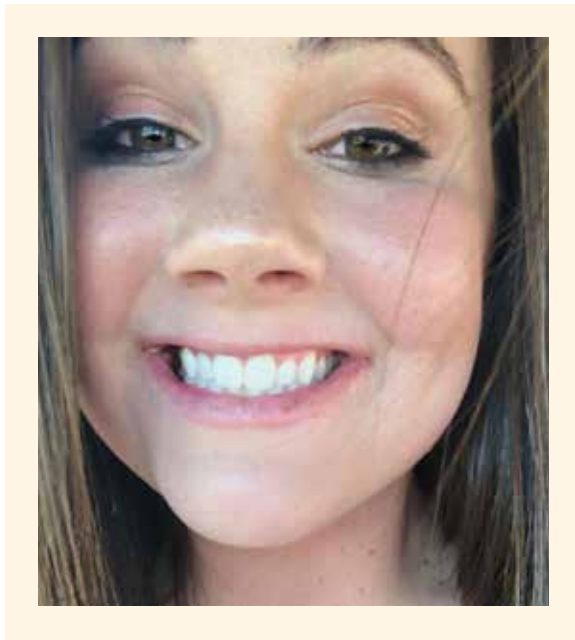
We practiced till the final day, palpitating before getting on stage, knowing that this could either go really well or really bad. Thankfully, it was the former. I closed my eyes, sang this beautiful piece of art composition and like always, smiled while I sang. The final segment of the song moves two scales up, making it really difficult to sing in your chest voice, especially for someone like me who was singing a tenor’s piece while being a baritone. I managed it though and I perfected the last run in the song, which upon emanating over the microphone to the audience gained a roaring applause from the crowd.

We didn’t win the competition, but the people who came to hear us sing and the ones who came up to tell us that we did a good job made it all worthwhile. But the best part was the friends I made through music. We all different corners of our classroom, but we all came close through music. That’s what CHRIST as an institution provided me – a way to find people like me and to find out who I truly am. I hope to perform many more times in the 3 years I am here. Do come hear us perform.

**Vivian Paul Parakal**

*BA in Journalism, Psychology, English*  
2018

## A PLANE RIDE TO MADNESS



I am a second year Accounting student from the United States studying at The University of Tulsa, but I studied at CHRIST for the summer of 2018. I had never been out of the country before coming to Bangalore and, honestly, I did not know anything about India prior to the first day of classes. I was far from home, in a place where very few people looked or sounded like me- I was overwhelmed, overstimulated, and I felt like I was over my head coming into the city for the first time.

We went from the airport and went straight to CHRIST to start our orientation course. One of the first things I noticed about the campus was how many plants were everywhere- broad-leaved trees draped over every walkway, yellow-tipped bushes skirted fountains around the grounds, and flowers littered the ground having fallen from greenery overhead. I relished in the all of the light coming into the building from the near open wall that bordered the stairs and the open windows that allowed the floral, outside air to fill every classroom. CHRIST's campus, esthetically, embodied architectural aspects not often seen in the typical gothic style of American colleges, and it was so refreshing. Though I missed my home a lot, the colors and the busyness of CHRIST (Deemed to be University) quickly became my new home. Having played various sports my whole life, I joined the volleyball team to participate in the Golden Jubilee Pedagogue Tournament. My teammates

showed my friend Beka, another American student from USAC, and I what it meant to live in Bangalore- they talked us through cultural differences, good places to eat, and anything in between. One of my favorite memories from my time CHRIST was the march of the athletes entering in the auditorium for the opening of the tournament. Hundreds of athletes lined up in their separate teams to funnel through the pathway made by spectators cheering and playing instruments. It was daunting to have that much attention on us at one time, but the loud hum of people as we entered into the Christ Junior College block for the rest of the performances was exhilarating as I watched my team flash onto the jumbotron.

From that first game of cricket, our new group of friends went to each others games, practices, watched the end of the World Cup, and they tried to teach us Hindi, though that often ended in them making fun of our American versions of what was supposed to be Hindi. Leaving CHRIST ended up being a tearful goodbye and adjusted back to the States took much longer than I thought it would.

### **Karen Tatum Cole**

*International Exchange Program*

*USAC*

*The University of Tulsa*

*2018*



CHRIST ( Deemed to be University ) was the first institution in Bangalore to start an International Office in June 2005. Even prior to the establishment of the International Office, college, Christ College signed its first Memorandum of Understanding with Western Michigan University, USA in 1997 for a twinning program.

The college also established ties with Virginia Commonwealth University to offer a dual degree program to MBA students.

From humble beginnings of having 360 foreign students, it has progressed to having more than 600 students from 58 countries around the world.



# AURUS MEMOIRS

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