

SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL (Deemed University)

Symbiosis Law School, Pune

NAAC 5.4.1- The Alumni Association/Chapters (registered and functional) contributes significantly to the development of the institution through financial and other support services during the last five years.

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SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
(Re-Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)

SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE

CARE | COURAGE | COMPETENCE | COLLABORATION

ALUMNI CELL:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT 2018-19



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Introduction

The Alumni Cell is a faculty guided student body which works to facilitate communication among alumni. The cell makes thousands of calls and mails each year in an attempt to keep in touch with the alumni and keep them abreast of the activities in college. It had absolutely no database to work with as they were lost in the sea of papers which were moved when the college made the transition from Pune University to SIU. The few records the cell did manage to find were outdated and alumni could not be contacted through them. Over the course of past few years, a dedicated effort of the cell to build a database has had some fruition. We now have a database of thousands of alumni which gets refined and updated each year. Apart from this, the cell has always been one to take initiatives even if they do not fall in the confines of conventional alumni related activities. The cell proudly hosts numerous events including teacher's day and Farewell. It even started the practice of making a yearbook, an activity since delegated to the PR Media Cell. The Cell has consistently raised the quality of events each year.

Consolidated Report of Primary Activities for the Year 2018-19

- The **Teachers Day Celebrations** were introduced in college by the Alumni Cell in 2013. We hosted the biggest Teacher's Day yet on 5th September 2018. Senior Members of the Cell proposed "Retro to Metro" as the theme for Teachers Day, 2018. Within the theme we had street food stalls and game stalls for teachers and students. The planning, execution and implementation were all done by members of the Alumni Committee and Cell. There was also Karaoke and the the Dome area in college was spectacularly decorated with personalised messages for teachers. We also had alumni from different batches record video clipping of a song titled "wind beneath my wings" for the teachers as a token of love. The program moved forth with the awards ceremony, wherein teachers were bestowed with different titles which encapsulated their unique characteristics and mannerisms. Along with the titles, the faculty members, administrative staff and the support staff members were given souvenirs as memorabilia. The teachers were extremely happy with the event and it has become a flagship event in college which even students love to attend.
- On 23rd October, 2018, the Alumni Committee and cell aided the administration in organising the **15th Convocation Ceremony of Symbiosis International (Deemed University)**. The ceremony was held at Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Lavale Hill Top Campus from 9:30 am onwards. The Chief Guest for the event was Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India. The members helped the administrative staff of SLS, Pune in distributing the gowns and degrees of the graduating batch of 2018 on the day of the ceremony and prior to that acted as a bridge between the graduating batch and the administration of college.
- The Alumni Committee and Cell organized a **Guest lecture cum Interactive session on 'Death Penalty Litigation and the Relation Between Mental Health and Death Penalty'** on 25th January 2019. The lecture was conducted for the first-year students of 3 Years LLB as well as the third- and fourth-year students of BA/BBA LLB course and

was delivered by **Ms. Maitreyi Misra** and **Mr. Himanshu Agarwal**, alumni of SLS-P. From sourcing the Resource persons for the Lecture to making all the necessary arrangements in order to organize the same without any hiccup, all of it was done by the Alumni Cell. Ms. Misra is a founding member of Project 39A and graduated from Symbiosis Law School, Pune in 2010 and holds a Masters in Law from New York University. Mr. Agarwal is an associate at Project 39A at the National Law University, Delhi and litigates cases of prisoners sentenced to death at the Supreme Court of India. Project 39 A, previously known as the Centre on the Death Penalty, NLU Delhi is engaged in providing pro bono legal assistance to prisoners sentenced to death across the country. They are involved in the cases of over 50 prisoners on death row from across 12 states. The Project is involved in strategic litigation aimed at challenging procedural and substantive aspects of the criminal justice system for the realization of constitutional rights of prisoners sentenced to death. The lecture was divided into 2 parts. The first part was dealt with by Mr. Himanshu Agarwal who spoke at length about the Death Penalty India Report. He presented some shocking statistics before the audience. According to the report, 34% of the people in prisons and under death row are the sole earners of their family, 70.2% of them were not represented well by their lawyers which led them to the punishment and 30% of all these prisoners are those who are uneducated as well as socially and economically backward. Through these statistics the speaker highlighted how an overwhelmingly disproportionate number of people under death row are economically and socially backward. He tried to accentuate the result of the interaction of people from the lower class with that of the legal system and how the system is extremely unjust towards them. The way their cases are tried and represented are in contravention to the principles of justice itself. Given this reality, the speaker put forth the question whether death penalty is really constitutional? The second part of the lecture was delivered by Ms. Maitreyi Misra who tried to draw a nexus between death penalty and mental health. Her session began with an overview about mental health and the difference drawn between legal and mental insanity. She also spoke at length about 'moral blameworthiness' and how emphasis on young age is essentially a strong mitigating factor when it comes to deciding the punishment. She put forth that the nuances of the poor and social conditions of the convicts must be taken into consideration when the judiciary is trying the criminal. She also applauded the decision of the Supreme Court according to which mental health experts were allowed to meet prisoners, highlighting the importance of the same. The session proved to be extremely thought provoking for one and all present as it brought the students as well as the faculty face to face with the ground-breaking reality and status of those on death row. As it was an interactive session, it was extremely well-received by the audience.

- We also organized a much-appreciated **Farewell Ceremony** for the batch of 2019 on 26th March, 2019 in the Quadrangle Area of our college. We had photo booths, stage performances and title awards for the entertainment of the graduating batch. Along with the performances put up by the juniors, people from the batch of 2019 also put on a dance performance along with a skit for their peers and juniors. There were mugs with titles awarded to a few students from the batch for their services to college, excellence in academics, expertise in co-curricular activities like moots and parliamentary debates and extra-curricular like dance and drama. There was also a video made as a tribute to the batch which was meant to lighten the mood of the audience which was well liked by the

majority. Along with that, hoodies for the graduating batch were also distributed on a later date as parting away gift which was sourced by the Alumni Cell.

- The flagship event of the Committee and Cell is the **Annual Alumni Meet**. It was one of the biggest meets yet with 40+ alumni at the gathering. What made it even more special was that after a long time it was organized in College Premises. The program began with the lighting of the lamp ceremony by the Chief Guest for the occasion, Hon. Ms. Justice Sujata V. Manohar (Retd.), Former Judge Supreme Court of India, Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Director Symbiosis Law School, Pune and Dean, Faculty of Law, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Adv. Sampath Bulusu, General Manager-Legal at Shell Hazira LNG and Alumni Convener, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Adv. Amit Singh Sethi, Former Additional Advocate General, Punjab and the Guest of Honour for the occasion. This was followed by the Director's address delivered by Dr. Shashikala Gurpur. Dr. Gurpur then went on to felicitate the guests for the event. This was followed by an address delivered by the Director of Symbiosis Centre for Alumni Engagement Dr. Neelesh Kumbhojkar who remarked that it was a pleasure for him to be attending the alumni meet for the second time. The Chief Guest, Hon. Ms. Justice Sujata V. Manohar (Retd.) spoke on "The Role of Legal Professionals in Serving the Roads of Justice Better". AHer address was followed by the launch of Alumni Directory and Alumni Newsletter by the dignitaries. Next in line was the Annual Alumni Legal Quiz, a soulful performance by the band members of the SLS- P, as well as a short dance performance by the SLS-P Dance Crew who undeniably captured the attention of the audience. The meet also saw a spontaneous performance by Mr. Abhijit Kelkar, one of the alumni of SLS-P, who sang a few songs for the all the guests and alumni present. The Alumni Convener, Adv. Sampath Bulusu in his warm speech recalled his decade-long reconnection with SLS-P, and highlighted the impact that social media has on the world today. The next was felicitation of supportive alumni, which was soon followed by vote of thanks by Dr. Bindu Ronald, Deputy Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune. The Alumni Meet proved to be a grand success and was only made possible as the members of the committee and cell had started working a month in advance for the same. From deciding the date, venue, budget, everything was done on time and that was the precise reason why the event proved to be an enjoyable event for one and all. The new addition of the Alumni Quiz in the table programme was appreciated by Director Madam as well as the other dignitaries. Another initiative that was taken up was presenting the alumni attendees with an Alumni T-shirt along with the mementos. This too was appreciated by the alumni and the administration alike.
- Another new initiative taken up by the Alumni Cell was the Cell Incubator Initiative which seeks to create academic and research linkages between the Cells and lawyers, law firms and research organizations. We beta tested the initiative with our Alumni and a few Cells before implementing it fully. Discussions to start the Cell Incubator Initiative were held in October, 2018. Collaboration between our alumnus, Mr. Anandh Venkatramani and an SIBM alumnus Mr. Kunal Kashyap were facilitated through the Alumni Cell.
- The Cell also worked closely with the placement cell to enable best possible internships and placements prospects for students.

- The Alumni Network was made more active on social media in the increasingly digital environment. Existing Facebook handle was updated more often. Handles on other platforms such as Twitter, Snapchat, LinkedIn and Instagram were created and updated in a timely fashion.
- The institution has a vast treasure trove of alumni excelling in different fields of study. Taking a note of this, the Alumni Cell collaborated with Mr. Himanshu Agarwal and Mr. Maitreyi Misra working for Project 39A to deliver a lecture cum inter active session on 25th January, 2019.
- The Cell launched the second edition of Alumni Directory. This was a mammoth task as it required us to call every Alumni, verify their details and get their consent for publication to carry forward the bench mark that was set by the cell last year.
- Alumni Nexus, the Alumni Newsletter featured interviews with ten notable alumni. It also consisted of Achievements of alumni and the activities in college. There were significant improvements in the Newsletter and each year the Alumni Nexus sets a new standard.
- We made sure we did all the small courtesies we could to make alumni feel like they still as much a part of this college as they were years ago as students. We congratulated them for their achievements, invited them for sambahav and for the first time even gave alumni badges during sambahav which made them feel special. We even gave Alumni Badges during the Alumni Meet had the name and batch of the alumni. They served as helpful ice breakers between alumni.



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REPORT- ALUMNI MEET 2019

The program began with the lighting of the lamp ceremony by the Chief Guest for the occasion, Hon. Ms. Justice Sujata V. Manohar (Retd.), Former Judge Supreme Court of India, Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Director Symbiosis Law School, Pune and Dean, Faculty of Law, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Adv. Sampath Bulusu, General Manager-Legal at Shell Hazira LNG and Alumni Convener, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Adv. Amit Singh Sethi, Former Additional Advocate General, Punjab and the Guest of Honour for the occasion.

This was followed by the Director's address delivered by Dr. Shashikala Gurpur. Ma'am began her address by highlighting how the Alumni Meet every year is a celebration of the relationship that the institute shares with and the contributions made by its alumni. She extended her heartfelt gratitude to all the alumni who have garnered support to the institution in all its educational activities. She was also extremely delighted to announce that this year we had representatives attending the Meet from both-the very first as well as the very recent batch. Ma'am was proud to welcome Hon. Ms. Justice Sujata V Manohar (Retd.) as the Chief Guest for the event today and commended her for all the contributions she has made to the legal world. Dr. Gurpur then went on to felicitate the guests for the event.

This was followed by an address delivered by the Director of Symbiosis Centre for Alumni Engagement Dr. Neelesh Kumbhojkar who remarked that it was a pleasure for him to be attending the alumni meet for the second time. He emphasized upon the alumni database and thanked Gurpur Ma'am under whose able guidance the contact numbers, names and batches could be consolidated. He further urged the alumni to share any updated data with the Centre so as to ensure that a better account of the same could be maintained.

The Chief Guest, Hon. Ms. Justice Sujata V. Manohar (Retd.) spoke on "The Role of Legal Professionals in Serving the Roads of Justice Better". She began her speech by thanking Dr. Shashikala Gurpur and Prof. Shirish Kulkarni for giving her the opportunity to meet the faculty, students and the alumni of Symbiosis Law School, Pune. She remarked how the topic given to her today is simple yet difficult to speak upon. She elaborated that lawyers form an intrinsic part of the judicial process but now we have entered a time where working within timelines has become an eroded concept and how litigation today has become expensive and lasts for several years. She commended the works of legal luminaries like Justice Nani Palkhivala and contributions made to the legal world like that of Public Interest Litigations as well as the role played by women in the legal profession. Finally, she highlighted the role of college in inculcating responsibility among its students and emphasizing how justice is the very cornerstone of our society.

Her address was followed by the launch of Alumni Directory and Nexus by the dignitaries. Next in line was the Annual Alumni Legal Quiz, a soulful performance by the band members



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of the SLS-P, as well as a short dance performance by the SLS-P Dance Crew who undeniably captured the attention of the audience. The meet also saw a spontaneous performance by Mr. Abhijit Kelkar, one of the alumni of SLS-P, who sang a few songs for the all the guests and alumni present.

The Alumni Convener, Adv. Sampath Bulusu in his warm speech recalled his decade-long reconnection with SLS-P, and highlighted the impact that social media has on the world today. He stressed upon the need for a mechanism to test the veracity of what is published online as anything and everything ends up becoming a news report. On a lighter note, he went on to share a few anecdotes regarding the college. He also touched upon the initiative taken by the college to create a fund to fully support the education of deprived or disadvantaged students in SLS-P.

The next was felicitation of supportive alumni, which was soon followed by vote of thanks by Dr. Bindu Ronald, Deputy Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune. She delivered her speech in the dual capacity, both as an alumna as well as the Deputy director of SLS-P and thanked everyone for making the event a beautiful occasion with a special thanks to the dignitaries, faculty SLS-P, Head and Co-Head of Alumni committee & Cell SLS-P for making the Alumni Meet 2019 a success.



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