

GREAT CONNECT

Dear Great Laker,
Greetings!

September 2014

It is with great pleasure that we bring to you this edition of “Great Connect” to update you with the latest events in our college. There has been a plethora of events since the last release, and as you go through the articles below, I promise you an overwhelming re-connection with your Alma Mater.

The Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Committee (CIECom) hosted Paisa Vasool, an entrepreneurship competition in July. The 3 day event was aimed at giving the students a platform to use and showcase their default as well as acquired business skills.

Students had a memorable celebration on the occasion of Eid-al-Fitr. On 7th of August, convocation for Progressive Pallavas (2013-2014) and Mamallas (2012-2014) was held at Chennai Trade Centre. The chief guest for the event was Mr. S Ramadorai, Vice-Chairman of TCS and Chairman of AirAsia who delivered the graduation address. In the evening, the Alumni committee 2014-15 organized a get together at Great Lakes campus for the graduated batch.

Moving ahead, two annual conferences—SWIM (Successful Women in Management) and HCM (Human Capital Management) were hosted in August. Miss Gautami Tadimalla was the chief guest for SWIM and Mr. Rajeev Dubey, President – Group HR, Corporate Services, and Aftermarket Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra, was the chief guest for the HR conclave. Students celebrated finals of Great Lakes Football League in the campus in the same month. On 15th of August, we proudly celebrated our 68th Independence Day and Uncle Bala hoisted the flag.

We look forward to hear from you with your stories, comments and suggestions at alcom@greatlakes.edu.in. As for now, I'll leave you with a quote from your Alma Mater

You're off to great places, Today is your day!

Your mountain is waiting, So... get on your way..!

Happy Reading,
Samer Akhter,
Editor - Great Connect

10th Annual Convocation 2014

Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai Campus hosted its 10th annual convocation on August 7th, 2014. This was a special day as it was the first convocation of the PGDM batch-The Mighty Mamallas. The PGPM Batch of the Progressive Pallavas was also awarded with degrees in the ceremony at the Chennai Trade Centre.

It was presided over by Shri S Ramadorai - Chairman, National Skill Development Agency & Vice Chairman, TCS, who delivered the convocation address. Shri Mahesh Menda - Chairman and Managing Director, World of Electricals, Dubai, was the other chief guest and he delivered the Presidential address. Uncle Bala presided over the meeting and addressed the gathering with his characteristic ardour and enthusiasm.

The award Ceremony kicked off with the grand entrance of our professors dressed in colorful convocation robes to preside over the convocation.

The class achievers and students on the Dean's list were the first to be felicitated with gold medals. Medals were awarded to students for their contribution in their respective committees (one per committee). Students were also rewarded for their exemplary performance in different subjects.

The official ceremony concluded as Dr. Bala administered the oath to all the graduating students and the new graduates tossed their hats as their proud parents applauded.

There was a note of celebration in the air as students mingled with their classmates and professors and introduced families. A very informal ambience took over as the ceremony ended and a fabulous lunch greeted the guests. The multitude of photographs clicked and the reunion of friends and the pride of their success created memories they would cherish for a lifetime.



SWIM 2014 Annual Conference hosted at Great Lakes

The annual conference of SWIM (Successful Women In Management) was hosted at Great Lakes this year on August 13th, 2014. Ms. Anita Tripathy – President, InVentiv International Pharma Services Pvt. Ltd. was the key note speaker for the day. Miss Anita spoke about excellence and how to manage work life balance. Miss Gauthami who is an Actor, Director and Entrepreneur, addressed the hall and spoke about her upbringing and her decision to join films and her struggle with cancer. Having come from the film industry, she was able to bring about a unique perspective altogether.

This intriguing session was followed by a panel discussion between successful women managers, each one being from a different background. The topic for panel discussion was 'Women Leadership – Better Corporate Governance and Ethics'. Before the discussion commenced, the panelists introduced themselves and shared invaluable experiences about the ups and downs in their professional and personal lives. They all proved themselves to be women of substance, who portrayed a strong sense of commitment and had thus achieved their dreams.



Key speakers for the event were :-

- Ms. Anita Tripathy - President, InVentiv International Pharma Services Pvt. Ltd.
- Ms. Kalki Subramanian – Founder Sahodari Foundation
- Ms. Preethy Unnikrishnan - Head - Campus Recruitment at Tata Consultancy Services
- Ms. Seema Raghunath - Head - Leadership Development India & sub-Saharan Africa, John Deere India
- Ms. Sharda Batra - Director – HR (Compensation & Benefits, Front Office Coverage)
- Ms. Hema Bajaj (Moderator)- Great Lakes, Chennai

The session was brought to a close on the note that we need to be reminded of the unmatched contributions of women towards the society, and ensure that they receive the respect and position that they rightfully command and deserve.

Human Capital Management Conclave 2014

On Aug 18, 2014, 600 students witnessed the Great Lakes' prestigious annual conference on "Human Capital Management (HCM)". The theme of the conclave was "Talent Engineering: Impact of Technology on HCM". The session started in the morning with the inauguration song sung by Devi and S P Prasanth.

Uncle Bala welcomed our guests that included two eminent and distinguished personalities, Mr. Rajeev Dubey, President – Group HR, Corporate Services, and Aftermarket Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra and Mr. Samir Kumar, Managing Director, Deutsche Bank. Mr. Dubey spoke about the relevance of human capital.

He emphasized on focusing on the next generation of human capital where technology and innovation seem to be the fulcrum. Mr. Samir Kumar conveyed the idea that "IT is all about changing the game, and not about playing the same game better".



We also witnessed a great panel discussion on the topic "Technology for Talent Acquisition". The following esteemed panel members shared their ideas :-

- Mr. Babu Vittal, Director-HR, FlipKart
- Ms. Gayathri Ramamurthy , Talent COE Leadership and Development, Capgemini
- Ms. Kamna Prasad, Director-HR, CRISIL
- Mr. Pranesh George, India Recruitment Lead-Asia Pacific, Groupon
- Mr. Balaji Govindarajan, Senior Director-Talent Development, FMR Group

The conference on "Human Capital Management-How technology is transforming talent acquisition process" was a great experience for the audience.



CIECom presents “Paisa Vasool”

The Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Committee—CIECom hosted an event “Paisa Vasool”, that brought to test the entrepreneurship skills of students in real life.

The 3 day event was aimed at giving our students a platform to use and showcase their default as well as acquired business skills. In this competition, teams consisting of 2 to 4 members with a maximum of Rs.7500 investment per team could start a venture with in Great-lakes campus and could run it for three days – from 26th to 28th of July. The aim of the event was to help students to let their business skill and thoughtfulness flow and create a venture where they could generate good cash and great experience.

A staggering count of 57 teams participated in the event and the teams came up with very innovative ideas, promising to provide a totally different experience to all the fellow Lakers inside the campus.



While there were teams that organized food stalls like Subway, KFC, Kebab center, confectioneries and mock-tails, there were teams that organized palmistry-numerology solutions, nail art, hair braiding, DJ shows, instant photography solutions, personalized-mentemos, wrist bands, online gaming and tattoo joints.

The event saw an overwhelming participation from both Pallavas, Cholas and Charismatic Cholas. In a period of 3 days, the event generated a commendable revenue that crossed 4 lakh rupees.

Such figures are not just an indication of the store house of innovative ideas and capabilities, they are a strong demonstration of the effective marketing, operational and financial capabilities possessed by the students of Great Lakes Institute of Management. It is rightly said that it all starts at home.



An evening for ProPals & Mamallas to relive the moments

The Alumni committee 2014-15 held a celebration in the evening of August 7th, 2014 for Progressive Pallavas and Mamallas batches. Around 60 alumni travelled down to the campus after attending their convocation in Chennai city and contributed in making the event a successful one. They were whole heartedly welcomed by the ChaChos, Pallavas and Cholas, who were eagerly waiting for a meeting with the Alumni.

The event started with the basketball match, which was organized on the special demand of the alumni to relive those endless nights at basketball court. The ProPals were competing against ChaChos on the court.

The sports league was followed by the football match. It was a great moment to watch the crowd cheering for the respective batches.

The dinner was organized at Bistro Café to have the Alumni enjoy their own time with their colleagues who were meeting after an interval of 4 months.

Soon after the dinner, the unplugged night was kicked off. We had an overwhelming performances by our one of our own-ChaChos band "*The PoxBlot*".

Many great singers from the ProPals band "*Aatman*" joined the stage. The Great Lakes family witnessed the plethora of talent on the night of convocation.

The ACom, also organized a small cake cutting ceremony for the alumni in the presence of Dr. Vaidy Jayaraman. It was a indeed a memorable evening for all the students.



Celebrating 68 years of Independence!

Great Lakes Family celebrated the 68th Independence Day with enthusiasm, patriotism, fervor and loads of fun! Everyone in the campus was geared up and enthused for the momentous occasion.

Dr. Bala hoisted the national flag for the first time since the inception of this campus to mark the occasion. A function was organized by the Events Committee after classes to keep alive the flame of patriotism.

The main attractions were the colorful dance performance by the PGPM girls and song performances by the boys of Charismatic cholas and Cholas batch. A special song performance by Prof. Bhuavn Unhelkar further instilled the spirit of freedom and togetherness.



Janmashtami Celebration!

Away from home for the first time, I was restless by the very thought that I would be missing Gokulastami celebrations. Never in my wildest imagination did I dream that I would enjoy Gokulastami this way! Born and brought up in Chennai, Gokulastami was always celebrated in a different manner. Decorating our houses with footprints of the child Lord Krishna, using flour made from rice, making sweets appetisers and going to the Temple are the rituals followed in major parts of South India. I was accustomed to seeing Matki Phod in movies but it's a different experience to see it live for the very first time. Matki Phod is a tradition widely followed in Northern parts of India. Matki Phod, a ceremony where a decorated pot containing curd, with a coconut placed at the mouth of the pot, supported by poles is hung at a certain height. A group of 20 to 30 men gather together to form a Human Pyramid to reach the pot and break it with the coconut placed on the pot.



The evening's celebrations kick started with the dance competitions. Despite the time constraints our seniors delivered power packed performances that added more excitement to the ongoing merriment. Once the last performance ended, announcements for Matki Phod was made. The maiden team gathered around to scale the immeasurable height to reach out to the pot. That's when the on looking audience started pouring buckets of water on the contestants. The contestants struggled to hold balance while they had to face the wrath of the water poured by the on lookers. One of the later teams had successfully scaled the height but couldn't hold stable. They tried to maintain the equilibrium but fell to the ground as the on lookers let out a sigh of frustration. This time the last person to reach the pot, who was supposed to break the pot with the coconut, but instead broke the pot with his bare hands as a sign of victory. All the group's performance was timed and the team completing the given task in the least time was to be announced the winner.

A memorable experience by
Sweta Ramdas
PGDM 2014-16
Cholas

Eid Celebrations

Eid-ul-Fitr, also called the feast of breaking the fast, marks the end of Ramadan. It is a day to rejoice, greet people and share happiness. On the occasion of Eid, even the events committee initiated the “Best Dressed” competition. So when I woke up that morning, things were really colorful. Although there was a guest lecture and a series of classes (hats off to the third term), the morning was no more sleep inducing.

The chants of “Eid-Mubarak” could be heard in every corridor and every pathway of the college. The hugs of joy, the energy and enthusiasm was visible on every face. The evening was marked by another function on the hostel terrace to celebrate this occasion.



The event started with the distribution of sweets. Junaid and Sajad from PGPM batch then took over the event, and with the humming of a prayer song called Nasheed, mesmerized the crowd. In an open terrace, coupled with the ambience the nights in Great Lakes have, the event touched everybody’s spiritual senses.

There was silence, song and the wind. It all seemed so perfectly connected just for that occasion. All this was followed by dance performances. The next day was followed by the declaration of winners of the “Best Dressed” competition, which brought in good news for Shashank Bhardwaj and Akshata Patil of the PGPM batch.

A memorable experience by
Junaid Khan
PGPM 2014-15
Charismatic Cholas

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A glimpse of campus life



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