



# SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Volume 3 Issue #2



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Dear members,

It's been one action-packed past one month or so, with a hugely successful Spring Reunion. We thank all our members who came and made the evening a memorable one.

Over the next several pages, we present to you, the full report on the event, a sneak peak backstage, and as always, introduce you to another alumnus.

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**Sanjeev Varma**  
CEO, Steria (India)

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Sanjeev Varma is the CEO, of Steria (India) and is responsible for the overall Indian operations and strategy. He is the member of the Executive Committee of the Steria Group and chairs the Executive Committee of Steria India.

With over 30 years' experience, Sanjeev has controlled and marked focus in key business areas such as Business Planning Strategy, Corporate Finance and M&A.

Sanjeev actively speaks in key industry forums such as NASSCOM, FICCI and CII and international forums such as the British Business Group and The European Business Group.

He has been honoured and celebrated by CFO India in association with Deloitte, as a “thinker and for the power of his ideas to transform in the financial arena” at the FinThinkers Fest 2013. At the Global Brand Excellence Awards in October 2013, Sanjeev also won the CEO of the Year Award. He has also won awards such as the Best CFOs in India at the Corporate Excellence Awards ceremony in June 2012, and the Best CEO with HR orientation at the Global HR Excellence Awards event in February 2014.

# SPRING REUNION 2015 - AS IT HAPPENED

- Pankaj Rakesh



Dr. GK Kapoor lights the ceremonial lamp, as Mr. Harinderjit Singh, Mr. V. Shekhar, Dr. Anil Sardana and Prof. S.K. Bose look on.

Stein Auditorium at the Indian Habitat Centre was the venue for our Spring Reunion on 28th March. Tremendous amount of energy in the air, banners, flexes, and standees being put up, instruments being tuned, microphones checked and placed, shawls and mementos counted and readied, team of ushers from the college briefed, registration desk being prepped, and lots of Coke being passed around.

A month of prep, honest commitments, chasing vendors, and solid legwork by the entire team bore fruit in the “Spring Reunion”, one of the bigger and more ambitious functions organized by the Alumni Association. A decision taken at one of the Executive Committee meetings held at the College over five weeks ago was coming close to fruition.

Spring Reunion was initiated with a twin pronged strategy. To reach out to as many alumni as possible, to draw them out and have them meet over a lively



evening of music, bonhomie and dinner. Secondly, it was our objective to honour and felicitate the “Originals” — teachers who had joined the college at its inception in 1967.

To garner attention and eyeballs, a team was specifically tasked to get cracking on the social media and networking sites. The college authorities keenly assisted this team by providing them digitised records of all alumni since the 70s. For the more recent years the team had email ids to work with. Armed with this data, the team worked hard to create hype and buzz on the Net and managed to leave an impression there. Simultaneously, others had been busy designing the collateral — posters, invites, souvenir mugs, backdrops for the venue, amongst other stuff.

Lists of staff to be felicitated and others to be invited for the function were drawn up in consultation with the college. In addition, we requested Ms. Meghna Sankhla, a lawyer by profession, to render some retro Indian music for the evening. Kavitayan, a cultural body of the Supreme Court Bar Association, were our partners for the event. The College and Coca-Cola generously pitched in to co-sponsor the function.

The early hours of the evening on the 28th March saw lots of Alumni, members of the college staff and their families gradually making their way to the Stein



**An auditorium full of “Basicolans”**



**A standing ovation**

Auditorium. There the office bearers of the Alumni Association greeted them, got them to register at the desk, and invited them to the tea tables laden with goodies. Over a period of time the foyer started getting packed, and the ushers from the College swung into action, escorting the guests to their seats inside.



Show Time - Ms. Meghna Sankhla and the group

The function started with a welcome address by Harindrjit Singh, President of the Alumni Association and V. Shekhar, President of Kavitayan. They also greeted and felicitated Meghna Sankhla and her team. The music recital began as scheduled, even as guests kept filing in into the auditorium. Over the next ninety minutes, Meghna kept the audience enthralled with her mesmerizing voice, and an equally interesting mix of *ghazals*, Sufi, and film numbers.

Then it was time for the highlight of the evening as the Alumni Association felicitated the 'Originals'. Dr. P.K. Khurana, the current officiating Principal was invited on the stage and then he and some of the office bearers acknowledged the special invitees. Meanwhile Dr. Anil Sardana, Secretary of the Alumni Association read out the citations and briefly introduced each of the guiding gurus and their contributions to the College and its students.





Prof. Prakash Chander flanked by Dr. S.S. Sareen, Mr. Harinderjit Singh and Mr. V. Shekhar.

Those felicitated included Dr. M.P. Thakore, the founder principal, Dr. N.A. Siddiqui, former Principal, Prof. S.K. Bose, Prof. Gurdarshan Singh, Prof. Prakash Chander, Prof. Priyadarshi Thakur, Prof. R.R. Chaudhary, and Prof. Shree Ram. These distinguished gurus were presented with a shawl and a specially designed memento, shaped to represent a scroll. The President also felicitated Dr. Khurana for his open-minded support to the Alumni Association.



Also present at the event were former Professors S.B. Saxena, G.K. Kapoor, S.S. Sareen, Jagdish Mukhi, H.C. Sharma, R.S. Aggarwal, Anand Prakash, O.M. Aggarwal, H.C. Joshi, T.K. Nagpal, Pushpa Bali, Usha Chabra, Abdul Salaam, Krishna Prabha, Indra Sharma, L.S. Choudhary, R.K. Dhawan, Indra Chopra, amongst others. Besides these, almost twenty other serving teachers of the College also attended the event along with their families. All these efforts of getting the former teachers to the event were coordinated by Dr. Raman.



Mr. Harinderjit Singh (left) and Dr. P.K. Khurana (right) present a memento to grandson of Dr. M.P. Thakore, founder principal of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College. Owing to ill health, Dr. M.P. Thakore could not make it to the programme.



Prof. S.K. Bose (second from left) with alumni.



Reliving memories - Prof. Gurudarshan Singh and Prof. Priyadarshi Thakur.

Following the felicitation, the guests were invited to a sumptuous dinner spread out in the open courtyard, under the starlit sky. The bonhomie, backslapping, and exchange of old and favourite stories about the College continued well into the night, as friends old and new decided to break bread together, after a long, long time.

As Prof. Sydney Rebeiro could not attend the event due to a prior commitment, the Association organized a special evening at the Habitat Centre where the office bearers of the Association felicitated him. Over tea and snacks, Prof Rebeiro gave invaluable advice on how to steer the Association forward. He also offered his suggestions on the forthcoming Golden Jubilee celebrations of the College.



# BACKSTAGE - A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

- R. Kasturika



The Gadgets

Organising an event can take its toll on one's memory. Time seems to slip at such speed, that trying to recall the sequence of events in a logical order seems impossible. I voluntarily provide design services for the Alumni Association, and a little while back, our team organised a musical programme for the college reunion.

All of us had our tasklist — marketing, sponsorship, coordination with the other stakeholders, running around for prints... mine was the entire visual branding.

Having done branding for an event in the past, it didn't appear to be that much work. The main challenge this time, though, was that I had to do it in addition to, and after my day job. And it was tiring, working those extra hours. What was initially a fun activity, designing all the collateral — the logo, poster, invitation card, backdrops — soon began looking more like a gigantic tortoise, moving painfully slowly, threatening to tuck itself inside a shell. With extremely short timelines, it was pretty much a sliding dive to the finish line.

On D-day too, there was a lot of activity. Registrations, sales counters, stage, back-stage, and audience management... all organizers had their stations. And very few of our team members could really enjoy the programme.

I was lucky, in a way. My post was the light and sound cubicle above the balcony of the auditorium. Away from all the action downstairs, it turned out to be the best seat in the house. I had the freedom to click pictures and watch to the entire programme — and what a show it was! As I watched one teacher after another being felicitated, I could feel the air becoming heavy, with mixed feelings of joy and nostalgia.

Looking back, everything seems like an illusion — we fought, ran, slipped, and got up just in the nick of time. But what really matters is, that the event was a success — a feather in our collective hats.

The blurry photograph of the sound mixer from my station up above, pretty much summarizes the entire event for me — the enormous effort involved before, and during the event made the past month and a half a complete blur.



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