



PANORAMA



ECE ⁹²/₉₆

SILVER JUBILEE REUNION



FREEEEEE



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LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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College of
Engineering

Autonomous Institution, Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai.

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From old campus to the new;
from snail-mail to e-mail;
with a club in the web;
lies in our memories affixed,
the class of ninety six.

Indians roaming in the world of love (Kadhal Desam);
turning into Mustafas singing on beautiful Lailas;
the class of ninety six,
was a beautiful remix
and an identity matrix.

Along with all prefix and suffix,
coming in life as an appendix;
Wishing class of ninety six,
a rise like Phoenix and a rising helix

With best wishes to all for celebrating the Golden Jubilee get-
together in the SVCE campus.

Best regards,
Dr Ganesh Vaidyanathan S
principal@svce.ac.in
15th March 2023,
Pennalur, Tamil Nadu

TO SAY OR NOT TO SAY...

“Teachers should have a proud place in society. In India, regrettably, they do not – as exemplified, by what I chanced to witness a few years back in Delhi. A wizened old man driving his 1938 Austin at a speed under 20 mph with a sign at the back of the car reading, ‘Please overtake me – as all my students have.’ Pathetic, but how true! wrote so — Fali S. Nariman - the acclaimed Indian jurist in his book *Before Memory Fades: An Autobiography*. I have quoted this here neither to stress that ‘teachers should have a proud place in society,’ nor to indicate that the situation is ‘pathetic’... But it is to declare that several of my students have overtaken me, and I am happy about it - a trait which all teachers have, I assume. I am still in touch with my teachers, and they do tell me that they are happy with what I am today.

When Gokul requested me to write something that I remember about the ECE '96 class... I told him with a smile that if I were to write on things that I could recall it would only put the people related in trouble. But, as we all know Gokul, he insisted that I write something.

I could always recollect what guys did during their college days, with whom they were goofing around. I am not really sure if I could talk about the guy who drew a caricature of the face of a teacher and labelled it as XYZ moonji, and how he got caught. Or should it be about who was in crush with whom, or should it be about the guy who used to board the college bus from Kodambakkam, but ensured that he missed it regularly so that he could travel in his car and on days when I missed the bus, he used to pick me up and reach the college. Should I talk about the trips that I accompanied the batch? Or can it be about the after-college meets a bunch of them had in a park somewhere near Adyar or Besant Nagar (I don't remember the place) and how one

among them, who used to travel from an area close to my place, inadvertently gave me details of what happened during these encounters, and how I surprised the group by mentioning them the ‘details’ the next day. And when it went on for a few days how each one of them started suspecting the other and tried their best to find who was the spy among them. Will it be ok if I could talk about the boy who approached me to help his girlfriend in preparing a writeup when she applied for an award and how she ditched him well before the end of the course? Or how the commercial inflatable blower (that was given for advertising the product by the firm that sponsored the symposium) went missing, from the first floor mysteriously?

Or I can happily declare that in spite of all the fun and frolic they had during their stint, they all graduated successfully. I can talk about how each one of them in the batch helped those who were underprivileged among them.... It wouldn't be out of place to talk about how they took part in cultural and sports and won laurels for the institution... It could be about the several blood donation camps they organised without even knowing that each unit they donated/collected made a big difference in some unknown person's life. Not many will believe me if I say the official email, I use till now was also suggested by one of their classmates (he used to call me ‘killer whale’) ... I can surely talk about the endless discussions we had, during the bus journeys, right from the ‘existence of the super power’ to ‘abortion is a woman's right’

All said and done.... We have travelled together - both literally and figuratively. I have only positive memories associated with all my students; and these memories are based on the relationships rather than on their traits, their ability to learn, or the marks they secure.

As said by Phil Collins : In learning, you will teach and in teaching, you will learn.”

I am not sure whether you guys learned anything from me or not , but I can say for sure I learned a lot....

Thanks for everything...

Prof Murugavel

about the boy who approached me to help his girlfriend in preparing a writeup when she applied for an award



REFLECTIONS FROM PROF. RAVINDRAN (YOUR ENGLISH PROFESSOR)

Dear ones, as you are aware, I had been serving SVCE since its inception, i.e. from 1985 and retired in 2018. I had been closely associated with all batches and all types of students. But in my 33 years of service, I can say this '92-'96 batch is the closest one to my heart and consists of many favourite students and have a special bonding with them till now. This batch supported me in all social service activities like blood donation, visiting orphanages, culturals etc. We took SVCE to greater heights. Gokul (Santhanam) was the president of Leo club of SVCE through which he developed his leadership qualities. Rotaract club of SVCE was also started in 1995 and Bommi (Vishnu Prasad) was the charter president of rotaract club through which he was able to develop and demonstrate his interpersonal and organisational skills. I'm sure that these skills helped him to impress Rachna Reddy (who later became his wife).

Another very important and interesting reason for liking your batch is your love for everything including studies. Yes, love was also in the air (literally) with many known and unknown love stories. I will not talk much about it now. Leo and Rotaract clubs played a vital role in bringing them closer. Among all these, my favourite couple is Sanjay (Pichai) and Aarthi. I often call them and inquire about their wellbeing. They extended their excellent hospitality when I visited US and stayed with them. Fortunately or unfortunately, Gokul and Pravin Shekar narrowly escaped and didn't

Yes, love was also in the air (literally) with many known and unknown love stories.



get caught in this lovely Web of affairs, though they had many proposals as they were the most popular personalities. Because of this, they were able to bring laurels to SVCE. They have already proved their might and excellence of SVCE in their last 20 years alumni reunion with extraordinary arrangements in hotel green park in 2017 where they exhibited their gratitude to the faculty in an astounding manner. I still remember the occasion in which I safeguarded one of your batchmates when there was a problem.

Your batch had a bunch of allrounders who excelled in sports (Rajaji), culturals (Gokul, Pravin, Sowri, Baskar), language (Venkatarangan) and academics (Vidhya, Kalpana, Manivannan, Chandrashekar). I always feel proud to see our great products of SVCE widely spread throughout the globe, excelling in all fields, performing profoundly, making difference to people's lives and reaching greater heights. I can wholeheartedly vouch that between 92 and 96 is when I enjoyed my pleasant stay in SVCE to the maximum.

I miss all of you. God and I bless you dear all to reach greater heights and lead a happy life.

Yours

Ravindran T



HOW I SURVIVED TEACHING THE CLASS OF '96 (AND WHY I STILL LOVE THEM)

The batch of '96 has always been the batch closest to my heart. It was a batch which had a mixture of characters. We had bookish students. Some students were regular winners in college cultural events. Some were good in sports and some were in research. Quite a few were sportspersons. Many were all-rounders. However, I wouldn't say I was all friendly with them. There were instances when I shouted at them - just to put them on the right path. At that point in time

There were instances when I shouted at them - just to put them on the right path.

”

it would have even hurt them. Some of them might have had negative thoughts associated with those incidents but a little contemplation will make them understand and look at things in the right way.

But all said and done this batch has been a great batch. The fact that a bunch of them have taken this arduous task of contacting, bringing them all from various parts of the globe and organising this get-together stands as a testimony to the bonding and fellowship of the batch not only among themselves but with their teachers as well.

I wish each and every one all prosperity and success.

Prof Dr K Manivannan





THE LOST BOY

Frozen.
At the thought of doing on stage.
"I am going to suck.
Everyone is going to laugh at me."

Couldn't say no, or didn't dare to.
So said yes,
And ghosted!!!

Didn't turn up on stage day
Confused emotions in my mind
A mix of Fomo + relief

Yet was forgiven
Given another chance
Nudged to shed inhibitions

My thanks to Gokul for helping me get over my fears. In 1992. And beyond.

How small nudges that seem insignificant then, continue to make a huge impact much longer!

Pravin Shekar

pravin.shekar@gmail.com

To go out there
And be me
Unabashedly

The power of conviction
Of one person
On me

The lost boy
Found himself

Made me what I am today
SHAMELESS.

A TALE OF EXCITEMENT, NERVOUSNESS AND THING GONE WRONG

Aug 24, 1992.

I remember this as the first day of joining the college. It was quite an excitement at that time to get transitioned from a school student to a college student. It was like, 'Appada, yeppo intha school mudinji college povom nu..'. Meeting new people and making some new friends was part of the excitement too.

I was little nervous on this "ragging" that goes on in colleges on freshers, what they would do to us, how its going to be. There was no 'Anti-Ragging' policies as how they have now in most of the colleges. It was actually fun interacting and to getting to know some seniors during the bus journeys and within campus, and getting ragged, which was like an ice breaker.

There were many tense moments in the mornings at home to get ready and catch the bus every day, have missed them couple of times and had to commute through local bus to reach. Had to chase the bus on my father's bike frequently to catch it in the next stop at-least. To identify our bus in the evenings, to get back home was another task on its own. However, it was exciting as we had some buses with push back seats, which helps to sleep during the journey after a long day. To get the music on in the bus, we had to plead with the bus in-charge in my route (Mandavelli). I was excited to see one of my neighbourhoods & childhood friend (Shiva – CSE) in my route bus & my schoolmate friend, from KG days, Manivannan (who later became Basha of our batch) joined little later, was excited to know our journey continued even after school days for some more years.

After moving to the second year and when the freshers joined, was getting the 'high', that 'ippo na senior da.. Namaku kadache experience, namba juniors experience pannalana yeppadi



Suthindar Kumar G

nu yosichen'. Seri, let's go in a group and interact nu (athavathu Rag), I took some of my 'so called' friends too (two to three) and went to a first year class after lunch time. There were two entrances for each class.. suddenly a professor came from nowhere during our 'interactions' which I realized a little late.

On turning around, the 'so called' friends went missing suddenly. The interactions went for a toss!! Then I thought, 'Seri, inniki namba sikkinom'. There were some tense moments. Then I thought. 'Avanuku enna, oodivitan, agapatavan, naaanallava nu' (He had nothing to worry, I was the one who get caught), later I was let go with a warning as to not to 'interact' with freshers in a very 'friendly' way . I can understand your 'Yennada ithu, innum aatam aarambika ve illai, athukulla game overa' (Games has not yet started, but got ended) kind of feeling.

The tours we went in the second and the third years were fun, to Kodaikanal and Ooty. It was well organized by our colleagues (I think Bommi aka Vishnu Prasad and few others) and it was fun. The bus and train journeys during the trip were exciting, along with some of our staff. Think we visited 'Hindustan Photo Films' in Ooty as part of the 'so called' Industry tour. There were some college events where some skits used to be played by our colleagues (Pravin Shekar, Gokul Santhanam, M R Baskaran) which I can recollect which was fun and exciting. I remember visiting the Chennai Airport once to see how 'Radar/ Microwave Communication' happens in the Third or the Fourth year.

I think we were organized as 3 or 4 columns in our class and someone created some mischief (unable to reveal what happened) in the rightmost column during one of the session of Prof. Devi Ramaseshan due to which that entire column was asked to leave by her before she will take any further classes. We all had to apologize for whatever happened and convince her later

During one of the session of Prof. Devi Ramaseshan due to which that entire column was asked to leave



to start taking classes again. When Vasool Raja MBBS, was released later, was getting reminded of 'Raja' character from when he was asked to leave the class'..

During our final years of college, I remember Bommi and co., trying to shoot a short video of each one of us before we said goodbye to each other from college, didn't recollect having watched that video again later so far, would be excited to see that.

Just after finishing college, Rajesh Khanna & Udayakumar (was my lab partner too) went for Air force selection at Mysore. It was a 5-day selection program and only when we clear Day 1, we could stay for the rest of the 4-days, else we had to return back home on the same day. 'Dei, yeppadiyavathu 1st day clear pannanumda, mathathu appala pathukalam' (somehow we need to clear the first day, rest can follow) that was the mind voice of us. It was tense moment when they didn't announce any of our numbers, thought all of us missed it, but to our relief, the numbers called were of the

students who had to return back on the same day!!.. 'Yaahoo!!!', all the three of us stayed for the rest of the 4 days. It was exciting next few days with some tight selection process from 6 am to 2 pm on each day. Well, on the day of results, we came to know none of us made it to the next level of medical fitness round (though we thought Uday, who now is a marathon cyclist, would have made it). Again, 'Appada, onna ponoom, onna thirumbi varoom.., ithuvum oru jolly feeling than' (We went together and returned together). Could hear, ud's mind voice, 'Ivngalam oru frienda yenaku'. We had to move on from there..

Anyways, it was interesting four years at SVCE, would like to thank the staff, professors and fellow colleagues for being part of my journey, have lot more to write, but my memory keeps fading and have to conclude somewhere.

Thanks for this opportunity to pen my thoughts.. and I was able to go back on memory lane.

Suthindar Kumar G | suthin75@gmail.com



MATHEMATICS & EVENTS



T.N.C.Venkatarangan

Dear Friends,

Mathematics & Events.

When I think of the four years I spent with you, these are the two words that comes to my mind first. And each of them for quite varied reasons.

The first one, Maths. Before a new reader of this article mistakes me for a maths genius, let me say this. I was simply incorrigible with the subject, I appeared for the first-year mathematics exam for seven-times consecutively. Luckily, I didn't suffer a semester break due to a syllabus change. In the last semester and my seventh attempt, I went inside the hall knowing well that I will pass this time, not due to any sudden interest in the subject but thanks to the time and effort that Prof Gangadharan had invested on getting me to remember the basics in the previous weeks. He had taken my case as a challenge upon himself. It was the unwavering belief I had on the great teacher that helped me pass the subject and secure a "First Class" overall in my engineering degree. When I came out of the exam hall, relieved that I will pass this time, I remember my friend and lab partner "U.D." mentioning to me that if I fail this time too, the next appearance will make it my eighth, a new record of sorts! It was the good stars of Udayakumar that protected him on that day from me.

Speaking of my long pursuit of winning my war with Maths, it will be incomplete without mentioning the centum that I scored in the fifth-semester Mathematics paper titled "Numerical Analysis and Methods". You will not believe that I had hardly attended a single class of the subject during the entire semester. My good-friend Rajaji Ganesan had borrowed the notes from his elder brother's

tuition class, and we started studying only a week before the final exam. Luckily, we understood the notes and remembered everything in the exam. I think Rajaji scored a percentage or two lower than me, and to think he only got the notes and even explained the "maths" to me!

When friends ask me of my days in the classroom, I hardly remember anything, and the reason is the second word, Events. I rarely was inside the classroom. I tried everything I could to secure permissions to skip classes. Whether it was helping professors with some paperwork, or representing college in obscure speaking or debate events, or repairing the Novell Network in the department's computer lab (most often it would've gotten down due to the bad TSR program I had written to get higher access), I did everything other than listen to lectures. As I am writing this, I can't imagine my 19-year-old son who is going to an arts college now, being able to get away with something like this today - I feel things have gotten a lot tougher for students who are like me in recent years. Special thanks here to our department HoD Prof Ramachandran who kindheartedly granted me attendance whenever I pleaded for it.

A few events are noteworthy. The first one was a two-day workshop that myself and Mechanical Department student and my friend E.Magesh attended in University of Madras on AIDS awareness. We volunteered to the programme expecting things you will normally expect in those teenage years, but it turned out to be anything but. It was eye-opening on the misconceptions and plain lies (today's parlance false news) in the society around us on the subject. Second, was when me and junior batch Computer Science student Ranganathan Sankaralingam (a former Googler) won awards on a debate titled CISC vs RISC - the CPU architecture wars, held in the prestigious Ramanujan Computing Centre of Anna University. And I was the only non-computer-science student to win an award that year.

I appeared for the first-year mathematics exam for seven-times consecutively.



For many of us, there was one event which can never go unmentioned. It was PANORAMA, our annual intercollege event conducted by Electronics-and-Communications (ECE) department. While the class toppers focused on the content and topics for the multi-day event, I got myself into the organization, inviting speakers, escorting them to the college, buying prizes and so on. In one of the years when we conducted the event, I was going out to every top corporate tech company in Chennai asking them for sponsorships. Those unsolicited reach outs, waiting in the lobby, getting our way to meet the decision makers, convincing them to part with their money to naive students representing an unknown event battle-hardened me like nothing else could've. Those scars proved invaluable when I started my own business in the next few years.

One of the executives I met during those pursuits was Mr P Asokan of then First Computers (Brilliant Tutorials), the connection I managed with him during this encounter later got him as my mentor which shaped my entire professional career.

Finally, Goan Feni. I am a teetotaler but none of us who went on the "unapproved" excursion to Goa can forget the experiences our classmates had with the brew from cashew. I will end this note by saying the "unapproved" tag came with the tour due to a whistleblower of our class.

I cherish every moment we spent together, laughing, learning, and growing. I hope you are all doing well, enjoying life and will continue to do so.

T.N.C.Venkatarangan

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SVCE DAYS

கற்க கசடறக் கற்பவை கற்றபின்
நிற்க அதற்க்குத் தக

Lore worth learning, learn flawlessly, live by that learning thoroughly

எண்ணென்ப ஏனை யெழுத்தென்ப இவ்விரண்டுங்
கண்ணென்ப வாழும் உயிர்க்கு

When I think of the four years I spent with you, these are the two words that comes to my mind first. And each of them for quite varied reasons.

Letter and number, (arts and science), both are the equivalent of eyes in a living being

It is June 1992. Students of the '96 batch were all being taken around the campus to acquaint them with the facilities available in the college. The person in charge of the Workshop, talks about Carpentry, Filing and Smithy, skills that are required to get through the workshop component of the first year syllabus. He gives a somewhat elaborate demo of each one of these crafts, and then as he finishes, he asks if any of us had any questions regarding the workshop. I wait for someone to ask something, especially the question that was bothering me. After a brief pause, sensing that no one is asking anything, I ask him, "Should I address you as 'Anne' or 'Sir'?". The place seemed to go into a stunned silence! I remember thinking I am done now! He answers that the Mechanical Engineering professor will answer this question and asks me to wait in the workshop till he came. The rest of the class left the place. Diplomacy and holding back one's thought is something that I am still trying to learn, but certainly at that time, I was raw and had to reap the consequences of not having this very quality.

Earlier, myself, my mother and my grandfather, all three of us were waiting at the administrative office trying to finish my admission, and we see another

student, with his mother and grandfather, as well. Turns out it was Pravin Shekhar! Pravin was the first batchmate I met, as my SVCE life was about to kick start. Perhaps it was a good omen!

I was staying in West CIT Nagar, about a kilometre from the T Nagar bus stand and so, T Nagar bus was the one for commuting to college. The day would inevitably begin with Poori Sambar or Idli Sambar at the India Coffee House many times and I would unwind from the long trip back to T Nagar from SVCE, with a Falooda or a fruit juice at the Raghavendra Cool Bar. Of course, the Batoora at Ganesh Bhavan would be equally inviting, but those were costly indulgences, perhaps for once a week. Sundays meant unlimited south Indian meals at Gitanjali, later this became Andhra meals at Balaji Bhavan. As I write this, my taste budstingle with the aroma from the arachuvitta sambar of India Coffee House saturating my senses - some extremely well-made simple food items.

The bus had a wonderful group of seniors, who made ragging fun and friendly, albeit one person who had serious issues with me. Karthik and Gokul from III ME, Suri (Lakshminarayanan) from III ECE and Shivakumar from II CSE, all made the bus ride a lot of fun. Vinay Kumar from II CSE, somehow hated my guts and felt that he had to teach me a lesson. He wanted me to apologize to him for something I had not done and admit that I had done it, but, alas, I could not. So, yes, despite other seniors intervening and try to diffuse the situation, it escalated into something serious, when one evening, he wanted me to not leave to my home but be with him till he let me off. He tried a lot of bullying and finally, after treating him at a nice restaurant, he declared truce and let me go. Otherwise, he was sure, that he would do something very serious to me, whatever that meant! I never knew, I could rouse such strong emotions in someone!

By now, I had really bonded with Karthik and Suri in the bus. Together with me, the other first years who were travelling in our route,

Sundays meant unlimited south Indian meals at Gitanjali, later this became Andhra meals at Balaji Bhavan.



were Kalyanaraman , Karthik , Prakash and Lalitha (Lallu), all from Computer Science and Engineering, and Ananthakrishnan, Madhav Kumar, L R Rajesh, Rajyadhyasksha and Manasa, all from ECE. We were all bonding with each other and were enjoying our bus ride. As part of the ragging ritual, Lallu was asked to come up with a nickname for me and she named me Arisi, as I looked like a grain of rice to her! So, Arisi I was, at least as far as the TNagar bus was concerned.

Back at College, I had gotten notorious for wearing my emotions on my sleeve and not having self control. In one of our classes, I burst out laughing during a class, as I found a certain explanation given by the professor very amusing to say the least. So, my batchmates knew that the smallest of things could get me going and if anything went wrong in class, rather than ask the professor for a clear explanation, they would start laughing in front of me trying to trigger me into a laughing feast. Of course, I had to face the consequence of the wrath of this professor, in whose class I had laughed, and things became a bit scary as it could have serious consequences on my academic score. Somehow, things did not go too much out of hand, and I managed to pass the classes without major issues.

I remember enjoying our Chemistry classes with Prof. Devasahayam. His classes were nice and polished with free-flowing English, and one could tell he had prepared well for the classes. In the meanwhile, mathematics was becoming a bit problem - I was constantly trying to get my head clear about irrational and complex numbers. Somehow, these numbers had special names, one of them was not rational(?) and the other not real!! This bothered me a lot. One of my favourite questions was: "Why π ?" Why did we need such a number, why they crept into the area formula of a circle while not being there in the area formula of a square - Prof Muthukumaraswamy tried his best to explain, but I could not get convinced. Another thing that bothered me was if Complex numbers were not real and were imaginary, why would we as engineers have to learn about them. Why was i imaginary? I barged into the office of Prof PM Ramanathan, the then ECE HOD and asked him this. He tried his best to explain to me the utility of



I barged into the office of Prof PM Ramanathan, the then ECE HOD and asked him this.

complex numbers in Electrical Engineering, but I could not get convinced again. Together with these professors, I am sure many of my classmates would have thought that I was complete nuts! Indeed, I found answers to these questions and more during my later academic journey, but I was glad, none my teachers put me down in front of the class, though they might have found me annoying. In fact, Prof Ramanathan was amused that I was hung up on this trivial issue and would laugh at me every time our eyes connected.

Also, in the internal cultural competitions, Vox Qualdum, I knew I could sing, but there was a problem! I did not know a single film song till I came to SVCE and the event required us to sing a film song. Having learnt Carnatic music during my school days, I decided on singing Maha Ganapathim, as Sindhu Bhairavi, was one of the movies I had enjoyed and, in the process, I bought my first cassette. I practised with the KJY on my Walkman and seemed to give a decent presentation. I placed third, after Madhav Kumar (ECE), who sang, Nivedha (first time I heard this song!), along with playing the Guitar and Giridhar, from CSE. Vijay Arun (II CSE), a Carnatic classical electric guitar exponent, was one of the judges and he gave me feedback that the Mahaganapathim I sang, sounded like an imitation of KJ Yesudas and was not original enough! I had thought I had to sing as close to the original as possible but Vijay Arun was clear. I got to find out that there were events called Dumb Charades and JAM (Just A Minute) - found JAM to be pretty amusing and the way Madhu and Nandu (III ECE) spoke, very creative.

My first beautiful friendship that went beyond college, blossomed between me and Shriram Sarvottam. For Shriram, being at SVCE was a dishonour. All his friends had gotten into IIT, Madras and he wanted to be part of IIT-M as well. In him I saw someone whose intellectual strength was clearly superior to my own and he

was an inspiring figure in my life. He was a music aficionado as well, with his father being a student of the great Balamuralikrishna. We really became very close and I was happy that at the end of that academic year, Shriram got into IIT-M. And now, I had someone to compare my notes with, in ECE, if not for anything else, just to see how much the learning gap was between SVCE and IIT.

Slowly, I discovered that having these questions about the subject matter had nothing to do with the University of Madras exams. In fact, the exams were a completely different animal to be tackled. One could do it without an ounce of clear understanding of the concepts, to my relief! It became clear, that with about two weeks of full-time cramming, one could do well in the exams and thankfully enough, that was about the time the study holidays would be for. Great, this insight would help form the study habits for the rest of my Engineering Bachelor's.

Just like that the first year of college was coming to an end. Most of my lunch time, I was hanging out with Seetharaman (III ECE) and other third year students, discussing heavy matters like spirituality, quantum physics and electronics. I had a thousand questions and Seetharaman would listen to me patiently and ask me back a thousand more, in the spirit of true enquiry. It was sheer joy to discuss things like this with my seniors. They would remind me once in a while, we are not your friends, we are your seniors! The English department with Prof. Lakshminarayanan, Profs. T Ravindran and Murugavel, was also extremely welcoming of me. Once in a while, I would visit their offices and have friendly chats on a regular basis. Overall, the college was becoming a second home away from home.

We finally enter into our specialisation! Classes begin in all earnestness in Electronics and Communications Engineering. From shunning the library for the fear of being ragged, now I am free to explore our library. Prof. Janakiraman is teaching Engineering Circuit Analysis and I pick

up Engineering Circuit Analysis by William Hayt and Jack Kemmerly, one of my favourite books, till this day. The book is written in such a lucid style, it feels like the authors are talking to me directly. Learning from this book is a joy, but I am getting stuck on the problems. Soon I discover there are similar books for each of the subjects treated in that semester and it is becoming overwhelming. It is clear that I need more time in my life as much of it is spent in the bus. So, in a bit to optimize on the time to reach college, I decide to take a rental house in Porur. This would save about 1 hour of travel time.

Who would get me a house in Porur? Who else but another one of our batchmates - Chitra. The amount of time and effort that Chitra and her mom put into securing a house for me, I just cannot forget. A whole week or so, every evening was spent in their home, scouting for houses in Porur. Finally, one of our seniors, Ramanathan and his friend from Delhi and myself, move into a house in Porur. Just when it seemed that things were settling in, third semester begins to wind down and I get invited by Madhav for joint study at his place. Praveen says he would join as well... this would be the beginning of one of the most gracious acts I ever experienced in my life so far.

Madhav, introduced me to the songs of Ilayaraja. He explains the nuances of filmy music by Ilayaraja and how he picked up guitar playing on his own. Turns out his maternal grandfather and my maternal grandfather were good chums, growing up in Mayiladuthurai! Madhav's mother takes pity on me as I have to travel back to Porur and cook my own food. She offers me a seat at the dinner table. Soon, this offer, which was a spontaneous gesture of grace, goes on to become an almost permanent one and for the next year or so, I was boarding and lodging out of Madhav's house at Ramaswamy Street, T Nagar! Looking back, this seems like too generous an act of hospitality. I bond with Madhav over food, music, culture, studies, aspirations and everything that would make for good friendship, like stopping by Mansukh's next door for evening snacks.

In fact, the exams were a completely different animal to be tackled.



விருந்து புறத்ததாத் தானூண்டல் சாவா
மருந்தெநினும் வேண்டற்பாற் றன்று

To keep out guests cannot be good, while you eat nectar like food.

Bashoo (MR Baskaran), staying nearby in Habibullah Road, invites me over to his house and inevitably, makes an offer for me to stay with him. Not only do I not go back to Porur, I have two places to split my time in T Nagar. I wanted to work with Bashoo on his math, and we start spending a lot of time together trying to get him to do math well. Bashoo introduces me to the world of cinemas, never have I watched a cinema FDFS. But Bashoo's father, had a ticket for a new movie that was releasing with Abbas in the lead - I still remember going to Sathyam theatre and getting to see Abbas in person! Bashoo's mother and father get used to having a stranger in their house! I still remember the hot morning breakfasts, soft idlies, tasty chutneys and sambars and a variety of tiffin items I indulged in, at Bashoo's house. It is here that I slowly learnt how to make pongal from his sister. I had almost become part of his family as time went by. I was an almost constant fixture in his house. All his family members knew of me and would extend warm conversations with me.

In talking about all this, I left out on how the study circle went. We were optimising on how to maximise the scoring with minimal work. One of the amazing things that we tried and it seemed to work, was to split the units between us. One of us would take Unit 1, another Unit 2 and so on, once each of us were done cramming, we would elaborate to others our understanding(!). The University of Madras exam system lent itself to all kinds of manipulation by lazy students like us and we were too happy to change our study methodology. Add to it, every night in Panagal Park, we would have these mobile restaurants - we were sure to visit and have some manchurian and fried rice or noodles at midnight! Madhav and I were the fixed members of the study group. Pravin, almost part of our group but he was too busy a person to split time only with us. He would sometimes be unavailable, while Gokul would visit us once in a while for an outing to the Panagal Park eateries, under the guise of studying. Bashoo, might come down here or I would hop

**The University of Madras exam system
lent itself to all kinds of manipulation
by lazy students like us**



off to his house sometimes and somehow, all of us managed to do reasonably well in the exams while enjoying life!

By now, we had graduated from being ragged to those who could rag. Being part of the T Nagar bus, there was a new infusion of juniors. Somehow, I ended up becoming more closer to juniors from CSE than ECE: Murari Sridharan, Priya Sethuraman, Chitra Narasimhan, S Chandrashekhar, all from CSE, were the next set of juniors I was drawn to. I had to split time during lunch between my favourite set of seniors who were now in the final year, and my favourite bunch of juniors who were in CSE. Soon, as the year was heading to a close, most of my seniors had either gotten placed somewhere or were moving on to the US for higher studies. It was a grim reminder that journey with these guys was coming to an end and there were all excited about a new journey in their lives.

Life would take me to Chandru's house as well, and I would end up staying at his place for a few days too, while practising for our music band. This open heartedness of all my hosts, Chandru's parents and his generosity is something I cannot not fail to acknowledge.

As the second year was winding down towards an end, my father was in New Delhi and I extended an invitation to Madhav, Bashoo and Jayanandan to visit me there. Bashoo and Jayanandan took up on this offer and came visiting to Delhi. After a few days of stay in Delhi, we decided to make a trip to Nainital and Jayanandan drove to Nainital in our car. We visited the beautiful Nainital lake and had a wonderful trip. No sooner than they had left, tragedy struck. My father passed away in a road accident while returning back from Ghaziabad to our home in Sarita Vihar, New Delhi. One of the darkest phases of my life had just begun. It is here that my friends and juniors at SVCE played a key role in pulling me up and healing me from one of most dramatic blows that life had to offer.

முகநக நட்பது நட்பன்று நெஞ்சத் தகநக நட்பது நட்பு

Friendship is not a mere smile on the face, it is the smiling heart's embrace.

A fresh batch of juniors come in and my favourite batch of seniors are all gone. Lunch time becomes a busy time, what with so many interesting personalities arriving. I connect up with a number of juniors, including Preethi, Reshma, Soumya Raghavan, Radhika, Subhalakshmi, Aarthi J Raman, Nemili Mukund, Arvind, Badri Raghunathan. Remember a particular time, when Subha challenged me to cook Mooli paratha, she was sure I would not be able to do it. Challenges are always welcome and I took up on it. Subha was surprised that the mooli parathas came out well made! Phew! Managed it somehow!

Madhav moots the idea that we can form a band, and compete in music competitions. So, we do, with Madhav on the Lead, Anand Daniel on Rhythm, Parama on the Bass Guitar, Ashok/Kalyan/ Chandru on the Drums/Mridangam, Mahesh on the Keyboard, Murari on Violin, Giri and myself providing the male vocals. Forming a band and competing takes a lot of time and effort. Subhalakshmi and Priya, our juniors from CSE and ECE respectively, who had joined that year join in as female leads.

In one of the culturals, I get shortlisted for the best vocalist prize. Our own college allows us to perform in our campus, in lieu of a culturals. Kanne Kalaimane hits a chord with so many students. Prof. Lakshminarayanan, is thrilled. He says this was one of the best performances ever on campus. He encourages me to keep this tradition of singing on campus alive. Somehow, that year, I become the cultural secretary of the college, thanks to the efforts of Madhav and Gokul.

All of this meant, academics had taken a back seat. With all this practice and loss of class time, meant, I was not even there for the practicals many a times.

It is here the my group mates, PN Ganesh and BR Ganesh, stepped up. They did all the experiments for me. It is here that I have to mention our juniors Preethi Gopinath (ECE) and Soumya Raghavan (CSE). They did all the writing for me so that I did not miss out on the deadlines at college. Preethi and Soumya, juniors from ECE and CSE respectively, had become close friends not only in college, but outside of it as well. So, all these friendships that I got at SVCE, helped me heal and gave me positive reinforcement that while life could be harsh, there were friends to share the sorrows and joys that it had to offer.

Somewhere in all of this, the debate bug had bitten me and I teamed up with Atul Phillip, Priya Sethuraman and Rajyadhyaksha to form two teams that would represent SVCE in the debating competitions.

I was short listed for the college's best student award and there was an interview scheduled for making the final selection. It between me, Pravin and Swathi Prakash. Sarang at IIT-M was going on that weekend, and I was at IIT-M. Turns out, all my clothes were in the Porur house ready for a wash. What could I do now? Only option left was the buy a new Sarang T-shirt, which was a black one and come to the interview. Prof. Narasimhan asked, "Is this how you come dressed to the best student final interview?". I could not answer that question. Anyway, it was a great experience and I believe being short listed itself was a big thing for a haphazard person like me!

After SVCE, I had to redeem myself academically and do something worthy in life. It was this quest that drove me to get admitted to Northeastern University, for the MSEE program as T.A., to Dr. John Proakis, whose book on Digital Signal Processing, I had struggled with in our library at SVCE. I, atleast knew enough, to apply to Northeastern and to other places like Penn State and Rutgers, because our library had IEEE transactions on Signal Processing in its racks. Indeed, Northeastern offered me admission with full tuition waiver and I got the opportunity to work at Analog Devices Inc, with the very people who had implemented Linear Predictive Codecs and other voice codecs. Implementation of a

Prof. Narasimhan asked, "Is this how you come dressed to the best student final interview?"



Linear Predictive Codec was our final year project, something that most Northeastern undergrads did as part of their lab work in DSP in a day! I was the lab assistant for that lab!

My quest to be of some substance, took me through a long and arduous journey, where I had to relearn much of the Bachelor's material and I finally, finished with a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Indeed, I came back to India and until recently was the Head of Department of Mathematics and Assistant Dean of Academics for the School of Engineering at Dayananda Sagar University. Today, I run an EdTech firm, Samvikshana Educational Services, which caters to students across India and US, www.anveshna.com. I work with bright and aspirational kids in helping them reach their potential. My experiences at SVCE has a major share in what I do today for my living.

யாதானும் டாடாமால் ஊராமால் என்னொருவன்
சாந்துணையுங் கல்லாத வாறு

FROM PENNALUR PENN TO STAMFORD MOM

Hi this is Abitha from ECE, currently live in Stamford Connecticut, with Rufus my husband and 2 kids Jayden and Ashlyn.

I work for a financial services company as VP, HR technology, responsible for implementing systems solution HR & Compensation Initiatives.

What that I won't forgot is cutting classes and watching movies and taking the college bus even before the end of the movies. Another one of the fond memory was my appa calling Pennalur penn.

Back then I wasn't serious about college or what future held. Except who I wanted to marry. Eventually after dating for 10 years in year 2000 married my high school best friend. I wish I had been ambitious career wise. Coincidentally I wrote this on 23rd wedding anniversary. So we have known each other for 33 years.. feel so old.

Thankful..., grateful for all classmates who still keep in touch via WhatsApp and meet up occasionally, with whom I continue to share life experiences and memories with.

I finally, finished with a PhD in
Mathematics from the University of
Missouri-Columbia.



All lands and towns are learner's own, why not till death learning go on!

கேடில் விழுச்செல்வங் கல்வி யொருவற்கு
மாடல்ல மற்றை யவை

Learning is wealth no one could destroy, nothing else gives genuine joy

PS: The article articulates the views of one person with regards to his undergraduate learning experiences. The author prays for forgiveness for any inaccurate information.

Chandra Vaidyanathan

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Abitha

What I missed most was the college bus rides and non stop chitchat with friends in the bus, reviewing chapters in the one hour rides before the exams.

Thanks again all organizers and participants who made it to celebrate this reunion. Those who couldn't make it, missing you folks. Let's try to meet when possible, wishes and love to all.

Abitha

abitharufus@gmail.com



Back then I wasn't serious about
college or what future held. Except
who I wanted to marry.

TV REPAIR ADVENTURE: A COLLEGE STORY

Hello My Name is Ganesh Bhathivi, intuitively called BRG to differentiate between me and my classmate PN Ganesh.

I am based out of Tampa, Florida and work at Verizon, a Telecom company. After finishing Electronics and Communication engineering, I'm not sure how many of my college mates are working in the Telecom industry. It will be interesting to know that.

I would like to tell a story that happened in my 3rd year of my college days. Those days I used to stay @ Sriperumbudur. The people out there were friendly and one of my neighbors brought me his Television asking me to repair it. I told him I would like to but am not sure if I can fix it. He gave me complete freedom to do whatever and see if it can be fixed. With my habit of being inquisitive and disassembling any mechanical or electronics, I opened the television box and started debugging. I found that one of the diodes which is part of the full wave rectifier in the power supply unit had blown up. Knowing that I found the root cause, I happily told my neighbor that he needs to go replace the diode. Little did I know what trouble I am getting into. My neighbor told me, excellent, now you go get the diode and fix it for me. Now this was a Saturday, immediately I took a bus from Sriperumbudur to Parry's Corner Madras, headed to rich street and purchased a single diode, soldering rod, etc and came back to Sriperumbudur. Replacing the defective diode and excited that I am about to accomplish a marvellous task, I switched on the TV.

Nothing worked but I heard a big pop inside the TV.

When I opened the box, I saw the rest of the diodes in the full wave rectifier had blown up. I slumped into my chair. Now I gave up, went to my neighbour and told, I cannot fix it, he needs to take it to the

When I opened the box, I saw the rest of the diodes in the full wave rectifier had blown up.



Ganesh Bhathivi

repair shop. He still insisted, I found the issue and I can do it. At this point I did not know what to do but wanted to take up the challenge.

Are you guys still with me...or did I put you to sleep....

Well I went to sleep that Saturday late night thinking how to fix this.

A brilliant Idea, take it to our electronics lab. Monday, I talked to one of our electronics lab members and told him what I did and he told me that we have to replace all the 4 diodes in the full wave rectifier and should not replace only one. I asked him if I could bring the TV here and this news went to our professor and ultimately the case was closed. No outside items will be brought in and I cannot progress further with my TV repair.

I still continued trying to fix it and ultimately replaced all the 4 diodes.

The reason I am telling this story is, during Lab exam I was extensively interrogated on Full wave rectifiers and then in my Job interview @CMC Ltd, they extensively interviewed me in Full Wave rectifier. With the extensive experience with Full Wave rectifiers, I did pass my interview and got my first full time job after college.

These might be small things that come your way, what you learn out of it stays throughout your life. The full wave rectifier is what gave me my start towards my career.

I encourage college administration to support the extra curricular activities that are related to studies with a formal process that helps the students interest.

Ganesh Bhathivi
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Geethakrishnan

FROM PAGER SALESMAN TO SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

College times are the best times for most people. It's no exception for me. I had such great fun with my awesome group of classmates, creating so many positive muscle memory moments that'll be imprinted in my brain forever.

I am sure there are many essays that talk about the fun college times. This writeup is a glimpse of what came after, specifically for me.

I graduated from my Bachelor's in engineering from Sri Venkateshwara College of Engineering in 1996. Those were different times. Days before the internet and mobile revolution. We did not have a Whatsapp group of friends in our back pockets. Being in touch means you physically go to your friend's place and hangout. This used to happen a lot during my college days. I pretty much used to live in my friends' welcoming homes. Their parents used to feed me just like they did to their own kids.

Once we graduated, I felt lost. Some of my friends left for the United States to do their Masters. How did they do that? Did they take some entrance exam in 3rd year of college and applied in 4th year? I had no idea. Some others took up jobs. I didn't have one. How did they get one? I had so many questions with not many answers.

My middle-class mindset made me feel that I am a burden to my family. I took up any job that I could get and not many came my way. I was a door-to-door pager salesman for a month. I was the worst person for the job and was deservedly let go. I did medical equipment installation in my relative's company for a couple of months. I was not great at it either. Of course, I should not forget that I could afford to try things as I was still coming from a position of privilege. That privilege has helped me in so many ways in life. Many others have it worse.

I am a natural introvert. This means I didn't take the initiative to go out of the way to make new

friends or reach out to existing ones. Barrier of communication was higher then so you couldn't just do a FaceTime chat with a buddy. This didn't help with my feeling of isolation and frustration.

While this might read like a sob story, it's not one. It's a happy story.

Coming to the happy part, I was able to join with a couple of classmates who were in the same situation and start preparing for higher studies. They helped me immensely and by god's grace I was accepted to Master's with a full tuition waiver. In my Master's, I again got a supportive set of classmates who helped me get through the next phase in life.

I have had many stable jobs and more friends that came with them. My best friend came as an amazing and caring wife. This was followed by two smart, kind daughters. I have so many things to be thankful for in life. Life has been good.

I would be remiss if I didn't call out the importance of friends groups that keep us together even if we are physically apart. Special thanks to friends who take the initiative to organize get-togethers or alumni events, taking time out of their busy lives, so others like me feel included.

Let's always be in touch, and stay supportive of each other, as we all need some support one time or another.

Thanks and Cheers!

Geethakrishnan

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I was a door-to-door pager salesman for a month.



THE WILD CARD OUTLIER

I was a win away. It was almost there.

The last men standing were Daksha (Rajyadaksha) and I. Partners and competitors, in a way.

This was the second year of college and the first technical paper presentation competition.

I think this was under the IEEE umbrella. Entries were asked for and the finalists were selected.

Daksha and I were in the final. Each prepared quite well for the presentation. Those were the days of the Overhead Projectors. Slides had to be prepared and we had worked hard on it.

There were three contestants in the final and the two of us were ahead by a mile. I was happy with my presentation. Daksha did a good job as well. The professors went into a huddle and then Prof Muthukumaran announced to the attendees, all sitting in the Communications lab, that there will be one more competitor.

In breezed this guy. He had neither the slides not any presentation. He went on to use the board to take a session on the formation of the internet, DARPA and the future. He wowed the audience with the science fiction mumbo jumbo he threw at us. We were all in awe as he walked away with the first prize, leaving Daksha and me with the wooden spoon.

The winner did not linger on long. It was more like he came, he spoke, he conquered. And he vanished. He wasn't much of a socialiser then; a start change from who he is now.

He was "WILD CARD Venkat" (Venkatarangan)!

When I relook at that particular episode, I can see that he breezed in as an outlier - someone not expected to participate but who came in like a Dhoni to blitz away.

Something like this happens in our life, business and career as well. We need to be prepared for such wild card events, to whatever extent we can!

COMBINED STUDIES

The third year of college. We had already bonded well and formed our own smaller groups.

For movies, sports and for combined studies!

"Dei, it is getting late. You have slept long. Get up now and start reading"....



Pravin Shekar

One such group that I was a part of included Chandy, myself and Madhav - mostly staying the night in Madhav's house. Anantha, Geetha and Gokul were guest-study-partners:) Studies started late, with several intermittent breaks. Breaks for gossip arattai, for walks, for "short naps" and the best of all, a walk around the Panagal Park for a late-night snack or kutchi ice cream!

There are two key episodes that I would like to share.

I liked to take several short naps in between units. Sometimes in between chapters. One such night, I was very busy with my nap, when the gang suddenly woke me up.

"Dei, it is getting late. You have slept long. Get up now and start reading"....

I woke up, opened the book and started reading. There were some sniggers in the room. I ignored them. HEY, I was studying. After four minutes, the others in the room (Madhav, Gokul, Geetha) burst out laughing.

I did not understand and couldn't make sense. I wanted to be part of the joke.

I realised a bit later that I WAS THE JOKE!

Madhav asked me "Ennada panrey?"

Pravin: Can't you see. I am studying.

Madhav: Yes, which chapter.

Pravin: Fourth chapter. Why?

Gokul: Fourth chapter. So you completed the first three?

Pravin Yes. Why are you torturing me?

Madhav: Apdiya. Which exam are we studying for?

It took me a few moments of flipping the book I was reading, then looking at the cover - to find out that these fellows had changed the book I was reading! I was busy acting as if I was studying!

Needless to say, this episode was oft repeated in college, and continues to be shared when we meet up (even with families!).

Practical Jokers.

And the fun times in the name of Combined studies!

Pravin Shekar

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Gokul Santhanam

THANK YOU SVCE

a film by Gokul Santhanam

[CAMERA FADE IN]

Scene 1: Year 2023

Camera focuses on a tree with flowers. The leaves sway due to a gentle breeze. A flower falls in slow-motion. We see a young lady with a folder (appears to be a student). The lady is about to enter a building and the flower lands at her feet. The lady stops to pick the flower and looks up.

Scene 2: Year 2022. MANASA PILLAI

ANNOUNCER

“Now we request Ms. Manasa T Pillai, Principal and Trustee of Vailankanni Schools to receive the award for Nari Shakthi 2022. Manasa is one of the most recognized academicians in Tamil Nādu. She’s an innovative and result-driven leader, focused on achieving exceptional results in highly competitive environments that demand continuous improvement”.

MANASA

“I am grateful to receive this award. I would like to thank...”

Scene 3: Year 2023. PRAVIN SHEKAR

PRAVIN

(He is seen talking to someone not seen in the frame)

“I have spoken in 29 countries and they have been widely appreciated. I mostly speak on Marketing or Market Research. Being a serial entrepreneur or the Kreator-in-Chief of KREA doesn’t stop me from making time to share my learning. I love talking to people. Infact in January this year, I received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Professional Speakers Association of India. I realized the importance of communication while.....

Scene 4: Year 2021. BHASKAR VADATHAVOOR

Camera moves inside a television showroom. Bhaskar is seen talking in many television screens on display. Camera ZOOM IN on one of the screens.

BHASKAR

“I have been fortunate over the last two decades to be part of a tremendous adventure from Apple, Nest, Google, SpaceX and now to Rivian. I have been a key contributor to several innovative and advanced product. The strong foundation of this journey, I owe to the discipline of learning, practically applying it in Lab and building a better foundation all while I overcome my feeling of inadequacy through the learning process. I was taught this disciplin by my teachers and educators at

Scene 5: Year unknown. A girl student is seen talking in a stage

In the stage background there is a banner that reads, ‘SVCE Annual Day’.

STUDENT

(Speech slowly becomes audible)

“.....and that’s why I need to tell you what we do differently at SVCE. While other colleges generally stop with academics, at SVCE there is a focus on all round development. We focus on leadership development through our LEO and Rotaract clubs. Every department has an association through which we conduct several symposiums and events....

INTERCUT BETWEEN STUDENT AND MANASA PILLAI (SCENE 2)

MANASA

“I am grateful to receive this award. I would like to thank my alma matter SVCE....

STUDENT

“.....the humanitarian sciences department works closely with students who need language coaching. We also train students to do well in their GRE, GMAT and other competitive exams. We identify students with good communication skills and encourage them to participate in several competitions that hone their public speaking skills....

INTERCUT BETWEEN STUDENT AND PRAVIN SHEKAR (SCENE 3)

PRAVIN

"...I realized the importance of communication during my SVCE days. Anyone can be a techie, however, to be successful you need to communicate..."

STUDENT

"....We continue to focus on developing world class engineers. Our state-of-the-art labs, best in class faculty, our tech enabled library, have all ensured that we stay ahead in this focus...."

INTERCUT BETWEEN STUDENT AND BHASKAR VADATHAVOOR (SCENE 4)

BHASKAR

"...I was taught this discipline by my teachers and educators at SVCE starting year one through graduation".

DISSOLVE TO SCENE 1

The lady picks the flower and looks up. Camera PANS to sign board of the building which reads as "Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering". Camera PANS to the entrance of the building. Principal Ganesh Vaidyanathan is seen walking out of the building. Camera moves up to an AERIAL SHOT. We see the Principal and the new student talking and few flowers falling on them. Camera goes further higher to show the entire SVCE Campus before the screen goes blank.

[End Credits Starts Rolling]

In a post-credits scene, director Gokul Santhanam is being interviewed by a TV Reporter.

REPORTER

"Hi Sir. This is Kakinada Kanchana from Gemini TV. Congratulations on the success of "Thank You SVCE". The movie showcased some intelligent people who benefitted at SVCE. Is this a college meant for only the intelligent and hardworking... or...did someone like you also learn something at SVCE?"

GOKUL SANTHANAM

"I had classmates, seniors and juniors who speak different languages and I have learnt to say 'I Love You' and also put kadalai* in different Indian languages"

REPORTER

"Any Luck?"

GOKUL SANTHANAM

"Meeru Chala Andanga Unnaru. Meeku Pelli Aayintha?"

[Camera Black Out]

* kadalai (noun) refers to eating peanuts. However, the put kadalai (verb) refers to the fine art of engaging in a fun conversation with the person(s) you like. Experts say that this requires talent.

Gokul Santhanam | goksanthanam@gmail.com



Visalakshi Vijaykumar

THE JOY OF RECONNECTING WITH OLD FRIENDS

Ah, how good it feels,

When a friend whom we haven't met very often, but the moment we reconnect it feels like yesterday.

Happy to see friends getting reunited, hugging, screaming, running to each other, sharing the

good old golden memories which are still lying evergreen in our mind, as though it had happened yesterday.

"FRIENDS" are as precious as "DIAMONDS"

Visalakshi Vijaykumar
shaluvijay@gmail.com

"FRIENDS" are as precious as
"DIAMONDS"





Jaikumar

A BITTERSWEET JOURNEY OF MEMORIES AND FRIENDSHIPS

My college life in brief has been a bitter sweet one. Times have gone by so fast since college days that it makes me wonder how I made it through. But here we are reminiscing our glory and carefree days.

The moments when we had to cut college itself was a challenge due to the distance from city which was not a concern at all given the determination to have fun. There were unforgettable moments when we had to see Kadhalan movie in hot Summer in a theatre with no AC and only wooden seats. Imagine that. There were other pleasant memories with friends on some phenomenal road trips within and across states that it cannot be described in words and not to mention it opening a can of worms. There were other instances of taking part in inter college cultural events which are unforgettable memories. The prize money was my very first earned income which I am still holding on to. The best part is that we are still in touch with our friends

The prize money was my very first earned income which I am still holding on to.



through thick and thin and reminiscing the past and pulling each other's legs and also helping and encouraging each other. Though times have gone by and priorities have changed, friendship still remains strong. Hope this remains so for as long as we can remember and reminisce the past in near and distant future.

A relevant quote: The past always seems better when you look back on it than it did at the time. And the present never looks as good as it will in the future.

Keep reminiscing....

Jaikumar alias Jaiks
jaiks123@gmail.com



GRATITUDE & WISHES

“Don’t be dismayed by good-byes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends.”, Richard Bach

Let me start with thanking our organising committee members for giving me the opportunity to share my memoirs and thoughts with you all after almost thirty years.

When I joined SVCE I had almost no long-term friends since by then I had studied in eight schools in twelve years because we had to constantly move from one town to other. In SVCE I had four years to create some meaningful relationships and I did make few friends along the way who are still part of my life after all these years.

I was in C1 batch in our first year of college so I came in touch with our ECE batch mates only in our second year and I used to travel from Annanagar (I work in a Software company now and still reside in the same locality) just to refresh the memories of people with whom I lost touch after our college days.

My first two years in college were mostly spent with C1 class mates Bala (Mech.) , Nanda (CSE) and in classrooms / labs and at home after college but after that I had become part of a small group of lifelong friends in ECE.

Jayanandhan, I don’t recollect how it started but right from college days till now he is someone who made sure in whatever way possible that I’m not left out and would always back me up while Bashoo (M R Baskaran) used to plan most of our after college activities and will always pull me in, he is introduced me to so many within our college and outside. Our long Kanyakumari / Munnar road trip with stopover in Bashoo’s hometown Kumbakonam

Our long Kanyakumari / Munnar road trip with stopover in Bashoo’s hometown Kumbakonam is unforgettable.



is unforgettable. These two along with Jaikumar and V S Manivannan (I’m fortunate to have met his parents a few times, such wonderful people) made sure I was part of their life and had my back which extends to this date, thanks a lot guys it means so much to me.

I would like to thank Pradeep who was instrumental in me getting my first job in IC & SR / IITM where we worked together for some time and then our paths diverged. He also connected me to our Sriperumbudur friends – Janakiraman, Nithyanandham, Raju and Manivanan S while in college and also in making sure to meetup when he comes to Chennai every now and then. He stayed near my home so I used to visit him and I remember being petrified of his ferocious pet dog.

My wishes and thanks to Vinodev, he stayed very close to my home so we travelled to college in the same bus and I had spent a good amount time in his house during our college days getting to know his mother and brother, he helped me a lot during my first visit to US in late nineties.

Chandy, I got to know him very late during our college days and would go on to spend a lot of life enriching time with him before he left for his studies to US and after nearly couple of decades reconnected back when he relocated to Bangalore. Thanks for reaching out to me Chandy.

Good wishes to my lab mate Nambi – used to get together regularly for dinner in Annanagar road side eateries, VSB - good memories of me visiting him in NIOT while I was in IITM, BRG – can’t forget the weekend cricket sessions, Geetha – our final year project mate, Madhav – late night bluff sessions / Mansukh eat outs, PNG, Murali, Manoj, KT, Luru, Vishnu, Sanjay Shankar, Rajayadaksha – so many good memories.

Interestingly I would have spent more time with Gokul / Praveen after our college days when we used to have get togethers in Chennai, our paths hardly crossed while in college.

Randhir is another person I spent a quite a bit of time while in college, he had taken me to his home few times and had visited me many times after our college days in my office and in my house, till date I keep thinking if I could have done anything better for him.

Can't forget Sowri, through him I got my first job offer in BPL Bangalore, Jayanandhan came to central station to wish me for the interview.

Uday and Muthu Gnanavel, think two of very few people who are still in a job related to our major in SVCE, I hear they are doing well, my wishes.

I did not get to know or spend much time with Ravi E, Rajaji, Rajesh Khanna, Abitha, Chitra, Shivakumar,

Srinivasan, Sanjay Sreenath, Anantha, Kalpana, Vidya, Venkatarangan and many others, I regret the lost opportunity.

I tried to recollect my memories to the best of my abilities and I know for sure I would have missed a few names and incidents, I apologise.

I wish good health, peace and harmony to all my batch mates.

Last but not the least I would like to thank our dear professor Sundar for helping me out in my course work during our final year in college.

Muthukumaran A

IT'S BEEN ONE LONG JOURNEY

It's been one long journey. A journey of ups and downs, but a worthy one. And am not talking about the journey @ SVCE. Am talking about my 27 years of marriage that began @ SVCE!

It certainly was no love marriage. It was in fact cinematic! In the Year III of Engineering itself, I was the chosen one for the Pillai Clan. Just that I was totally unaware of the confirmation. In fact, I wasn't even aware of my photographs already in the hands of Pillai. When "One Fine Day" my father sent out a letter to Pillai's family (BTW he's great at writing letters) explaining the need for me to complete my Engineering and that the alliance be dropped.

But the stars particularly the Orion Constellation decided my destiny. As soon as I commenced Year IV, my Dad calls Pillai's Mom and tells her, "I'm bringing my daughter to your home!" As usual, I had no idea, except that I visited them and then left for my Oracle Class @ SSI. As soon as I left,

the engagement date was fixed (note: I had no idea). Later that night, Pillai told his Mom, "Amma, I think the girl is unaware." Pillai's Mom calls my father.

Hari: Hello

Pillai's Mom: Hari, did you tell Manasa?

Hari: No

Pillai's Mom: Why Hari?

Hari: I thought, will wait and let her know!

Pillai's Mom: Bad idea! Please let her know.

I was told about my engagement, just a week prior to it. And guess what, I asked, "Who's the boy?"

As we celebrate 25+ years of our reunion, it is truly a blessing to come together after all these years and reminisce. Thanks to SVCE.

Manasa Pillai | manasa.pillai@gmail.com



Manasa Pillai

POSTERS FROM THE CURRENT STUDENTS

We wanted to make this reunion more than just a bunch of alumni reminiscing about the good old days. We wanted to include the current students of the college as well, and give them a chance to see how much things have changed (or not) in the past twenty five years. So we asked them to imagine what the college would have been like back then, and what it is like now. Here are a select few of the entries of posters we received from them.



SVCE Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering

Welcome Back, **Alumni!**

IT'S 1992-96 BATCH

Lets turn around to the few **nostalgic moments**

- Attending your first college class, meeting your professors, and feeling excited (and maybe a little nervous) about the academic challenges ahead.
- Joining a club or organization that aligns with your interests, passions, or career goals, and making connections with like-minded peers.

Lets celebrate this silver jubilee event in a **memorable way**

JEEVANANDH R | 3rd Year, ECE-B

SOMETHING'S DON'T CHANGE! MEMORIES

A Heaven where strangers connect and later become a lovely family.

SVCE ECE 1992-1996 SILVER JUBILEE

COLLEGE MEMORIES!

Memories serve as a constant reminder that nothing lasts forever, that happiness can come and go, that time is important and should not be spent; Enjoy life and keep in mind to make each day count rather than counting the days.

SVCE

Balaji Baskaran | 2nd Year, CSC

Get Nostalgic

WE DON'T REMEMBER THE DAYS... WE REMEMBER THE MOMENTS...

SVCE

R.Pritha | Final Year, ECE-B

PHOTOS FROM 1992-96







Echoes of Connection

“We keep you connected”

This is a reunion magazine that breaks the mold and captures your attention! It plans to celebrate the valuable insights and experiences gained during our college days, along with three decades of Electronics and Communication in our journey of life.

Published by the Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE) batch of 1992 to 1996.

The proud alumnus of Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, Pennalur Village, Tamil Nadu 602 117, India.



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