

## President's Report

### ELSA Alumni Association - 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016

A very warm welcome to Members of the ELSA Alumni Association, gathered in large numbers today - many coming from Bangalore, Mumbai, Goa and from across the borders.

A very warm welcome to your Alma mater and to the 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM of the ELSA Association - It's wonderful to see you all here today.

We are very grateful to the Chairman, Sri Arun Bharat Ram, for his unstinted support; Dr Suman Sharma, Principal LSR our honoured Principal Advisor and to the one and only MG who is our mentor and pillar of strength! Someone once said that we all have a bit of MG in us and that's what makes us come together.

LSR celebrates 60 years of existence and 30,000 students have graduated from these portals and are making waves across the world.

"You could take us out of LSR but you can't take LSR out of us." – We spent some of the best years of our life at our Alma mater. This is where we transformed from shy young girls into confident capable women ready to make a difference. The nurturing environment, the infectious enthusiasm, the opportunities to learn and the peer group we had, made us what we are today! We have been blessed to be part of this college – the best women's college in India - It's that magic of LSR which is still a part of each one of us and which holds us all together – irrespective of age, what we do and where we live.

We were in LSR for only three years but we are ELSA's for life! As ELSA's we share a love for life, a similar attitude and zest for life. Can you imagine when hundreds of ELSA's get together what a force we can be! The world better watch out! We are proud of the many high achievers that our ELSAs are from Aung San Suu Kyi to our own Tina Dabi as an example. Very proud of each one of you and your incredible achievements.

Three years ago the ELSA Association was born. The pro tem committee did an outstanding job in setting up all the systems and processes for the Association to start and network and connected to alumna across the world. We thank the past committees for their outstanding contribution.

The ELSA Bangalore chapter is five years old and it was our MG who inspired us to start. We are over 435 Elsa's and growing in Bangalore and proud to share that we have raised Rs. 10 lakhs to support the development of this new building and are making waves in Bangalore where we are referred to as the LSR mafia!

The ELSA chapter in Mumbai has connected with 100 Elsa's and it's on its way to becoming a powerful and amazing chapter, The GCC chapter (based in Dubai) has several enthusiastic ELSA's. Many other chapters are close to being registered – London and the Singapore in particular. We have ELSA's in the US and across the world who are keen to form chapters and we hope this will happen soon.

I would like to introduce you to the team! Really proud of an incredible ELSA team that has worked hand with grit and grace and in a true ELSA spirit not just to create an incredible annual dinner to celebrate you, the 60 years of LSR and the ONE ELSA movement but on several other fronts - membership, social media and innovative ways to give back!

I would like to introduce you to the team:

Aditi Misra – Ex officio

Ameeta Verma Duggal – in absentia, Vice President

Urvashi Ashta – in absentia, Hon. Secretary

Deepa Vohra Bahl – Hon Treasurer

Saroj Kaushal – Member

Triveni Mahajan – Member

Madhulika Chaudhary – Member

Smita Mankad – Member

Gayatri Srivastava – Member

Gitanjali Luthra Bhalla - Member

Renuka Prasad – Member

For the BIG event we have an incredible group of ELSA who made a lot happen – Sudeep Kohli, Tina Rajan, Sarita Arora Sarna, Preeti Bawa Lamba, Rachna Yadav Sial, & Vandana Sarin, Sanjari Gupta, Madhulika Dant and Sahana Das from Bangalore

Of the 12 EC members elected in 2015, Archana Nigam unfortunately resigned in December 2015. Subsequently, a need for reorganization of the Office Bearers was felt by a majority of the EC members. And in spite of all our requests to Anita and Snimer to continue as EC members they chose to resign from the EC on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Since then, as per the bye-laws the EC has co-opted Renuka Prasad, Member Pro Tem and Hony. Secretary Indian Cancer Society, and Gitanjali Bhalla, who runs Palcancare - Palliative Care for children suffering from Cancer, as EC members. We wish Anita and Snimer all the best.

Highlights of what has been achieved:

### **Activities September 2015 - 2016**

#### **A) Activities – College**

- 1) 21 Benches were handed over to College
- 2) Scholarships to college
  - a. Sunila Awasthi – Rs. 100,000/-
  - b. Arshiya Sethi – Rs. 15000/-

## **B) Activities – ELSA – DELHI/NCR**

### **AfterWork Network Meets**

- 1) New Delhi - January 15, 2016
- 2) New Delhi – Feb 26, 2016
- 3) New Delhi – April 01, 2016
- 4) Gurgaon - April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### **Elsa Conversations**

- 1) Deepika Warriar – Gender Diversity in the Workplace, Vice President, Nutrition, PepsiCo
- 2) Jigyasa Taneja – Self-esteem, women performers and the use of humour as a transformative tool.
- 3) Anupama Aggarwal – Add Power to Your Purse – Women& Investment.
- 4) Sandi Rich Event (From GCC)

### **Heritage Walk**

- 1) New Delhi - 9th April 2016 – Thread of Continuity, Exhibition on Parsi Community, IGNCA
- 2) Introductory Walk - IGNCA

### **Book Club Meet**

- 1) Margaret Atwood – Stone Mattress - 27th February 2016
- 2) Murakami – Norwegian Wood
- 3) Murakami – Blind Willow, Sleeping Women – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016

**Travelsa** – ELSA Alumni Travel Hub started in April 2016. Brainchild of and spearhead by Vandana Sarin

**ELSA Post** – We started with the ELSA Post in January 2016. The first edition was launched on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Till now 18 Posts till 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

Launched the **ELSA HUB** – Our very own, portal for ELSAs to showcase their products and services.

C) Seed Money Received from Mr Arun Bharat Ram - Rs 300,000/- in May 2016 – to help the Association towards its growth and activities.

D) Delighted to share that Dr Suman Sharma consented to be our principal advisor and Dr Meenakshi Gopinath our mentor

E) Migration to a beautiful new website, which is easy and friendly.

## **Our Chapters!**

The highlights of the ELSA Bangalore chapter

1) Loquacious Super Rockers – Bangalore holds these talk shows with speakers sharing a wide range of subjects

2) 5th Anniversary Celebrations – we love being together and celebrating! We had a big get together to celebrate our fifth anniversary.

The Bangalore ELSA's created a film called 'Chalo Dilli Chalein' under the able direction of Sahana Das.

The ELSA Mumbai Chapter,

held several After Work Network Meets and organized a Heritage Walk on February 21st, 2016, to Bal Ganga.

## **The ELSA plans going forward!**

ELSA a volunteer body, is dedicated and committed to serve and create a movement to engage ELSA across the globe and offer opportunities to 'give back' to our alma mater and to support individual ELSA's as well help create ripples of change in our communities to make ours a better world.

## **For ELSA's**

For fellow ELSA's, our plans for the year ahead is to be there for each other and create a network, which provides professional and learning opportunities and a chance to mingle, create bonds of friendship and support through a variety of exciting programmes. These programmes will be held at every ELSA chapter across the world.

We would like to drive a ONE ELSA movement- an ELSA movement to share everything, your work, your passion, your thoughts and a give back to college! We connect you to the ELSAs across the world – no matter where you go an ELSA will be there – a friend and well-wisher who understands, supports and who you can always talk your heart out to! The ELSA programmes, planned for the future are:

The Hub – A place to showcase the incredible products and services offered by ELSA Members and further their effort and work through this hub.

Travel ELSA – opportunities for us to come together – old friends and new – and explore different destinations, share memories and create new ones, and of course, leave an ELSA footprint wherever we go!

Job Board – Database of job postings to assist ELSAs in search of jobs finding one of their dreams

Connect - Networking/ Breakfast - Coffee Meet – getting the ELSA Community connected as professionals, as friends, just being there for each other - a friend, a support, a shoulder across the globe without boundaries

Workshops/ lecture series/Book Club - Focus on upskilling & Knowledge Enhancement.

### **Our 'give back' to our Alma mater – LSR.**

We are here to serve our college and offer our knowledge and expertise to the present students and be available to help the Principal the administration, faculty and students in any way we can. A pulse on what the college needs. We plan the following programmes:

1. Through lecture/workshops series – both in departments and with groups an enhancement of knowledge and awareness, sharing expertise and knowledge of career paths and opportunities available
2. Being a MITR – a friend, a mentor, a counselor - to guide and inspire the present students to manage their challenges and achieve their dreams and aspirations
3. Set up Internship's - in corporate India, in ngo's and others to give the LSR students a rich experience in the area of their interests.
4. Most importantly we need to air-condition our LSR auditorium so that it becomes world class and the students can have excellent programmes and speakers visit. The secretary of State of America, Mr John Kerry, had wanted to visit LSR on his recent trip to India but because of the poor facilities at college he chose to go to the IIT Delhi instead! If we all put out efforts together we can improve this vital facility for our alma mater.
5. The Principal Dr Suman Sharma shared with us that some of the first year students come from very poor homes and cannot afford to pay for the hostel and the food. About seven girls need your support with a small amount of Rs 30.000/- annually we could make their lives much easier. Do let us know if you could help towards this sponsorship,

### **Elsa's committed to making a difference together!**

For us ELSA's - LSR for us stands **leadership with Social Responsibility!** Our philosophy is not to look at limits but to engage in possibilities.

Many of us are creating social change as individuals. Many of us occupy positions of incredible influence and authority. Imagine all of us individuals united, a few thousand intelligent, determined women. Together, we can make a huge difference! We would like to be leaders who are socially responsible and be the change in the communities and cities we live in. A portal on our website will be up soon to record your effort, the impact you have made in your city and community beyond your call of duty! Look forward to sharing that in more detail soon with you!

We need your involvement and your participation in strengthening this ELSA movement and joining hands and being together for giving back and creating a better more equitable and peaceful world. Upholding the ethos of LSR, "That alone is knowledge that leads to liberation"

Thank you for your patient listening. Cheers!